

Activity Type

Speaking Game:
asking questions from
prompts and responding,
communicative practice
(group work)

Focus

Making and declining
invitations

Making excuses

Aim

To decline invitations with
unique excuses.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
cards for each group of
three or four and cut as
indicated.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this making and declining invitations game, students are invited to do various things and must try to decline each invitation with a unique excuse.

Procedure

Begin by eliciting language for making and declining invitations from the class and write it on the board:

Would you like to...?

Do you want to...?

How about...?

I'd like to invite you to...

I'd love to, but I...

I'm sorry, but I have to...

Thanks, but I...

I'm sorry, I can't. I'm going...

Next, review the language by inviting students to do things using the phrases on the board and have them decline your invitations and give excuses.

Next, divide the students into groups of three or four.

Give each group a set of cards. Ask the students to shuffle the cards and place them face down in a pile on the table.

Students take it in turns to pick up a card and use the prompt on the card to invite the student on their right to do something, e.g. 'Do you want to go to the park this afternoon?'

The student on their right then tries to win the card by declining the invitation and giving an excuse, e.g. 'I'm sorry, but I have to study English this afternoon'.


If the student does this successfully, the other student gives them the card.

The students are not allowed to use the same excuse twice during the game.

If they do or they can't think of an excuse, the invitation passes to the next student on the right. This continues until a student comes up with a new reason and wins the card.

The student with the most cards at the end of the game wins.

Afterwards, have a class feedback session to find out some of the best reasons for declining an invitation.



go to the park
this afternoon

watch a film at the cinema
today

have lunch with me

come to a party
on Saturday

dance with me

go shopping at the mall
today

go cycling tomorrow

play computer games
tonight

come hiking this weekend

come swimming with us this
afternoon

meet for a drink sometime
this week

have dinner with me

come to the beach with me
next weekend

go to the pub
this Friday

play badminton
this weekend

watch a football match
on Saturday

go for a walk
after lunch

visit a museum
tomorrow

go for a coffee
after class

play cards with us
this evening

hang out
this weekend

go for a picnic
tomorrow afternoon

go to a concert
on Thursday

do yoga with us
tomorrow morning