

Volunteering

Topic

Voluntary work

Aims

- To practise speaking skills doing a mini-survey
- To develop job-related lexis
- To practise reading skills

Age group

12 - adults

Level

B1/ B2

Time

60 – 90 minutes

Materials

1. Volunteering Student worksheet
2. Internet links: <http://www.vso.org.uk/volunteering> - VSO website
<http://www.csv.org.uk/?display=volunteering> - UK volunteering and social action charity
<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/> - England's volunteers development agency
<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/> - National Trust's website for conservation volunteers.

Introduction

There are currently more than 22 million people in Britain who work as volunteers for many different organisations. Many employers nowadays favour job applicants who have some experience of voluntary work and many young people appreciate this. Having some form of voluntary work on your CV can often improve your chances of getting a job. Some young people in the UK who take a 'gap year' before starting University use part of their time to do some voluntary work, whether in the UK or abroad. There is a week dedicated to all volunteers in the UK every year.

Task 1 introduces the topic of jobs and leads into the concept of voluntary work. Task 2 gives students the chance to talk to each other about their own experiences of volunteering. Task 3 is a light-hearted activity which looks at some bizarre voluntary jobs that really do exist in the UK. Task 4 is a reading taken from a Trend UK article which goes into more detail about the current situation of volunteering in the UK. Task 5 and Task 6 are optional. Task 5 gives students some discussion statements to talk about in groups and Task 6 is a creative task for groups to design posters to encourage young people to volunteer in their community.

Procedure

1. Task 1 – Jobs: Important factors	<p>Ask some of the students what jobs they hope to do in the future. Then ask them to think about the factors that are important to them when thinking about jobs. Ask students to brainstorm as many ideas as they can and to write them down. If you prefer, do a group brainstorm on the board. Their ideas may include: money / well-paid, you like the job, near your home, don't have to wear a uniform, satisfying job, it's inside / outside, working with people, creative etc. etc..</p> <p>When students have written the top three factors ask them if one of their top three was to do with money. This will lead you nicely into the idea of voluntary work. Make sure all the students understand the concept of voluntary work.</p>
2. Task 2 –Mini-survey	<p>Tell the students they are going to find out about their classmates by doing a mini survey about volunteering. There is only one question to the survey so the idea is for students to find out as much information as they can by asking the two follow-up questions and making notes. When they have gathered the information, get some feedback from the whole group.</p>
3. Task 3 – Bizarre jobs for volunteers	<p>If you are working with a low level group don't show them the whole list of jobs in task 3, just choose three or four of the bizarre jobs and explain them to the students using mime and pictures. Then ask students to think of some other bizarre jobs. They too can use mime and pictures to explain their ideas for bizarre jobs.</p>
4. Task 4 – Reading: Volunteering for love?	<p>This is a reading task for higher level students. Before you start, divide the students into two groups, A and B. Tell the groups that they are responsible for explaining the vocabulary in their column to the other group when they have read the text and had time to look up the words in a dictionary or ask you the meaning. Before moving on to the discussion questions ask representatives from each group to clarify the vocabulary for the whole group.</p>
5. Task 5 -	<p>This task is for higher levels who can express their opinions reasonably easily in</p>

Lesson plan

Discussion statements	English. Cut up the statements on the additional worksheet and give one set to each group of students. Encourage students to justify their arguments, giving reasons – you can review language for discussions first. Ask one member of the group to read out the statement and discuss with the group members. As the students are speaking you can monitor the groups and make notes of good language use that you hear and also of any mistakes you hear. Use these notes at the end to give students feedback on their speaking.
6. Task 6 - Poster Campaign	This is a group task for lower levels and/or younger learners. Tell students that they are going to design a poster to encourage young people to do voluntary work. They should think of a motto or a heading for the poster. You could display them around the school or your classroom at the end.

Contributed by

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