

# **Talk a Lot**

Spoken English Course

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## **80 Great Ideas for Role Plays!**

This pack contains material from:

- Talk a Lot Elementary Book 1
- Talk a Lot Elementary Book 3
- Talk a Lot Elementary Handbook

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**Free Practice  
Activity**

# **Role Plays**

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# Talk a Lot

## How to Use

### Role Plays – Instructions

Students work in pairs or groups of three to develop and rehearse a short role play with three scenes, based on the information given to them on the handout, which is then performed to the rest of the class. They have to include the title of the outline somewhere in their role play, e.g. Family role play 1 (from Book 1): “You did that on purpose!” The role play can be fully acted out, with props and costumes, or be simply a dialogue that students perform whilst sitting at their desks, but students shouldn’t be writing during this activity. Writing can be done at home. In Talk a Lot lessons the focus should be mainly on spoken English. The teacher should always ensure that students understand what they have to do and are confident with the vocabulary used on the role play handout before they begin. The teacher should insist that each group produces three different, distinct scenes, teaching them to think of the role play as three parts of a whole, with a through-line and a logical progression through the scenes, for example:

- Scene 1: Setting up the situation
- Scene 2: Action
- Scene 3: Result

To make this task more challenging, you could agree as a group that all role plays have to include particular things, as well as what is in the outline, for example:

- a) a person’s name
- b) a place name
- c) an object (e.g. an aubergine or a giraffe’s toothbrush)
- d) a certain phrase
- e) a prop
- f) a costume

The teacher could provide a costumes box and a prop box in the classroom with plenty of dressing up clothes or objects for students to use in their role plays.

If your students particularly enjoy doing role plays, they could try the role play extensions in Books 1 and 2, and those which are included with each handout (for Book 3 onwards), in addition to the role play outlines on the handouts. However, role play must be only one element of a Talk a Lot lesson, i.e. free practice. Make sure that in each lesson there is a balance of activities, for example: **tests, sentence block building, sentence focus activities, word focus activities, and free practice activities.**

It’s fine too if students want to veer away from the outlines given on the handouts. The aim of the activity is for the students to put the flesh on the bare bones of the outlines. For example, they should suggest character names, place names, names of businesses, and so on. The suggested outlines are only there to get ideas flowing and to get students talking. The teacher could suggest new situations for role plays or more imaginative groups of students could think up new role plays of their own (based on the same lesson topic), using the blank template on p.10.4.

### The Mood Chart

Use the mood chart on p.10.3 to add an extra dimension to the role plays. Print the page onto card, cut up the cards and put them into a bag. Each student picks one card – one mood –

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## How to Use

### Role Plays – Instructions

and they have to act out their role play using this mood exclusively. When watching each role play the audience have to guess which moods the actors have picked. In another variation, the audience pick the moods that they want to see used in a role play, or all the groups have to rehearse the same role play using different moods, and the audience have to guess what they are.

*Note: the students could also add their own suggestions to the moods given on the Mood Chart.*

### Assessment

Assessment is performed by the teacher checking and correcting during the task, listening for errors that can be dissected later on in a group feedback session, giving individual as well as group feedback, and referring students back to:

- a) the grammar they are learning from forming the sentence blocks, and building sentences
- b) the pronunciation work they are doing using the techniques of connected speech and the IPA

Each student's achievement in this activity is also recorded as part of their overall lesson score (for both accuracy and effort) by the teacher on their course report.

Because this activity is drama-based, the audience could make their voice heard too, perhaps by giving marks out of ten for each role play based on:

- language accuracy
- effort
- imagination
- best costumes, use of props, lighting, sound, etc.

Or they could give thumbs up (1 or 2) or thumbs down (1 or 2). The audience feedback is just for fun and not to be recorded on each student's course report.

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## How to Use

Role Plays – Mood Chart

I'm feeling...

nosy	bored	relieved	cheerful
angry	happy	shocked	up
frightened	smug	apologetic	secretive
confused	worried	so so	aggressive
guilty	ecstatic	paranoid	naughty
surprised	energetic	friendly	unwell
depressed	moody	determined	tired
giggly	upset	mischievous	disgusted
<i>My suggestions:</i> _____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

# Talk a Lot

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

## Role Plays

**1. Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Characters: \_\_\_\_\_

Situation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Scenes: i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

iii) \_\_\_\_\_

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Characters: \_\_\_\_\_

Situation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Scenes: i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

iii) \_\_\_\_\_

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

# Talk a Lot

## Town

### Role Plays:

#### 1. "Water and books do not mix!"

- Place: Your local library  
Time: 5pm  
Characters: You and a librarian  
Situation: You are returning a book about water-skiing that you borrowed for a recent holiday. Unfortunately the book has been damaged because you were reading it *whilst* water-skiing
- Scenes: i) You try to return the book when the librarian is not looking  
ii) You have to explain to the librarian why the book is damaged and *who* damaged it (you can be an imaginative liar!)  
iii) The librarian goes to ask a senior librarian for advice about how much you should be charged for the damage, then returns

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *The senior librarian*
- b) *Somebody reading at the library who says "Sshh! I'm trying to read!" quite a lot*
- c) *The author of the book*

#### 2. "Excuse me, where is the train station...?"

- Place: The market place in your town  
Time: 2 o'clock in the afternoon  
Characters: You and a foreign tourist  
Situation: A foreign tourist stops you to ask for directions to the train station. They don't speak English very well
- Scenes: i) The tourist asks you for directions to the train station. You don't understand them well, but give them directions to the Tourist Information Centre, where they can get a map of the town  
ii) Later in the afternoon: you meet the tourist again. They can't find the Tourist Information Centre. You agree to go there with them  
iii) At the Tourist Information Centre you ask for train times for the tourist, but unfortunately they have now missed their train

