



CONCENTRIC CIRCLES

This activity is used to practice speaking and listening and to build up fluency through repetition. Learners become more confident as they repeat the same information multiple times, and also have the opportunity to add more language as they rotate around the circle. The positioning of this activity means that the teacher is able to monitor the entire group relatively easily, either by walking around the outside of the circle or standing in the middle and listening.

OBJECTIVE: To practice speaking and listening

MATERIALS: None

DESCRIPTION:

1. Learners stand in two circles of even numbers with the inner circle facing out, and the outer circle facing in.
2. Tell the inner circle that they are the speakers. Tell the outer circle that they are the listeners.
3. Give the learners a topic (favorite food, what they did over the weekend, advice, etc.)
4. The learners in the inner circle talk to their partners for 30 seconds about the topic.
5. The tutor says, "Stop!" and the talkers move one space clockwise.
6. Give both circles a chance to be talkers. Learners can report back what they heard.

SUGGESTIONS: For adapting this exercise:

- Learners who are listening can practice active listening techniques: smiling, nodding, using rejoinders (uh-huh, really? great!)
- Each time the speakers move to a new partner, add 30 more seconds to the time. This will encourage learners to add in more details and description. Conversely, to help the learners practice summarizing, start with a longer time (2-3 minutes) and reduce the length of time that they have to speak by 30 seconds each time speakers move to a new partner. This will require the speakers to become more succinct with each turn.