Activity Idea

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Aim: to provide opportunities for learners to develop spoken fluency and confidence when having informal discussions.

Level: A2+ and up

Procedure

Lead in:
1. Ask the learners if they know the word Google.
2. Elicit how to say it their language(s).
3. If the answer is Google, ask them where the word Google comes from.
4. Elicit that it is an English word used in many other languages.
5. Pair or group learners. Give them one minute to think of other English words in their language(s).
6. Elicit some ideas and discuss as a class.

Preparing to Speak

1. Handout table 1 with the words or cut it up into cards.
2. Give learners time to individually read the words to see if they know what they mean in English.
3. Pairs or groups then discuss ideas. Monitor as they do so.
4. Go over any difficult examples as a class and be ready to clarify.
5. Now tell them that these words are all used in different languages but with different meanings
6. Handout table 2 with the words and their languages.
7. Individually, learners make notes in the table on what they think they might mean.
8. At lower levels, provide handout 3 to help them with ideas. You might want to do this if higher levels can’t think of ideas too.

Task Language

1. At lower levels, quickly provide some language to help learners do the task, e.g. I think ___ means ___ because _____. I’m not sure, it could mean _____.
2. Give learners a moment to think about how they will discuss each word with a partner and what they will say.
Speaking Task

1. In groups of three (or pairs), learners discuss what they think the words might mean. Emphasise that they must give reasons for their ideas.
2. Monitor and prompt with ideas.
3. If discussion is limited (and at lower levels), provide extra clues or example sentences to help, e.g. *My handy was very expensive and I use it to play games and go online.* Or give out the definitions from handout 4, but without the answers attached.
4. Keep the activity going until discussion dries up.
5. Elicit ideas and discuss as a group.
6. Provide handout 4 with the actual definitions
7. Give feedback on the speaking task, e.g. some delayed error correction at the board.
## Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Handy</th>
<th>Doping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power</td>
<td>Footing</td>
<td>Sandwich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viking</td>
<td>Vater (water)</td>
<td>Folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious</td>
<td>Spec</td>
<td>Parti (party)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting (Russian)</th>
<th>Handy (German)</th>
<th>Doping (Polish)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power (Malaysian English)</td>
<td>Spec (Thai)</td>
<td>Sandwich (Flemish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viking (Japanese)</td>
<td>Vater (water) (Italian)</td>
<td>Folder (Flemish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious (Thai)</td>
<td>Footing (French/Spanish)</td>
<td>Parti (party) (Hungarian)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Handout 3

1. There were many police at the *meeting* in the town plaza.
2. I use my *handy* all the time. I can’t live without it.
3. The fans of Legia Warsaw really helped their team tonight - such great *doping* from the crowd.
4. The price will depend on the person’s *power* and eyesight.
5. I don’t like him. I prefer dark-haired guys. He’s not my *spec*.
6. I bought a *sandwich* at the bakery this morning. Might put cheese on it or have it with nothing.
7. The *viking* in the hotel was excellent - really delicious.
8. The *vater* is broken. I need to call a plumber.
9. They gave me these *folders* in the street, advertising a new restaurant.
10. I am very serious about my son. He hasn’t called and it’s getting late.
11. *Footing* is a great way to keep fit and healthy. 30mins every morning is good.
12. We’re going to that new club in town for a *parti*.

Handout 4

- Meeting (Russian) - a public protest or demonstration
- Handy (German) - a mobile phone
- Doping (Polish) - the support a crowd gives a team at a stadium
- Power (Malaysian English) - a prescription for glasses, *power* meaning the strength of prescription
- Spec (Thai) - type, as in ‘he’s not my type’
- Sandwich (Flemish) - a small brioche (type of bread)
- Viking (Japanese) - a buffet
- Vater (Italian) - the toilet
- Folder (Flemish) - a leaflet given out in public
- Serious (Thai) - anxious, worried
- Footing (French/Spanish) - jogging
- Parti (Hungarian) - an event at a nightclub (you can’t have a parti in your house)