

You must be joking!

Grade: GESE Grade 7 (CEFR B2)

Time: 45 minutes

Aims:

- ▶ To practise vocabulary, asking and answering questions on the Subject Areas of Conversation

Sub-skill focus

- ▶ Initiating the conversation, turn-taking, expressing ideas and opinions

Exam task focus

- ▶ Conversation task at Grades GESE 7, 8, 9

Resources:

- ▶ Language Functions Handout Aims
- ▶ Prompts/Conversation trigger cards

Procedure

Lead-in: Ridiculous legislation

1. Say something outrageous like 'Hunting camels is forbidden by law in Arizona'.
2. Get students to sit in 3s and discuss the statement they've just heard.
3. Put sentence on the board for reference.
4. Teacher monitors and makes note of turn-taking expressions used by students and puts them up on the board

Preparation

1. Get students to focus on the language produced during the activity.
2. Prepare the students by writing the language functions on the board, and then provide them with the first example. Ask students to decide which function matches the expression.
3. Quickly feed back ideas from the class (there is no right or wrong answer at this stage).
4. In pairs, students match the expressions on the handout to the language functions.

Activity

1. Divide students into groups of four or five depending on the number of students and give each group a set of conversation trigger cards (to be kept face down).
2. Explain that students should decide who starts and that this person picks up a card, reads it out to the group and starts with his/her views on the subject. The other group members come in and contribute to the discussion as they wish.
3. Stop the conversations after 2 minutes. The next student on the left picks up a card and a new topic is discussed, until every student has had at least one turn.
4. Monitor the discussion and encourage students to express and expand their ideas and opinions using the turn-taking strategies presented in the preparation stage.

Language functions

Match the expressions to the language functions. See the example below.

The exercise consists of 15 speech bubbles and 5 function boxes. The speech bubbles contain the following expressions:

- I know it's rude to interrupt, but...
- I've nearly finished.
- Don't you think (so)?
- (Just) one more thing (before you interrupt).
- I wouldn't usually interrupt, but...
- But that's enough from me.
- And that's not all...
- Would this be a good time to...?
- You know more about this than me, so...
- Please go ahead.
- Before you have your say...
- As I was saying...
- I'd like to hear your opinion before I comment.
- Would you agree (that...)?
- Getting back on track...
- And what's more...
- We seem to be getting off the point.

The function boxes at the bottom are:

- Interrupting**
I know it's rude to interrupt, but...
- Giving-up turn**
- Holding turn**
- Keeping the conversation going**
- Taking back the turn**

An example arrow points from the first speech bubble to the 'Interrupting' box.

Only a qualified electrician is allowed to change a light bulb in Victoria, Australia. You can be fined AU\$ 10.00 for not respecting this law.	Flushing the toilet after 10.00 pm in an apartment building is illegal in the country of Switzerland. The Government considers it noise pollution.
In Canada, by law, one out of every five songs on the radio must be sung by a Canadian.	Using animals in medical research helps people.
Women will never be equal to men in the workplace.	Celebrities earn too much money.
Curfews keep teenagers out of trouble.	Video games contribute to youth violence.
You can't have a happy family life and a successful career at the same time.	Designer clothes are a waste of money.