Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking Activity: completing, asking and answering questions, discussion, freer and communicative practice (group work)

Focus

Second conditional

Aim

To ask, answer and discuss what you would do in hypothetical situations and moral dilemmas.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each group of three or four and cut as indicated.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

In this second conditional speaking activity, students ask, answer and discuss what they would do in hypothetical situations and moral dilemmas.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three or four.

Give each group a set of question cards.

Ask the students to shuffle the cards and place them face-down in a pile on the desk.

Students then take turns picking up a card and completing the question with the second conditional, e.g. 'If you didn't like the way your partner dressed, would you tell them?'

The student then asks the hypothetical question to the group members, who each answer in turn.

Students then discuss the hypothetical situation or moral dilemma and try to come up with a group answer that they think would be best for the situation, noting it down on the back of the card.

When the groups have finished, go through each second conditional question and have the groups tell the class their answers.

Discuss any surprising or interesting answers in more detail.

If your best friend .... (tell) you they had cheated in an exam, ... you .... (tell) your teacher?

If you .... (see) your teenage nephew smoking in the street, ... you .... (tell) his parents?

If you .... (not like) the way your partner dressed, ... you .... (tell) them?

If you .... (win) the lottery, ... you .... (stop) working or studying straight away?

If you .... (find) a wallet full of money in the street, ... you .... (keep) it?

If you .... (see) someone being robbed in the street, ... you try to .... (help) them?

If you accidentally .... (break) a new mobile phone, ... you .... (take) it back to the shop and say it didn't work?

If you .... (hit) somebody's car in a car park, ... you .... (drive) away without telling anyone?

If your neighbour .... (play) loud music late at night, ... you .... (tell) them to turn it down?

If you .... (find) a lot of extra money in your bank account, ... you .... (tell) the bank?

If you .... (apply) for a job that you really wanted, ... you .... (lie) on your resume?

If you .... (have) the opportunity to travel to another planet, ... you .... (go)?

If you .... (suspect) that a family member had committed a crime, ... you .... (tell) the police?

If scientists .... (invent) a type of medicine that stopped you from aging, ... you .... (take) it?

If you .... (have) to choose, ... you .... (prefer) to live in a small village or a big city?

If you .... (find) your partner's chat messages open on a computer, ... you .... (read) them?