

Basic role play lesson

You need to build up slowly to a role play in order for it to be effective. The idea is to practise it enough in your lesson that the student then feels comfortable to try it 'in real life'. You can role play phone calls (eg booking a taxi, making an appointment) or face to face conversations (eg talking to child's teacher, asking for a bus ticket, chatting to a neighbour).

The lesson should use this basic structure:

- Vocabulary
- Phrases
- Sentences
- Conversation

Also, you should find out how much the student can already do, so pre-prepared role plays are useful but sometimes you can just build one up between and write it down as you go along. This will be more relevant to the student.

Example – calling the landlord about repairs

- 1) Establish the context, with pictures or by asking about recent situations where the student has needed to make this call. Take your time at this stage.
- 2) Continue with pictures and conversation to build up useful vocabulary, eg room and furniture words, leaking, broken, not working, boiler, pipe, central heating. If a lot of these are new, stick to one topic eg a broken boiler and save the rest for another lesson. The student should write down all of the words, or if appropriate just the new/difficult ones.
- 3) Also check knowledge of anything else needed eg times/days.
- 4) Using the word list, work together to form phrases and short sentences eg 'boiler broken', 'the boiler is broken', 'central heating off'. The student should write these down too.
- 5) Using what the student has written so far, have a go at roleplaying the conversation together, maybe holding phones to your ears. Just work orally at this stage, make mistakes, go back and forth through the conversation.
- 6) Once you're both happy, write down a conversation together and then talk it through several times.
- 7) Homework – make the phone call in real life (if something is broken).