

# 18

## SAY THE RIGHT THING

### Aim

To help raise awareness of cultural conventions and appropriate expressions in various situations

### Language

Social English, e.g. *Good luck, Cheers, Congratulations*

### Skills

Speaking

### Lesson link

Use after Classbook Lesson 18 or at any point during the course

### Materials

1 copy of *Cultural conventions* per group of students

1 set of *Game cards*, cut up, per pair / group

### Pre-activity (10 minutes)

- Divide the class into small groups of about three. Tell the groups that they are going to complete a questionnaire about British conventions / habits. Tell them that they will have exactly five minutes to answer the questions; they can discuss the answers together but try not to let the other groups hear them. Give out a copy of *Cultural conventions* to each group and start timing them. After five minutes, stop the students and conduct a feedback session.

### Suggested answers

#### A

- Bless you!
- Sorry.
- Can I have the bill please?
- Excuse me, could you tell me the way to the post office?
- Congratulations!
- Bad luck.
- Excuse me, ...
- Have a good weekend.
- Cheers!
- Say nothing, just eat.
- No thanks, I'm full.

#### B

- Yes, thanks.
- No, go ahead. / Actually, I'd rather you didn't.
- Fine, thanks, and you?
- Of course, here you are / help yourself / go ahead.
- Not at all. / It's a pleasure.
- That's OK. / Don't worry. / Never mind.
- Thanks.

#### C

- Have you got a match or lighter I could borrow to light my cigarette?
- Is anyone sitting here? Can I take this chair? / Can I sit here?
- It's your turn to buy the drinks (in the pub).

### Procedure (20 minutes)

- Divide the class into groups of about four and give out one set of cut up *Game cards* per group.
- Ask the students to shuffle the cards and lay them out on the table, face down.
- The students take it in turns to turn up two cards looking for a pair, e.g. *I failed my driving test* / *Bad luck*. If a student finds a pair, they keep the cards and have another turn.
- The student with the most pairs wins.

### Extension activities

- The students write some mini-dialogues of their own to perform to the class.
- In pairs or for homework, the students write gapped dialogues for others to complete.

18

SAY THE RIGHT THING

# Cultural conventions

## A What should you say in these situations?

- 1 Someone sneezes  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 You stand on someone's foot  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 You want to pay for your meal in a restaurant  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 You want to know how to get to the post office  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Someone tells you they are getting married  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Someone tells you they have failed an exam  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 You want to get past someone in a crowded place  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 At work on Friday as you are leaving to go home  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 9 Before you have a drink with someone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 10 Before you eat  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 11 Someone asks you if you would like some more food but you have had enough  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

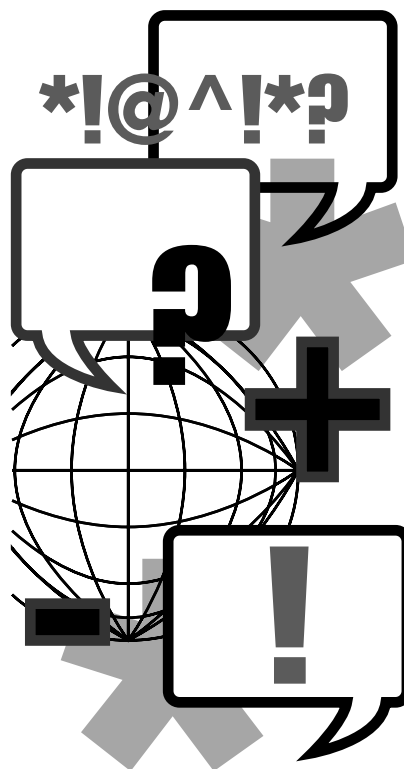
## B How would you reply to the following?

- 1 Did you have a good trip?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Do you mind if I smoke?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 How are you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Can I borrow your newspaper?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Thank you very much.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 I'm sorry I'm late.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 7 Good luck!  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## C What do the following mean?

- 1 Have you got a light?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Is this seat free?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 It's your round.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## 18

## SAY THE RIGHT THING

## Game cards

Ouch! You're standing on my foot!	I'm getting married in the summer.	Do you mind if I open the window?
Sorry.	Congratulations!	No, go ahead.
I failed my driving test.	Can you tell me the way to the station, please?	Sorry I'm late.
Bad luck.	Yes, turn right at the traffic lights. It's on the left.	That's OK.
Have a good weekend.	Could you give me a lift to the meeting?	Have you got a light?
Thanks, you too.	Yes, sure. What time shall I pick you up?	Sorry, I don't smoke.
Would you like something else to eat?	Do you need any help?	It's my round. What would you like?
No thanks, I'm full.	No, I'm fine thanks.	I'll have a coke, please.
Can I borrow your pen?	Is there a bank near here?	Hi!
Of course, here you are.	Yes, take the next turning on the right.	Oh, hello!