
GOSSIP AND RUMORS!

LEVEL

Low-Intermediate to Advanced

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Speaking, listening (primary focus); writing (secondary focus)

GOALS

Students will practice using reported speech through discussing gossip and rumors.

MATERIALS

- Teacher: whiteboard/chalkboard, markers or chalk, “Two Truths” Appendix 1.
- Students: pencils or pens, notebooks or writing paper.

PREPARATION

This week’s Teacher’s Corner is using a variation on the game “Two Truths and a Lie”. The game is simple; each player tells two facts that are true and one that is a lie. The other players must correctly guess which one of the three statements is a lie. In this variation of the game, students will write their statements down on a sheet of paper, trade them with other students, and then use reported speech to share these statements with the class.

1. Read through all the materials carefully.
2. Print out the “Two Truths and a Lie” cards in Appendix 1. Make enough copies so that each student in class has a statement card.
 - a. If playing multiple rounds, print enough copies so each student has one card per game.
3. Each game will have five rounds. In the first round, student A will talk to his/her partner, reporting on the statements. Their partner (student B) will choose the statement they believe is a lie. Student A will then note on their card student B’s choice in the “Vote for a Lie” table at the bottom of their card. The pair of students will repeat this process for student B’s card. Once both students have noted their partner’s vote, they will find new partners and repeat the process. Once each student has talked to five other students and registered the votes, the game is over.
4. After students have played two rounds and have become familiar with the game, encourage them to expand the game to include statements about their favorite celebrities and/or sports stars. For example a student may write:
 - Lionel Messi has won eight La Liga titles.
 - Lionel Messi plays for Real Madrid.
 - Lionel Messi has won three European Golden Shoes.

PROCEDURES

Part 1 – Two Truths and a Lie Statements Cards

1. Tell the students to think about two facts and one untrue fact about themselves. Encourage the students to think carefully so that the lie is difficult to detect!
2. Next, pass out the “Two Truths and a Lie” statement card to the students.
3. Have the students write down their name at the top of the card and their three statements in the numbered spaces provided.
 - a. Remind students to mix up their statements. If each student writes the lie as the third statement, the game will become predictable!

Part 2 – “Did you know that...?”

1. Next, have each student switch their card with a classmate so that each student now has another student’s card.
2. Instruct the students to read the card and convert the statements to reported speech.
 - a. For example: Susan writes, “I went to America”, so John should change it to, “Susan said that she has gone to America.”
 - b. **Note:** When gossiping in English, the beginning of a sentence is typically altered to make the news more exciting. For example, instead of “Susan said that...” the sentence may begin with a phrase such as, “Did you hear that...” or “Do you think that...” or “I heard that...” While lower level classes may need to practice the more formal structures, more advanced students can use these more informal phrases.
3. Next, have the students stand up and find a partner. They can choose any partner except the person who has their original card (and whose card they now have).
4. Each student should report the information on the card to their partner. After hearing the three statements, their partner should guess which one is the lie. Each student should mark down their partner’s guess at the bottom of their card.
5. Have the students switch and find a new partner and repeat the process.
6. After five rounds, have the students find the classmate whose card they have. Have the students share the results with their partner.
 - a. If time permits, have students volunteer to share their results with the class. Which student had the most believable lie?

Optional Activity

If time permits, have the students play another round. This time, have them create statements about each other or their favorite celebrities or sports stars.

Appendix 1: Two Truths and a Lie

Name:

Facts About Me:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Votes for Lie:

#1	#2	#3	#4	#5

Name:

Facts About Me:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Votes for Lie:

#1	#2	#3	#4	#5

Name:

Facts About Me:

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