**Topic:** Gossip!

**Aims:**
- To give students practice in asking and answering questions
- To give students speaking practice in a fun way
- To develop students’ speaking and writing skills

**Level:** Lower intermediate B1

**Introduction**
Lots of our students like reading and talking about celebrity gossip (although not everyone admits it!). In this lesson students take part in a role playing game in which a celebrity couple are interviewed by a journalist. Then they work in groups to write a report for a gossip magazine.

**Procedure**

**Lead in: Discussion**
- Introduce the subject of gossip and celebrities. Write these discussion questions on the board and put students into small groups to discuss them for five minutes.
  - Where do you find gossip about celebrities?
  - Who are the celebrities in the news at the moment?
  - What is the latest celebrity gossip?
  - Which celebrity couples can you name?
- Ask a student from each group to feed back any celebrity gossip to the rest of the class.

**Task 1: Role play**
- Divide students into three groups; A, B and C. Explain that they are going to play a role playing game. Give each student a role card (A, B or C).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role card A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You are Dave Buckham, a famous footballer and celebrity. You are about to appear as a guest on a live television show. A journalist is going to ask you and your wife, Veronica Spice, some questions. Earlier today you received a phone call from Veronica. She says she knows you are cheating on her with another woman. She is very angry and says she is leaving you.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preparation**
Think of the questions the journalist is going to ask you. Plan your answers. Your fans will be watching the show. You are a role model for lots of young people. It is important to say the right thing. Think of explanations to show Veronica that you aren’t cheating on her.
Role card B

You are Veronica Spice, ex-member of the world-famous pop group ‘The Spice Chicks’. You are married to Dave Buckham, a famous footballer and celebrity. You are about to appear as a guest on a live television show. A journalist is going to ask you and your husband some questions.

You think Dave is cheating on you with another woman. You are very angry. You love David but this isn’t the first time he has cheated on you. This time you have evidence.

Preparation

Think of the questions the journalist is going to ask you. Plan your answers. Your fans will be watching the show. You are a role model for lots of young people. It is important to say the right thing. Think about what you are going to tell the journalist and what you aren’t going to tell!

Role card C

You are a television journalist. On today’s show you are going to interview two guest celebrities; Dave Buckham, a famous footballer and his wife, Veronica Spice (ex-member of the world-famous pop group ‘The Spice Chicks’.)

You have heard a rumour that the celebrity couple are having problems in their marriage. You think TV viewers will be very interested in this news.

Preparation

Prepare some questions to ask your two celebrity guests. Lots of their fans will be watching the show. People love gossip! Viewers already know a lot about Dave and Veronica. They want to learn something new. Try to make your questions original. Ask them about the rumour you heard. But try to be polite! This is a day time television show!

- In their groups, students read their cards and work together, following the instructions to prepare for the role play. Note: At the stage the members of each group will be preparing for the same role. If the groups are big, split them into smaller groups.
- Monitor students at the preparation stage. Make sure they plan the role play, make notes and discuss the role they are going to play.
- Regroup students into groups of three; an A, a B and a C. Students play their roles, with the journalist asking questions and prompting the guests.
and the two celebrities answering. Monitor students as they play, making a note of any errors that you consider important. Don’t interrupt the role playing. Address any errors when the activity is finished. Invite a group of three to act out their role play for the rest of the class.

Task 2: Writing a report for a gossip magazine

- Students stay in their groups of three to write a report for a gossip magazine, using the information from the television show role-play. First students note down the main ideas. Then they plan the report paragraph by paragraph. They write a rough draft, then they edit it, checking carefully for things that need to be changed. Finally they write the finished report on task 2 worksheet. Display the reports on the wall so that groups can read and comment on each other’s work.