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *Someone who works at the Tourist Information Centre*
- b) *The tourist's friend or partner*
- c) *The mayor of your town*

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## Food and Drink

### Role Plays:

#### 1. "Waiter, there's a mouse in my potato!"

Place: Le Maison Souris – an exclusive French restaurant

Time: 8pm

Characters: You and a waiter

Situation: You are having dinner at Le Maison Souris

Scenes: i) During the starter you find a human hair in your soup  
ii) During the main course you discover a dead mouse in your mashed potatoes  
iii) During the dessert you find a gold necklace in your ice cream

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *Your friend or partner who is also at the meal*
- b) *The manager of the restaurant*
- c) *Another customer dining at a different table*
- d) *The waiter's friend or aged parent*

#### 2. "Have you ever driven a camel before?"

Place: A very hot desert in the middle of nowhere

Time: 12 noon – the hottest part of the day

Characters: You and a camel driver

Situation: You are a famous explorer who is lost in the desert. You desperately need to find water or you will die. The camel driver is trying to get fifty camels to the market of the nearest town, which is 10 miles away

Scenes: i) You agree to help the camel driver in return for water  
ii) During the journey some of the camels refuse to move  
iii) At the end of the journey you try to buy two of the camels from the camel driver to help you continue your travels

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *The camel driver's lazy assistant*
- b) *Your long-lost adopted brother or sister*
- c) *A reluctant camel*
- d) *An unscrupulous market trader*



# Talk a Lot

## Shopping

### Role Plays:

#### 1. "That's not my DVD player!"

- Place: A shop that sells electrical goods  
Time: 4pm  
Characters: You and a sales assistant  
Situation: Last Saturday you bought a new DVD player from the shop. When you opened the box you discovered that the player was a completely different model from the one on the box – a much cheaper one. You would like a full refund and an apology
- Scenes: i) You ask for a refund. The sales assistant tries to deal with the problem but only the manager can authorise a refund. The sales assistant says that they have gone out but will be back at 5 o'clock  
ii) It's 5 o'clock. You return to the shop but there is no sign of the manager. You are getting angry and decide to take a DVD player from the stock room – the model that you should have had  
iii) The manager returns

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *Another difficult customer in the shop*
- b) *A police officer*
- c) *Your elderly grandmother*

#### 2. "Extra! Extra! Read all about it!"

- Place: A street in your town  
Time: 11.30am  
Characters: You and a newspaper seller  
Situation: You buy a newspaper from a small kiosk on the street. The seller gives you the wrong change for a five pound note
- Scenes: i) You buy the newspaper and discover the mistake  
ii) You challenge the seller but they refuse to accept that they have made a mistake  
iii) You decide to set up your own newspaper kiosk next to the seller's and start a price war by selling your newspapers at a discount

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *Somebody buying a newspaper from you*
- b) *Your annoying sister-in-law or uncle*
- c) *A teenager trying to buy cigarettes for his under-age friends*

# Talk a Lot

## Health

### Role Plays:

#### 1. "But I must see my doctor now!"

- Place: Your local family doctor's surgery  
Time: 10am  
Characters: You and the doctor's receptionist  
Situation: You need to make an appointment for today to see your doctor because you've got a very bad cold. You want to see the doctor now because at 10.30am you are going bowling, then having a haircut, then having a sauna, and then having a romantic meal – all with different people
- Scenes:
- You ask to see the doctor now, but there are no appointments until this afternoon
  - You phone your various friends to try to rearrange your day, but it's not possible
  - You fake a coughing fit and the receptionist has to decide whether to let you see the doctor now as an emergency, or stick to surgery policy...

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- One or more of your different friends on the phone*
- Your doctor*
- Another patient in the waiting room – someone with a more serious problem – who has been waiting to see the doctor much longer than you*

#### 2. "It shouldn't cost the earth to keep fit!"

- Place: Your local gym  
Time: 3pm  
Characters: You and the gym manager  
Situation: You want to keep fit and lose weight, but you don't want to pay the high prices charged by the gym
- Scenes:
- You speak to the manager about a discount. You say that you are a DJ on a local radio station and can give the gym good publicity for free if they give you some money off the monthly fee
  - The manager agrees to give you a free session at the gym today, and then talk about the discount later. You enjoy using the equipment at the gym
  - Unfortunately you break one of the running machines because you are too heavy for it. The manager has to decide whether to make a deal with you or not – and what about the cost of the broken machine?

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- Somebody else using the gym who also would like a discount on the monthly fee*
- The manager's area manager, who overhears the first conversation and is not happy*

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## Transport

### Role Plays:

#### 1. "That's not music – it's just noise!"

- Place: You are on a bus going to work  
Time: 8.15am  
Characters: You and a teenager  
Situation: You are on a crowded bus on the way to work. You have to stand because the bus is full. A teenager starts playing loud rap music from the speaker on their mobile phone, to impress their cool friends. Some people on the bus find this annoying
- Scenes:
- i) You ask the teenager to turn the music down or off. They refuse
  - ii) You ask the bus driver to talk to the teenager about the music and how it is disturbing you and the other paying passengers. The driver is afraid of the teenagers and says that he can't hear the music
  - iii) You take matters into your own hands and confront the teenager again. You take the phone and the teenager gets very angry

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *The bus driver*
- b) *One of the teenager's cool friends*
- c) *An off-duty bouncer from a local nightclub who gets involved*

#### 2. "I wanted a return ticket to Birmingham!"

- Place: The coach station in your town  
Time: 2.45pm  
Characters: You and a customer service assistant  
Situation: You would like to find out the times of coaches to Birmingham this evening and buy a return ticket. You want to come home tomorrow afternoon
- Scenes:
- i) You go to the ticket counter and tell the customer service assistant what you want. They find the times for you, print your tickets and you pay them with your debit card
  - ii) After you have left the counter, you realise that the tickets are wrong. They have given you a return ticket to Manchester, coming back next Friday morning at 4 o'clock
  - iii) You go back to the counter, but find a long queue. You go straight to the front and try to talk to the assistant, but they won't serve you unless you go to the back of the queue – even though it was their mistake

