

Topic: Spelling, Vocabulary, Grammar, Pronunciation, Role Play, Group Work, Manners, Mood and Emotions, Culture and History, Other

Level: Intermediate, Advanced,

Age: Teens, Adults,

Skill: Listening, Speaking, Reading Comprehension, Writing,

Description:

(Part 2/2) This is the last week's material for an intermediate conversation class. This course work includes multiple readings and questions, role plays and a debate.

Objectives:

Speaking practice, vocabulary work and gaining greater grammar understanding through reading.

Duration:

10 hours per complete week's lesson

Procedure:

Crises at the Office

Murphy's Law states that whatever can go wrong - will go wrong. It's Friday afternoon and everybody has taken off early - except you. No problem: right? Wrong! In the following role-play, Murphy's Law is in full disaster mode at the local restaurant-supply company.

Sales Rep: If something bad is going to happen, it will happen at the worst time. You are minding the office because everyone else has ducked out early. Suddenly the phone rings and it is one of the company's biggest customers. It seems that he/she has run out of Pork due to an unexpected tour group. More meat is needed now! You realize that if you let this customer down, it would mean a great loss for the company. Discuss the problem with your customer and explain that you are alone in the office and that there is nothing you can do.

Customer: You have run out of meat in your restaurant because of an unexpected busload of tourists. You need meat in a hurry so you call your supplier. You then discover that everyone has left for the day and nobody is there to help you. Try and convince your sales representative to take unusual steps to help you.

The Pick-Pocket

You are on a bus in a strange city and you discover that someone has stolen your wallet or your purse. All alone, no money, no credit cards, and no identification: what will you do? Watch what happens in the role-play below and think about what you would feel like if you were in this situation.

Victim: You have just been robbed. When you weren't looking someone picked your pocket or snatched your purse. As quickly as possible, you find the nearest police officer and seek his/her assistance. Remember that you now have no money, no ID, nothing. You are in a state of panic.

Officer: You are patrolling the streets of your city ensuring that the citizens are safe when one person approaches you in a state of panic. This unfortunate victim has been robbed on the bus. The reality is that there is very little you can do to help him/her retrieve his/her property. Compassionately explain to her that you can be of little assistance other than to go to the police station where he/she might be able to use a phone.

A Lousy Mark

We all remember those. A teacher gives us a poor mark in a subject. It is particularly upsetting when we work very hard only to wind up with a "D" or worse. Listen to the scenario below and see what happens when one student gets a bad mark in his/her test.

Student: The unthinkable has just happened. You have received a final mark of "D" in your Chemistry course. You are upset. You are also angry with the teacher. Confront your teacher and demand to know why you have such a low mark when you have worked so hard.

Teacher: In your office now is an irate student. He/she is angry at the mark you have given. You know the student works hard but he/she did not do well on the test. Will you consider giving another test? Would that be fair to the other students? These are the things you must think about as you decide what to do in this particular case.

Grounded

Well, it's Saturday night and it's your night to howl! However, certain indiscretions by our student below during the week have resulted in being grounded by his/her parents. How would you like it if this were you and all your friends were going out but you had to stay home?

Student: It's Saturday and all week you have been misbehaving in school, so your parents have forbidden you to go out. You are really upset because all of your friends will be going to the big dance tonight. Try and persuade your father or mother to let you go.

Parent: Your son/daughter has been a rascal in school all week. Now, you have grounded him/her as punishment for the transgressions committed. Patiently and empathetically try to make him/her understand that it is for their own good that you are clipping their wings. Remember that you must not acquiesce under any circumstances.

On The Train

Imagine it's a busy Saturday morning and you are planning to head to the countryside for the weekend. Thinking that you should plan your excursion properly, you purchase your train ticket a few days early. That way, you get a good seat and you don't have to stand in line on Saturday morning. When you climb on board the train, you find that your seat is occupied by another person with a ticket for the same seat. What a way to begin your weekend. How would you handle a situation like this?

Passenger: Someone is sitting in your seat on the train. When you ask this person to move, he/she produces an identical ticket. Complain to the conductor about the problem. Remember that you are now in a bit of a bad mood because this is not a good way to start your holiday weekend.

Conductor: More headaches! This time it appears that the ticketing office has made a mistake. They have issued two tickets for the same seat. Try and reason with the passenger and sort out the problem.

The Slacker

The dictionary defines a slacker as a person who shirks work or evades responsibility. Do you know any slackers? Well, meet our friendly neighborhood slacker below. He/she is very good at evading work. Let's look in on the scenario below. How would you handle the problem in your office?

Slacker: You are a slacker. You are lazy. You don't like to work. You show up late. Etc., etc., etc. Well, your fellow workers have just about had it with your lousy attitude and now they are demanding action. It is your goal in this scenario to make up as many excuses as you can for why you are unable to accomplish any great amount of work.

The Boss: The employees have repeatedly complained about one of their fellow workers. They are fed up with carrying his share of the load around the office. Finally, you decide that something must be done. Call the slacker into your office and try and straighten him/her out. Remember that this person will stop at nothing to avoid doing any work and will try and blame someone else for the trouble wherever possible.

Cellular Telephones: An Intrusion?

BACKGROUND: Without a doubt, the introduction of the cell phone was big news. Growth in the industry has been phenomenal. Now, it seems that whenever we are in a restaurant, a classroom, a cinema, on a bus or for that matter wherever we are, we are likely hear the ring of a cell phone.

Is this a problem? Do you find it annoying when you are enjoying a meal in a nice restaurant or perhaps when you are attending a lecture, someone's cell phone rings? Many people do. In fact, in the west, many restaurants prohibit the use of these devices. You must check your phone at the door.

STATEMENT: Cell phones are intrusive. They are an annoyance to others. It is rude and inconsiderate to others. Their use should be restricted.

PROS: This side of the class believes that cellular phones should be shut off in restaurants and places of entertainment. They believe that they are intrusive and more controls should be put on their use.

CONS: This side of the class disagrees with the above statement. They think that cellular phones provide an invaluable service and their use should not be restricted.

Other References:

The reading for this week from Poe's "The Raven" may be above many students' heads. Please use your discretion and find a substitute appropriate to your students' level at:
<http://www.eslmonkeys.com/student/storyroom/storyroom.html>