

First Literacy: Creating Community in Virtual Spaces -- Activities

PART 1: October 6th, 2021

Kitchen Utensil: Choose a utensil, cookware or food item that represents a challenge you face in teaching English

(on-line or in person)

Spotlight - “Have you ever...?”: Introduce use of Post-It as camera cover then pose Questions: Have you been

teaching for 10 years or more; 10 years or less – say if first year; born in or next to Boston; born in another state;

born in another country; speak 2 or more languages; have a dog, other pet?); have raised/raising children; have ever

cut your own hair; have ever locked your keys in the car (while engine running?); grown your own vegetables; slept

under the stars; baked a cake from scratch

Handshakes – Demo fisher and logger with emphasis on cultural features and being physically embodied via the

screen. Next small groups share and practice handshakes from their cultural context (authentic or created) then

return to share and practice as a large group.

FFEACH – Charades acting out actions, objects or even feelings from a pre-set list. Categories used: Daily Activities;

Electrical Appliances & Culinary Tasks

Daily Activities: Shopping for Food; Shoveling Snow; Parallel Parking; Parking Sign Reading; Riding a Bike;

Playing Football;

Electrical Appliances: Toaster; Blender; Space Heater; Microwave; Hair Dryer; Pencil Sharpener; Printer;

Culinary Tasks: Cutting Vegetables; Adding Spices; Squeezing Lemons; Checking

Ripeness; Smelling if still

good; Pouring Batter; Checking the Oven; Washing Dishes

Closing - Chinese Hand hold, pinky hold and 2 fist bump closure (participant generated concept)

PART 2: October 27th, 2021

Red, Yellow, Green/Challenge Circles - Participants find one object of each color then respond to questions

indicating their relative feeling of challenge

Your Add – In pairs and trios quickly add/subtract the fingers displayed in one's hands. Practicing numeracy, thinking

quick, clear communication, being present, and even addressing how we might compare ourselves to others or fear

being judged

Letter Connection: In breakout room 'word factories' team members work together to create words from randomly

selected letter cards. Those words that can be argued to be descriptive of desired behaviors for an effective learning

community are given double point value.

- Challenge/Inquiry check-in
- Speed Numbers/Backwards Alphabet

Broken Robot – Collaborative use of limited language (single words) by a team to guide a robot (participant

volunteer) attempting to retrieve an object situated in view/on camera within their workspace

- Essential Language: Go/Stop - Left/Right – Forward/Back – Up/Down – Reach/Grab

Junk Drawer debrief - Share screen photo of random utilitarian objects that can represent a key learning/take away