



F.A.Q's.

1. Isn't it wrong to teach using cooperative learning methods when the world we live in is such a competitive world?

The world is less competitive, more and more work is done in teams. People most often lose their jobs for lacking interpersonal and teamwork skills. Cooperative learning is not used exclusively, teachers should ensure a good mix of individualistic, competitive and cooperative learning to best prepare the students for all situations faced in the real world.

2. Isn't the achievement of low-achievers at the expense of high-achieving students?

Learning is not always best by being taught, sometimes we learn best as we teach, coach or explain to others. (See 'Learning Pyramid' in **T2T(UK)** Training Tips). Students access higher order thinking skills when tutoring. Tutors learn as much as their Tutees. Teachers are continually learning, explaining how to overcome a learning block for another leads to deeper understanding for oneself. Cooperative Learning empowers students of all social and ability levels to achieve significant and deep learning due to many factors not least the amount of 'on task' engagement.

3. Are children forced to work with others they don't like and don't get along with?

No! You can't force students to get along. However you can provide extra recognition for desired academic and social behaviours. The Cooperative Learning teacher also builds the 'will' and 'skill' of students to cooperate by using regular teambuilding and classbuilding activities. Eventually hostile/reluctant students are drawn in, this is one of the strengths of Cooperative Learning.

4. Doesn't cooperative learning mean a free ride for some and extra work for others?

No! Structures mean that every student has to contribute and are held accountable for their own learning and contribution, there is no 'coasting' or 'free-riding'. Individual Accountability is one of the four 'PIES' principles of Cooperative Learning as designed by Dr. Spencer Kagan. (See 'Cooperative Learning ISBN 9781879097100 available from the **T2T(UK)** online shop.) Learning is never assessed as group grades.

5. How much class time should be devoted to cooperative learning?

Every teacher is different and each will find a balance that suits them and their students. For me, personally, the more I used Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures for Active Engagement the more I wanted to use them. Why? Because even used briefly the implementation of CL leads to impressive gains both socially and academically. This is backed up with thousands of research studies over the last twenty years. All the students are more involved and excited to be learning. The students demonstrate more curiosity and inspiration— both powerful catalysts for learning. This sort of reaction from students inevitably leads the teacher to try more and more.