

The letter fair

Learning objectives

- Language acquisition
- Reinforcement of the group dynamic

Number of participants

Minimum: 15

Duration

Approximately 30 minutes

Material

One poster for each language; small pieces of paper, each marked with a letter of the alphabet

Description

Each participant receives two small papers, each marked with a letter of the alphabet. Several stations are set up around the room, one for each language. At each station sits a team member who is a native speaker of the language. The participants stand in the centre of the room, between the stations. Their goal is to make words of at least four letters in the various represented mother languages. When four participants manage to build a word, they run to the station matching their word's language and, if the word is written correctly, each person's paper is marked with a dash. The words are copied onto a large poster.



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After this, the participants can try to make a new word, with the same people or in a different constellation. The aim is to make as many words as possible, and this way to collect as many strokes as possible on their papers.

A word can't be accepted twice, even if it is built by a different group of people.

At the end of the activity, the team counts the points, compares the posters, and words might be translated if necessary.

Observations

In the beginning, it is possible to start by making four-letter words, then five-letter words, then six, etc. Frequent letters can be doubled, and letters used less frequently, such as x or y (according to each language) should be avoided.

It is also important to consider that alphabets may differ from one language to another.

