


What did I say?

Title of activity	What did I say?
Theme	Communication with different means of expression.
Learning goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the difference between message and language content. • Understanding that a message can be expressed by different means of expression. • Understanding that every means of expression is useful, and messages can be transmitted more easily combining means of expression. • Shaping the message both verbally and with body language.
Target audience	Young people with different language backgrounds, from 15 to 30 years old.
Type of activity	Communication game
Keywords	Creating messages, Means of expression, Communication.
Step-by-step	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A group of international participants, speaking different languages, sits in a semicircle. The activity leader begins a dialogue with the group. Since it is the first time all the participants have met, the task is to present themselves prior to a week-long socialising and learning programme. 2. The facilitator announces that each participant will be presented in their own language. This is a good opportunity to become more familiar with the sound of all languages, to spot certain similarities between the linguistic traits of different languages and to make a plan using these similarities for better understanding. If one of the participants wishes to learn some of the partner languages, this constitutes an added value dimension of the project.

	<p>3. The activity leader begins the presentation with a sentence containing their first thought of the morning. They then ask if the participants understood the statement (yes/no/approximately). It is likely only a certain number of participants understood the content of the message, based on their linguistic capacities.</p> <p>4. Each participant then take a turn presenting in the manner described, trying to replace words with body language.</p> <p>Trying to grasp the content of the message brings a cheery atmosphere to the group.</p> <p><i>Debriefing</i> Once everyone has spoken, the conclusion from the exercise is that if we truly want to understand each other, we will manage. In addition to language, other expressive means should also be used.</p> <p>Multilingual communication in a positive atmosphere encourages participants to use their native language to communicate and English to correct misunderstandings.</p> <p>The activity is successful if the social and learning goals are achieved (successful communication and facilitating cohesion within the group).</p>
Venue	Meeting room
Materials required	None
Duration	Around 45 min, depending of the number of participants.
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