

The Talk Show in the Foreign Language Classroom

A Project to Promote Speaking in a Multilevel Classroom

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Lesson Goals

Communication- Students will understand and interpret/ respond to spoken language on a variety of topics.

Students will practice their speaking skills, as well as listening and writing abilities

About my students

I did this project in German 3 at the high school level. My students are not extraordinarily strong and the high school is in a more urban than suburban setting.

Activities

The activities are meant to build the vocabulary and other skills that students will need in order to perform the talk show. The main focus of all activities is to strengthen speaking in the target language. I did not attach specific exercises in this packet. Some of the vocabulary I used was specific to the talk show character sheets and other words and phrases were based around the video clips I used in class.

Sample Lesson Plan

Day 1: Put students into groups with a piece of butcher paper. Each piece of paper has a word written on it. For example: Talkshow, Liebe, Familie, Arbeit, Partnerschaft. Students write down what comes to mind when they hear the word on their paper. Discuss as a group.

Students take notes on what a talk show is, the various types and their characteristics.

Possible Reference: <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talkshow>

Show a clip from an actual talk show that has a guest describing his/her family. Students then try to create a family tree for the family.

Day 2: Students must give a title to the talk show clip they viewed last class.

Students are given a video clip to watch and must answer questions about the guests, themes, type of show it is, as well as give their opinion on various aspects of the clip.

Students receive a vocabulary list. They must group the words into categories and then give the category a title as they see fit.

Crossword Puzzle for homework

Day 3: Students write down what love means to them. They then watch a clip about what love means to Britney Spears, in German of course.

Students match vocabulary words with pictures.

Students engage in a matching game. Each student is given a word and must find his/her match. For example: adoptieren/das Kind- Partner/Beziehung, Hochzeit/heiraten.

Homework: Students read a „Zits“ comic dealing with relationships and write a 5 sentence summary.

Day 4: Students match antonyms to practice vocabulary.

Students view a video clip in which a young man „Ibo“, admits to cheating on his girlfriend. Students are given a worksheet with Ibo’s name in the middle and vocabulary words around it. Students must attach the attributes to Ibo that correspond with his character.

Students engage in a „Fishbowl“ discussion. There are 4 chairs in the middle of a circle and one is empty. The teacher will ask the students in the middle a question and only they may speak and discuss it. Students who would really like to say something may sit in the open seat and make their comment, but must then leave. The other 3 students must make 3 comments before they leave and choose someone to take their place. The teacher asks questions that will foster discussion- What is the best/ worst part of being in a relationship? What would you do if you found out your boyfriend was cheating on you? (In target language)

If time, students can play Taboo to review vocabulary and practice circumlocution.

Homework: Students are given a worksheet including verbs that they may need for the Talkshow. They put the verbs into various tenses, write the substantive as well as the English meaning.

Day 5: Teacher selects a moderator for the show. This student is given all of the guest character sheets. This person is sworn to secrecy and may not share any of this information.

The rest of the students draw cards to determine which character they will be. There should be a minimum of 3 students per character. This is a nice buffer in

the event that someone is not in class the day of the talk show. The show can go on!

Students meet in their group of three and digest the information given to them. They draw a family tree and figure out who they are in general as a character.

Groups will take turns meeting with the moderator so that they are clear as to why they are coming onto the show etc.

Homework: Students continue to become familiar with their character.

Day 6: Students meet in groups and decide who will play the „guest“ on the show.

Students not on the show will complete interviews in front of the teacher, while the rest of the students study their character. Each of these students will interview a character that is not their own. They will only be „in character“ when they are being interviewed. They must make up their own questions to ask the other guest character.

Homework: Prepare for the talk show!

Day 7: On the day of the talk show, guests come dressed in character. The moderator decides the order of the guests' appearances. If there is a teacher or student who is not a member of class, you may want to invite them on as a surprise guest that only you and the moderator know about.

