



How Can Negative WH-Questions Make Speaking Practice More Interesting?

S06E23 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Purpose

Add a negative form to imaginative WH-questions and invite learners to explain their choices. In S06E23, Gav asks Em questions such as “Which superpower would you not like to have?” and “What film would you not want to be stuck inside forever?”

Try this in your next lesson

Ask Which superpower would you not like to have? Model a negative answer and a reason, then ask a follow-up.

Our suggested routine

- ☐ Choose a theme learners can imagine, such as superpowers, films or historical periods.
- ☐ Model a question with a negative form, such as “What would you not want to...?”.
- ☐ Give learners time to think, then let them answer and explain why.
- ☐ Invite follow-up questions to extend the conversation.

A classroom example

For our suggested task, offer three imaginary abilities: hearing everyone’s thoughts, glowing in the dark and always floating. Learners reject one and explain a difficulty. A partner asks why or suggests a way to control it. Offer another fictional topic if needed. The aim is a clear negative question and an extended answer, not the most entertaining response.

Answers and teacher guidance

Models: Which power would you not choose? Which power wouldn’t you choose? Answer: I wouldn’t choose... because... .

After the attempt

What worked? What needs another model or a smaller step? Note one change for next time.

Read the full explanation and examples:
howtoenglishpod.com - S06E23 article