

Sentence Round

Level: All

Age: 4- 12

Organization: whole class

Aims: To complete sentences following a given starter; to take turns; to develop confidence and self-esteem.

Language focus: any, e.g. present simple, adjectives to describe feelings: *I like ... / I feel happy when ... / When I grow up, I want to ...*

Materials: *Essential:* a small object, e.g. colored handkerchief, soft ball, toy, stone or puppet to pass round the circle.

Procedure:

1. Ask the children to sit in a circle.
2. Choose a sentence starter for them to complete which relates to the topic or language of the lesson and either say this or write it on the board.
3. Give one child the object to pass round the circle and invite them to complete the sentence with something which is true for them.
4. They then pass the object to the child next to them, who completes the sentence in a similar way, and so on round the circle.

Comments and suggestions:

- This activity provides a framework for practicing a particular language pattern in a personalized way.
- Through passing the object, a clear protocol is established for turn-taking and when to listen and when to speak.
- The repetition of the sentence starter provides repeated modelling for children who may be more hesitant about speaking. If you like, you can also build in a convention where by children can say 'pass' the first time the object goes round the circle if they are not ready to contribute.
- With very young children, you may like to pass round a familiar puppet and ask the children to tell their sentences to the puppet rather than to the whole group. This is more intimate and may feel less threatening for some children. Alternatively, if you use a soft ball, you may find it works better to roll the ball to different children in the circle, who say a sentence and then roll the ball back to you each time, rather than passing it round the circle. This also keeps children alert as they do not know who you will roll the ball to each time.

- With older children, you may like to precede the sentence round with a pair work task in which children find out about their partner and use the sentence round to report, e.g. *When Elena grows up, she wants to be a famous ballerina.*