The moderator brings on the guests and elicits discussion. Guests may have a note card with some information on it in case they get stuck. Audience members may ask questions, boo or cheer as they see fit. Audience members are also responsible for asking one question and collecting information about a character who is not their own. You may make up a worksheet with the information they should collect. This will help them with their questions in case the information does not come out on its own.

Homework: It's 1 year after the show (or 5 or 10). The producers would like to have a reunion show. Please write a letter in character describing how your life has changed since the show and what you are doing now.

How did it turn out?

My students usually speak for about 40 minutes uninterrupted, unencumbered and with little assistance from me. Most, if not all, students forget that they „can't speak“ in the target language and this vastly improves their spoken language.

Charakter: Ursula Schmidt
Alter: 35
Beruf: Sekretärin
Wohnort: Eberswalde, Brandenburg

Du hast dein ganzes Leben in Eberswalde gewohnt und als Mädchen warst du sehr populär. Vor fünfzehn Jahren hast du **Boris** (40), einen Klempner, geheiratet. Er war deine erste Liebe und du hast viel für ihn aufgegeben. Tatsächlich hast du die Dinge, die du immer machen wolltest, wegen ihm nicht gemacht. Du bist in deinen Mann verliebt und du hast eure Kinder auch sehr lieb, aber du fragst dich immer noch, was hätte sein können. Ihr habt nicht viel Geld, aber irgendwie kommt ihr klar damit.

Dein Mann ist ein Frauenheld, aber du hast dich daran gewöhnt, auch wenn es dich stört. Ihr habt zwei Kinder zusammen, **Frieda** (10) und **Fritz** (8). Aus verschiedenen Gründen seid ihr seit ungefähr einem Jahr getrennt und du überlegst dir, wieder mit ihm zusammen zu kommen.

Was du weißt.....

Du hast vor sieben Jahren eine Affäre gehabt (mit Udo dem Halb-Bruder von Boris), aber dein Mann hat dir verziehen. Er weiß aber immer noch nicht, mit wem du geschlafen hast. Du hast keine andere Affäre gehabt.

- Du hast ein Geheimnis; abends arbeitest du als Stripperin. Boris wäre wütend, wenn er das wüsste.
- Du glaubst, dass **Udo(35)**, der Bruder deines Mannes, Geld von dir gestohlen hat.
- Du verstehst dich gut mit deiner Schwester, aber du ärgerst dich, weil deine Mutter **Renate** sie lieber mag.
- Du weißt, dass **Udo** mit einem Mädchen aus dem Strip Klub schläft.
- Deine Schwester **Gerda** wurde adoptiert.
- Deine Schwester ist Alkoholikerin. Du hast versucht ihr zu helfen.
- **Boris** hat dich gefragt mit ihm in eine Talkshow zu kommen. Du weißt nicht weswegen.

Charakter: Gerda Meyer

Alter: 25

Beruf: Kellnerin/ bezahlt für die Uni selbst

Wohnort: Eberswalde, Brandenburg

Du hast dein ganzes Leben in Eberswalde gewohnt. Deine ältere Schwester **Ursula** (35) war am populärsten an deinem Gymnasium. Es war für dich schwer, weil du immer in ihrem Schatten gestanden hast. Du warst immer stolz auf sie und hast dein eigenes Leben gelebt. Vor drei Jahren hast du **Udo** (35) getroffen und vor anderthalb Jahren habt ihr geheiratet. Du bist in ihn verliebt, aber glaubst, dass er dich ein bisschen behindert. Er will Kinder, aber du musst als Kellnerin arbeiten um dir die Uni zu finanzieren. Udo weiß nicht, dass du Kurse an der Uni machst. Er würde wütend werden, weil er denkt, dass eine Frau daheim an den Herd gehört.

Seit kurzem weißt du, dass du Alkoholikerin bist. Nur deine Schwester weiß etwas über deine Sucht. Es ist schwer das vor deiner Mutter zu verstecken, weil sie alles wissen will. Vor sechs Monaten hast du **Ursulas** Mann **Boris (40)** nach der Arbeit in einer Kneipe gesehen. Du hast schlechte Laune gehabt, viel getrunken und weißt nicht mehr was mit Boris passiert ist.

