

A Telephone Invitation

In this activity, students will be asked to call another student in the class using his/her own cellphone. It is best to have the students sitting back to back so that they cannot see each other while making the call.

The procedure I have used when doing this activity follows this general format.

1. Introduce the activity to the students and make sure that everyone has their cellphone. If there are students who do not have a cellphone, I have them improvise by using their thumb and little finger to mimic a phone being held to their ear and mouth.
2. I read the script to my class and have the students chorus it back to me. (Script is at the end of this document.)
3. I pre-teach difficult/new vocabulary. I also take this opportunity to discuss the difference between calling someone and talking on the phone with someone.
4. In pairs, the students practice the conversation without their phones. While they are practicing, I circulate and make sure they are on track and understand the dialog.
5. After the students have practiced without their phones a few times, I have them sit back to back and use their phones. Student A will dial the phone number of student B. Student B will answer and the two will have a conversation using the dialog that they practiced in step 4. The phone call should follow the following pattern.

Student A	Student B
1. Dial the number to call friend. Wait for an answer.	1. Ring! Ring! Answer the phone. Identify self.
2. Identify self and greet friend. Inquire about friend's health.	2. Answer question. Ask question re: last night.
3. Answer question, then add a few interesting details!	3. Invite friend over to watch T.V. tonight.
4. Turn down invitation. Give an appropriate excuse.	4. Make a comment about what friend said.
5. Respond appropriately then end conversation politely.	5. Say something appropriate; end phone call.

6. I allow my students to use the script when making the call, but I give bonus points to students who can perform the dialog without the script.

Dialog

Student A: "Hi, Mary. This is Mark."

Student B: "Hi Mark. How are you?"

Student A: "I'm fine. Thanks. Listen, are doing anything Friday night."

Student B: "Let me think. No. I'm not doing anything special. Why?"

Student A: "Well, I was wondering if you would like to go out for a pizza and a movie?"

Student B: "That sounds like a great idea."

Student A: "Great. Why don't I pick you up at about seven."

Student B: "Sounds great! I'll see you Friday at 7 o'clock."

Student A: "Okay. See you Friday. Have a great night."

Level Up: Ask advanced students to write and perform their own telephone conversation.

Variation: Dialog can be rewritten with student B refusing the invitation. Student B would have to give a reason for the refusal that does not cause student A to have hurt feelings.