Hi, how are you?

Learning objectives

- Unblocking

- Language acquisition

- Communication

- Group dynamics

Number of participants

12 to 30 participants

Duration

20 minutes

Material

Flipchart; markers

Description

The participants sit in a circle, on chairs (there is one chair less than participants). The game leader presents the words and expressions needed for the game, in their mother language. The terms/expressions in the other languages are presented by participants according to their mother language. Each word is read out loud at leat three times in a different tone and repeated by everyone.

Hi, how are you?

The following expressions are presented:

Question: Hi, how are you?

Possible answers: Great; Ok; Bad[1].

The person without a chair, who was standing in the middle (at the beginning of the game, it is the game leader) goes to a seated person and asks the question : „Hi, how are you?"

If the person answers „Great", nothing happens and the person who's standing in the middle goes to see another person.

If the seated person answers „Ok", their left and right handside neighbours both exchange places and the person who is in the middle tries to sit down.

If someone answers „Bad", everyone has to change places, but it is forbidden to sit on the chair right next to the initial one. The activity is led progressively, i.e. in one language after the other. In the end, the languages are mixed, but no-one can use their mother language.

Variants

- At the begining of the exchange, the question can be broadened to the person's name: „Hi X, how are you?"
- To learn the different expressions more easily, the group can repeat them out loud while changing places.

[1] Translator's note: While these expressions work in French, German, and Polish, you might need to adapt the words or expressions according to cultural specificities. For instance, in day-to-day life, it is highly unlikely for someone from the UK to give an honest answer to the question „how are you?" if they are feeling bad. You can explore different expressions and/or explain this to the group.