

# Activity Template

- **Title** A Newspaper Article

- **Author** JoAnn Miller

- **Proficiency level**

Beginning  Intermediate  Advanced

- **Grade level**

High school, adult, college

- **Purpose of the activity**

This activity has been designed to give zero-beginning students an opportunity to use their limited resources to interact and communicate ideas in English, both in realistic and pedagogical activities.

- **Type of activity**

- Communicative activity with production and reception sections.
- Classroom/seating arrangement: individual, pairs, groups of 3, whole group
- Setting: Classroom

- **Objective**

This activity practices asking for and giving information and reading comprehension. It also reviews the present tense: BE, verbs (I, YOU) in statements and questions.

- **Duration**

30-40 minutes

- **Materials and technology** (See Appendix)

Article

- **Activity**

**Structure/Vocabulary:** Present Tense: BE, verbs (I, YOU) - statements and questions.

**Functions:** Asking for and giving information.

**Materials:** Article (Reading comprehension).

PRE - ACTIVITY

**Skills:** Reading.

**Organization:** Individual, pairs, whole group.

**Procedures:**

(1) Have students read the article and answer the comprehension questions.

(2) Compare answers in pairs and correct with whole group.

ACTIVITY

**Skills:** Speaking, listening, writing.

**Organization:** Pairs, groups of three, pairs.

**Situation:**

Part One: Students work for a newspaper. They are in charge of interviewing famous people for feature articles.

Part Two: Pairs of reporters will interview famous person.

Part Three: Reporters will collaborate to write the article.

**Procedure:**

Part One:

(1) Put students into pairs to prepare a list of questions to use in an interview with a famous person.

(2) Walk around and help with vocabulary.

Part Two:

(1) Regroup. Keep 2/3 of the pairs together but 1/3 become famous people. (They can use their own identities or assume that of famous people they decide on or you assign).

(2) Pairs of reporters interview famous person and take notes of the answers.

(3) Then regroup again so that famous people can be reporters too.

Part Three: (1) Reporters get together and write an article about the famous people.

POST - ACTIVITY

**Skills:** Reading and writing.

**Organization:** Pairs or individuals.

**Procedures:**

Students will be editors.

(1) Collect articles written by students.

(2) Hand them out again so that each student of pair of students have a copy.

(3) Students read and correct articles. (This can be done as homework if it is done individually.)

(4) Editors get together with reporters and discuss their corrections.

- **References**

None, it is an original activity.

- **Useful Links**

[www.eftasks.net](http://www.eftasks.net)

## Appendix (Material)

Post-Activity

THE EVENING NEWS Friday, October 3, 2007

### **Jane Foster, New Director of Language School**

Mexico City, Jane Foster, former director of the Albany Language School, has been named director of the famous American Language Institute here in Mexico City. This language school is among the largest in the city with more than 5,000 students in English program and 2,000 foreign students in the Spanish program. Ms. Foster is the first woman to be named director of this school in its twenty year history.

Ms. Foster is married to Kenneth James, economy professor at the National University. They have two children, Ralph, 25, who is studying physics at the University of California - Santa Cruz and Joyce, 19, a student at the National University.

Ms. Foster is the daughter of the former ambassador from the United States in Barbados, Richard Foster and Madeleine Johnston, a successful novelist. Ms. Foster's two brothers, Paul and Mark are doctors.

### **Find the answers in the article:**

1. What does Ms. Foster do?
2. What languages does the American Language Institute teach?
3. What is Ms. Foster's husband's name?
4. How old are Ms. Foster's children?
5. Where is Ms. Foster's son?
6. What do her parents do?
7. Does she have any brothers or sisters?