

Press Conference

Level: Elementary & Up

Objective: Test and students knowledge of past simple or present perfect, wh- questions
Asking questions in the context of a press conference
Taking notes
Writing a news article

Plan:

Hour 1

- 1) Find an interesting picture, preferably something that happened in your students' country, your life, or the world. News stories are good for this.
- 2) Bring in the picture and show it to your students. Elicit any information they know about the picture and words they may need to know.
- 3) Tell the students that you were actually at this event and that you will give a press conference to address the incident. The students will be reporters and must ask you questions.
- 4) Give the students 5-8 minutes to prepare their questions. Help them out with any difficulties and make notes of common errors or difficulties. Make sure all the students' questions are correct, so they are confident when asking during the activity.
- 5) Tell the students you will now have the press conference and that they must take notes on the event to write up a story later.
- 6) Hold the conference and field student questions. Encourage students to ask for additional information outside their prepared questions. Make notes on any systematic language mistakes.
- 7) Put the students in groups and tell them to compare notes. While they are doing this, put examples of useful or good language that came out of the activity along with problems you noted before on the board.
- 8) Go over the language with the students. Clarify, drill, and practice where necessary.

Hour 2

- 1) Using their notes, students should now write a news report about the incident.
- 2) Again, make notes of difficulties and errors. Once students have finished writing, have the students flip over their articles and go over common problems on the board.
- 3) Students now exchange articles and correct each other's work.
- 4) For homework, students should type up a corrected version of their article.
- 5) Attach a copy of the picture to the top of the article and hang students' work up around the room.







Photos are from a demonstration protesting Israeli actions in Palestine in Ankara on February, 2007. Protests are quite common occurrences in Ankara in the city center of Kızılay. This protest was rather small, only about 80 people. The police are in full riot gear, but this is standard operating procedure. There was no violence of any kind at the event.