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *The customer service assistant's supervisor*
- b) *Somebody else waiting in the queue*

# Talk a Lot

## Family

### Role Plays:

#### 1. "You did that on purpose!"

- Place: Your cousin's wedding  
Time: 2.35pm  
Characters: You and the bride-to-be  
Situation: With the wedding due to start at 3pm you are talking to your cousin's bride-to-be, trying to calm her down because she is very nervous. She was your girlfriend ten years ago in high school but you are over her now
- Scenes:
- i) The bride makes you laugh and you accidentally spill your glass of red wine all over her dress
  - ii) You try to clean up the dress. The bride-to-be is in tears and very angry. She accuses you of being jealous that she is getting married to your cousin and says that you ruined her dress on purpose
  - iii) After a moment, you and the bride-to-be realise that you are still madly in love with each other. Will the wedding be cancelled?

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) Your cousin
- b) The mother of the bride-to-be

#### 2. "A mean man whose wallet rarely opened!"

- Place: The funeral of your late Uncle Charles  
Time: 2.30pm  
Characters: You and Charles Jnr. – Uncle Charles's son  
Situation: You have been chosen to read a speech at your uncle's funeral. All of your family are there. They are all upset because Uncle Charles was much loved and will be greatly missed. You have just flown in from Fiji for the funeral and have been very busy with work lately, so you let your cousin, Charles Jnr., write the speech for you
- Scenes:
- i) Before the funeral Charles Jnr. gives you the speech moments before the funeral begins. You don't have time to read it before going up to the front
  - ii) You read out the speech but as you do so it becomes clear, from the offensive language used in it, that Charles Jnr. hated his father because he had excluded him from his will. You see that the family are very offended by the speech and that your life may now be in danger
  - iii) Later on you confront Charles Jnr., who explains why he wrote the speech

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) A family member at the funeral, who is horrified by the speech
- b) Auntie Gladys – Uncle Charles's wife

# Talk a Lot

## Clothes

### Role Plays:

#### 1. "Can I just try this on again?"

Place: A clothes shop in your town  
Time: 9.30am  
Characters: You and a sales assistant  
Situation: You need to find an outfit for a friend's engagement party

Scenes: i) You are not sure what colour, style, or size outfit you want, so you ask the sales assistant to bring several different options  
ii) You try on outfit after outfit. There is something wrong with all of them. The sales assistant has to go back and forth between the shop and the changing room several times until they are absolutely fed up  
iii) You decide to buy the first outfit that you tried on. The sales assistant tells you what they think of your decision

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *Another customer who is waiting to be served*
- b) *Your friend who keeps giving you advice about the clothes, which makes you even more confused*
- c) *The manager of the shop who is annoyed that the sales assistant isn't serving the other customers*

#### 2. "No – *you* go home and change!"

Place: Your partner's birthday party  
Time: 8.15pm  
Characters: You and a former friend that you don't get on with  
Situation: You have splashed out on a whole new outfit for this very special occasion

Scenes: i) Your former friend arrives at the party wearing exactly the same outfit as you. They think that you should go home and change, whilst you think that they should do the same. In the end you both decide to change  
ii) Later on. You both arrive at the party wearing a different outfit, but still exactly the same outfit as each other. You both go home to change  
iii) Much later on. You arrive at the party wearing the first outfit again. Moments later your former friend arrives, also wearing the first outfit

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *Your partner, whose birthday party it is*
- b) *Somebody else at the party who is wearing exactly the same outfit as well*
- c) *An over-enthusiastic party DJ*

# Talk a Lot

## Work

### Role Plays:

#### 1. "This company's not made of money!"

Place: Your boss's office  
Time: 10.44am  
Characters: You and your boss  
Situation: You haven't had a pay rise for two years. You work hard and do plenty of overtime, so after a lot of thought you decide to pluck up courage to ask your boss for a pay rise

Scenes: i) You ask your boss for a pay rise. They don't make a decision but ask you to come back at 4pm with a list of ten good reasons why they should give you a pay rise  
ii) It's 4pm and you return to see your boss. You read out your list but they still don't want to give you a pay rise. In fact, they ask you to do more overtime  
iii) One hour later you are in the lift going to the ground floor. Your boss gets in as well, eating a salmon baguette. You are alone together. Suddenly they begin choking on a piece of salmon. Do you help?

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) Your boss's secretary
- b) A colleague at work who doesn't like you and also wants a pay rise

#### 2. "How could you do a thing like that?"

Place: The staff canteen at your workplace  
Time: 5.40pm  
Characters: You and a work colleague  
Situation: At the end of a very long day you go into the staff canteen to get your sandwich box from the fridge

Scenes: i) You witness a colleague stealing money from the employees' holiday fund tin. You know that they have got financial problems at home. They don't know that you saw them  
ii) The next day everybody is talking about who could have stolen £45 from the holiday fund. You ask your colleague about it, but they say that they don't know anything about it. You tell them that you're there if they ever need to talk  
iii) Your colleague comes to you and confesses. You both go to explain to your boss what happened

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) Your boss
- b) Another colleague, who is sure that you stole the money

# Talk a Lot

## Home

### Role Plays:

#### 1. "This could be 'Your Best Move' yet!"

Place: "Your Best Move" – an estate agent's office in London  
Time: 2.30pm  
Characters: You and an estate agent  
Situation: You are looking for a small semi-detached house in a quiet suburb, but the estate agent wants to sell you a smart expensive apartment in the centre of London

Scenes: i) In the estate agent's you arrange to view both the house and the apartment  
ii) The viewing of the house  
iii) The viewing of the apartment and your decision about both properties

