

On the Other Hand Teaching suggestions

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Activity 1

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students begin their conversation, in English, in pairs or small groups.
3. Monitor closely.
4. Stop the activity.
5. Elicit the answer.

Answer:

They are all left-handed.

Activity 2

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students begin their conversation, in English, in pairs or small groups.
3. Monitor closely.
4. Stop the activity.
5. Do some error correction.
6. Consolidate pronunciation.
7. Elicit feedback. Suggested answers for question 3 could also include: playing cards (you can't see the numbers if you fan them out left-handedly), power tools (so I'm told!), chairs with a little flat bit for writing on attached to the right armrest, bowling balls (think how the holes are placed) and musical instruments (apparently), saucepans that have a special part of the lip to ease pouring – but only if you hold the pan's handle with your right hand. I could go on...See if your students can!

Activity 3

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students begin working together, in English, in pairs or small groups.
3. Monitor closely.
4. Stop the activity.
5. Elicit feedback.

Answers:

1. left is the past of leave
2. left is the opposite of right
3. left means remaining/not used or taken
4. left (wing) means socialist. Party means political group.

Activity 4

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students begin their conversation, in English, in pairs or small groups.
3. Monitor closely.
4. Stop the activity.
5. Elicit feedback.

Answers:

1. T
2. F (both hands contain 27 bones)
3. T
4. T (a baseball term)
5. T (because the most frequently used letters are on the left of the keyboard)
6. F (others include Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Australia etc.)
7. T
8. F
9. T
10. F

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Activity 5

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If your students don't have access to computers in the classroom, set this for homework.

1. Because in medieval times weapons were carried in the right hand so using the right hand to shake hands indicated that you were not carrying any weapons and were therefore not a threat.
2. 'gauche'
3. The Incas of Peru
4. Read the Quick Quiz below. You will need to go through the answers with your students because the answers are not available to them at EnglishClub.com. The students read a short text connected with the TP subject then answer gap-fill questions on the text. The first letter of each word of each of the gaps is then taken and rearranged to make a word connected to the TP subject.

Quick Quiz

1. According to some sources the ORIGINS of bad feeling towards 'leftness' may go back as far as the ancient customs of early sun-worshipping civilizations.
2. The figure of God can often be seen dividing PEOPLE into two categories.
3. The right hand was the one in which people might carry a WEAPON.
4. A left-handed person might still be concealing a weapon with his left hand and therefore could not be entirely TRUSTED.
5. The Latin for 'left' (and 'unlucky') was 'SINISTER'.
6. 'Mancino', the Italian word for 'left-HANDED' can also be used to mean 'deceitful'.
7. Being left-handed has negative connotations or is at least considered UNLUCKY.
8. Apparently the ANCIENT Egyptians thought that entering a house with your left foot first brought good luck

Answers: SOUTHPAW (S for Sinister [5] O for Origins [1], U for Unlucky [7], T for Trusted [4] H for Handed [6], P for People [2], A for Ancient [8], W for Weapon [3]).

Activity 6

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This activity can be set as homework to be followed up and consolidated in a future lesson generating more discussion. Did students find that most people agreed or disagreed with the question? What reasons were put forward in each case? Did the students read anything which changed their minds on the topic? (etc.)

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