

Murder

Level: All levels
Ages: all ages
Time 5 – 10 minutes
Materials: none
Purpose: ice-breaking

Method:

Step one – the students are arranged standing in a circle of, say, 10 or 12 (more than one group in the case of larger classes).

Step two – they are instructed to stare at their own feet.

Step three – as the teacher says “one, two, three, up”, they look up and make eye contact with one other member of the group.

Step four – if, by chance the person they are looking at is looking directly back at them they are both deemed to have murdered each other and must leave the circle.

Step five – the teacher then says “down again” and the process then recycles until only two are left.

Comment: This is an odd activity, which involves very little in the way of language. It does, however, seem to work in that groups, particularly groups who are new to each other, seem to find it reduces the tension of those first classes.