**Public Speaking Activities**

**1) Interesting interviews**

As it's a lot less threatening or scary to talk about someone else rather than yourself. The practice of receiving information, thinking about what to say and then clearly communicating that to an audience is one of the most key concepts of public speaking.

**Instructions**

* Divide your group into pairs.
* Each person interviews the other in turn. The information gained forms the basis of a brief introduction speech they'll give to the whole group when the interviewing process is complete.
* Ask them to find out their partner's name, where they live/work, what hobbies they have, what their favourite book, film, song...is, what they're most proud of (an achievement perhaps), what they hope for from the class, something funny that happened in their childhood, where they go for holidays . . etc.

### 2) My Friend’s Fictional Life

In this activity, what you do is you get up in front of people (you can do it home by yourself as well) and you take one of your friends and you introduce them. However, instead of introducing them in the normal way you make up a fictional life for them.

So you say, hi this is Jane Smith, and she actually moonlights as a jazz pianist for the underground mafia. And you talk about her life, whatever it may be.

So this is fun because it makes you been creative, it’s very easy to think of these things on the spot and just roll with it. It’s generally pretty funny as well.

**3) Picture This!**

Gather up a collection of interesting images/photos from magazines or newspapers - enough for your class to have one each and then a few spare.

Place them face down and have everybody pick one.

Using the image as a prompt, what can they share about it?

**Questions to get started are:**

* Where is this photo/image from?   
  (And the answer *doesn't* have to be true - merely plausible! Encourage imaginative creativity.)
* What's happening in this photo/picture?
* What feelings does the image evoke?
* Is there a season or time associated with it?
* What happened *after* or*before* the photo was taken?

**4) Object of my Affection**

Gather up a collection of small objects, for example: a toy car, a can of sardines, a hair ribbon, an old black and white photographic portrait, a pair of baby shoes ....

Put all of them into a non-see through bag.

Each speaker puts their hand into the bag and pulls out an object. Whatever they get forms the basis of their speech.

**Ideas to kick-start the imagination:**

* This ... {*insert the name of whatever it is the speaker has in their hand*} saved my life. It happened like this...
* Whenever I see a ...{*insert the name of whatever it is the speaker has in their hand*} it reminds me of the time I...
* I collect ...{i*nsert the name of whatever it is the speaker has in their hand*} and this one is the prize of my collection. It used to belong to ...