Wrong Answers Only[[1]](#footnote-0)

Tags: speaking, improv, warm-up

Type: Whole Class

Time: 5-10 minutes

## **Why are we doing this?**

Starting can often be the hardest step, and answering questions correctly can be intimidating. This exercise helps us start by deliberately trying not to answer questions correctly.

## **What materials/set-up do I need to prepare?**

Try and have some questions prepared already. You can have the questions have to do with the material you are going to cover in class or just generic questions about something that is easy to say the opposite answer to, like the weather or the time of day.

## **How do we do this?**

Have the students come up to the board one by one. You must ask them a question, and they must answer incorrectly, but the answer has to make sense in context with the question. Avoid yes or no questions; you want the students to speak in full sentences.

**Example table:**

| **Teacher says** | **“Correct” answer that is not allowed (the student must try again):** | **Answer that doesn’t make sense (the student must try again):** | **“Incorrect” answer that makes sense:** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What time is it? | It’s 12:40 p.m. | Purple. | It’s three a.m. |
| What’s the weather like? | It’s raining. | I hate mushrooms. | It’s a boiling 40°c, and the sun is shining. |

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1. **Source:** My friend and fellow teacher Guðný Ósk Laxdal told me about this game. It is very popular with her students and helpful in waking them up and getting ready for discussions. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)