

Thoughts from Brazil

A film by Daniel Emmerson presented by EnglishClub.com



Activity 1

How much do you know about Brazil? Test yourself with this 'true or false' quiz!

1. Sao Paolo is the capital city of Brazil.
2. Brazil is the largest country in South America.
3. Brazil borders nine other countries.
4. The official language of Brazil is Spanish.

Activity 2

You are going to watch a video about communicating in English in Brazil. The interviewees in the video answer the following two questions. Read the questions below and discuss what you think they might say in response. Then watch the video once to find out if your ideas were right.

1. How can young learners be helped to communicate better in English?
2. How are Brazilian teenagers learning to communicate better in English?

Activity 3

Watch the introduction to the film and tick the points below if they are mentioned. (Hint - two of the points aren't mentioned.)

Traffic Rain Violence Food Fashion The Economy Learning English

Activity 4

Watch the interviewees answering the first question (How can young learners be helped to communicate better in English?) and decide if the statements below are true or false.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Atilana says they don't use a book for the teaching process. | T/F |
| 2. Juan says they always use English as a means of communication. | T/F |
| 3. Solene says when the children speak Portuguese the teachers help them resay it in English. | T/F |
| 4. Priscilla says learning English in a traditional way was easy for her. | T/F |
| 5. Priscilla says this school is good for her child because she plays all the time. | T/F |
| 6. Daniel says he hopes that the children start to read in English. | T/F |

Activity 5

Watch the interviewees answering the second question in Activity 2 (How are Brazilian teenagers learning to communicate better in English?) and answer the following questions.

1. What does Marianna say is the most important thing for learning English?
2. What 'fun' ways of learning English does Beatriz suggest?
3. Why does Beatriz say she has problems with time?
4. How did Beatriz's brother surprise her?
5. What does Amanda suggest for communicating better in English?
6. How does music help Jose communicate better in English?
7. How does the internet help him to improve his English?
8. What does Jose say about doing outside English courses two times a week?
9. How did the internet help Tomas communicate better in English?

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Activity 6

Discuss the following questions.

1. What do you think of the style of teaching that's used in the Juan Uribe School?
2. How common is this method of teaching English in your country?
3. Daniel says the children are learning English in the same way that they learned their first language. Do you think learning a second language is the same as learning a first language? Why/not?
4. Do you agree with Marianna that 'the more you talk, the better you get'? If so, why? If not, why not?
5. Beatriz says video games are useful for communicating in English. How useful do you think they are?
6. Amanda says social networking sites are useful for learning English. Do you agree? Why/not?
7. Jose says music helped him to learn English. How helpful do you think songs in English are?
8. Jose says he thinks it is good to learn about other cultures. Do you think this is an important part of language learning? Why/not?
9. Jose and Tomas say it is important to have interests that can help you learn English, like film, music, video games, the internet, etc. Do you agree? Why/not?
10. What other questions do you think the film should have asked?
11. What interested you most about the video? Why?

Activity 7

Discuss the following questions.

1. Does your teacher use games in the classroom? If so, how useful do you think these games are?
2. Are your English lessons usually based on speaking, grammar, reading or listening? How does this help you to communicate better in English?
3. Do you use internet video games to practise communicating in English? Why/not?
4. Have you ever used a social networking website to improve your English? Why/not?
5. Should students listen to songs in English as part of their language learning? Why/not?
6. How much do you know about the culture of English-speaking countries? What more would you like to know?
7. To what extent do you use activities and interests to improve your English? (For example, social networking sites, video games, music, films, etc.)

Activity 8

Imagine you are making a film like 'Thoughts from Brazil'. Interview your partner, using the questions below.

1. How long have you been learning English?
2. What difficulties do people in your country have communicating in English?
3. What do they do to overcome these difficulties?
4. How useful is the internet for language learning?
5. What tips and advice can you offer to other learners to improve their spoken English?

The information, statements and answers used in this worksheet are taken from the film in question and interviewees' responses. They are not necessarily true for the whole country, nor do they necessarily reflect the views of the filmmaker or of EnglishClub.com.