

Learner Level: Beginner - Intermediate

Language focus: Asking questions

Skills: Speaking and Listening

Time: 10 minutes +

Materials: None

Grouping: Pairs

Preparation: Write “Who, What, Where, When, Why, How” on the board.

Quick Reference:

Students take turns being detectives. They interrogate each other with 5 questions and guess which response is a lie.

Teacher Instructions: 

1. Place students in pairs. Student A is the detective first. Student B is the suspect.
2. The detective must ask Student B five questions using Who, What, Where, When, Why (or How). Student A must answer truthfully (in complete sentences) to all of the questions except one.

For Example: ✓

Student A: *Who were you with last night.*

Student B: *I was by myself.*

Student A: *What color is the door of your home?*

Student B: *The door of my house is purple.*

Student A: *Where were you born?*

Student B: *I was born in Chicago.*

etc.

3. After the interrogation, the detective guesses which answer was a lie. Student B confesses.

For Example: ✓

Student A: *Your door isn't purple, is it? Tell me the truth!*

Student B: *Yes it is. I wasn't born in Chicago, though. I was born in New York.*

4. Students switch roles.

Teacher 2 Teacher: 

For low beginners, place simple WH questions on the board, such as “What is your full name?” or “Where do you live?”. For advanced learners, have students add a specific crime (reason for the interrogation), such as “stolen puppy” or “graffiti on the wall”.

Related Topics from the ESL-Library.com:

Detective Series: The Case of the Missing Ring
Easy Grammar Lessons