

Match type, explanations from 1-3 and examples from A-C to complete the descriptions of each type of information gap activities

<i>Type</i>	<i>Explanation</i>	<i>Example</i>
<i>The information gap</i>		
<i>The experience gap</i>		
<i>The opinion gap</i>		

Explanations 1-3:

1. Exploiting the opinion gap is a good way to lead into a topic. Most people have differing opinions, feelings and reactions to situations, events and propositions. Finding out about someone's feelings and opinions is all about closing the gap between people. The increase in personalised activities that is evident in many textbooks is testament to the value of this gap.

2. This is the classic gap exploited by the communicative approach. The information gap is ideally suited to pair and small group work and usually relies upon pre-prepared information cards.

3. All students in classes have had different experiences in their lives - so this is immediately a gap. In some classes this gap is very marked. For example, a multilingual adult class in the UK provides great difference between the backgrounds of the students. A monolingual primary class will obviously show less difference. The experience gap is easily exploited in questionnaires - particularly those that aim to practise past forms.

Examples A-C

A. If the topic area is jobs, students can rank jobs according to certain criteria (would like to do, usefulness to society) and then compare their decisions with other students.)

B. If the topic area is jobs, students can tell each other about the jobs the members of their family have.

C. Student A has some information concerning the prices of food. Student B needs to know these prices, and so asks A questions to find the information.