

1.23 Spot the lie

Language All

Level Elementary upwards

Age Any

This activity utilises the desire to mislead, which is sometimes inherent within competitive guessing games.

Procedure

1. Teams are created, and each team is given a topic. They must then create four sentences about that topic, but one of those sentences must contain an untruth.
2. The sentences are then presented to the rest of the class, and it is the task of the other team(s) to spot exactly what the lie is, and to explain it. The response must be more exact than simply 'Sentence 3 is wrong'. For example, four sentences about the topic 'Italy' under the category heading 'countries', and at the level of an intermediate class, might be:

1. 'This is the home of pizza.'
2. 'Some people say this country is in the shape of a leg.'
3. 'The national flag is red, white and blue.'
4. 'The national sport is football.'

Here, of course, the answer might be:

'The national flag is red, white and green, so sentence 3 is not true.'

Possible category headings:

Countries; famous people; members of the class; the teacher; English grammar; stories from films or TV programmes.

Variation

To make the exercise more difficult, the guessing team(s) need not be told what category heading the topics come under.