Was du weißt.....

- Du bist der Liebling deiner Mutter **Renate (55)** und deine Schwester mag das nicht.
- Dein Mann hat ein Mal Geld von deiner Schwester gestohlen, um dir eine Halskette zu kaufen. Seitdem habt ihr mehr Geld und du weißt, dass er es **Ursula** zurückbezahlt hat.
- **Boris** hat dich in eine Talkshow gebeten, weil er Hilfe braucht, **Ursula** zurück zu gewinnen.

Charakter: Renate Mueller
Alter: 55
Beruf: Restaurantbesitzerin
Wohnort: Eberswalde, Brandenburg

Du hast dein ganzes Leben in Eberswalde gewohnt. Als du 18 warst, hast du deinen Freund aus dem Gymnasium geheiratet. Zwei Jahre später habt ihr eure erste Tochter bekommen. Obwohl dein Mann vor der Hochzeit nett und charmant war, hat er sich nach kurzer Zeit verändert. Er wurde Alkoholiker und deswegen trinkst du nicht. Wenn er zu Hause war, schimpfte er mit dir. Fünf Jahre nach der Geburt von **Ursula (35)** hast du deinen Mann verlassen. Du hattest nicht so viel Geld aber irgendwie hast du das geschafft. Du hast dein eigenes Restaurant eröffnet und obwohl es am Anfang sehr schwer war, hast du dich irgendwie durchgekämpft. Du wolltest immer noch ein Kind haben und so hast du 11 Jahre nach der Geburt von **Ursula** noch eine Tochter adoptiert. **Gerda (25)** weiß immer noch nichts darüber. Die Mädchen sind jetzt erwachsen und du bist sehr stolz auf sie, obwohl du ihre Männer nicht magst. Es gibt neue Restaurants in der Gegend und deswegen willst du dein Restaurant erweitern. Du hast **Johann Neumann**, ein Banker, um einen Kredit gebeten. Du warst überrascht als er abgelehnt wurde, weil er so sicher schien. Deswegen hast du zur Zeit Zahlungsschwierigkeiten.

Was du weißt.....

- **Gerda** ist deine Lieblingstochter, obwohl du beide Töchter lieb hast.
- Du bist neugierig, besonders bezüglich der Ehen deiner Töchter.
- Du bekommst Geld von Ursulas Mann **Boris (40)**. Er hatte eine Affäre mit **Gerda** gehabt und du bekommst Geld für dein Schweigen.
- Du magst **Udo (35)**, den Mann Gerdas, überhaupt nicht. Du weißt, dass **Udo** Geld von **Ursula** gestohlen hat. Du glaubst auch, dass er fremd gegangen ist.
- **Gerda** geht an die Uni.

Charakter: Udo Meyer
Alter: 35
Beruf: Zimmermann
Wohnort: Eberswalde, Brandenburg

Du hast **Gerda (25)** vor anderthalb Jahren geheiratet. Vor sieben Jahren hast du eine Affäre mit **Ursula (35)** gehabt. Ursula ist die Frau deines älteren Halbbruders **Boris (40)**. Boris weiß immer noch nicht, dass ihr zusammen gewesen seid. Obwohl du mit deinem Bruder nicht eng befreundet bist, magst du ihn und hast nichts gesagt. Wegen des unangenehmen Endes der Beziehung hast du Ursula für die letzten sieben Jahre gehasst. Zum Glück hast du Ursulas jüngere Schwester getroffen und du bist in sie verliebt. Leider ist ihre Mutter **Renate (55)** sehr neugierig und sie mag dich nicht. Um dich an Renate zu rächen, hast du **Johann Neumann** um eine Bitte gefragt. Johann ist dein bester Freund und ein Banker. Renate fragte ihn um einen Kredit. Du hast ihn gebeten, ihren Antrag auf einen Kredit abzulehnen. Auf jeden Fall hat Renate kein Geld bekommen.