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *Your friend or partner*
- b) *The manager of the estate agent's*
- c) *The present owner of the house or apartment*
- d) *A homeless person*

#### 2. "Just tidy up – or else!"

Place: Your home  
Time: 1.30pm  
Characters: Two people who live together, e.g. friends, flatmates or partners  
Situation: One of you is a very tidy person and one of you is very messy. The tidy person wants the messy one to help out more at home and try to keep their home nice and clean

Scenes: i) A big row: the tidy person tells the messy person to clean the house – or else! Then they go out leaving the messy person alone at home  
ii) The messy person decides to either tidy up and start cleaning, or do something more interesting, like watch TV or chat to friends on the phone  
iii) The tidy person comes home and finds out whether their home is clean or not. They either reward or punish the messy person depending on their work

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *Another tidy or messy friend / flatmate who lives there too*
- b) *A nosy window cleaner*
- c) *A timid door to door salesman who is trying to sell life insurance*

# Talk a Lot

## Free Time

### Role Plays:

#### 1. "Sssshhhh!"

Place: Your local cinema  
Time: 9.40pm  
Characters: You and the person sitting in front of you  
Situation: You are with friends at the cinema, waiting for the film to start

Scenes:

- i) The film begins. The person sitting in front of you is eating popcorn so loudly that it is difficult for you to hear the film. You complain and they agree to eat more quietly
- ii) A few minutes later their friend arrives late. They are very tall and sit in the seat directly in front of you, so that you can't see the screen very well. You complain again and the friend agrees to sit further down in their seat
- iii) Half an hour later the person sitting in front of you is chatting on their mobile. You complain for the third time and they ask you if you want to "take it outside"...

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *The tall friend*
- b) *One of your friends*
- c) *A cinema employee, or the cinema manager*

#### 2. "I'll get you for this!"

Place: On a ski slope in the Alps  
Time: 11.20am  
Characters: You and another skier  
Situation: You are a novice skier having lessons

Scenes:

- i) Whilst practising your skiing you accidentally run into somebody and break their leg
- ii) At the hospital you apologise for the accident, but they want to take you to court to sue you for loss of income because they are a world famous dancer and were about to star in a West End musical in London. You try to talk your way out of it and leave a false name and address
- iii) One year later you are at the same skiing resort. By chance you meet the dancer again and both laugh about what happened. You slap them on the back in a friendly way, but they lose their balance and fall down the slope backwards. They end up back in hospital, this time with *both* legs broken

*If there are three people in the group the third character could be:*

- a) *The other skier's partner or agent*
- b) *The other skier's lawyer*



# Talk a Lot

## Role Play Extensions

*Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays:*

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### Town:

1. At the bank: you want to take out a loan, but you have a low credit, rating so you have to try a few different banks / loan companies / loan sharks...
2. At school / college / university: you organise a field trip. On the coach you have to take charge when several students are sick. Then you are accused of stealing money from the trip fund. Did you steal it...?

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### Food & Drink:

1. At a sandwich shop: it's your job to make the sandwiches, but you are very tired from a late night out and customers keep coming in to ask for more and more exotic sandwich fillings. You have to find the ingredients, or improvise with what you have...
2. In a pub: it's your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and you are trying to get your first pint of beer from a landlord who becomes suspicious because of your youthful appearance...

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### Shopping:

1. At a supermarket checkout: you want to pay for your shopping (two tins of beans) but all you have is a £20 note. There is a long queue behind you and the checkout assistant won't accept your cash because they haven't got enough change...
2. In the butcher's / bakery / greengrocer's / any shop: first, you can't find any sausages / rolls / pears / etc. Next, the sales assistant scans your shopping but you notice that they scan a few items twice by accident...

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### Health:

1. At your dentist's: you make an appointment to have a tooth out. Your dentist is very chatty but it's hard to reply with your mouth full of instruments. Afterwards you discover that they have taken out the wrong tooth...
2. At a pharmacy: you need some sachets of cold relief powder. You want blackcurrant flavour, but all they have on display are lemon flavoured ones. The sales assistant is reluctant to go and check whether they have any blackcurrant flavoured sachets...

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# Talk a Lot

## Role Play Extensions

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### Transport:

1. On the street: you are cycling to work when a car runs into you. You are OK, but your new bike is broken beyond repair. The driver refuses to accept responsibility for the accident, even though it was their fault...
2. In a taxi: you are on a long journey with a very boring taxi driver who tells you endless stories about the celebrities that he has had in the back of his cab. To stop him from boring you to death, you tell him that you are also a celebrity – in Belgium – and make up stories about why you are famous...

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### Family:

1. At a family reunion: first, you find that you don't recognise many of the people there because you haven't seen them for so long; you end up getting lots of their names wrong. Then, you are surprised when you meet your uncle's new wife, who is the same age as you, i.e. less than half his age...
2. It's Christmas Day: first, you don't get the presents that you wanted; then, you have to break up a fight between your niece and nephew over who gets to play on the new games console...

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### Clothes:

1. At home: you agree to give away some of your old clothes to charity. Your partner or roommate gets to work sorting them out and, without your knowledge, gives away some of your very best clothes...
2. At work: you have to wear a new uniform, but you hate it – both the design and the colour. It makes you look awful. You try different ways of improving it, much to the annoyance of your manager...

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### Work:

1. At work: it's your first day in a new job. You accidentally break a valuable vase in your boss's office. You try to cover up what happened but the office gossip hears about it...
2. At the careers adviser's office: you discuss your CV and skills with the careers adviser. They decide that you should apply for a boring office job and tell you to apply for four jobs that they find online. However, you have always had a burning ambition to become a professional wrestler...

