## Out-of-The-Box Teaching Activities to Develop Creativity and Critical Thinking in a Second Language

## Good News/Bad News

Adam Brod\*

Notre Dame Seishin University, Japan

**Duration**: 25-30 minutes

Target student proficiency level: Intermediate

Target student age: High s hoo! age and a "ove

**Objectives**: #0 develop

\$anguage s%ills: &luen y, using superlatives and omparatives'

(ontent %no) ledge: \*aried daily topi s'

(ognitive a"ilities: thin%ing on their +eet to evaluate ) hat ) as

- C' #e!! students they ) i!! play a game a!!ed **Good News/Bad News**' #his is a game "et) een t) o people, so everyone ) i!! need a partner' 7 ne person starts "y saying, DThe Good News is E 5any sort of fact or opinion—the weather, his or her feelings, the best food in the world, etc.)." #hen the other person says, DBut the bad news is E 5any sort of fact or opinion that contradicts the good news of the first person)." #hen it is the 1rst personFs turn again' He9she should say something ) hi h ontradi ts the "ad ne) s statement +rom his or her partner'
- 5' Demonstrate the +orm o+ this a tivity "y playing "oth roles in +ront o+ the students' &or e. ample,

D#he good ne) s is it is sunny'G

D/ut the "ad ne) s is there is no ) ater to gro) +ood'G

D/ut the good ne) s is everything that does not use ) ater is really heap, and i+ you sell "ottled ) ater you an ma%e a lot o+ money'G

D/ut the "ad ne) s is ) e have to "uy mi!!ions o+ "ottles o+ ) ater, and that reates a !ot o+ trash'G

D/ut the good ne)s is )e an rey!e the ) ater "ottles and ma%e greenhouses and plasti "ottle e osystems that apture) ater +rom the air' So no) there is !ots o+) ater to gro) +ood and go s) imming'G

D/ut the "ad ne)s is ) ater "ottle pri es ) i!! drop, and every "ody ) i!! lose a!! o+ their money G

2nd so on'

Do another demonstration, "ut ma\( \)e your e. amples more reative and ridi ulous so that the students understand this is a game and not an e. er ise' \( \)eor e. ample:

D#he good ne) s is it is raining'G

D/ut the "ad ne) s is there ) i!! "e a huge Hood, and every ody ) i!! have to move G

DI+ there is a huge Hood, the good ne) s is ) e an "ui!d an under) ater ity and !ive ) ith do!phins'G

D/ut the "ad ne)s)e anft) at h #\* or use omputers under) ater'G

or delivering a +ormal spee h, as% the students to tal% a"out their o) n topi s' 2s% the students to thin% o+ ridi ulous reasons ) hy their topi is "etter than another personfs topi '&or e ample, i+ one student gives a spee h a"out ats, and another student gives a spee h a"out ars, as% the students to DargueG that D ats are "etter than ars "e ause LG or D ars are "etter than ats "e ause M'G #he main goal is +or students to have +un e pressing an opinion or arguing +or and against any idea'

## 

## About the author

Adam Brod holds an 32 #=\$7\$ degree +rom Ha) aii; a i1 University and is urrently tea hing =nglish at the university level as a part time instru tor in Baga) a and 7% ayama, Japan' His