Language Support for Adult Refugees
A Council of Europe Toolkit
www.coe.int/lang-refugees

Linguistic Integration
of Adult Migrants (LIAM)
www.coe.int/lang-migrants

40 - Starting to socialise

Aims: - Present key-expressions for introducing oneself.
 - Enable refugees to say something about themselves.

Communicative situations

- Introducing themselves, spelling and pronouncing their own name.
- Talking about themselves, their life etc.

Materials

- Example text (A) of someone introducing herself (see next page).
- Sheet of key expressions and phrases (see Tool 33 *A list of expressions for everyday communication*).

Language activities

Activity 1

Elicit what refugees know about introductions in their own language and culture by asking (for example): *What information is important when we want to talk about ourselves*? Acknowledge their contributions.

Activity 2

Read text (A) aloud. Check refugees' understanding by asking questions such as: *How old is she? Where does she come from? When was she born? Where does she live?* Continue with other examples.

Activity 3

Use the information in the table (B) (see next page) to check refugees' understanding. Print it out and cut it up, then shuffle the pieces on a table and ask refugees to match key expressions with related headings (in bold).

Then ask refugees: *What's your name? When were you born? Where do you come from?* Continue with other examples.

Invite refugees to write down their answers.

Activity 4

Introduce a sample dialogue like this:

- *A. Hello, I am John Miller. I am a neighbour.*
- *B. Hi, I'm Mir Samir.*
- *A. Sorry, could you repeat that?*
- *A. Mir Samir: M, I, R – then S, A, M, I, R.*
- *B. Nice to meet you!*

Check comprehension, and then organize a role play using the information in the table used in activity 3. Then invite refugees to imagine meeting people in a place they like (allow time for preparation). In the first

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role play, you take the role of A, using information about yourself; then refugees work in pairs, following the model given (focus their attention on spelling their names, and on key expressions used to ask someone to repeat something).

Ideas for learners with low literacy

Invite learners with low literacy to say something about themselves, e.g. *My name is Haweeyo.*

- Write this clearly in large letters on a strip of card.
- Read it aloud several times pointing to each word as you say it.
- Invite refugees to read it aloud with you and then alone.

Cut up the sentence into several pieces and ask them to put the pieces back in the correct order and read the sentence aloud again.

Repeat the process using a similar or new sentence given by refugees, e.g. *I come from Somalia.*

Sample materials

A: Introducing oneself

My name is Adeba Desta. I'm twenty-four years old. I was born in Ethiopia, in Addis Ababa on March 5, 1993. I have been married for four years and I have two children: one is three years old and the other is four. We have lived here for six months and we rent a house. My husband works in a machine shop. I don't have a job yet.

B:

Name.	My name is Karen.
Nationality.	I'm Irish.
Place of birth.	I was born in Dublin.
Marital Status.	I'm unmarried.
Age.	I'm 31 years old.
Date of birth.	I was born on April 13th, 1985.
Contact.	My e-mail address is karen@gmail.com.
Occupation.	I'm unemployed.