

4.1

Something is not right here

Goal

Reflecting on culture-specific differences in communicative behavior is an important part of intercultural competence. This exercise shows what kinds of reactions, feelings and assessments can result when people from different cultural contexts communicate with different body language, mimicry, gestures, etc.

3rd – 9th grade

30 minutes



Materials:
game instructions
(master copy on the following page).

Hints:

Source: Interkulturelles Training. Materialien und Übungen für den Einsatz in der Jugendarbeit im Sport. Link: http://old.dsj.de/uploads/media/interkulturelles_training_2015.pdf

Procedure:

- Students form pairs (e. g. s1 and s2). All s1 remain in the classroom, all s2 go to an adjacent room or into the hallway.
- The students in the classroom (group s1) must come up with a topic (an experience, a book, a film, a vacation, etc.) as a basis for a talk of a few minutes duration. Later on, each s1 student will chat with an s2 student about it for 5 minutes.
- The instructor distributes the game instructions to group 2 and explains until everyone has understood. The s2 students then return to the classroom.
- The students of group 1 initiate the conversation, which the instructor stops after five minutes.
- Reflection and discussion with the class as a whole about the previous exercise. What happened? How was the quality of the discussion? How did you feel? What did you think about your partner?
- Subsequent generalization: have you had or observed similar experiences with different communication styles in your own environment? What differences in communication are there between your culture of origin and the culture of the host country where you now live (in terms of greeting, loudness, distance between conversation partners, phrases, etc.) See also # 3.7 above.

Game rules

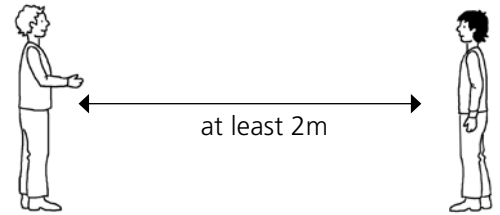
If you later speak with another student, then follow rules 1, 4 and 5.

With rule 2, you must decide if you want to select 2a or 2b; proceed likewise with rule 3.

- 1 To begin your conversation, you greet your partner by clapping your hands three times.



- 2 a) During the conversation, maintain a distance of at least two meters.



- b) During the conversation, stand in close proximity to your partner and once in a while and touch his/her arm or shoulder with your hand.



- 3 a) During the conversation, always look on the ground.



- b) During the conversation, always look away from your partner's face.



- 4 When the other one speaks, always close your eyes.



- 5 Always wait ten seconds before you speak or answer; between sentences always pause for five seconds.

