

Short and Sweet

Level

Elementary

Time

10-20 minutes + later sessions of
10-20 minutes for each variation

Language Functions

Asking and answering questions;
exchanging information

Materials

None

In Class

- 1** Write some of the numbers connected with your life on the board. They can be any numbers at all. For example: house or flat number; telephone number; shoe size; weight; height; age; number of years you have lived at your present address; number of children; calories you allow yourself per day and so on.
- 2** Tell the students to guess what the numbers refer to. Prompt them in order to elicit the questions and keep the pace brisk.
- 3** Now it is their turn. Tell them to each write down about ten numbers from their lives. They should then work in pairs and try to guess what the numbers refer to.

Variations**A: Dates**

Do the activity as outlined above but instead of numbers do important dates, for example: birthdays in your family; date you left home; date you started work; date you met your spouse; a date that changed your life; the date you started or stopped smoking and so on.

B: Names

As above but this time using the first names of people who have played an important role in your life.

C: Abbreviations

Do the activity now using various different abbreviations reflecting aspects of your life. For example, in my own case:

CMHS - my initials; HCC Heerlen - Hockey and Cricket Club Heerlen, a local sports club; UCT - the University of Cape Town, where I studied when I lived in South Africa; PIN - my personal identification number, but I'm not saying what it is; and so on.