

Back to school around the world (teacher's notes)

1. Warm-up 5 mins

Aims: to break the ice and foster a safe environment for learning.

Procedure: Introduce the topic. Ask students if the first day of the academic year important for them. Details are not important at this point.

2. Discussion (Activity 1) 10 mins

Aims: to generate interest in the topic and revise the vocabulary.

Procedure: Ask students to look at the pictures and elicit what they can see. Use pictures of definitions to pre-teach:

a bell



a bouquet



school
supplies or
stationery



Possible answers:

1- **buying new clothes**

2 – **going to school for a special celebration and first bell** (a girl in the first grade will sit atop the shoulders of a boy in his senior year (aged 17-18). This little girl is then given a bell, which she will ring loudly as she is carried past a crowd of spectators. Ringing this bell officially starts the new school year).

3- **bouquets** for teacher

4- **books and stationery**

Then students discuss the first day at school and how people usually get ready for it, encourage them to give more detail or personal information, ask follow up questions.

If you work in a group, let students speculate in pairs. Then conduct a content feedback.

Possible answer:

In Russia, the first day of school is called Knowledge and Skills Day and this means formal attire and special ceremonies at the school. Kids often bring a flower bouquet for the teacher.

3. Reading “Back-to-school traditions around the world” (Activity 2) 20 mins

Aims: to read for gist, for detail and to provide speaking practice

Procedure: students first read the text for gist.

key:

India, Japan

Then the student read the text for detail.

key:

Students bring flowers to teachers. Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Turkey

Students get stationery and sweets from parents as a gift for the first day at school.

Germany

The first day of the academic year is always Monday. Turkey

Students get an umbrella as a gift for the first academic day. India

There is a long break in the middle of the school year. Japan

The most important for the first at school is to wear new clothes. the USA, Turkey

Japan. Students get a backpack from their parents.

There is a big special celebration with songs and games. Bulgaria

Students discuss what traditions are similar to traditions in their country and which ones they would like to have. If you work in a group, let students speculate in pairs. Then conduct a content feedback.

More traditions:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oa24a_tm_A

4. Classroom rules (Activity 3) 10 mins

Aims: to provide student(s) with practice listening for general information and allow to speak for fluency.

Procedure: let students speculate in pairs. Then conduct a content feedback.

Maintain a discussion between all members of the group. Ask if the participants agree with previous speakers. Write all possible variant on the board. If you work one-to-one, comment on your student's answers and express your opinion.

Then play 1 minute of the video and ask students to compare with their lists.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddvTFgzkS5M>

5. Sum up 5 mins

Put errors on the board or whiteboard and let student(s) correct them.

Summarise the lesson and tell student(s) what results they have achieved (Now you can ... After our speaking lesson you will be able to....)

Ask them if they have any questions.