

Level 1 - Speaking and Listening

Specimen Role-play and Group discussion prompts

Role-plays (Task three - up to three minutes)

1. You need a mobile phone. You have a choice of two options either pay-as-you go or a contract. You are in the shop now and I am the sales assistant. You need to ask me some questions in order to come to a decision on which one would best suit your needs.
2. You need a new washing machine. You are in the store now and I am the sales assistant. I tell you that you have a choice of buying a new one outright, buying one by instalments or you could also rent one. You need to ask me some questions in order to make a decision on which option would best suit your needs.
3. You need a second-hand car. You can buy a very old one with the money you have saved or you can get a new one using your savings and a bank loan. I am the used car salesperson. You need to ask me some questions in order to make a decision on which option would suit you best.
4. You are interested in learning more about computers and want to enrol for an evening class. I work in the college. You need to find out which class would be best for you.
5. You are starting work in a supermarket which is open 24 hours a day. I work in the Personnel Department. You need to find out which shifts and days would be best for you to work.
6. You would like to buy a warm waterproof coat. I work as a sales assistant. You need to find out which coat would be best for you.

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Group discussion prompts (Component 2 - up to 15 minutes)

1. A young student that you know has just been offered a place at university to study law, but his family want him to go abroad to help with the family business. The student wants to help but wants to have a career in law. Decide together what you think would be the best thing for him to do.

Supplementary point - ONLY to be used if the discussion comes to a natural end well before the allocated time.

Now talk about if it is better to go to university when you are young, or can you go at any age?

2. A student in another college is having a very difficult time at her college. Her teacher is always criticising her and she feels she can't do anything right. She likes the other students in her class but she is not as happy as she used to be and is not sure whether to apply for a place in a different college. Discuss together what advice you can give the student.

Supplementary point - ONLY to be used if the discussion comes to a natural end well before the allocated time.

Now talk about whether it is better to study at home or in a class.

3. There are two people in your English class who refuse to join in when the teacher asks the students to work in pairs or groups. They only want to talk to the teacher and think it is a waste of time to speak to other classmates. Decide together what you could say to them to persuade them to be more co-operative.

Supplementary point - ONLY to be used if the discussion comes to a natural end well before the allocated time.

Now talk about your favourite activities in class.

4. One of your friends is very strict with his children. He will not let them go out with their friends after school or at the weekend, and he does not like them socialising with English children. Decide together how you could persuade him to allow his children more freedom to mix with their friends.

Supplementary point - ONLY to be used if the discussion comes to a natural end well before the allocated time.

Now talk about the reasons why he might be strict with his children.