

The news

Level: Elementary/Pre-intermediate
Type: General English
Skills practised: Speaking, listening
Language/Systems: Shape vocabulary (review and expand), asking and replying to questions in different tense
Material: notecards (lesson overview, shape vocabulary, homework), picture of photographers
Tools: notecard displayer, secure picture board, a chair or the hot spot object
Location/LMs: A garden (where you can rez objects), Reuters bureau in SL

Summary: This is lesson is to get students speaking and to prepare them for the next lesson where they will interview a surprise guest.

We will visit Reuters' bureau in SL and talk about news agencies and journalist to introduce the topic to the students. This will be followed by the "Hot Seat" game. Students will take turns sitting on the hot seat and being interviewed by their classmates. This activity will help students practise asking questions and responding to them. Finally, there will be another speaking activity called "Impromptu Speech" which is a fluency activity and usually a lot of fun.

🕒	STAGE & ACTIVITY
	<p>Welcome back! ---> Sound Check <---</p> <p>Overview of lesson (n.card displayer):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary: Review of shapes + adjectives Topic: The news Playing speaking games
	<p>Review and expand shapes vocab (display notecard with vocab)</p> <p>Ask: What shape is the Earth? (It's a shpere./It's spherical)</p> <p>Can you think of things that are cubical/conic/...?</p>
	<p>Rez the Reuters news stand and give students time to look at it and suggest what it is and what it shows.</p> <p>Ask if anybody knows what or who Reuters is? (A news agency)</p> <p>What does a news agency do?</p>
	<p>Teleport everybody to Reuters in SL.</p> <p>Give ss 10 min to walk around and find out what is there.</p> <p>Sit in one of the seating areas in the lounge. Ss report about their findings.</p> <p>Ask:</p> <p>Who works for a news agency?</p> <p>Has any of you ever wanted to become a journalist? Why?</p> <p>What kind of work does a journalist do?</p> <p>What kind of personality should a journalist have?</p>

	<p>Teleport back to "class". Show ss picture of journalists/photographers and ask how it would make them feel to be the person photographed/interviewed.</p> <p>Play the game "Hot Seat": Ss sit in a circle or semicircle (less intimidating for the person on the hot seat). One student sits on the hot chair. The others ask him/her any question they want (depending on the number of students it can be two rounds until the next student sits on the hot seat).</p> <p>NOTE: Tell the students on the hot seat, they can give diplomatic answers or even refuse to answer if the questions are too personal).</p> <p>Feedback: How did you feel on the hot seat/as one of the ss who asked questions. Did you ask all the questions you wanted or where you careful not to ask some questions?</p> <p>*For this game to be played there should be good rapport in the class so that the person on the hot spot doesn't feel uncomfortable.</p>
	<p>Depending on the number of students, there will be time for this stage.</p> <p>Go to the arena on the sim or find a conference room or arena somewhere else (where there isn't any traffic at this time).</p> <p>Ask ss whether they have ever given a speech (in front of the class or a larger audience). And how they feel/felt about it. Tell ss we are going to play a game which is called "Impromptu Speech". Explain the rules: They will receive a card with a word on it. They have 15 sec to think what they will say related to this topic. Then, they have to speak about this topic for one minute without long hesitations. Model the task!!!</p> <p>Feedback: Ask how they felt? If they like giving presentations or speeches? Why/Why not? Do they have to give presentations in their current jobs? Will they have to do so in English in the future?</p>
	<p>Homework:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fill out the feedback survey for lesson 9: http://snurl.com/surveylesson9 2. Chose any topic you want and prepare an (informal) presentation using the free service slideshare.net or voicethread (use your own account, make it public and give me the embed code or link). See my voicethread presentation as an example (on the course website). 3. Leave comments on your classmates' presentation.