

## Getting learners interested: Quizzes and questionnaires

*Quizzes and questionnaires are readily available online (search by topic) and in magazines and newspapers. I make a habit of collecting them so I can select one that suits the level of a particular group of learners as well as the topic or language focus of the lesson.*

### Quizzes

Many websites have interesting, informative fact files on various topics (technology, the body, animals, space, etc.), often in the form of a quiz. Sometimes they're interactive (you select answers to create the fact file) and sometimes they're just a list of facts. I like using them to introduce a topic and, ideally, contextualise target language.

Quizzes often lend themselves to specific language-practice opportunities. The quiz used here (see over), for example, contains expressions with numbers (see immediately below) which I would use with Pre-intermediate or strong Elementary learners.

- 1 A butterfly **has** two / four / six wings.
- 2 **There are** 1000 / 1024 / 1222 bytes **in a** kilobyte.
- 3 **It takes** 248 days / months / years **for** the smallest planet Pluto **to** go around the sun.
- 4 The fastest speed of a falling raindrop **is about** 8 / 15 / 30 **metres per second**.
- 5 The average human body **contains about** 950 / 9,650 / 96,500 **km of** blood vessels.
- 6 The highest waterfall in the world, Angel Falls in Venezuela, **is** 801 / 979 / 1223 **metres high**.

Learners start by guessing the answers in pairs before checking with the teacher. Then the class looks at the target language expressions, after which each pair tries writing two or three similar quiz questions, incorporating the same language structures. They can draw on their own science knowledge or you could supply each pair with a set of pre-prepared facts and figures (you will need at least two sets). Then they ask another pair their questions and confirm the answers.

### Questionnaires

This type of questionnaire (see over) tends to suit intermediate level or higher. It is great as a lead-in to a topical lesson on, for example, psychology or relationships, or a functional lesson on negotiating or giving advice. I usually pre-teach a few expressions the learners might have trouble with. The learners then do the questionnaire, check the 'answers', then compare results in groups – or do the questionnaire, discuss the questions in groups, check the answers, then say if they agree or not. Having begun the lesson with an engaging, communicative, on-topic task, I then move on to the main focus of the lesson.

## Quiz

### Science facts

How much do you know? choose an answer

- 1 A butterfly has two / four/ six wings.
- 2 There are 1000 / 1024 / 1222 bytes in a kilobyte.
- 3 It takes 248 days / months / years for the smallest planet Pluto to go around the sun.
- 4 The fastest speed of a falling raindrop is about 8 / 15 / 30 metres per second.
- 5 The average human body contains about 950 / 9,650 / 96,500 km of blood vessels.
- 6 The highest waterfall in the world, Angel Falls in Venezuela, is 801 / 979 / 1223 metres high.

### Answers

- 1 four
- 2 1024
- 3 years
- 4 8
- 5 96,500
- 6 979

## Questionnaire

### ARE YOU TOO UNSELFISH?

Try our questionnaire. For each sentence, give yourself:

1 point for the answer *never*, 2 for *rarely*, 3 for *sometimes*, 4 for *often*, 5 for *always*

- When I say no to a request, I feel guilty.
- I believe other people's needs are more important than mine.
- I go along with the majority decision, even if I don't agree with it.
- I feel fulfilled when people depend on me.
- I prefer it when others take the initiative.
- I feel selfish when I put my own needs first.
- When people disagree with me, I feel stressed.
- I can't relax if someone important to me is angry with me.
- I adapt my behaviour to please others.
- When someone seems unhappy, I can't help worrying about them.

### Answers to questionnaire

- 10–18 You're very strong and wilful. Try thinking about other people's feelings for a change.
- 19–26 You're able to sympathise and compromise but also make your views known. Good balance!
- 27–34 It's good to think of and please others but be careful not to be TOO nice.
- 35–42 You adapt yourself too much to others' wants or needs. Have the confidence to speak out.
- 43–50 You're too unselfish – almost invisible! Be strong and assert yourself.