

To tell the Truth (AKA Liars' Club)

An activity for the first day of class, level 3 or 4.

Time: One class period

Divide the class into teams of 5 or 6 people.

The teams sit - huddle - in different areas of classroom and need to work *very quietly*. The time limit is 10 minutes.

Teams discuss what they did over the summer vacation. Each team, still in their quiet huddle, choose the "summer activity" of *one* person on that team. The others in the team then get as much info about that activity as possible within the time limit. At the end of time limit, the Teacher chooses one team to sit in the front of the room and face the rest of the class.

Teacher asks each person on that team, (in the target language, of course),

What did you do during the summer?

Each person gives the same answer. One person is telling the truth; the others are lying. A sample answer:

I went to the Grand Canyon with my family.

The object of the game is for the others in the class to find out which person is telling the truth. The other teams take turns asking 3 questions to specific team members sitting in the front. Each team gets only 2 minutes to ask their questions. Examples:

- ***Mary, what did you see at the Grand Canyon?***
- ***John, what was the weather like while you were there?***
- ***Suzy, where did your family stay while you were there?***

The questioning teams can huddle and discuss their questions and which person to ask. The person who really did that activity must tell the truth at all times. The others on the answering team can lie as creatively and brazenly as possible.

After every questioning team has taken their turn, they have 1 minute of "huddle time" to decide which student in the front of the room is telling the truth. At the end of the minute, the teacher asks each team what they decided. Then, the teacher tells the team sitting in front,

Would the person who really went to the Grand Canyon please stand up.

The teacher gives 1 point to those teams who guessed correctly. Teacher writes tally on the board. If no teams guess correctly, the team sitting in front gets 5 points.

Then, another team sits in front and the process begins again. After every team has had a chance sitting in front, the teacher adds up the points and gives some kind of prize (bravos, extra credit on the next quiz, etc.) to the winning team.

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