

How to make your party fun!

Teacher's notes

Preparation:

This is a "running dictation". The aim of this activity is to get students to memorize language in chunks and dictate them to a partner. Copy the text "A trick to make your party fun!" on a large A3 or A2 paper so that it is easily readable for several people who are standing in front of it when you hang it as a poster on a wall. The poster should hang at some distance from your students, e.g. outside the classroom in the hall, or in the lobby. If the weather is good you can even take your students outdoors.

In class:

Get your students into pairs. One of them is the runner, the other one is the secretary. The runners run to the poster with the party tip and try and memorize as much of a sentence as possible, then run back to their partner and dictate what they have read and memorized. Then the same student runs again, and so on. If the team agrees, they can change roles some time during the activity. The winner is the team who finishes first. Have a small prize for the winning team.

After the activity check the sentences together. You could have another prize available for the team with the most correct sentences.

Text of the poster:

A trick to make your party fun!

One of the big differences in German and English party culture is the number of chairs. In Germany, you usually have a chair for every guest you are expecting.

People then sit at tables in their chairs and don't move again for hours. This means you can't talk to many different people.

In English-speaking countries you often have a buffet of food and drinks, and a limited number of chairs.

Whenever one guest gets up and goes to the buffet, another one takes his chair and has a new conversation partner.

A simple idea – and a lot of fun!

Teaching tip:

Running dictations appeal to all learner types, visual, auditory, and kinaesthetic, as they combine reading, listening, and moving. In order to memorize the sentences students have to read them carefully and understand them. The secretary should help and ask questions if the runner doesn't remember properly. Make sure that you show the prize for the winning team before the activity – it will be a lot of fun!

Extension activity:

You can use running dictations as an icebreaker and revise phrases and vocabulary from the lesson before.