

5 Activities using other resources

5.1 Change chairs

Resources A chair for each student

Language 'If'

Level Elementary–Intermediate

Age Up to young adult

Procedure

1. Students sit on their chairs in a large circle. Ideally this is done in a large room or outside, but any reasonable, uncluttered space will do if there are no obvious physical restrictions to movement, and no dangerous pieces of furniture lying around.
2. The teacher stands in the middle of the circle – there is no chair for the teacher. He or she then gives the instruction:
‘Change chairs if you are wearing blue trousers.’
3. All students wearing blue trousers then have to stand up and find a new place in the circle, i.e. a place where another student with blue trousers was sitting. Meanwhile, the teacher sits in one of the vacated places.
4. This leaves a student in the centre of the circle. He or she must now do what the teacher has done – make a ‘Change chairs if . . .’ sentence, and then find a vacated chair to sit in. The objective is to get a chair back as soon as possible.

Rationale

This is a good energy raising exercise for those times when a class has reached its limit for concentration. If you work in a classroom with fixed furniture, taking the students outside and using coats as ‘chairs’ might give the exercise even more of a sense of fun. Carry on until everyone has had at least one or two turns in the centre – judge according to the size and enthusiasm of your group.