

Teaching notes

Activity

Group work

Time

15 – 20 minutes

Objective

To discuss interests

Language

- Expressions to talk about interests: *I spend a lot of my free time..., I'm really into..., etc.*
- Present perfect and past simple: *I've been doing it ever since I was a kid, I started doing it a few years ago, etc.*

Preparation

Photocopy and cut out one complete set of cards on page 14 for each group of three or four students.

Procedure

1. Divide the class into groups of three or four. Give each group a set of cards face down in the middle. Explain that they are going to play a game where they have to guess what each other's interests are. Model an example. Think of an interest, real or made-up. Start talking about it, but don't mention the interest itself. For example: *I do it three times a week, I'm a member of a club, I started when I was in school, etc.* Encourage the class to ask you questions, such as *Is it a kind of game? Do you wear any special clothes?* etc., until someone can guess what the interest is.
2. Tell each member of the group to take a card. Tell them to imagine that they have the interest that's on the card. Give them a minute to think about how to talk about the interest while you write the following expressions and questions on the board:
*I've been interested in it since...
I've been doing it ever since...
I started when I was...
I do it/play it/go every...
I spend a lot of my free time doing it.
I try to do it whenever I can.
I'm a member of a club.
We meet every...
How/Why did you get into it?
What interests you about it?
How long have you been doing it?*
3. Begin the game by getting one person in each group to start talking about the interest on their card. Encourage them to use some of the expressions on the board. Other members of the group ask questions until someone guesses what the interest is. The person who guesses correctly wins the card. Then, the next player talks about their unusual interest and so on.
4. After each round everyone takes a new card and they play again. They do this until all the cards have been used up. The winner is the one with the most cards at the end.

Follow-up

Have the groups talk about any unusual interests they actually have or used to have. Encourage them to use the expressions on the board.

**Bungee
jumping**

Cycling

Writing poetry

**Long-distance
running**

Martial arts

**Folk
dancing**

**Flying light
aircraft**

**Cheese
tasting**

**Fixing up
old cars**

**Growing
roses**

**Collecting
teapots**

**Acting
in plays**

Teaching notes

Activity

Group work

Time

20 – 30 minutes

Objective

To talk about interests using vocabulary from **3 Your interests**

Language

- Expressions to talk about interests: *I'm really into...*, *I'm not really very keen on...*
- Activity-related vocabulary: *cooking, working out, surfing the Net, etc.*

Preparation

Photocopy and cut out one complete set of cards on page 18 for each group of three or four students.

Procedure

1. Tell students to divide a piece of paper into three columns. At the top of the first column they should write *I'm really into...*, at the top of the second column *I quite like...*, and at the top of the third *I'm not really very keen on...*. Make sure students know what each expression means.
2. Tell students that they are going to listen to a list of activities and should write each activity under the appropriate column according to their feelings about it. For example, if they don't like surfing the Net, they should write it under the third column. This is the list of activities:
surfing the Net, painting and drawing, gardening and cooking, working out, playing football, going out drinking, playing board games, watching videos, playing computer games, travelling, listening to music, playing golf, going shopping, just staying in and doing nothing
3. Divide the class into groups of three or four. Explain that they are going to talk about their feelings about these activities. Write this example on the board:
A: *So what about tennis? Personally, I'm not that keen on it.*
B: *Really? I think it's brilliant!*
C: *Me too. Why don't you like it then?*
A: *I don't know. I just think it's boring, that's all. I'm more into team sports like football, basketball, and things like that.*
4. Write and revise the following idioms on the board:
It's not really my cup of tea, Oh well, each to their own, There's no accounting for taste.
5. Give each group a complete set of cards faced down. Tell them to turn over the first card and talk about the activity. Encourage them to keep the conversation going and to use idioms where appropriate. When they've finished with one card, they turn over the next one and so on.

Follow-up

Write the following prompts on the board and have students write examples using the list of activities on their cards:

- *One of the best things about...is...*
- *...is the kind of thing I like doing when I'm...*
- *The thing about...is that it...*
- *There's nothing I like more than...*



**surfing
the Net**

*painting
and drawing*

**gardening
and cooking**

working out

playing football

**going out
drinking**

**playing
board games**

watching videos

*playing
computer games*

travelling

**listening
to music**

playing golf

going shopping

*staying in and
doing nothing*

