



Subject: Detectives – a speaking game.

Group level: intermediate and up

Lesson objectives: practicing speaking and vocabulary (mainly related to the topic of crime); asking questions and use of past tenses; group work Lesson stages:

1) Introduction

Students are informed that they would be playing a game and, depending on the number of students, they are divided into 3 groups of 2 or 3 detectives and 3 individuals who would take on the role of suspects. The groups of detectives sit far away from each other so that they cannot hear each other's speaking. The students are told that a crime has been committed (the teacher chooses what it is: a theft, a robbery, etc.) and the only information available is the approximate time and place of the crime. There are 3 suspects of the crime, who happen to be friends, and the goal of the game is for the detectives to decide who has the weakest alibi and, therefore, is most likely to have committed the crime.

2) Game

The detectives and suspects are given a few minutes to prepare. The suspects leave the classroom and they decide on their alibi collaboratively. They must work out the details about themselves and their statements. In the meantime, the detectives (within their groups) decide on the questions they would ask the suspects. When the suspects come back, each one sits in front of a different group of detectives who interrogate them in order to find out as much as possible about the suspect and catch any discrepancies in their statement (the questions do not necessarily have to be about the crime itself; the detectives may ask about how the suspects know each other or details from their lives). After a set time (about 5 minutes), each suspect goes to a different group of detectives and is interrogated again. After each group of detectives interrogated all the suspects, every group has a few minutes to analyse the information. The suspects are allowed to consult with each other to improve their alibi. The detectives discuss their findings within their groups (they may not contact other groups). The groups of detectives ask chosen suspects to answer additional questions if necessary. After the second round of questioning, the groups of detectives consult with each other and they decide whose alibi was the weakest.

3) Summary

The students analyse their performances and discuss the outcome of the game. Prepared

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