Was du weißt.....

- Du bist ein Chauvinist und glaubst, dass Frauen zu Hause bleiben sollten.
- Du weißt, dass **Ursula** eine Stripperin ist, weil du eine Freundin in Ursulas Stripplokal hast. **Boris** weiß nicht, dass **Ursula** eine Stripperin ist und er würde wütend sein, wenn er so was herausfinden würde. Du bist nicht froh, dass du deiner Frau fremdgegangen bist, aber **Gerda** hat zur Zeit viel zu tun und ist kaum zu Hause.
- Vor ein paar Jahren hast du 100 Euro von **Ursula** gestohlen um Gerda eine neue Halskette zu kaufen.

Charakter: Boris Schmidt
Alter: 40
Beruf: Klempner
Wohnort: Eberswalde, Brandenburg

Du bist mit **Ursula** (35) seit 15 Jahre verheiratet. Ihr seid zusammen seit Ursula 16 ist. Seit einem Jahr bist du von deiner Frau getrennt, aber du hoffst, dass ihr wieder zusammen kommt. Du bist ein Frauenheld und es ist dir egal, dass es deine Frau stört. Du hast zwei Kinder, **Frida** (10) und **Fritz** (8). Während eurer Trennung dieses Jahr hast du eine Affäre mit **Gerda** (25) gehabt. Leider ist sie die jüngere Schwester von Ursula. Du hast nichts mehr mit Gerda zu tun. Leider ist die Mutter von Ursula und Gerda sehr neugierig und sie hat etwas über deine Beziehung mit Gerda herausgefunden.

Was du weißt.....

- Du willst mit **Ursula** wieder zusammen sein. (Deswegen bist du zur Talk Show gekommen.)
- **Udo (35)**, dein jüngerer Halbbruder, ist Gerdas Mann.
- Du verstehst dich halbwegs gut mit **Udo**.
- Deine Frau hatte vor sieben Jahren eine Affäre gehabt, aber du hast ihr verziehen.
- Du musst **Renate (55)**, die Mutter von **Gerda** und **Ursula**, Geld bezahlen, so dass sie nichts über deine Affäre mit Gerda sagt.
- Dein Bruder **Udo** mag Renate nicht. Renate wollte ihr Restaurant erweitern und hat **Johann Neumann**, ein Banker, um einen Kredit gebeten. Johann ist Udos bester Freund. Udo wollte, dass Renate kein Geld bekommt und Johann hat ihr den Kredit nicht gegeben. Du weißt das nur, weil Johannes ein Großmaul ist.

Ein Interview



You will interview another character from the talk show. Part of your grade will be on how well you interview the character and the questions you ask. The other part will be on how well you answer the questions and act as the character you are supposed to be. You may use an index card with notes. This exercise is a test grade and will be conducted entirely in German.

	Excellent	Average	Needs Work
Comprehension	<p>Student understands his/her relationships with other characters. Student responds appropriately to questions and/ or statements. Student understands story and is able to follow along.</p> <p>10 9</p>	<p>Student understands his/her relationships with other characters for the most part. Student has only minor difficulty responding to questions/and or statements. Student is able to follow along with the story.</p> <p>8 7 6 5</p>	<p>Student has trouble understanding the relationships between characters and has difficulties following the story. Student has great difficulty responding to questions and statements.</p> <p>4 3 2 1 0</p>
Language	<p>Student's pronunciation is accurate. Word order is correct, subjects and verbs agree and word choice is accurate. Student does not use English.</p> <p>10 9</p>	<p>Student has minor pronunciation errors. Student has only minor errors with regard to word order, subject/verb agreement, and word choice. Student uses no more than three words in English.</p> <p>8 7 6 5</p>	<p>Student has major pronunciation errors. Student has major grammatical errors and there is frequent use of English.</p> <p>4 3 2 1 0</p>
Interview	<p>Student asks appropriate questions of the character. Student portrays character well. Student speaks without hesitation.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Student has some difficulty portraying the attitudes and views of his/her character. Student hesitates slightly when speaking.</p> <p>4 3</p>	<p>Student does not portray the attitudes and views of his/her character. Student hesitates for long periods of time.</p> <p>2 1 0</p>

