



Conversation Curriculum

Polite and Impolite

Learning Objective: To use both polite and impolite language in order to ask for something, answer a question, or to begin or end a conversation.

Warm-Up Activity (15 minutes): As students arrive, have them get into pairs and hand each pair a set of the paper-clipped slips of paper.

- Have pairs sort them into 2 piles, one being polite statements, the other being impolite statements.
- Have them describe to each other what specifically makes each sentence polite or impolite.

I do/ We do Activity (15 minutes): Have each student explain one statement they thought was polite, and one that they thought was impolite.

- Ask them what specifically made it a polite or impolite statement
- Ask them to say the statements in the other form. (e.g. for a polite statement, have the student say or ask the same message but in an impolite way, and vice versa)
- Make sure to establish the basic concept of politeness and impoliteness for low level students. (Specifically, the connection to the phrases “please” and “thank you”, which they will likely know)

DEMONSTRATE THE ‘THEY DO’ ACTIVITY

- Explain the rules of “Go Fish”. They are on a sheet in the packet.
- With a few students, model an exchange in which you ask one politely for their (any ‘body parts’ card that you have) Example: “Excuse me Amina, do you have any arms?” The student must answer politely yes or no. Example: “I’m sorry. I have no arms. Please Go Fish”. Or “Yes, of course you can. I have three arms.” (Hands over the cards) “Thank you.”
- Then model an impolite Go Fish exchange. Example: “Give me your ears.” The student must then answer rudely or impolitely. “Nope! I don’t have any. Go Fish.”

Or “Fine. Here, take them.” Encourage students to get as creative as they can be and have fun.

They do Activity (15 minutes): Students will play Go Fish with the numbers Flashcards (groups of 3-5) – Give each group one deck of 40 cards (4 of each).

- Have each student draw five cards
- Have students play Go Fish for about 7 minutes in which every question and answer has to be polite
- After 7 minutes, tell the class that the game is changing again, and now everything that is said has to be rude or impolite. (Hopefully this will be humorous)
- If you catch anyone saying “please” or “thank you” during the second half of the game, make them draw two cards.

Journal Writing (10-15 minutes): Describe a time when someone was rude or impolite to you. How did you react? Do you speak differently to your children than to other adults? How?