Group Discussions for Advanced ESL Students

By Paul J. Hamel
GROUP DISCUSSIONS
For Advanced Students

By Paul J. Hamel

The activities in this e-book have been developed to supplement English-as-a-Second-Language textbooks and curriculum -- not to replace them. They are meant to enhance and bring variety to an already-existing English language teaching program. These activities are designed for advanced ESL students who may need additional practice in speaking. Each worksheet is accompanied by a detailed step-by-step lesson plan and suggested teaching techniques to assist the instructor in providing an interesting and successful lesson. The lessons can also provide a useful resource for substitute teachers and tutors. The e-book opens in a PDF and there is no need to print out the whole book. Lessons can be printed out as needed.

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For more information concerning this publications go to “eslworksheetsandlessonplans.com.” or contact Paul J. Hamel at “paul.hamel@ymail.com.”

A special thanks to Mike Breyer for his website knowledge and to Donald Leach for proof reading.
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</table>
INTRODUCTION

These activities have been designed for advanced ESL students. No matter how good or complete the content of your textbook or curriculum may be, there will always be a need to fill in the gaps in knowledge and skills your students were assumed to have learned.

These activities have been designed to
• encourage group interaction and discussion
• increase individual student’s speaking time during class
• expand students’ use of new vocabulary and expressions
• review and understand already-taught materials in a new way
• keep their minds active and engaged
• learn new words and phrases in context
• make inferences, evaluate choices, and draw conclusions
• refresh and help retain grammar points and vocabulary they have already been exposed to

Making the Flash Cards

• Some of the activities will require you to make double-sided photocopies. This may take a little effort, but once you have the cards, you will have a popular group activity that will last you many years. Card stock is recommended, but regular paper is fine.

• When photocopying, place the sheets containing the questions followed by the sheets containing the answers. For example, **Sheet 1A** should be followed by the **Sheet 1B**, etc. After you have made the two-sided photocopies, cut the sheets along the dotted line to form cards. Place them in a small envelope for easy access and store them for future use.

Paul J. Hamel, January, 2012
GROUP DISCUSSION ACTIVITIES FOR ADVANCED ESL STUDENTS

TRIVIA GAME

From the author

This activity is meant for advanced ESL students. This activity contains detailed teacher’s notes, 60 trivia question cards, and a student handout containing a list of the trivia questions.

The activity is designed to
• provide advanced ESL students with a fun group activity
• encourage group interaction and discussion
• increase individual student’s speaking time during class
• expand students’ use of new vocabulary and expressions
• test the students’ general knowledge

Paul Hamel has been teaching ESL for over 40 years and is currently teaching at the American Language Center at UCLA Extension in Los Angeles.

Teacher’s Notes

Making the Flash Cards

• This activity will require you to make double-sided photocopies. This may take a little effort, but once you have the cards, you will have a popular group activity that will last you many years. Card stock is recommended, but regular paper is fine.

• When photocopying, place the sheets containing the trivia questions followed by the sheets containing the answers. For example, Sheet 1A should be followed by the Sheet 1B, etc. There are four different sets of sheets of cards for a total of 60 cards.

• Divide the 60 trivia cards into three or four piles. (For large classes you may want to make additional sets of cards.)

• After you have made the two-sided photocopies, cut the sheets along the dotted line to form cards. Place them in a small envelope for easy access and future storage.

Lesson Plan

1. Divide the class into groups of three or four.
2. Place an envelope in front of each group. Do not let the students open the envelope to see the questions ahead of time.
3. Have each group select a score keeper.
4. Tell the students to take turns selecting one trivia question at a time from the envelope.
5. Direct them to read their question aloud and discuss possible answers to the trivia question.
6. The first person to answer the question correctly gets one point.
7. If groups run out of cards, have groups exchange cards and continue the activity.
8. At the end of the activity have the score keepers report their group’s winner.
9. Give the winners a round of applause.
10. At the end of the activity collect the cards and store them in the envelopes for future use.
11. Continue this activity at a future time by having different groups use different sets of cards.
12. Distribute a copy of the handout containing a list of all the trivia questions. (If you continue the activity at a future time, you may not want to distribute the handout right away.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How long is a round in boxing?</th>
<th>How many colors are there in a rainbow?</th>
<th>How many lanes does an olympic swimming pool have?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How many legs does a spider have?</td>
<td>How many players are there in a volleyball team?</td>
<td>In what language does “obrigado” mean “thank you”?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In which city is Hollywood?</td>
<td>What are the first three words of the bible?</td>
<td>What are the five colors of the Olympic rings?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What colors make purple?</td>
<td>What do you use to take a cork out of a bottle?</td>
<td>What horoscope sign has a crab?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the capital of Australia?</td>
<td>What is the first letter on a keyboard?</td>
<td>What country has the largest population?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8 7 3 minutes

Portuguese 6 8

red, yellow, green, blue, and black

In the beginning ...

