

Diary: Day One

Began the day with Introductions from Stefan, Cheryl and Franz.

First exercise: Cheryl's name placards

Write your first name and a meaning for it on one side

On the other side, your favourite (English) word.

Names and meanings are shared with group and favourite words are pooled together on the flipchart (can be used as writing stimuli later).

Name	Meaning	Favourite Word
Annamarie	from maria	looking forward
Barbara	Holy Barbara cares for miners (patron saint...)	stories
Beatrice	happy	leave
Bettina	strong woman	breakeven
Cheryl	Cherished	noodle
Cornelia	the strong one	banister knob
Doris	Greek Goddess	flabbergasted
Ella	probably comes from Elisabeth, mother god's house	ladybird
Eva	short	somebody
Franz	saint who speaks to birds	serendipity
Franziska	the free one, freedom	ridiculous
Gabi	the name of an angel called Gabriel	green
Gudrun	strong	hope
Hanna	surprise	enable
Hans-Peter	Hans was the first name of my father	to be in limbo
Karin	lovely	summertime
Karina	little heart	fluffy
Kerstin	flowery	wind
Manuela	God is with you	cats
Markus	from Mars	newness
Martina	bear	turnaround
Mbaye	traditional name in Senagalese history Islam	discovery
Monika	monere (from Latin)	sunshine
Priska	not wanted by her sisters	gorgeous
Renate	reborn	amazing
Ruth,	a biblical name	flowers
Susanna	Lily	solstice
Ursi	bear (female)	curious
Verena	historical person memorable	exciting
Victor	winner	
Dorothea	present of god	marmot

Second exercise: Franz's object game:

Every participant brings an object that she/he finds significant for her-/himself

Pick an object.

Write the following items down as a narrative:

- Imagine a situation in which you find the owner of the object.
- Imagine what the owner does with the object.
- Describe one feature of her/his face while s/he is busy with the object.
- Describe your reaction when the person described becomes aware of you.
- Write down what the person described says to you.

Give the text to the person who owns the object.

The owner of the object writes a response.

Ice breakers

1 My Crazy Neighbour

In a circle, first person tells his/her name and adds an adjective which begins with the initial letter of their name (for example Dangerous Dorothea). The second person introduces the first person with their name and adjective and adds his/her own (plus adjective) and so on around the circle adding new names each time. This is a memory game as well as an ice breaker.

2 Musical Speed Dating

Put some music on and invite everyone to move around to the music. When the music stops people must stop moving and talk to the person standing closest to them. They introduce themselves and begin conversation. When the music starts again then everyone moves around and when it stops they should be standing near someone new and begin a new introduction/conversation.

3 Find Someone Who

Create a list with a series of biographical statements such as:

(family)	I've got two brothers ...
(sports)	I like football
(abilities)	I can scuba dive
(experiences)	I've been to the Eiffel Tower

Each person must take their list and collect a certain number of signatures next to each statement (from people for whom these statements are true). Then, back together each person must build a sentence about someone else in the group, for example: "Max likes football and has been to the Eiffel Tower."

4 Magic Numbers

Each person is given a blank card and instructed to write five numbers on that card (one in each corner and one in the middle) These numbers must have some special significance for the individuals writing them (for example their birth date, the number of children/pets they have, their door number, Their lucky number, the age that their mother is, etc.

Get into pairs and show the other person your numbers. They must try to guess why that particular number has significance for you.

5 Searching For New Names

Ask each person to take the letters from their first name (and possibly their second name) and try to make new names/words from those letters. Choose your favourite name/word from these attempts and re-introduce yourself to the others using this as your new name.

6 Animal Farm

Two children leave the classroom and decide which animals they will choose to be and then return to the class. The classmates ask questions to which the two children in the middle can only reply yes or no (for example Have you got two legs? Do you have a long tail? Have you got wings? etc) When they have guessed correctly new children leave the classroom.

