Activity Type
Miming and speaking activity, pairwork

Language Focus
Reported speech
Imperatives

Aim
To guess what your classmates were told to do using reported speech.

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

Level
Elementary

Time
25 minutes

Introduction
This enjoyable activity can be used to introduce reported speech to elementary students and practice imperatives. In the activity, students play a miming game where they guess what their classmates were told to do using reported speech.

Procedure
Demonstrate the activity by inviting students to come to the front of the class one at a time and whispering a command in their ear, e.g. close the door, don't turn off the radio, etc.

Students then mime the command to the class. If the command is negative, the students make an X by crossing their arms before they do the mime.

The class then guesses what you told each student to do using reported speech, e.g. 'You said to close the door'. 'You said not to turn off the radio', etc'.

Explain that the students are going to play a similar game in groups.

Divide the class into groups of four. Split each group into two competing pairs. If possible, have each pair consist of a male and female to help the students practice 'He said...' and 'She said'.

Give each group a set of cards. Ask the students to shuffle the cards and place them face down in a pile on the desk.

Pairs take it in turns to play. One student picks up a card and whispers the command on the card to their partner.

Their partner mimes the command to the other pair of students. If the command is negative, the student makes an X by crossing their arms before they begin the mime.

The other pair of students watch the mime and try to guess what the student told their partner to do. The pair then uses reported speech to say what they think the command was, e.g. 'He/she said to close the door'.

The pair has one minute to guess what the student told their partner to do. If they manage to do this and make a suitable sentence with reported speech, they score a point.

The pairs then swap roles and the process is repeated. Students play until there are no more cards left. The pair with the most points at the end of the game wins.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You said...</th>
<th>Reported Speech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>turn off the music</td>
<td>come in and sit down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make me a cup of tea</td>
<td>turn on the light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>don't answer the phone</td>
<td>wash the dishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>don't come in</td>
<td>pick up your bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>open the window</td>
<td>do your homework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take the dog for a walk</td>
<td>don't speak English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>make me breakfast</td>
<td>don't play the piano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clean the house</td>
<td>don't drive fast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>don't look out the window</td>
<td>listen to me</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>