The Experiences Game

Aims: getting more information about fellow participants

Aims in English as a foreign language teaching: practicing the Present Perfect Tense with ‘never’ (in the variation with ‘already’)

What you need: 2 coins for each player (I use US dollar cents)

What you do:

Give each participant 2 coins to be their "lives”. All the participants stand up.

Participants volunteer to say sentences about something they have never done in their lives (e.g. ‘*I have never ridden a motorbike’*). Every participant who HAS done the given thing (e.g. everybody who has ever in their lives ridden a motorbike) loses a life. In the beginning they all have 3 lives. For the first 2 lives lost they each hand in 1 coin. For the third life lost (i.e. when they are out of the game) they sit down. This way it is very easy to see who is still in – they are the ones who are standing! After a while people will probably start saying sentences specifically aimed at those who have a lot of lives left.

Sometimes people complain that it is weird that you can win the game if you haven’t done anything in your life. It is not true, you can win the game if you offer a lot of sentences – this way the others will lose lives.

Variation: you can later change the game and ask people to say things they have done, then the ones who have not done that specific thing will lose a life. This, however, can lead to boasting, and people with fewer opportunities in their lives might feel frustrated, which might be a problem, so think twice before doing it.

Judit J. Tóth

Budapest