

Class 7 (02.07.2019)

Tentative language: making language less negative and extreme



A: This pay amount is a mistake. Look into it.

B: This pay amount **may** be a mistake. **Could** you look into it?

C: From what I can tell, the amount of pay on my paycheck here doesn't quite line up with my recorded hours... I recall working more hours than the paycheck indicates. Is there any possibility you could help me look into this?

A: This place is a mess.

B: This work area needs some maintenance.

C: It looks like the maintenance crew may have missed this area. Maybe we should ask them to double check it when they return.

A: I think that's a bad idea.

B: I don't think that's such a good idea.

A: I don't like it.

B: I don't really like it I'm afraid.

A: I didn't catch that.

B: Sorry, I didn't quite catch that.

A: You don't understand me.

B: Perhaps I'm not making myself clear.

A: You shouldn't eat at your desk.

B: I think perhaps you shouldn't eat at your desk.

A: You should talk to him like that.

B: Wouldn't you agree that you should talk to him more politely?

A: He's lazy.

B: He isn't always hard-working.

A: You're broke.

B: You are economically disadvantaged.

Negative questions 1	Euphemisms=soft expressions 2	Positive words in a negative form 3
Verbose sentences 4	Quantifiers/softeners 5	Formal wordings 5
Introductory phrases 6	Avoidance of finger pointing	Modal verbs

- 6 Some adjectives can be very negative when used to describe a person. Which phrases in the box can replace the underlined negative adjectives in the sentences below?

[not really interested in fashion
not always hard-working mature
a little overweight ~~a bit too slim~~
sometimes forgets his/her manners]

- 1 Jo is skinny. She doesn't eat very much.
Jo is a bit too slim.
- 2 Ryan is fat. He doesn't do much exercise.
- 3 Harry is scruffy. He doesn't care what he wears.
- 4 Ellie is rude. She needs to be more polite.
- 5 Ken is a(n) old student. He's back at university because he wants a career change.
- 6 Kelly is lazy. Her parents are worried that she'll fail her exams.

Soft expressions = euphemisms

1. She's terribly upset because her father **passed away** last week.
2. How is my friend doctor? Sadly, he **didn't make it**.
3. What's the best way of improving theatre access for people who are **physically challenged**?
4. I'm against forbidding **full-figured** women to appear in our ads.
5. He's changed. He definitely **let himself go**.
6. Tom is **big-boned**. We need to do more space for him.
7. Now he can't pay off his debts. He's **laid off between jobs**.
8. I bought this watch very cheap. I **got it off the back of the truck**.
9. This car is not brand new. It's **previously enjoyed**.
10. She has **a bun in the oven**. We need to collect some money for her.
11. Look at this seven-year-old chick. She's **knocked up**.
12. At a wedding that I attended last summer, one of the guests **broke wind** very loudly during the groom's speech.

3 Bad Parking

Situation:

You come to work one day and notice an expensive car parking in the company's handicapped parking space. A man exits the car and he looks perfectly fine.

Student A: You are the employee. Approach the visitor and find out why he is parking in a disabled spot. This spot is usually used by one of the employees, who is a wheelchair user.

Student B: Explain why you parked in the disabled space. You have a sore foot and you are in a hurry for an important meeting.



Suggested phrases:

"Excuse me, may I ask you something?"

"We do have disabled employees who need that spot."

"I have an extremely urgent meeting."

"I'll be less than half an hour."

8 An Intruder

Situation:

You work for a bank and most of the building is closed off to the general public. One day you see a strange person wandering about the hallways. Challenge the person and deal with the situation.

Student A: You are the bank employee. It is very important to keep unauthorized persons out. If a person is allowed to be there, they must have a visitor's tag.

Student B: You wandered into the bank building because one of your friends works there and you thought you might pop in and say hello.



Suggested phrases:

"Are you looking for someone?"

"I'm afraid that this area is restricted."

"I'm just here to see a friend."

"I'm not doing anything wrong."

1 Late to work

Situation:

Alan has just come to work late for the third time this week. His manager asks to see him.

Student A: You are Alan. You need to explain to your boss why you are late. You may wish to apologise.

Student B: You are Alan's manager. Find out why Alan has been late and decide whether you need to discipline him.



Suggested phrases:

"I'm sorry I was late."

"It won't happen again."

"This behaviour cannot continue."

"We expect our employees to be punctual."