

The Yes/No Interlude

Level: Pre-intermediate +

Ages: all ages

Time 5 – 10 minutes

Materials: a watch with a second hand

Purpose: fluency practice

Method:

Step one – the teacher selects one “victim” at a time to sit at the front of the class.

Step two – the teacher appoints a time-keeper and makes sure they have a watch or a mobile phone with a facility for counting a minute.

Step three – the teacher explains the purpose of the activity. The “victim” is to answer all the questions they are asked without using the words “yes” or “no”. They must try to survive the ordeal for 60 seconds (few people manage it). At this stage, a demonstration is a good idea.

Step three – as each person fails or succeeds another takes their place.

Step four – if the teacher feels students can do it, they should take over the role of question master.