Just One Minute

Aim: Help Ss develop oral fluency and listening skills.
Levels: 2 and 3
Preparation: Bring a clock or watch with a second display or hand to class.
Comment: Use to practice speaking and listening.

- Write a topic on the board (e.g., customs, food, transportation).
- Explain the game. Ss work in pairs. S1 talks about the topic for one minute. Point out that S1 cannot repeat ideas, change the topic, or hesitate for more than five seconds. S2 listens for repetition, topic changes, or hesitations. After one minute, say, "Stop!" If S1 talked without any repetition, topic changes, or hesitations, he or she gets a point.
- Play the game. S2 tells S1 about any repetition, topic changes, or hesitations. If there are none, S1 gets a point.
- The Ss in each pair change roles. Write another topic on the board and S2 talks for one minute.
- Play the game with a few more topics. The S in each pair with the most points wins.

Variation 1: Write several topics on the board. S1 chooses a topic from the board.

Variation 2: At the end of each game, a S chooses the next topic.