

4D Reported speech – Interviews with the famous

Aim

to review reported speech, reporting verbs and structures

Activity type

preparing and carrying out an interview, reporting, article writing

Classroom dynamics

pairwork

Time taken

40 minutes

Preparation

You will need one copy of the activity sheet per pair.

Procedure

- Tell students that they are going to roleplay being university researchers. They are going to create and conduct interviews with different famous people in order to find out the answers to the following questions:
 - What are the secrets of the rich and famous?
 - What are the best ways to become and stay successful?
- Divide the class into pairs and give each pair a copy of the activity sheet. Assign each pair a different role from Part A. Then, give students around 5 minutes to read through Part B. They should think of at least three or four more interview questions which will help them answer the research questions in the box.
- Students take turns to interview each other, with one student role playing the interviewer and the other the famous person. Allow around 5 or 10 minutes for this stage. Students should take some brief notes in order to remember what was said during the interview. Remind the interviewers that they should keep the research questions in mind, as they will need to answer these later.
- Divide students into new pairs. Give them 5 or 10 minutes to tell each other about the famous person they interviewed and what they said, using reported speech. They should then collate their ideas and discuss which are best, using their interview notes to support them. At the end, the students should answer the research questions.
- Tell students they are going to write a short report on the research questions using their research from the interviews. Give them around 15 minutes to plan what they want to include and then write the report together. Monitor closely and take notes in order to give feedback at the end of the activity.
- Ask pairs to swap reports and make comments on the research.

Adaptation and extension

As an alternative format for smaller classes, create a 'press conference' by dividing the class into two groups. Half of the students in each group take on the roles of the famous people and are interviewed by the other half of their group, who will act as journalists. Make sure that each 'journalist' makes notes of the answers to all questions. Let this stage continue for 5 minutes, then students can swap roles. Once complete, students write sentences reporting what the famous people said in the press conference. At the end of the activity students share the sentences. Check whether each 'famous person' is in agreement that they really said that!

FORMULA C1
ADVANCED
Grammar

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Part A

A billionaire property tycoon	An Olympic gold-medal winner	An international supermodel
The leader of a powerful country	An Oscar-winning actor	A chart-topping classical musician

Part B

Research questions

- What are the secrets of the rich and famous?
- What are the best ways to become and stay successful?

- Ask some basic personal details.
- Ask for suggestions on how to become successful.
- Ask about some of the possible downfalls of becoming famous.
- Ask about some of their regrets.
- Ask about any good advice they were given.
- Ask if they have any new projects they are going to announce in the near future.

Extra questions

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