## Practice Teaching #1

### **Needs Analysis and Questions in a Bag**

**Purpose:** ***The goal of the first night is to get to know your students and practice being in front of the classroom in a comfortable, informal setting. You will have a chance to gather information from both levels, which will be used to better help you design lessons geared towards their needs and interests. The night will be divided into two main activities as described below.***

Needs analysis: This is used to determine the background and needs of your students. We will design a series of questions that you can use to find out more about why your students are learning English and what other language learning experiences they have had.

Questions in a bag: These are topical questions that are designed to find out more about your students’ interests and also to give them an opportunity to talk and share themselves. You will want to create questions that generate conversation. From this activity, you will also begin to gauge what their strengths and challenges in English are.

**Schedule**

6:00-6:25 Mingle and snacks

6:30-7:20 Name game and needs analysis

7:30-8:30 Get-to-know you activity: Questions in a bag

Group 1

6:30-7:20 Name game and needs analysis (**lower level**)

7:30-8:30 Questions in a bag (**upper level**)

Group 2

6:30-7:20 Name game and needs analysis (**upper level**)

7:30-8:30 Questions in a bag (**lower level**)

**Examples of needs analysis questions:**

Lower level

1. Why are you learning English?
2. How often do you use, read, listen to English?
3. When did you start learning English?
4. What do you like/ dislike about learning English?

Upper level

1. What do you need English for?
2. What other experiences have you had learning English?
3. What strengths and challenges do you have learning English?
4. Describe how you best learn English (or any other languages)

**Examples of topics for questions in a bag**

***Lower level***

* *Family*
* *Vacations/Travel*
* *Jobs*
* *Holidays*
* *Hobbies*

***Upper level***

* *Future plans*
* *Hopes and dreams*
* *Trends*
* *Travel*
* *Family (more advanced questions)*

*Upper Level: Bag of Questions (Hopes and Dreams)*

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| *Do you think you would like to have children? If you have children, what do you hope for them?* | *Where would you most like go in the future? What would your ideal holiday be like?* |
| *Are you in the place that you thought you would be when you were young?* | *What do you think you’ll be like when you are retired?* |
| *What did you want to be when you were a child?* | *What are three things you would like to try in the next few years?* |
| *What kind of job would you like to have in the future? Or How would you like your present job to be different?* | *What is something you would like to learn more about?* |
| *What are two or three things you would like to get this year? How about in the next few years?* | *What machines or technology do you hope will be invented in the next five years? Ten years? Fifty years?* |
| *What changes do you hope to see in your country in five years? Ten years?* | *What dreams do you have for people in your family?* |
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*Lower Level: Bag of Questions (Travel and America)*

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| --- | --- |
| *What are three places you want to see in America?* | *What parts of America are similar to places in your country?* |
| *What were your ideas about America before you came? Have they changed?* | *If you had three months free, without work or school, where would you go?* |
| *Have you ever been camping or backpacking? If not, would you like to try it? Why? Why not?* | *Have you ever been hitchhiking?**If not, would you like to try it? Why? Why not?* |
| *Where have you traveled outside of California?* | *Tell us about a travel experience you had as a child.* |
| *Tell us about an embarrassing, surprising, or scary travel experience.* | *Have you been to any other English speaking countries?* |
| *Do you prefer to travel alone, with friends, or with family? Why?* | *What is favorite and least favorite way to travel? Why?* |
| *What websites do you recommend for travel plans?* | *What places do you recommend in the Bay Area for a day trip?* |
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### **Adjusting the Level of Questions & Tasks**

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| **Understanding** | * Can I understand the question? Ex. Vocabulary? Grammar?
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| **Answerability** | * Do I feel comfortable answering the question?Ex. Too personal? Too controversial? Culturally appropriate?
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| **Familiarity of Topic** | * Have I spoken about this many times before? Can I give a fairly rehearsed answer? (= easier)
* Do I have to think a lot about how I want to answer this? (= more challenging)
* How much do I know about this topic? Is there knowledge I might not have?
* How much think time am I given before I have to answer?
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| **Language for Production** | * Do I need vocabulary/grammar that I often use to answer this question?
* Do I need vocabulary/grammar that I may know but not use often?
* Do I know the vocabulary/grammar in my native language but not in English?
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| **Complexity** | Does my answer require * a description of concrete things, people, places, and activities? (=Easier)
* narrating some kind of story? (= a bit more challenging)
* a description of abstract concepts such as happiness, success?
* speculating about the past, present or future?
* supporting an opinion with reasons or examples
* an explanation of more abstract processes?
* an analysis of information? (Ex. a comparison, causes, effects)
* discussing a problem and offering solutions
* evaluating an idea or opinion
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| **Length** | * Can I adequately answer the question in less than 30 seconds?
* Do I need more than 30 seconds to answer this question?
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| **Organization** | * Am I familiar with the way this type of answer is usually organized? (Ex. a story might start with setting and background information)
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