

12. Alibi

This well-known ESL game is great speaking practice for adults. The teacher tells the class that a particular crime has been committed. For fun, make it locally specific. For example:

"Last Friday night, sometime between ____ and ____, someone broke into the ____ Bank on ____ Street."

Depending on the size of your class, pick several students as "Suspects." The "Police" can work in groups of 2-4, and you need one Suspect for each police group. So, for example, in a class of 20 you could choose 4 Suspects and then have 4 groups of 4 Police for questioning.

Tell the class: "____, ____, ____ and ____ were seen near the scene of the crime, and the police would like to question them."

The Suspects go outside or to another room to prepare their story. They need to decide all of the details about where they were during the time of the crime. For example: If they were at a restaurant, what did they eat? What did it cost? Who arrived first?

1. The Police spend some time preparing their questions.
2. The Suspects are called back in and go individually to each police group. They're questioned for a few minutes, and then each one moves on to the next group.
3. The Police decide whether their answers match enough for them to have a reasonable Alibi. (Maybe up to 5 mistakes is reasonable.)

