Dating Lexis Lesson Idea

The following is a short lesson idea to teach some of the patterns identified in the blog post. There is a lot of speaking and it should be an engaging and light-hearted activity for adult or older teenage learners. The level is around B1 but it can be adapted. There are teacher’s notes below. The total time needed is about 60mins, depending on the level of class.

Questionnaire

1. What is something your friends tell you are good at doing?
2. What is something you like doing that you try to convince your friends to do?
3. Someone should message you if they...
4. Are you looking for a serious / possible / other type of relationship or just friendship?
5. Please do not contact me if...
6. What are some things that you love (doing)?
7. What is something that a partner must love (doing)?
8. What are some things you would like a partner to be able to hold a conversation about or talk about?
9. Write two things you are really good at doing.
Teacher’s Notes

*Note that the photos of the people can be changed to suit your context.*

Part 1: Speaking

1. Start a class discussion about dating, e.g. pros/cons, successes/failures, etc.
2. Use this to have pairs discuss their opinions/experience of online dating and take some ideas from a couple of groups.
3. Tell the class they will now imagine that they are looking for love. Show them the pictures and have them decide which person they will be.
4. Group learners according to choices (but try to have an even number of each) and have them talk about what kind of people they are, things they like, what they’re looking for, etc. They must also choose a name for their person.
5. Give them the questionnaire and have them complete individually before comparing with a partner. They only complete in note form (no full sentences). Monitor and help as necessary.
6. Organise an ‘onion’ activity. Ask all of one group to stand in a circle, facing out. Then, ask the other group to stand around them, in a circle, facing in, so everyone is facing a partner.
7. Tell the group they must now try to find a partner who is suitable for them, as in speed dating. Give a time limit of four minutes. Remind them to ask questions, rather than just reading their questionnaires out. The aim is to find something in common by asking questions (as in a real date).
8. After four minutes, switch partners. Continue this until engagement fades or everyone has spoken a number of times.
9. Have everyone sit down and discuss how it went as a class.

Part 2: Lexis

10. Ask the group to look at their questionnaires and the highlighted patterns.
11. Clarify any difficulties with these, e.g. why they are used, pronunciation, and so on.
12. Use your notes from the speaking to clarify any problems or common issues that arose with the lexis.
13. Tell learners to read the bolded lexis for two minutes to try to memorise it. They will soon test their partner.
14. In pairs, one learner says a word, e.g. convince, and the other has to say the complete patterns, i.e. convince my friends to do something. Pairs continue, with an individual getting a point if they get it correct and the questioner getting a point if they can’t remember.
15. Continue the above for six or seven minutes, monitoring and supporting.
16. Take some feedback on difficult examples and discuss why.
17. To finish, tell learners they will now write a profile for the person they chose at the start. Using the questionnaire as a guide, they write a brief profile, using the lexis in bold where they can. Monitor and support. This could be done as homework.
18. Have pairs change profiles and read each other’s’ to give feedback.
19. End the lesson with some general feedback on the writing and error correction at the board if necessary.