

Telephoning to Invite a Friend to the Cinema

For most students accepting an invitation is relatively easy. Declining an invitation, though, is more difficult because when declining an invitation one is generally expected to give a reason for declining the invitation. The dialog in this exercise is designed to help students learn how to politely turn down an invitation and offer an excuse for turning it down.

Procedure: First explain the following phrases.

would you like to (go to)

do you want to (go to)

how about (going to)

Next, give students a copy of the dialog. Read through the dialog with the students. Each time you come to a blank, ask your students what they think goes in the blank. After you are sure they understand what information goes in the blanks, put your students in pairs and have them practice the dialog. While they are practicing they will have to substitute the name of their partner, an invitation phrase, and an excuse. Each pair should go through the dialog twice, changing rolls the second time through.

Level Down

If you are teaching low level students, pair the students before reading through the dialog. As you read through the dialog with your students, have them write the proper information in the blanks.

Level Up

If you are teaching intermediate to advanced level students, have your students practice with the same partner several times. Then have the students either stand or sit back to back and act out the dialog from memory.

Note: The dialog in this exercise is written to use “would you like to go to,” but it can be easily modified to use “do you want to go to,” and “how about going to.” After you are sure your students understand the phrases used to invite someone to do something, solicit reasons why someone might turn down an invitation. Write the student’s responses on the board.

The Dialog

The phone rings: "A" answers it ...

A: Hello

B: Hello, is there?

A: Yes,

B: Hi,,

A: Hi,, How are you?

B: Fine, thanks. Listen! I was wondering if youthe cinema tonight.

A: I'd like to but,

B: Oh man,

A: Yea, I would really like to go, but you know how it is.

B: Sure, I understand. Maybe we can get together next weekend.

A: Yea, maybe. Why don't you give me a call next Thursday and we'll make plans.

B: Sounds like a winner. I guess I'll talk to you next week.

A: Okay. Talk to you later.