

### Activity Type

Reading, listening and speaking activity, group work

### Language Focus

Reported speech

### Aim

To relay telephone messages using reported speech.

### Preparation

Make one copy of the question cards and message cards for each group of three and cut as indicated.

### Level

Intermediate

### Time

25 minutes

### Introduction

In this authentic teaching activity, students practice relaying telephone messages to each other using reported speech.

### Procedure

Tell the students that they are going to practice giving the contents of telephone messages by transforming the messages into reported speech, but first they have to find the person who has each message.

On the board, write a few telephone messages similar to those on the cards. Elicit and model the language and write it on the board.

Example:

A: Have you got a message for me from the bank?

B: Yes, I have. They said that your overdraft had been approved and that you should check your email for details.

B: No, I haven't.

Next, divide the class into groups of three.

Give each student a colour-coded set of question and message cards. Each student should have five question cards and five message cards of the same colour.

Tell the students not to show their cards to anyone.

Students then take it in turns to choose a question card and ask a group member if they have a message from the person or place indicated on the card, e.g. 'Have you got a message for me from the bank?'

If the group member says yes, he or she relays the message using reported speech and then gives the message card to the student.

If the group member says no, the student has to wait until their next turn to ask the other group member.

The first student to collect all their message cards wins the game.

**Question cards**



Who's got a message from your car mechanic?	Who's got a message from your school?	Who's got a message from your plumber?
Who's got a message from your girlfriend?	Who's got a message from your brother?	Who's got a message from your work colleague?
Who's got a message from your doctor?	Who's got a message from your boss?	Who's got a message from your friend Jim?
Who's got a message from your mum?	Who's got a message from the phone company?	Who's got a message from your travel agent?
Who's got a message from the repair shop?	Who's got a message from your landlord?	Who's got a message from the bank?

**Message cards**



<p>From: <i>bank</i></p> <p>Message: <i>Your overdraft has been approved. Please check your email for details.</i></p>	<p>From: <i>travel agent</i></p> <p>Message: <i>Managed to get a cheap flight to Italy for your holiday. Please call back.</i></p>	<p>From: <i>phone company</i></p> <p>Message: <i>Your new phone line is going to be installed on Saturday morning. Call to confirm this is ok.</i></p>
<p>From: <i>boss</i></p> <p>Message: <i>You have been promoted to senior manager. Come and sign your new contract tomorrow.</i></p>	<p>From: <i>car mechanic</i></p> <p>Message: <i>Your car needs a new engine. Please call back.</i></p>	<p>From: <i>landlord</i></p> <p>Message: <i>The rent is overdue. Pay your rent by the end of the week.</i></p>
<p>From: <i>work colleague</i></p> <p>Message: <i>The monthly report is ready. Will send it to you tomorrow morning.</i></p>	<p>From: <i>plumber</i></p> <p>Message: <i>The drain is blocked. Don't go in the bathroom. Will be back tomorrow to fix it.</i></p>	<p>From: <i>brother</i></p> <p>Message: <i>Having a barbeque on Saturday afternoon. Would be great if you could come.</i></p>
<p>From: <i>school</i></p> <p>Message: <i>Classes are cancelled. Your teacher has won the lottery and has left the school.</i></p>	<p>From: <i>doctor</i></p> <p>Message: <i>Your health check up is overdue. Please make an appointment soon.</i></p>	<p>From: <i>girlfriend</i></p> <p>Message: <i>Going shopping this evening with Susan. Will be home late. Love you.</i></p>
<p>From: <i>Jim</i></p> <p>Message: <i>See you tomorrow after work. Will meet you at the pub at 6 p.m.</i></p>	<p>From: <i>repair shop</i></p> <p>Message: <i>Your TV has been repaired. Please come to pick it up.</i></p>	<p>From: <i>mum</i></p> <p>Message: <i>The cat is stuck up the tree again. Please call back soon.</i></p>