Talk Show Rubric



Name: _____

Note: _____/25

	Excellent	Average	Needs Work
Presentation	<p>Student is dressed for role. Student portrays the attitude and views of his/her character. Student speaks without hesitation.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Student is dressed for role but has some difficulty portraying the attitudes and views of his/her character.. Student hesitates slightly when speaking.</p> <p>4 3</p>	<p>Student is not dressed for role and/or student does not portray the attitudes and views of his/her character. Student hesitates for long periods of time.</p> <p>2 1 0</p>
Comprehension	<p>Student understands his/her relationships with other characters. Student responds appropriately to questions and/ or statements. Student understands story and is able to follow along.</p> <p>10 9</p>	<p>Student understands his/her relationships with other characters for the most part. Student has only minor difficulty responding to questions/and or statements. Student is able to follow along with the story.</p> <p>8 7 6 5</p>	<p>Student has trouble understanding the relationships between characters and has difficulties following the story. Student has great difficulty responding to questions and statements.</p> <p>4 3 2 1 0</p>
Language	<p>Student's pronunciation is accurate. Word order is correct, subjects and verbs agree and word choice is accurate. Student does not use English.</p> <p>10 9</p>	<p>Student has minor pronunciation errors. Student has only minor errors with regard to word order & choice, and subject/verb agreement. Student uses no more than three words in English.</p> <p>8 7 6 5</p>	<p>Student has major pronunciation errors. Student has major grammatical errors and there is frequent use of English.</p> <p>4 3 2 1 0</p>

English Versions of the Character Sheets

Character: Ursula Schmidt

Age: 35

Profession: Secretary

Place of Residence: Eberswalde, Brandenburg

You have always lived in Eberswalde and as a girl you were very popular. Fifteen years ago you married **Boris** (40) who works as a plumber. He was your first love and you gave up a lot for him. In actuality, you gave up all the things you ever wanted to do because of him. You love your husband and you love your kids, but you wonder what could have been. You don't have much money but somehow you manage. Your husband is a flirt and you've gotten used to it even though it bothers you. You have two children together, **Frieda** (10) and **Fritz** (8). For a variety of reason you have not lived with Boris for the past year and you are contemplating whether or not to get back together with him.

What you know:

Seven years ago you had an affair (with **Udo**, who is **Boris'** half brother) but your husband forgave you. He doesn't know with whom you slept and this was the only affair you ever had.

- You have a secret; at night you work as a stripper. **Boris** would be livid if he found out about it.
- You believe that **Udo**, your husband's half brother, stole money from you.
- You get along well with your sister **Gerda**, but it bothers you that your mother **Renate** likes her better.
- You know that **Udo** is sleeping with a girl at the strip club.
- Your sister **Gerda** was adopted.
- Your sister is an alcoholic. You have tried to help her.
- **Boris** asked you to come on the talk show with him. You do not know why.

Character: Gerda Meyer

Age: 25

Profession: Waitress

Place of Residence: Eberswalde, Brandenburg

You have always lived in Eberswalde. Your older sister Ursula (35) was the most popular girl at your high school. It was difficult for you because you always lived in her shadow. You were proud of her and made your own life. Three years ago you met Udo (35) and a year and a half ago you got married. You are in love with him but you feel like he is holding you back. He wants to have kids but you have to work as a waitress to put yourself through college. Udo has no idea that you are taking college classes and he would be irate if he found out because he thinks that a woman's place is in the home.

You have recently realized that you are an alcoholic. Only your sister knows about your addiction. It's been difficult to hide from your mother because she always wants to know everything. One day, six months ago after work, you saw Ursula's husband in a bar. You were in a bad mood, you drank a lot and you can't remember what happened with Boris.

