

Activity Ideas: Ask and Ask Again

ASK AND ASK AGAIN

Ask and Ask Again allows students to improve their speaking speed. They have more than one chance to answer the same set of questions. Repetition is an excellent form of practice, allowing students to improve and build confidence.

Step One: The teacher arranges students in pairs and distributes a worksheet with up to ten questions for each person. It's advised that all the questions are centered on a singular theme.

Step Two: The teacher explains that one student asks questions from the worksheet (student A) and the other student answers the questions (student B). In addition, student A keeps a record of how many questions are asked, including follow up questions. Students have a fixed time to go through as many questions as possible, ideally two or three minutes.

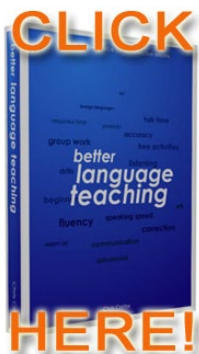
Step Three: The activity begins. Students ask/answer the questions as the teacher keeps time.

Step Four: At the end of two or three minutes, student A counts the number of questions covered. This figure becomes the target number. The same questions are practiced again, and student B expands on the answers as much as possible. The teacher allots five minutes to conduct this step.

Step Five: At the end of five minutes, student A counts the number of questions covered. The new figure should be more or less equal to the previous figure, even with the added time. This indicates improved performance. However, the past steps haven't been a real conversation per se. It's now time for the pairs to exchange information together. Student A goes through the same questions once more, but both students ask follow-up questions to generate a conversation. Students limit the talk to three minutes, marking only the questions asked from the handout. Additional follow-up questions aren't counted to the total.

Step Six: Pairs count how many questions were asked from the worksheet in Step Five. The pairs should only have used one or two questions from the worksheet, with the remaining questions based on responses.

Step Seven: Students switch roles and repeat the above steps. Student B selects different questions from the worksheet for his partner.



If you liked this idea and want others, then take a look at my ebook, [Better Language Teaching](#). There are **100 activities** with more than **75 variations** for flexible, fun learning.

Have great classes!

Chris Cotter