

A Day in the Life Activity

Objectives:

1. Identify and normalize using different languages in a variety of contexts
2. Reflect on motivations for one's choice of language
3. Encourage participants to recognize that heritage language competence should not be judged based on a single context

Description:

Similar to the Language Choice Bingo activity, this exercise encourages participants to reflect on their language use in different everyday contexts. The facilitator presents a series of scenarios from a typical day, and participants indicate which language they would use in each situation by colouring in a circle—each colour representing a different language. If participants use more than one language in a given context, they can divide the circle accordingly, allowing for nuanced responses and easier comparison. After completing their cards, participants compare them with one another, and the pair with the most similar language patterns throughout the day is declared the winner. This activity is designed to raise awareness of how language use varies between individuals, even in similar situations. It emphasizes that seeing someone in only one context can lead to inaccurate assumptions about their overall proficiency in the heritage language, highlighting the importance of recognizing and valuing diverse language experiences.