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# Talk a Lot

## Role Play Extensions

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### Home:

1. On your driveway at home: you are washing your car, when you find a scratch and a small dent on the side. You confront your son or daughter, who borrowed the car last night to go to a party, but they are hiding somewhere in the house. You have to look in every room...
2. At home: you have just moved into a new flat and you throw a fantastic flat-warming party to celebrate. It's interrupted halfway-through when the person who lives downstairs bangs on the door and asks you to turn down the music...

-----✂-----

### Free Time:

1. At a football match: you are in a large crowd at a match between City and United. You are supporting your beloved City but it seems that you are in the wrong part of the stadium and everybody around you is passionately supporting United...
2. At a travel agent's: you are trying to decide on a holiday destination but your friend or partner just can't make up their mind...

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# Talk a Lot

## Learning English

### Role Plays

#### 1. “Give us a quick look at your exam!”

Place: A language school; during an important exam  
Time: 1.30pm  
Characters: You and another student, then the school principal  
Situation: You are in an English language exam. You haven't done any revision and it's a sure thing that you will fail, unless you can copy all of the answers from the bright kid sat next to you

Scenes: i) The exam begins. You realise that you don't know any of the answers. You try to copy from the student next to you, who isn't happy about it. You get caught cheating by the teacher a few times  
ii) Half an hour later: the teacher has had enough and moves you to the front of the class. When the teacher has to leave the room for a moment you take the opportunity to sneak a look at the answer paper on their desk  
iii) 4pm. You have to talk to the school principal about your behaviour during the exam. You will have to take the exam again, on your own. Try to create some original reasons for your misbehaviour

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *The teacher during the exam*
- b) *The school principal*
- c) *One of your parents, who is called to the school*

#### 2. “Oh no! Look what's happened...!”

Place: A fast food restaurant, just before it closes for the night  
Time: 10.55pm  
Characters: You and another student  
Situation: You have to finish a class project by tomorrow morning, with your mate, who is by now almost fast asleep after eating junk food continuously for four hours and doing absolutely no work on the project

Scenes: i) Try to get your mate to help you finish the class project  
ii) After you are kicked out of the fast food restaurant, you go to your mate's house to work, but there are so many distractions there... Eventually you both finish the project, and you sleep over at your mate's house  
iii) 8am. Time to get going! You go and grab the project, but find that during the night your mate's dog/cat/sister/elephant has completely destroyed it...!

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *The bad-tempered and sleep-deprived manager of the fast food restaurant*
- b) *Your mate's dog/cat/sister/elephant, etc.!*

# Talk a Lot

## Learning English

### Role Plays

#### Role Play Extensions

*Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Learning English":*

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#### Learning English

1. At a private language school: the school secretary finds out that you haven't paid your school fees for the past two months. Instead you have spent the money on living the life of an international movie star/super spy. Things take a turn for the worse after the school principal finds out, as well as your parents, and your friends all desert you because you're no longer throwing your money around...

2. It's your first day at work as an English language teacher. You are nervous because you have faked your certificates and CV, and have, in fact, never taught an English lesson before in your life. What will you teach? And how will your class – and school – react when they find out the truth? If they find out...

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# Talk a Lot

## Films

### Role Plays

#### 1. “Cut!”

- Place: A beautiful stately home in the country, which is the set of a high-budget film – a costume drama set in the 1860s
- Time: 11.40am
- Characters: You are a film extra; the other student is a famous actor
- Situation: The famous actor is filming some emotional scenes. You are supposed to be in the background, keeping quiet and unnoticed
- Scenes:
- Shooting a scene: the actor’s character’s lover has left them for another man/woman. There is a dramatic argument. Suddenly your mobile rings. You answer it. The actor has to restart the scene. This happens a few times
  - Later, during a different scene, the actor’s character is plotting revenge on their former lover. You are supposed to be in the background, up a ladder, cleaning a window. You lose your balance and fall off. This happens a few times; the final time you actually fall through the window. The actor is cross
  - At the end of the day, you go to the actor’s dressing room and apologise. Try to get their autograph for yourself, and then for your mum, dad, sister, brother, cousin, Auntie Dotty, etc.!

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- The upper-class director of the film, called Nigel*
- Another film extra, who is jealous of your screen time with the actor...*

#### 2. “Your world is confusing to me!”

- Place: A DVD rental store
- Time: 3.30pm
- Characters: You work in the store; the other person is an alien from the planet Sproot
- Situation: The alien comes into the store to complain about his rental. It wouldn’t play...
- Scenes:
- You check the DVD on your player. It works fine. The alien explains that it wouldn’t fit in the slot. He (or *she*, or *it*) had been trying to put it into a video recorder. He chooses a different DVD
  - The next day, the alien returns to complain that the DVD is damaged. It wouldn’t play. This time it went in the slot OK, but all the power in his flat went off. He had been trying to put it into a toaster. He rents a different DVD
  - The next day, the alien comes back with the DVD and a microwave oven. Both are badly damaged. He is banned from the DVD rental store for life

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- The alien’s equally confused friend / commander / overlord*
- The store manager, who is drunk*

# Talk a Lot

## Films

### Role Plays

#### Role Play Extensions

*Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Films":*

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#### Films

1. You are a comedy screenwriter. You have to finish your screenplay by 4pm today or you will lose the contract and have to pay back your initial fee (which you have already spent on luxury groceries). You are halfway through writing the screenplay. You have to buckle down and get some work done, but you face many **distractions** – in the form of your wife/husband, kids, former wife/husband, pets, cold-callers, and your agent, etc. – and **temptations** – in the form of eating, sleeping, watching daytime TV, sunbathing, surfing the internet, and eating (again)... Will you get your screenplay finished in time?

2. You are in court on trial, accused of illegally downloading films from the internet. Your defence lawyer is nervous because it's their first day in the job. It looks like you're guilty because you *did* download over two hundred films illegally from the internet, but only so that you could burn discs for your friends and family – and sell them at a car boot sale for 50p each! What will your defence be? Will you be convicted of the crime? What punishment awaits you...?

