



BREAK THE ICE

Discuss Questions

Student A	Student B
1. What do you usually do to break the ice when meeting new people? 2. Can you think of a time when someone broke the ice in a social situation and made you feel more comfortable? What did they do? 3. Do you think it's more difficult to break the ice in formal or informal situations? Why?	1. How do you feel when you're in a new social situation and don't know anyone? 2. What kind of activities or games do you think are effective icebreakers? Why? 3. Have you ever had a situation where you tried to break the ice and it didn't go well? What did you do, and what would you do differently next time?

The idiom "break the ice" is a common expression used to describe an action or comment that helps to relax people in social situations and make them feel more comfortable. But where did this phrase come from?

The phrase "break the ice" originated from the world of shipping. In the past, ships had to navigate through icy waters, especially in polar regions. To "break the ice" meant to cut through or shatter the ice that was blocking the way, allowing the ship to pass through safely. This phrase was later used metaphorically to describe actions that helped to ease social tensions or awkwardness.

In the 17th century, the phrase took on its modern meaning. It was used to describe the act of doing or saying something that would help to relax people in social situations, making it easier for others to interact and communicate. For example, telling a joke or making a lighthearted comment can "break the ice" and help people feel more at ease.

Today, the phrase "break the ice" is widely used in various contexts, from business meetings to social gatherings. It's a useful expression to know when you want to help create a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Whether you're meeting new people or trying to diffuse tension, breaking the ice can be a valuable skill. By being aware of the power of ice-breaking actions, you can make social interactions more enjoyable and build stronger relationships with others. With a little practice, you'll be breaking the ice like a pro in no time.

Comprehension Questions

1. What does the idiom "break the ice" mean in social situations?
2. Where did the phrase "break the ice" originate from?
3. What did "break the ice" originally mean in the world of shipping?

True or False Questions

1. The phrase "break the ice" originated from the world of sports.
2. "Break the ice" means to make a social situation more awkward.
3. The phrase "break the ice" has been used in its modern sense since the 17th century.

Additional Activity

- Think of a time when you had to "break the ice" in a social situation. How did you do it? Was it successful?
- Work in pairs or small groups to come up with different ways to "break the ice" in various social situations (e.g., job interviews, parties, meetings).

Teacher's Key

Comprehension Questions

1. What does the idiom "break the ice" mean in social situations?
To relax people in social situations and make them feel more comfortable.
2. Where did the phrase "break the ice" originate from?
The world of shipping.
3. What did "break the ice" originally mean in the world of shipping?
To cut through or shatter ice that was blocking the way, allowing a ship to pass through safely.

True or False Questions

1. False
2. False
3. True