What you know.....

- You are your mom's favorite and your sister doesn't like it.
- Your husband stole money from your sister in order to buy a necklace. Nowadays you have more money and you know that he paid Ursula back.
- Boris asked you to be on the talk show because he needs help getting back together with Ursula.

Character: Udo Meyer

Age: 35

Profession: Carpenter

Place of Residence: Eberswalde, Brandenburg

You married Gerda (25) one and a half years ago. Seven years ago you had an affair with Ursula (35). She is the wife of your half brother Boris (40). Boris doesn't know that you were together and even though you aren't that close to him, you like him, so you didn't say anything. Because of the uncomfortable end to the relationship you've hated Ursula for the past seven years. Luckily you met her little sister and fell in love with her. Unfortunately her mother Renate (55) is very curious and does not like you. To get back at Renate you asked your friend Johann Neumann for a favor. Johann is your best friend and a banker. Renate asked him for a loan and you made sure that she was denied. In any case, Renate didn't get any money.

What you know....

- You are a chauvinist and believe that women should stay at home.
- You know that Ursula is a Stripper because you have a girlfriend at her work. Boris doesn't know that Ursula is a stripper and he would be furious if he found out. You are not happy that you are betraying your wife, but Gerda doesn't have a lot of time these days and you hardly see her.
- A couple of years ago you stole 100 Euros from Ursula in order to buy Gerda a necklace.

Character: Renate Mueller

Age: 55

Profession: Restaurant Owner

Residence: Eberswalde, Brandenburg

You have lived your whole life in Eberswalde. When you were 18 you married your boyfriend from high school and two years later you had your first daughter. Your husband was charming and nice before the wedding, but he changed shortly thereafter. He was an alcoholic and when he was at home he used to cuss at you. This is why you are a teetotaler. Five years after the birth of your daughter Ursula (35) you left your husband. You didn't have that much money but persevered and struggled and managed to open your own restaurants. You always wanted another daughter, so eleven years after Ursula was born you adopted Gerda (25). Gerda still know nothing of her adoption. Your daughters are all grown up now and you are very proud of them, although you don't like their husbands. There are new restaurants in the area and you would like to expand yours. You asked Johann Neumann, a banker, for a loan but he tuned you down. You were surprised because it seemed like a sure thing and know you are having financial difficulties.

What you know...

- Gerda is your favorite daughter although you love both of your daughters.
- You are curious, especially about the marriages of your daughters.
- You receive money from Ursula's husband Boris (40). He had an affair with Gerda and you get a bribe for your silence.
- You do not like Gerda's husband, Udo (35), at all. You know that Udo stole money from Ursula. You also believe that he has strayed from his wife.
- Gerda takes classes at the university.

Character: Boris Schmidt

Age: 40

Profession: Plumber

Place of Residence: Eberswalde, Brandenburg

You have been married to Ursula (35) for fifteen years, but you have been with Ursula since you were 16. You have been separated from your wife for a year, but you hope that you can be together again. You are a flirt and you don't care that it bothers your wife. You have two children Frieda (10) and Fritz (8). During this separation from your wife, you had an affair with Gerda (25), who is unfortunately Ursula's younger sister. It is also unfortunate that Ursula and Gerda's mother Renate (55) is so curious, because she found out about your affair.

What you know...

- You want to get back together with Ursula. (This is why you came on the talk show.)
- Your younger half brother Udo (35), is Gerda's husband.
- You get along OK with Udo.
- Your wife had an affair seven years ago, but you forgave her.
- You have to pay Renate money so that she doesn't say anything about your affair with Gerda.
- Your brother Udo doesn't like Renate. She wanted to expand her restaurant and asked Johann Neumann, a banker, for a loan. Johann is Udo's best friend, and because he didn't want Renate to get any money, Johann denied the loan. You only know this because Johann has such a big mouth.