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# Talk a Lot

## Hospital

### Role Plays

#### 1. “You won’t feel a thing!”

Place: A busy hospital on the edge of a large city  
Time: 10.20 am  
Characters: You are a patient; the other student is a nurse  
Situation: You’re staying in hospital for a few days. Your doctor has sent you to the blood clinic to have a routine blood test. You are terrified of needles and can’t stand the idea of anyone sticking a syringe in your arm. However, your treatment cannot continue without the results of the blood test...

Scenes: i) You go to the blood clinic; you’re very nervous, but try to remain calm. When the nurse produces the syringe you run screaming from the room  
ii) A few minutes later, you return to the clinic. You try to compose yourself. The nurse says that it will only take a second, and won’t hurt. You try to think about something pleasant, but at the last minute you see the syringe coming towards you and flee the room, gibbering as if you’ve seen a ghost  
iii) Evening of the same day. The doctor needs the blood test results. You must have the blood test, no matter what. The nurse must convince, cajole, entice, or otherwise persuade you to have the blood test

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) The doctor – who has an important appointment with some golfing chums
- b) Another patient, who seems to love having blood tests

#### 2. “We need a place to smoke!”

Place: The grounds and car park area of a large hospital in the UK  
Time: 11.35 am  
Characters: You are a very conscientious security guard; the other student is a patient  
Situation: Whilst patrolling the grounds you find somebody smoking behind a bike shed. The hospital has a “zero tolerance” policy on smoking, which means that smoking is not allowed anywhere on the hospital site – inside or outside

Scenes: i) You confront the offender and remind them of the hospital’s policy. The patient makes up an excuse. Tell them that if you see them smoking again you will be forced to issue a fine of £100  
ii) A few hours later, you catch the patient smoking again. This time you issue the fine. The patient tries to bribe you with some cheap cigarettes...  
iii) In the final scene you and the patient are running an unofficial smoking area behind the bike shed, where other tense patients and relatives can smoke in safety without fear of prosecution – for £5 per cigarette!

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) A nervous patient who can’t get through the day without twenty cigarettes
- b) Another security guard, who finds out what’s going on and threatens to report you



# Talk a Lot

## Hospital

### Role Plays

#### Role Play Extensions

*Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Hospital":*

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#### Hospital

1. It's your first day in hospital, and it looks like you could have to stay for a few weeks. You're lying in bed reading a magazine, when a nurse brings you a menu where you have to choose your evening meal option. The problem is that you're a fussy eater – and a borderline vegan, who likes fish, but is not allowed nuts, whole grain, or beetroot in any form (on the advice of your astrologist) – and you want to know in detail exactly what the ingredients of every meal are, and how they have been prepared – and even *who* has prepared them! It seems that whatever the nurse suggests, there's something about it that you can't tolerate. But you have to choose something. Or will you simply book an outside catering company to deliver your meals every day?

2. You are a bit of a hypochondriac – you always think there's something wrong with your health, when 99.9% of the time you're absolutely fine. As such, you are well known at your local hospital's A & E (Accident & Emergency) department. You often fake an attack of something nasty at A & E in order to get seen by a doctor or nurse, or anyone who will listen to you, more quickly – without waiting in line like everybody else. Today you are sure that you are at death's door – that your final hours have come – and you must be seen at once. How will you go about jumping the queue at A & E, when the average waiting time is around 4½ hours? To complicate matters further, there's a big football match on in the town this afternoon, so A & E is about to get even busier than usual...

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# Talk a Lot

## Books

### Role Plays

#### 1. “I’m your biggest fan!”

Place: The ground floor of a large bookstore in the centre of town  
Time: 4.05 pm  
Characters: A famous author and his / her biggest fan  
Situation: Your favourite author is in town doing a book signing. You love their books and have been queueing outside the bookstore for four days to be the first person to meet the author. Finally, the famous author arrives...

Scenes: i) Tell them what it means to you to meet them after so many years. Ask them to sign your book, with the following dedication: “To Auntie Rosemary – all the best, from...” You leave ecstatic that you have met your idol  
ii) After a few minutes, you go back to complain that the author has spelt “Rosemary” wrong. Also the dedication is not clear: “all the best” looks more like “all the rest”. You want the author to give you a new copy of their book, because yours is “ruined”. The author obliges reluctantly  
iii) A few hours later, you return to find that the queue has gone and the author is alone. You watch in surprise as the author walks around the store laughing, defacing books written by rival authors. What do you do?

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *Your Auntie Rosemary, who is also a big fan of the author*
- b) *The author’s PA (Personal Assistant), who hates talking to fans*

#### 2. “Fishing in Hungary”

Place: A public library in a small town  
Time: 8.50 pm  
Characters: You are a student, and the other person is a librarian  
Situation: You need to take out some books for your project. You must have them now. The library closes soon and the librarian wants to get home, after a fourteen-hour shift. Earlier today the librarian was told off for being rude to customers

Scenes: i) You want to borrow “Fishing in Hungary”, by either Emil Stanovic, Imel Stonavic, or Amel Stinivac – you can’t remember the name of the author. The librarian checks on the computer and goes to get the right book  
ii) Next, you need “The Colour Blue”, by either Clair LeClerc, or Clark LeClerc – again you can’t remember the name. The librarian tries to be patient  
iii) Finally, you need “Filipe’s World of Flying”, by either Filipe Gonzales Hernandez, Hernando Gonzales Filipe, or Gonzalo Hernando Filipez – you’re not sure which is right. At this, the librarian may start to lose their patience...

