

Do Improvised Dialogues

Another popular technique is to "improvise" scenes based on specific character sets in different situations, like a Mother - Daughter, Father - Son, Teacher - Student, Boss - Worker, Robber - Bank Teller, Waiter - Customer, or a multitude of other possible combinations of two, three or even more characters. Give each character set a scenario in which to work, like a son with bad grades who wants to borrow Dad's car, or a mother who needs help around the house with a daughter giving excuses so she can talk on the phone with her friends.

Have a student answer the phone and have a chat with the "wrong number" who wants to talk anyway.

-Example 1 [Situation chosen: 3]

Policeman: Good afternoon.

Suspicious-looking man: Oh, what?

P: What are you doing?

SM: Leave me alone!

P: Show me what is in your bag.

SM: Hey, I have nothing!

P: You are a wanted criminal, aren't you?

SM: Shit! Why do you know that?

P: My wife said you were handsome.

B: Oh, that's exactly what I thought.

P: Let's go to jail!

SM: Okay!

-Example 2 [Situation chosen: 3]

Policeman: Excuse me?

Suspicious-looking man: Yes?

P: What are you doing?

SM: I'm doing nothing.

P: What is your occupation?

SM: I'm doing nothing. I want to go home.

P: Wait, wait!!! Show me what's inside?

SM: . . . OK.

P: What's this?

SM: Field glass.

P: What were you seeing?

SM: I'm seeing you every day!

-Example 3 [Situation chosen: 2]

Teacher: You, over there!

Pupil: . . .

T: What were you looking at?

P: I didn't look anything.

T: It cannot be true! You must have cheated. You must not do. You know, cheating on the test is not permitted!

P: I'm sorry. I was sleeping with my eyes open.

Interview a famous person

Simulate an interview with a famous person or historical figure or even create a fictitious scene involving a famous person or historical figure. You can get an extensive list of famous people / historical figures the students are familiar with and use these as a basis for constructing scenes and dialogues. You can even have famous people "talk" to each other who couldn't literally have done so. What would Jesus or Mohammed say to Adolf Hitler? What would George Washington say to Marilyn Monroe, Pamela Anderson or JFK? What might Chairman Mao and Idi Amin or Augustus Pinochet have talked about? How about a chat between Princess Diana and Cleopatra or Marie Antoinette? The possibilities are endless. Some wonderful ideas, dialogues, scenes and scripts could come out of a little swapping and brainstorming in this manner.

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