

Ma France en classe

Unité 19 : Le dating

Activities based on this unit will help your learners to:

- *Exchange information about themselves and their character*
- *Say what they like to do in their spare time and ask others about it*
- *Use "tu" to address friends*

Here are some suggestions for using the films and activities in the classroom. There are so many ways of exploiting the material; don't forget to let us know if you think of more.

Setting the scene

- Explain to everyone that you are going to witness an evening of Turbo-dating and ask the group to describe what they imagine it might be like. For some fun, you might like to set up six members of the group, three men and three women in two rows opposite one another and then read Philippe's introduction to the evening guests. It will give everyone the picture of what's involved.
- Ask them to predict expressions that might be heard at such an event. *Un partenaire, l'amour, sortir* and some adjectives such as *célibataire* and *divorcé* come to mind. Brainstorm and put everything on the board.
- Watch Video A and ask the group members to come up and tick off expressions that they heard in the film.

Exchanging information

- It's helpful to prepare everyone for the new vocabulary in the dialogue. Choose some expressions from the transcript or from the Vocabulary notes, print out French and English equivalents, cut into small squares and mix them up. Give one to all participants, ask them to circulate to try and find their "partner", i.e. the person with the equivalent expression.
- Show Video A once more, pausing to get everyone to try the quiz questions - not for comprehension, but to help confirm the expressions heard.
- Distribute copies of the transcript and divide the learners into three groups. Ask Group 1 to pick out adjectives to describe character, Group 2 to pick out verbs, activities that people like to do and Group 3 to pick out the key questions that the Speed-dating participants (or Nathalie) ask each other.

Then form triads, jigsaw fashion, with one person from each of the previous groups, so that all the expressions can be shared. The person with the questions "interviews" the other two, one about character traits and the other about preferred leisure pursuits. The questions offer good practice in the use of "tu".

- It's more realistic to try this sort of conversation in twos so try the Jeu de rôle with Stéphane. It's short and gives the opportunity for everyone to take part in turns. Then use those questions or the ones from the transcript as the basis for a role-play in pairs. Differentiate by offering a greater range of questions to stronger, more confident learners.



More about speed-dating

- In Video B, Philippe talks about his clients. Show the Comprehension Quiz before the film, as a reading activity to introduce the subject matter. Encourage the students to anticipate what the answers might be.
- Show Video B, pausing to take part in the Comprehension Quiz. Had the group anticipated correctly?

Consolidation

- Practise some of the questions and statements from the film by playing Pétanque online. It's very competitive if you throw each question open to the floor and take the quickest answer, but some learners are easily intimidated and prefer to take turns. Others don't like the spotlight on them. To decide on an approach, know your group and know your learners.
- The Quiz Culturel presents a wider range of adjectives; use it as a final challenge at the end of the session. Each person takes a turn and must match two halves of a sentence perfectly before leaving.
- Solitaire reminds us of many of the new expressions. Try it as a starter/refresher the next time.
- The E-mail activity can be done at home, or used as material for a running dictation at the start of another session.
- Show Video C, The Challenge, and ask everyone to prepare some notes, describing themselves as *le partenaire idéal / la partenaire idéale* for the next session.

For more support

All the activities are available online:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/dating/activity.shtml>

All transcripts are available online:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/dating/summary.shtml>