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *The librarian’s manager, who listens to check that they are being polite*
- b) *Another customer, who is even more demanding*

# Talk a Lot

## Books

### Role Plays

#### Role Play Extensions

*Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Books":*

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#### Books

1. You are jealous of your talented friend, who is always doing impressive things, and winning praise from people. They have recently written a play, and they email it to you, asking you to spell-check it for them, and tell them what you think of it. You print out the play and read it quickly. When you realise that it is very good, you secretly send it to several important literary agents – telling them that *you* wrote it. After a few months the play is accepted by an agent, and you quickly discover that a famous theatre producer is planning to put it on in London's West End. You will get paid a lot of money! You feel pleased, but also a little guilty. There will be a lot of publicity for the play, because some big-name actors have signed up to play the lead roles, and your friend is bound to find out that it's their play. What do you do? Do you tell your friend what has happened – and try to patch up your friendship – or do you keep the money and attempt to keep your friend away from all of the publicity?

2. You are a minor character in a long, action-packed novel, that is currently being written by a mediocre, but successful, novelist. One day you find a way to burst out of the novel and you meet the novelist. First you have to prove to the novelist that you are real, and not a figment of their imagination. Next, you demand more dialogue in the novel, and a bigger role. The novelist doesn't want to change their story outline, but you threaten to run away and not return to the novel, so they agree to give you more to do. You go back to the novel reluctantly, but quickly reappear to make a suggestion that the novelist involves you in a stormy romance with the novel's leading lady. Again, the novelist doesn't want to alter their plot, but your whining wins the day, and you get what you want. However, after you've returned to the novel, it becomes clear that the novelist is deliberately changing the plot to make sure that you're killed in a steamroller accident – perhaps because you have been so demanding. For a third time, you burst out of the novel and, finding the novelist fast asleep at their desk, you rewrite the ending of the novel so that you and the heroine can live happily ever after!

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# Talk a Lot

## Airport

### Role Plays

#### 1. “He’s completely harmless!”

- Place: A customs area at a major international airport  
Time: 8.45 pm  
Characters: You and a customs officer  
Situation: You are an explorer, just returned from a trip to the rainforests of South America. You are trying to smuggle a ten-foot-long poisonous snake into the country, by wrapping it around your neck and pretending it’s an exotic scarf
- Scenes:
- i) The eagle-eyed customs officer spots the snake and asks you to explain what you’re doing trying to bring it into the country illegally
  - ii) The snake gets loose and attacks the customs officer, giving them a nasty bite. The customs officer believes that they’re going to die and starts to make a will, but you explain that the snake has had all of its poison removed
  - iii) In the confusion the snake escapes and slithers away into the airport, causing pandemonium. You and the customs official try to catch it, whilst at the same time reassuring members of the public that it’s harmless...

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *Another customs official, who has a more relaxed attitude to their job*
- b) *A member of the public who panics and tries to kill the snake with their umbrella*

#### 2. “Do you really need to fly?”

- Place: On the pavement outside a large international airport  
Time: 10.42 am  
Characters: You are a climate change protestor, and the other person takes three different roles  
Situation: You have been standing outside the airport in the rain on your own for two days, protesting about the damage that air travel is doing to the environment
- Scenes:
- i) You recognise a passenger entering the airport. It’s one of your neighbours. They explain why they need to travel – for business. You argue that they don’t need to fly and could use other means of transport
  - ii) A few hours later you meet a close friend coming out of the airport. They have just flown back 4,000 miles from a family reunion. Explain that they should have used video conferencing or Skype to get together instead
  - iii) The next day you get a phone call from an influential climate change campaigner – one of your heroes – thanking you for your efforts and inviting you to attend an international conference on global warming this weekend. Unfortunately, the only way to get there in time is by plane. What do you do?

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *Another climate change campaigner, who is terrified of being arrested*
- b) *A security guard working at the airport who wants you to “Clear off!”*

# Talk a Lot

## Airport

### Role Plays

#### Role Play Extensions

*Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Airport":*

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#### Airport

1. You are in a taxi on the way to the airport. Your flight leaves in about an hour and you're worried that you're going to miss it. Your driver is less bothered and you start to panic when you realise that they've taken a wrong turn. The driver turns round and you find the right road. They begin telling you all about their life story, and how difficult things have been since their partner left them. Suddenly the taxi hits a bump in the road and all of your luggage falls out onto the road. Having collected your bags and repacked them, you become more and more anxious about missing your flight. The driver goes faster and faster but all of a sudden they are stopped by the police for speeding and given a fine. You finally get to the airport, but when you refuse to give the driver a tip they chase you through the terminal. Will you catch your flight?

2. You are in an airport late at night waiting for the check-in desk to open. You fall into a deep sleep and when you awake you can't remember anything at all about yourself, either who you are or what you're doing. You've got amnesia! You ask a member of the airport staff to help you recover your identity. You start to remember slowly, but you can't recall what you're doing in the airport or what you have to do in order to catch your flight. You find your plane tickets and passport in your bag, and the other person guides you through the process of catching your flight: check in yourself and your luggage; show your passport; go through the security check; go through the duty-free area; find the correct gate; get on the plane. As they help you, your memory starts to return and you're able to follow their advice...

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# Talk a Lot

## Money

### Role Plays

#### 1. “I’m rich beyond my wildest dreams!”

Place: The set of a live television chat show  
Time: 4pm  
Characters: You and the interviewer  
Situation: You and your partner win £2.6 million on the lottery. You are interviewed three times during the year by the same interviewer

Scenes: i) You’ve just won the lottery. How do you feel? How do you think it will change your life? Talk about your home, relationships, work, etc.  
ii) Six months later: you have either spent or given away more than half of the money. How has your life changed? What did you buy? Who did you give money to? Why? Are you still working? What are your plans now?  
iii) One year later. You have either spent, given away, or otherwise lost all of the money. In fact, you’re now £250,000 in debt! What happened? What is your life like today? How do you see your future?

