

Teacher's Notes

Can you buy love?

Type of activity: speaking, reading (optional: writing)

Focus: the commercialisation of Valentine's Day

Level: intermediate

Time: 45 minutes

Preparation:

- one copy of the Student's Worksheet per student
- one set of cut-up Question Cards per group of 6 students

Procedure:

1. Write "Love ..." on the board. Underneath, add "... conquers all." and elicit the meaning of the phrase. Ask the students to give you more ideas on how to complete a sentence starting with "Love ...". Accept both fixed, common expressions and anything else that the students come up with on their own.
2. Tell the students that they are going to read and discuss some quotations about love (make sure that they understand what quotations are). Give out the Student's Worksheets and let them read the sentences in Task 1. Clarify any unfamiliar vocabulary (e.g. glorious, substitute, mutual). Divide the students into pairs and ask them to discuss the meaning of each of the quotations and say if they agree. Monitor and help as they do this, then collect and provide feedback with the whole group.
3. Focus on the last quotation and introduce the idea of the 'commercialisation' of Valentine's Day. Ask the students to look at Task 2, read the opinions and then work in pairs again and say which of these they agree with the most and why. Collect feedback.
4. Ask the students to work individually on Task 3. They should match each of the sentences with the correct opinion(s) from Task 2. When they have finished, let them compare their answers in pairs and then check with the whole group, asking for the relevant parts of the texts where necessary.

Key:

1. Christine, Andrew, Mary
 2. Mary,
 3. Antonio Andrew,
 4. Antonio
 5. Dora
 6. Andrew, Mary
5. Put the students into groups of six and distribute a different Question Card to each student in the group. Within their groups, the students should mingle and ask and express opinions on the statements.
 6. When the groups have finished, ask them to work together. Each student should briefly summarise the group's opinion on their statement.
 7. Collect feedback from all of the groups, trying to establish the class's opinions on Valentine's Day.

Follow up / Homework

The students put their opinions on the commercialisation of Valentine's Day in writing.

