

## HAVE YOUR SAY!: Writing a chat room posting

<b>TIME:</b>	40 – 50 minutes
<b>INTERACTION:</b>	Pair work / group work
<b>AIM:</b>	To encourage fluency in writing.
<b>TEXT TYPE:</b>	Chat room posting
<b>REGISTER:</b>	Semiformal / informal
<b>WRITING SKILLS:</b>	Thinking about the reader, assessing a model, discussing and selecting ideas, expressing ideas fluently
<b>PREPARATION:</b>	Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

## PROCEDURE

## Warm up!

- Check that the students understand *posting* (a message) and *chat room* (a site on the Internet where you can communicate with others).
- Ask the students if they visit Internet chat rooms and why. Ask them if they write in English or their own language.

## EXERCISE 1

- Ask the students to read the statement and answer the questions.
- Check the answers with the class.

## ANSWERS:

1c 2b

## EXERCISE 2

- Ask the students to read the posting and answer the questions.
- Have the students discuss their answers in pairs.
- Check the answers with the class.

## ANSWERS:

1 yes 2 yes 3 yes 4 no 5 yes

- If the students feel that the mistakes in the posting are a problem, point out that: the purpose of the text is to express ideas; the text can be understood despite the mistakes; even native speakers sometimes make mistakes when typing / writing quickly.

## EXERCISE 3

- Give your own opinion on the statement in exercise 1: *I agree / don't agree with the statement because ...*
- Give the students a few seconds to decide on their own opinion.
- Have the students discuss their opinions in groups. Encourage them to make notes under the relevant headings.
- With a weaker class or if the students are short of ideas, have the discussion with the whole class and write notes on the board, e.g. (*agree*) *families are smaller than in the past; people travel more and make more friends; friends can be honest with you;* (*disagree*) *families are important to society; families teach you important values; you can have fun with brothers and sisters.*
- Get feedback from the class. Establish whether most of the class agrees or disagrees with the statement.

## EXERCISE 4

- Ask the students to decide which opinions they want to give in their posting. (If you performed this stage with the whole class, select the most popular opinions from the board.)
- Have the students write their posting. Give them a time limit of about 20 minutes to do their writing. This encourages them to focus on communicating their ideas, rather than worrying about mistakes. Remind the students to think about the tips for writing a paragraph that they looked at in Unit 1 Lesson 1.

## GRADING CHECKLIST FOR FLUENCY TASK

Did the student:

- write in a semiformal / informal style?
- express his / her opinion about the statement clearly?
- give reasons / examples from his / her own experience?

## EXTENSION

- When the students discuss a topic that interests them in class, encourage them to go online and send postings in English to relevant chat rooms.

