ESL Warmers and Icebreakers: Activity Bank

A bank of low-preparation warmers and icebreakers to start lessons with energy and to settle a class into English.

Quick warmers (no materials)

- Two truths and a lie: learners guess the false statement.
- Word association chains around the class.
- Last letter: each word must start with the last letter of the previous one.

Icebreakers for new groups

- Find someone who... (mingle and complete a prompt grid).
- Interview your partner and introduce them to the class.
- Line up by birthday using only English.

Review warmers

- Board race with vocabulary from the last lesson.
- Hot seat: describe a word for a classmate to guess.
- Quick quiz on the previous lesson's language.

Tips for effective warmers

- Keep them short (3-7 minutes) and on-topic where possible.
- Maximise student talking time from the first minute.
- Link the warmer to the lesson aim when you can.