

Ranking

‘Ranking is a great activity for learners to develop their critical thinking skills. They need to think about and justify the choices they make. It’s also a good way for them to practise communication. I often write short prompts on the board to help them during the discussion phase.’

Stage 1: Preparation	<p>Either write the following list on the board or dictate it to the learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • kind • honest • funny • reliable • generous • helpful • clever • good looking. <p>Check that they understand all the adjectives.</p>
Stage 2: Individual	<p>Say: ‘Which of these adjectives is most important in a friend? Rank these adjectives in the order of importance. 1 is the most important; 8 is the least important. You have two minutes.’</p>
Stage 3: Share useful phrases	<p>On the board write some useful phrases for giving opinions, agreeing and disagreeing. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think ... • In my opinion ... • I agree/disagree because ... • So do I. • I can see your point, but ...
Stage 4: Discuss in pairs	<p>Put the learners in pairs and say: ‘Compare your choices and try to come to an agreement. Use the phrases to help you. You have four minutes.’</p> <p>Monitor and help where necessary.</p>
Stage 5: Share	<p>Ask a few pairs to share their ranking and give reasons for their choices. Note that there is no ‘correct’ answer to this activity.</p>

You can use this ranking activity for lots of different content areas. For example, dangerous animals, useful items when lost, solutions to pollution, best school subjects, fun hobbies, etc.

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