

Role play

This activity takes very little prep work. First you just make copies of each situation for the role plays. Divide your groups up into groups of three and assign the role plays. I usually allow my students around 10 minutes to prepare to act them out in front of the class.

Role play 1

Student A

You've just arrived in your first country at the beginning of your world tour. You're worried about money and so you'd like to find a cheap hotel to stay in. Try and convince your friends that this is the best option.

Student B

You've just arrived in your first country at the beginning of your world tour. You want to start your holiday in style and stay in a nice hotel. Try and convince your friends that this is the best idea.

Student C

You've just arrived in your first country at the beginning of your world tour. Your friends have got different ideas about where they would like to stay. Listen to them and decide who you agree with.

Role-play 2

Student A

You're now in your second country but unfortunately you've just been mugged and have lost your bag with your passport, air tickets and money in it. You're at the police station to report the theft.

Student B

You're now in your second country but unfortunately your friend's bag's been stolen. You're at the police station to help your friend.

Student C

You're a police officer. Two westerners are in your police station to report a theft. You don't believe their story. Ask them a lot of questions to find out if they are telling the truth.

Role-play 3

Student A

Because of the mugging you phone home to talk to your parents. You want your parents to send you some money urgently because you have no money left. Reassure your parents that everything is OK and get as much money as possible.

Student B

You are Mum. You are upset about what has happened to your child. You don't want to send him/her any money because you want him/her to come back home immediately.

Student C

You are Dad. You are upset about what has happened to your child. You don't want to send him/her any money because you want him/her to come back home immediately.

Role-play 4

Student A

You're in Malaysia and you've fallen in love with Asia. Now you really want to go to Thailand because you've heard they've got the best beaches in the world. Try and convince your friends to come with you.

Student B

You're in Malaysia and feel quite happy. Your two friends have got very different ideas about where to go next. Listen to your friends and then tell them what you would like to do.

Student C

You're in Malaysia but you want to leave. You are tired of travelling and you miss your home and your home cooking. Try and convince your friends to come home with you.

Role-play 5

Student A

You're ecstatically happy. You've fallen in love with a boy/girl from the country you are visiting and you've decided you want to buy a house on the beach and live there forever. Tell your friends about your big decision.

Student B

Your friend has something important to tell you. Listen carefully and then respond: You think your friend's gone mad and he/she is going to make a terrible decision. Think of all the reasons why his/her plan is crazy and convince him/her to come back home with you.

Student C

Your friend has something important to tell you. Listen carefully and then respond: You think your friend's gone mad (crazy) and he/she is going to make a terrible decision. Think of all the reasons why his/her plan is crazy and convince him/her to come back home with you.

Conflict Role play

by Bente Mikkelsen, Denmark, (Secondary and adult)

Divide the class into 4 groups.

Take each group outside and give each group these instructions, respectively:

- Group 1 represent a teenager who wants to stay out longer in the evening. One person plays the teenager- the others help him/her finding the arguments.
- Group 2 represents the parents who want their offspring to stay at home and do their homework. Two people play the parental role- you might add in step parent or two!
- Group 3 observe Group 1's role play and take notes on what was successful and what was not in terms of argument and of communication.
- Group 4 observe Group 2's role play.

Tell the groups to start their role plays, explaining that the "passive" people in groups 1 or 2 can take over from the "actors" by simply tapping them on the shoulder and changing places with them.

Get Groups 1 and 3 together for a feedback session
" " 2 and 4 " " " " "

Other conflict situations:

Pocket money

Where to go on holidays

Peer group problems

Handing over the key to a flat (which you have promised to look after) to a stranger who says s/he is a close friend of the owner of the flat who is out-of-reach on holiday.