One of my favourite communicative activities is a game called “Twins”.

This activity can be carried out with both young learners (aged 8-10) and teenage elementary learners (aged 11-12). It is used with a whole class.

The objective of the game is to develop communication; give learners opportunities to practise and extend their use of language, such as new vocabulary and grammatical structures.

The idea is: each pupil gets a picture which they don’t have to show each other. The pictures can be either thematic or not, but they should have some differences. Each picture has its pair and the task is to find the “twin”. So, children sit in a circle. Pupils start describing their pictures in turn. The teacher can set a time limit or impose a limit to the number of the sentences. After each pupil has said something about the picture, children start asking each other questions to find the same card.

I find this activity effective because it develops speaking skills: children have opportunities to experiment with the language. In my opinion this activity helps to build up learners’ fluency, motivation and confidence.