Los Angeles

Cancer

a corkscrew

red and blue

China (1,300,000,000)

Q Canberra
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What money do they use in Japan?</th>
<th>What’s the biggest country in the world?</th>
<th>What year did Christopher Columbus go to America?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What’s the capital of Brazil?</td>
<td>What’s the capital of Ecuador?</td>
<td>What’s the world’s longest river?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What’s the capital of Finland?</td>
<td>On what continent is Cameroon?</td>
<td>What’s the capital of Kenya?</td>
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<td>What’s the hardest rock?</td>
<td>What’s the highest mountain in Africa?</td>
<td>What’s the highest mountain in the world?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s the largest city in India?</td>
<td>What’s the most important book in the Moslem religion?</td>
<td>What’s the name of the famous big clock in London?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1492 Russia yen

Nile River
4,160 miles/
6,695 kilometers

QUITO Brasilia

Nairobi Africa Helsinki

Everest Kilimanjaro diamond

Big Ben Koran Bombay
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What's the real name of Siddartha Gautama?</td>
<td>What's the smallest country in the world?</td>
<td>When did the first man go into space?</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>When did the First World War start?</td>
<td>When did the Second World War end?</td>
<td>Where does the American president live?</td>
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<td>Where is the smallest bone in the body?</td>
<td>Where was Christopher Columbus born?</td>
<td>Which fast food restaurants were established by Ray Kroc?</td>
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<td>Which is the largest ocean?</td>
<td>Which is the most spoken language?</td>
<td>Which is the only mammal that can't jump?</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Which is the smallest ocean?</td>
<td>Which planet is nearest the sun?</td>
<td>Which river goes through London?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Vatican City</td>
<td>Buddha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The White House</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonalds</td>
<td>Genoa, Italy</td>
<td>ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elephant</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thames</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>Artic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What state is known as the “Golden State?”</td>
<td>What does “D.C.” mean in Washington D.C.?</td>
<td>Who is Mickey Mouse’s girlfriend?</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who gave his name to the month of July?</td>
<td>Who invented the electric light bulb?</td>
<td>Who invented the telephone?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who painted the Mona Lisa?</td>
<td>Who said $E=mc^2$?</td>
<td>Who said “I think, therefore I am?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who said, “Vini, vidi, vici”?</td>
<td>Who starts first in chess?</td>
<td>Who was the first man in space?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who was the first man on the moon?</td>
<td>Who was the first president of the United State?</td>
<td>What’s the biggest city in the USA?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnie Mouse</td>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Graham Bell</td>
<td>Thomas Edison</td>
<td>Julius Caesar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descartes</td>
<td>Albert Einstein</td>
<td>Da Vinci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gagarin</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>Julius Caesar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>George Washington</td>
<td>Neil Armstrong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trivia Game Questions and Answers

1. How long is a round in boxing? (3 minutes)
2. How many colors are there in a rainbow? (7)
3. How many lanes does an Olympic swimming pool have? (8)
4. How many legs does a spider have? (8)
5. How many players are there in a volleyball team? (6)
6. In what language does “obrigado” mean “thank you”? (Portuguese)
7. In which city is Hollywood? (Los Angeles)
8. What are the first three words of the Bible? (In the beginning...)
9. What are the five colors of the Olympic rings? (red, yellow, green, blue, and black)
10. What colors make purple? (red and blue)
11. What do you use to take a cork out of a bottle? (corkscrew)
12. What zodiac sign has a crab? (Cancer)
13. What is the capital of Australia? (Canberra)
14. What is the first letter on a keyboard? (Q)
15. What country has the largest population? (China)
16. What money do they use in Japan? (Yen)
17. What’s the biggest country in the world? (Russia)
18. What year did Christopher Columbus go to America? (1492)
19. What’s the capital of Brazil? (Brasilia)
20. What’s the capital of Finland? (Helsinki)
21. What’s the capital of Ecuador? (Quito)
22. What’s the world’s longest river? (Nile)
23. On what continent is Cameroon? (Africa)
24. What’s the capital of Kenya? (Nairobi)
25. What’s the hardest rock? (diamond)
26. What’s the highest mountain in Africa? (Kilimanjaro)
27. What’s the highest mountain in the world? (Everest)
28. What’s the largest city in India? (Bombay)
29. What’s the most important book in the Moslem religion? (Koran)
30. What’s the name of the famous big clock in London? (Big Ben)
31. What’s the real name of Siddartha Gautama? (Buddha)
32. What’s the smallest country in the world? (Vatican City)
33. When did the first man go into space? (1961)
34. When did the First World War start? (1914)
35. When did the Second World War end? (1945)
36. Where does the American president live? (The White House)
37. Where is the smallest bone in the body? (Ear)
38. Where was Christopher Columbus born? (Genoa, Italy)
39. Which fast food restaurants were established by Ray Kroc? (McDonald’s)
40. Which is the largest ocean? (Pacific)
41. Which is the most spoken language? (Chinese)
42. Which is the only mammal that can’t jump? (Elephant)
43. Which is the smallest ocean? (Artic)
44. Which planet is nearest the sun? (Mercury)
45. Which river goes through London? (Thames)
46. What state is known as the “Golden State”? (California)
47. What does “D.C.” mean in Washington, D.C.? (District of Columbia)
48. Who gave his name to the month of July? (Julius Caesar)
49. Who invented the electric light bulb? (Thomas Edison)
50. Who invented the telephone? (Bell)
51. Who painted the Mona Lisa? (Da Vinci)
52. Who said E=mc²? (Einstein)
53. Who said, “I think, therefore I am”? (Descartes)
54. Who said, “Vini, vidi, vici”? (Caesar)
55. Who starts first in chess? (White)
56. Who was the first man in space? (Gagarin)
57. Who was the first man on the moon? (Neil Armstrong)
58. Who was the first president of the United States? (Washington)
59. Who is Mickey Mouse’s girlfriend? (Minnie Mouse)
60. What is the biggest city in the United States? (New York)