

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking Game: asking and answering questions from prompts, freer practice (group work)

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 (B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this reported speech game, students relay telephone messages to each other using reported speech.

Procedure

First, on the board, write a question and telephone message similar to one on the cards.

Elicit and model the language and write it on the board.

Example:

A: Have you got a message for me from my best friend?

B: Yes, I have. She said that she would meet you outside the cinema at 7 o'clock and that you should let her know which movie you want to watch.

OR

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 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, they relay the message using reported speech and then give 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
lawyer?

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
professor?

Who's got a message
from the
bank?

Message cards



| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>From: <i>bank</i></p> <p>Message: <i>Your loan 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 okay.</i></p> |
| <p>From: <i>boss</i></p> <p>Message: <i>You have been promoted to General 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>professor</i></p> <p>Message: <i>The term paper is due. Submit your work 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>lawyer</i></p> <p>Message: <i>Want to schedule a meeting. Will discuss your case. Please suggest a convenient time.</i></p> | <p>From: <i>brother</i></p> <p>Message: <i>Having a barbecue 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 due. 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> |