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Emphasize

Age/Level: Pre-intermediate and above Time: 25 minutes Players: Class

Preparation: Make copies of the situation cards

Aim: To guess what the situation is from the word stress, tone, gestures and body language of the actors

This is more of an acting game than a miming game. The students use word stress, tone, gestures and body language to act out a situation for other students to guess.

Explain to your students that in English, we give stress to certain words to deliver certain meanings. Review examples like 'Oh!' and give emphasis to feelings of disappointment, anger, surprise, etc.

Model this sentence: You want me to give you money. Putting emphasis first on 'money', and then on 'give', and then on 'you', etc.

Next, have the students memorize the dialogue below:

A: Hi, how are you?

B: Fine, thank you and you?

A: Just great. What have you been doing lately?

B: Oh, not much. But I've been keeping busy.

A: Well... it's been good to see you.

B: Yes, it has... well, bye!

A: Goodbye.

Do a group choral response until they have memorized the dialogue. Then have them practice in pairs, still keeping a normal neutral tone.

Next, give each pair of students a situation card (See below).

Emphasize to the students that they must keep the card secret and not show it to anyone else. The card contains the situation they have to act out.

The idea is that they don't change the dialogue. Instead, they just use stress, intonation, gestures and body language to suit the situation.

After each pair of students has had a chance to practice a few times, have each pair perform the dialogue to the class.

After each situation has been presented, the class tries to guess the situation.

It may be helpful to ask questions to the students to help them guess if it is unclear what the situation could be.

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Situation Cards



1. Two athletes who will compete in an event tomorrow	2. Two people who are angry at each other
3. A sick person in hospital and friend who visits	4. A teacher who has given a student a bad grade, they meet years later
5. Two old people who are almost deaf	6. A landlady and her overdue tenant
7. A robot and his designer	8. Two people who have met before, but can't remember where
9. Two old friends who run into each other on a railway platform	10. Two spies who are meeting late at night
11. A couple whose love is doomed by marriage promised to others	12. A teacher and a student suffering from infatuation
13. A divorced couple	14. A detective and a criminal