



DIVIDING LINES / WHICH IS BETTER?

Aim:

- giving reasons for an opinion
- discussion in groups
- careful listening and possible changing of opinion

Materials: tape for floor

Instructions:

The teacher makes two parallel lines on the floor with tape – they should be about 1 -2meters apart.

- The teacher asks the pupils for example, 'Which are better, cats or dogs? Stand behind this line if you choose dogs and stand behind that line if you choose cats.'
- It's important that the pupils look at each other and not at the teacher. A pupil might choose to stand in the middle – this is acceptable, but he / she must be ready to give reasons this choice.)
- Pupils have a few minutes to discuss their choice in their own 'groups' (dogs together and cats together). They should discuss for example why they think dogs are better than cats. (If there are many pupils on one side, they can be divided into smaller groups).
- After this the pupils stand opposite each other behind their lines, and one (a possible spokesperson), or some, explain to everyone why they made their choice. Alternatively each pupil can speak to one or several on the opposite side. The other side also gives its arguments. After that they can ask each other questions
- After this discussion everyone has the chance to change sides, if, after hearing all the reasons, they want to change their minds.

This can then be continued with new subject matter. The topics can also be related to themes being studied. The themes below are simple, to let the pupils practise reasoning, listening and discussing simple issues and opinions first.

Some suggestions: Which is best?

Dogs or cats? Homework or no homework?

Ice-cream or chocolate? Town or country?

Summer or Winter? Autumn or Spring?

Sweet or sour?