

True False Life in Britain



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Level: B1+ or higher

Age: 15 - 19

Aim: to learn about life in Britain and some interesting facts about Britain

Exercise type: a true/false exercise, a competition

Time: 35 - 40 minutes

Language: car boot sale, builder's tea, on the beat, to mince

Materials: Make photocopies of True False Life in Britain (one per pair). You may need a copy of Life in Britain – Answers for the teacher. Make copies of True False cards. You may use a kind of card-stock paper which is suitable for printing. If not translucent, it will prevent students from seeing what the other pairs have voted for. Cut up the copies of True False cards so that each pair can have one True card and one False card.

Instructions: 1 Pre-teach some vocabulary that might be difficult for your students, e. g. on the beat, mince, car boot sale. You can skip this step if the students are advanced.

2 Divide the students into pairs and give them 10 – 15 minutes to discuss whether the statements are true or false. Tell them that there are 19 statements that are either true or false and one is iffy. (It is doubtful. It might be true, but not necessarily.) While the students are working, decide how many pairs will be within one group and how many groups there will be. For example, if you have 12 students, there can be two groups consisting of three pairs each, or three groups consisting of two pairs each. If you have 18 students, there can be three groups with three pairs each.

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- 3 Tell the students that now they are going to vote as a pair but they are going to get a point if all the pairs in their group answer correctly. You can also allot an extra point for a correct explanation, e. g. if a student explains why the British drive on the left.
- 4 Read a statement and encourage the students to vote at the same time. Allot points. Ask the students to give explanations. Explain where necessary. If you want, you can let the students read the statements but it will probably take more time.
- 5 Count the points of each group and announce the winner.
- 6 If there is still some time left, you can ask the students to make statements about life in Britain and their friends say if these are true or false, either in pairs or as a class activity.

Tip: If you find the activity too long, you can use only one half or one third of the statements at a time. You may also leave out the idea of team competing.

Source: The True False Life in Britain material is used with permission of Alison McLaren, a teacher at IPC Exeter. The material is very slightly changed to suit the situation. The group competition is my own idea.

Attachment (1): True False Life in Britain

Attachment (2): True False cards

Source of the picture in Attachment (1): Alena Vojáčková