

3.2: Activity

In-class activity

1. **Put students in pairs.** I usually have them count off "One, two, one, two..." and then have them self select which One partners with which Two. If it's an uneven number of students, I participate.
2. **The two students face each other.**
3. **Ask students in each pair to decide:** one is Blue, the other Green--or any other pair of something you like to use.
4. **Blue goes first:** for 1 minute, without stopping, describe what you did last weekend/over summer/over the holidays... **Green:** demonstrate the best listening skills.
5. **Green goes next.** For 1 minute, without stopping, describe what you did last weekend/over summer/over the holidays... **Blue:** demonstrate the worst listening skills.
6. After 1 minute, put together 2-3 student pairs and ask the Blues to compile a list of how they knew that their partners were listening; if you want, also ask to list how they felt about that.
7. Compile a class list on the whiteboard: active listening best practices and the positive emotions it produced.

Extention

- Compile a similar list of emotions from those who were in the Green talking group--Blue didn't listen to what they said.
- Possible conclusion statement: as listeners, it is our behavior (which is under our control) that leads to emotions in our conversation partner. It's a powerful tool in our toolbox.

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