7 My Picture

Each person writes their name on a large piece of blank paper and then makes drawings around the name of things that are particular to you (for example, if you play the guitar you would draw that, if you like horses you would draw one of those, etcetera...) The picture can be used as a way of each person introducing themselves to the others, it can be used to make a display which can be left up for the next days/weeks to ensure group members remember one another. As an extension, the names can be erased/cut from the pictures and these can be distributed to the class who must try to identify who they belong to by asking questions such as, 'Are you the one who plays the guitar and likes horses?

8 Moving The Ball

Sit together in a circle with a ball. One person introduces themselves with their name and begins to move the ball towards another person who must take the ball and then introduce themselves and roll the ball towards someone else, and so on. Alternatively you can say the name of the person who you are rolling the ball towards and then they must, in turn say the name of the person they send the ball to.

9 Free Seat

Make a circle with chairs (ensuring that there is one extra chair for the number of people. One person starts by touching the empty chair and saying "I would like to come sit next to me". That person goes to sit in the empty chair leaving their chair empty. The two people either side of the new empty chair race to put their hand down onto it. The first person to place their hand on the chair gets to make the next call.

10 True Or False

Everyone writes down three things about themselves. Two of them are true and one of them is false. They read them out to the rest of the group and the others try to guess which is the lie.

11 Noah's Ark

For this exercise you will need several pictures of animals (two the same of each). Hand out the pictures. Each person must find their 'partner, the person that has the pair to theirs. They can do this by asking questions or acting out the animal (making the animal sound or pretending to be that animal).

12 Guessing Properties

One person describes another from the group without mentioning his or her name, for example “he/she is tall/blond/blue-eyed/wears blue jeans etc.” (try to give rather general descriptions that may fit several people.) The others in the group try to identify the person described.

13 Changing Places/Fruit Salad

Sit in a circle on chairs with one person in the middle. Assign to each person a fruit, a vegetable, an animal, for instance. One person stands in the middle and calls out e.g. apple. All the “apples” must change places. The person in the middle tries to occupy the empty chair whilst the others are changing places.

14 What’s Different

In pairs A looks at B for a few moments and then both turn around whilst B changes three things about his/her person. A must then look again and guess which things have been changed . e.g. You have rolled up your sleeve, you have taken off your glasses.

15 Small Talk

Provide Cards with various questions on the front and a template for answers on the back. In pairs A asks the question (“what’s your favourite colour?” or “What’s your Mother’s name?”) and B gives the answer. Exchange cards and find a new partner to work with.

Afternoon activities

Nonsense Poem: “Sound and Fury, Signifying Nothing” (Franz)

Go through the list provided and single out the words you like (sound, the way they look, the ideas they evoke)

Assign word classes to them (real word class doesn’t matter!)

Write a poem in which all the nouns, adjectives and verbs are taken from your word list.

Read the poem *with gusto*.

Favourite Place Group Poem (Cheryl)

Working in pairs, imagine a dreamed of, remembered or current favourite place and think through the senses:

What do you see when you are there?

What do you hear?

What do you smell?

What does it feel like (physically and emotionally?)

Tell your partner – they will scribe for you and you, them.

onto a large piece of paper. Cut out the words and phrases, into strips. Each pair choose three from their pile of strips. Come together as a large group with all the chosen strips. and assemble a group poem on Utopia with all the strips (see chapter on Group Poem – The Making of a Group)

Pair Poem: What's happening (in Ten Minutes) (Franz)

Write down as many sentences as you can about what is happening right now anywhere in the world (ten minutes) on separate strips of paper; try to find a sentence pattern that feels right to repeat.

Combine your set of sentences with the set of your partner. Consider these aspects:

- which sequence has the strongest effect (contrast, moving from local to international, familiar to distant, etc.) Shift your strips accordingly...
- try to agree on a sentence structure you want to repeat throughout the poem.
- make sure that you use the same form of the present tense (present continuous or present simple.
- stick the revised strips down on a larger (coloured) piece of paper and display around the classroom.