

Activity Type

Miming, listening and speaking activity, pairwork

Language Focus

Word stress, tone, gestures and body language

Aim

To use word stress, tone, gestures and body language to act out a situation for other students to guess

Preparation

Make one copy of the situation cards and cut as indicated.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this acting game, students use word stress, tone, gestures and body language to act out a situation for other students to guess.

Procedure

Explain to the students that in English we give stress to words to emphasize feelings.

Review examples like 'Oh!' to express feelings of disappointment, anger, surprise, etc.

Then, model this sentence: You want me to give you money.

Read the sentence aloud a few times, putting emphasis on a different word each time (e.g. money, me, give, you)

Ask the students what feeling each stressed word gives.

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 class choral response until they have memorized the dialogue.

Then, have the students practice the dialogue in pairs, keeping a neutral tone.

Next, give each pair of students a situation card.

Tell the students that they must keep the card secret and not show it to anyone else.

The card contains the situation they are going to act out.

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

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

After each presentation, the class tries to guess the situation.

1. Two athletes who are going to compete in an event tomorrow

2. Two people who are angry with each other

3. Two old people who are almost deaf

4. A landlady and her overdue tenant

5. A robot and his designer

6. Two people who have met before, but can't remember where

7. A very shy man and a beautiful woman

8. Two spies who are meeting late at night

9. A divorced couple

10. A detective and a criminal