

## Zoom Gossip

Possessive Relative Pronoun ‚Whose‘

### What can your students practise with this exercise?

- Describing people, their body language and facial expression
- Interpreting body language and facial expression
- Interpreting emotions
- Creativity, spontaneity, perspective-taking
- Forming relative clauses with the possessive relative pronoun ‚whose‘

### Which English level should your students have?

- At least B1/B2
- They should also have some experience with creative exercises.

### Exercise instructions:

1. Ask your students to work in pairs or small groups of maximum 4 students.
2. Give every pair or small group the Zoom-meeting image together with a list of random objects. (See example list below.)
3. Ask one student (A) out of each group to pick one square in the Zoom-meeting image for another student (B).
4. The Student B that was picked for the square has to describe the person in the square, their body language and facial expression in detail.  
*The woman in this square is wearing an orange shirt and a golden crown on her head. Her arms are folded, her lips are pouting, her eyebrows are pulled together, and her head is averted to the side.* (If you want to practise body language vocabulary with your students beforehand, check out this link:  
[http://changingminds.org/techniques/body/body\\_language.htm](http://changingminds.org/techniques/body/body_language.htm))
5. Then Student B interprets the person's body language, facial expression and emotion.  
*Her facial expression and body language suggests that she is a little grumpy, upset or sulky. She is definitely unhappy about something.*
6. Student B also creates or establishes the Zoom-context: What happened in the Zoom meeting to trigger this body language, facial expression, emotion?  
*She meant to be the Queen of Zoom and somebody stole her show. Now she is sulking.* (One of my students interpreted this. )
7. Student A pick a word from the list of random objects for Student B.  
**bathtub**
8. Student B must now create the 'Zoom-gossip' producing a relative clause with 'whose' using the selected word.  
*This is the woman whose bathtub is heart-shaped.* (Again, my student created this.)
9. Student A might ask up to three follow-up questions which Student B has to answer to embellish the 'gossip story'.  
*Why does she have a heart-shaped bathtub? As a queen she likes extravagant things. And she likes taking a relaxing bath together with her partner.*
10. Student B picks a square and later the word from the list for Student C, and so forth.

**Zoom-Image:****Example list of words:**

toilet seat	back yard	boyfriend
last holiday	favourite restaurant	pyjama pants
heart	left foot	whiskey glasses
car	bed sheets	plants
neighbours	lounge window	deodorant
winter coat	picture above the sofa	ears
patio furniture	make-up	credit card
Christmas lights	coffee mug	passport
mattress	book shelf	<del>bath</del> tub
Netflix watch list	toothbrush	bottle opener

**My experience with this exercise:**

I did the exercise with level B2/C1 adult students in pairs and in small groups of 4 to 6. Overall they really enjoyed the exercise and most students got very creative. As software engineers it helped them expand their vocabulary in an area, they would normally not practise. The students who did pair work really liked the exercise but said that doing 3 squares per person would be enough. For some students being creative on-the-spot is difficult, so I think a smaller group with 4 students could be beneficial because they can help each other out with words and ideas.

Exercises should not only be enjoyable for students, but also for the teachers. I absolutely loved listening to the stories my students created and I learned so much about their personalities.

**Exercise designed by:** Ingrid Ebert