

5D Conditional forms – Just supposing ...

Aim

to practise different forms of conditionals

Activity type

discussing and qualifying decisions based on moral dilemmas

Classroom dynamics

groups of three or four, pairwork

Time taken

30–40 minutes

Preparation

You will need one copy of the activity sheet for each group of three or four students, cut up into cards and shuffled.

Procedure

- 1 Tell your class that you are going to give them a dilemma to think about. The dilemma is this:

It is dark, and you are driving home from work along a lonely stretch of road. You see a desperate-looking young couple hitch-hiking by the side of the road. You are alone. Do you stop to pick them up?

Ask students if they would stop, and encourage them to qualify their answers using a conditional sentence. For example:

It depends – if there was someone else in the car with me, I probably would but if I was on my own, I wouldn't.

- 2 Divide the class into groups of three or four. Give each group a set of cards which they should place face down in a pile on the desk. All the students in the group should each pick a card and take a few minutes to prepare their answer to the dilemma. They then take turns to read out the dilemma on their card, say what they would do in this situation and qualify their answer with at least one conditional sentence. Then, the other students should join in the discussion and give their own ideas.
- 3 Monitor closely at this stage of the lesson, noting down any errors made with the conditional structures, or any other advanced conditional structures that could have been used. Let this stage continue for about 20 minutes.
- 4 Now put students into pairs with a student from a different group. Then, ask them briefly to report back to each other on which dilemmas they discussed, and the best answers they heard from other group members.
- 5 Conduct feedback on language and content as a class.

Adaptation and extension

Students can be asked to think of their own moral dilemmas (either imagined or based on a situation they have been in themselves), which they then put to the group.

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You have a meal in a restaurant and then leave. Halfway home, you realise you didn't pay for the meal. Do you return to the restaurant and pay?	A group of friends is coming over to your house to have one of your famous vegetable curries. You remember at the last minute that one of them is a vegetarian and you have used meat stock in the curry. Do you tell them?
You have been invited to a dinner party with some friends, but one person in your group is being excluded after they had an argument with the host. The excluded friend doesn't know about the dinner, so asks you to go to the cinema with them. Do you go to the dinner or the cinema?	You find a wallet on the bus. It has clearly been dropped by the man you saw getting off a few stops back. As there is no address in it, the only way you can return it is by getting off the bus and walking back a few stops. Do you?
While the waiter in the restaurant where you are having dinner is being very polite and helpful to you, he is being extremely rude to a couple at the next table. You suspect that this is because they are foreign tourists and aren't trying to speak the local language. Do you say something to the waiter?	You see a woman shoplifting in a supermarket. She looks like she has little money and has three small children with her. Do you report her to a shop assistant?
An unemployed friend has had a successful job interview and asks you for a reference. You know from past experience that your friend is not a good worker. Do you provide a reference for her?	While cycling down the street, you accidentally hit a parked car, leaving a long scratch down the side. Do you leave a note on the windscreen explaining what you have done and offering to pay for the damage?
Your friend didn't see a big film that was on at the cinema last month. It's not possible to buy or rent it yet, but another friend knows where you can download it for free. Do you download the film for your friend?	You are using your friend's computer without her permission and you accidentally erase some important files. Do you tell your friend what you have done?
You are using a cash machine to withdraw cash. You want to take out £100 but the machine gives you £150. The receipt says you have only withdrawn the £100 you wanted. Do you return the money to the bank?	A friend has bought a new suit and wants to know what you think of it. You think it looks terrible on him. Do you say so?
While walking down the street, you see a paper bag on the pavement. Looking inside, you find £500 in £20 notes. There is no indication who the money belongs to. Do you hand it in to the police?	The only parking space available outside the supermarket is for disabled drivers. You are only going into the shop for some milk, so won't be more than a few minutes. Do you park there?