

Communicative worksheet

Asking how something works

1 Ask students to look at the pictures of each of the four inventions in turn. Ask:

Where are the people? What has the scientist invented? How does it work?

Elicit ideas and vocabulary.

2 Divide the class into pairs and hand out the Student cards. Ask students to order the questions and check their answers in pairs.

Answers

Student A

- 1 Where do I switch it on?
- 2 How did you do that?
- 3 What happens if I press this button?

Student B

- 1 What is this for?
- 2 How long does the battery last?
- 3 Why do you need to do that?

3 Ask pairs to prepare questions that they could use in their first conversation between the professor and visitor.

With a strong class, ask students to improvise the conversation in pairs.

With a weaker class, ask students to work in pairs to prepare and write a conversation before acting out.

Ask students to change roles and move on to the three other pictures when they have finished.

4 Ask some pairs to act out one of their improvised or prepared conversations for the class. To create a task for the class, write the following questions on the board and ask students to listen and find the answers:

1 What is the invention?

2 How does it work?

Alternative activity

Make this a mingle. Half the class are mad scientists. Half the class are visitors. The visitors visit three different scientists and ask about their inventions.

Ask scientists to sit, and visitors to walk round the class and have conversations with at least three different scientists.

5 Personalise

Ask students to think of and draw their own crazy invention. Tell them to use their imagination. Then put students in pairs or small groups to take turns asking about and describing the invention.

6 Writing

Ask students to write a description of their crazy invention or of one of the crazy inventions on the story worksheet.