#decent teaching

Unusual Statistics

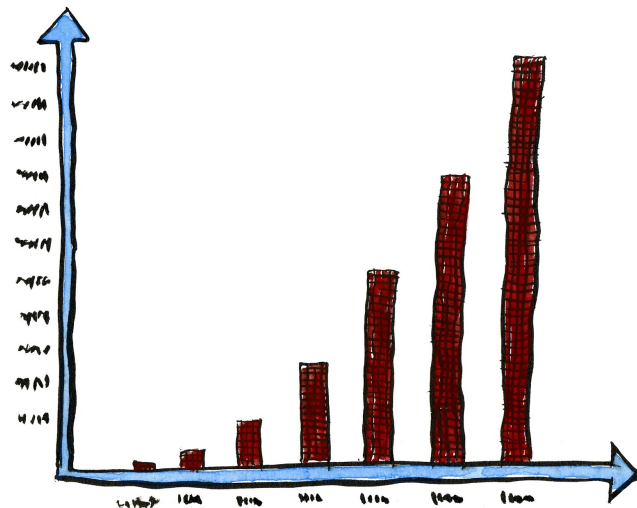**Lesson Topic**: Unusual Statistics
Level: All levels
Time: 10-20 mins (can be extended)
Activity: Warmer - Describing statistics
Materials: Flipchart or Whiteboard, pens, flipchart paper.
Language: Language for describing graphs/ charts, guessing vocabulary, forming questions

Dramatic increase in the amount of untrue statistics...

Procedure

1. Teacher asks 'When you see statistics in a newspaper or magazine, what do they look like?' Elicit *bar chart, pie chart*.

2. Teacher draws an unusual statistic on the flip chart or whiteboard (no words!).

3. Learners then have to ask questions about this unusual statistic, to discover what it means. Depending on your learners, you might want to pre-teach the following vocabulary here:

> *X axis/ Y axis*
> *Is it connected with….? Is it to do with….? Does it have anything to do with…?*
> *What does the first line/ bar represent?*
> *Can I/ we have a clue?*

4. The learners eventually guess the meaning of the statistic, or the teacher tells them.

5. Teacher tells learners 'Now I want **you** to create **your own unusual statistic**. You will work in teams but *please keep your statistic a secret*'. The format to follow is:

- Talk about some interesting facts and figures related to work, or private life
- Decide on some facts or figures that might, or might not be related
- Make an 'Unusual statistic' using a bar or pie chart (draw this in your notebooks)*

    *Teacher can also give examples here: The time people spend on…..
    The money people spend on…..

6. Learners then come to front of the class and **draw** their 'Unusual statistic' on the WB/ flipchart. They can then sit down, or stay at the board to answer questions from the class.

7. The other group/s of learners have to guess the meaning of the 'Unusual statistic' and what the x/y axes mean. For example, is it connected with your private life?

8. Repeat until all the groups in the class have shown their 'Unusual Statistic'.

9. Vote on the best/ most interesting/ most difficult 'Unusual Statistic'!

Variation

The most important variation would just involve personalising the 'Unusual statistic' for your learners. For example, if you teach children one of the graphs could be 'things we enjoy at school', 'food we like to eat' and so on. For Business English, one of the graphs could be 'time spent working' or 'time spent not working (at work)'.

Follow up

For homework get the learners to come up with examples of 'Unusual statistics' from their private lives, or their lives as learners of English e.g. 'things that really help me learn English'.

Images

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