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *Your partner – your wife/husband, boyfriend/girlfriend, etc.*
- b) *Somebody who has borrowed a lot of money from you*
- c) *Your accountant, called Dave*

#### 2. “I must have it back today!”

Place: A park  
Time: 10am  
Characters: You and your cousin  
Situation: Your cousin borrowed £20 from you two weeks ago to buy credit for their phone. You need it back now because you have to pay for a school trip today. You don’t know that your cousin didn’t buy credit, but was forced to lend the money to your sister. She needed it to buy a surprise birthday cake for your birthday, which is tomorrow. She made your cousin swear to keep the cake a secret...

Scenes: i) Two weeks ago: your cousin asks to borrow the money, and you agree  
ii) Today: you need the money back  
iii) At your birthday party. You find out about the surprise birthday cake

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *Your sister*
- b) *Somebody working at the bakery*
- c) *An embarrassing relative at your birthday party*

# Talk a Lot

## Money

### Role Plays

#### Role Play Extensions

*Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Money":*

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#### Money

1. At the bank: you realise that the cashpoint is giving out free money – an extra £50 every time you withdraw ten pounds! What do you do? Do you keep taking the money and tell your friends to come and join you, or do you find a clerk at the bank and inform them...?
2. You've got a job as a charity worker, standing in the street wearing a bright fluorescent jacket, trying to get passers-by to sign up for monthly direct debits to a big charity. You have to get ten more signatures before tea time. What tactics do you use to persuade people to sign up?

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# Talk a Lot

## Places in the UK

### Role Plays

#### 1. “My wall’s higher than your wall!”

Place: A remote heath on the border of Roman Britain and what is now Scotland  
Time: AD 122 (8.04 am)  
Characters: You and a Roman Soldier  
Situation: You are a barbarian who lives nearby. You can’t help but notice that the Romans have recently started building a wall to keep you out of Britain...

Scenes: i) You spot a Roman soldier building part of Hadrian’s Wall. Ask him why he’s building it. Goad him by going backwards and forwards across the border. Object when he calls you a barbarian and explain how civilised you are  
ii) A few days later, you return to where the soldier is building the wall. This time you’ve brought your own tools and stones, and you start to build your own wall – about two metres in front of the soldier’s wall (on the English side)  
iii) The outcome of this building rivalry could be... a) two long walls, one in front of the other; b) you are taken prisoner by the Roman army and your tools are destroyed; c) you both decide to become friends, join forces, and build a pub on the site, instead of two walls; d) your own idea...!

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) A Roman centurion – the soldier’s boss – who really hates barbarians
- b) The director of a local building firm, who offers to build both walls for half the price

#### 2. “I’m travelling back in time!”

Place: A deserted car park on the edge of town  
Time: 12.02¼ am  
Characters: You play a regular Joe/Jane; the other student plays three different characters  
Situation: Walking home alone late one night you stumble upon a time machine at the back of a local supermarket. Intrigued, you get inside and close the door...

Scenes: i) The year is 1800 BC. You open the door and realise that you have travelled back in time to Stonehenge. You witness something amazing, and you’re now able to finally solve the great mystery of why it was built...  
ii) You try to get back to the present, but stepping out of the time machine you find that you have landed in Sherwood Forest in the 12<sup>th</sup> century – the time of Robin Hood and his Merry Men. You find out that the legend about robbing from the rich and giving to the poor isn’t quite what it seems...  
iii) Still trying to get home, your time machine crashes in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1608. You discover who the *real* author of those plays really was, before...

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) The inventor of the time machine, who desperately needs to get it back
- b) Another character from each period in history



# Talk a Lot

## Places in the UK

### Role Plays

#### Role Play Extensions

*Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Places in the UK":*

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#### Places in the UK

1. You are a stressed-out travel agent. Your manager has recently told you that if you don't sell more UK-based family holidays you will be fired. A customer comes in and wants to book a short break for their family. You try to sell them a holiday in Scotland, then in Wales, then in Northern Ireland, and then in England. Go through the main selling points of each place – for example, the interesting and beautiful places that await them in each country of the UK! However, the customer is hard to please and raises objections to each selling point, for example, the weather will be bad, the food will be terrible, and so on.

2. You run a small business on the shores of Loch Ness, selling boat trips to the centre of the loch in order to find Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster. You charge a lot of money to gullible tourists for what is really only a fifteen-minute boat trip on a cold, foggy lake. However, one day you get more than you bargained for when the *real* Loch Ness Monster appears from out of the depths of the loch and demands a percentage of your profits from the business. When you refuse, she eats you and takes over the boat trip business herself, which means that she is effectively selling boat trips on the loch to search for herself. When people realise that they can see the monster on land (selling the boat trips), they don't want to pay to see her in the loch, so unfortunately the business folds. The monster disappears back into obscurity and vows never to return to land – until the next attractive business opportunity arises...

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# Talk a Lot

## Politics

### Role Plays

#### 1. “Can I rely on your vote on Thursday?”

Place: Your front doorstep  
Time: 8.18 pm  
Characters: You and three candidates in a general election (played by the same student)  
Situation: You’ve just got home from a busy day at work, made tea for your family, and now you’re relaxing watching an important football match. The doorbell rings

Scenes: i) The first candidate – from a right-wing party – tells you about their policies. You try to get rid of them so that you can watch the rest of the match  
ii) Half an hour later another candidate rings the doorbell. This time they are from a left-wing party. They absolutely insist on explaining their policies...  
iii) Twenty minutes later a third candidate turns up. This time they’re from a radical single-issue party. You try your best to get them to leave, but they are really quite determined to convert you to their cause...

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) A member of your family who hates both football and politics
- b) A nosy neighbour, who is also standing as a candidate in the election

#### 2. “Me!” “Me!”

Place: Stone Age Britain  
Time: 12,400 BC (9.05 am)  
Characters: You are a caveman – the strongest caveman in your camp. The other student is your rival for power. (*Note: because language has yet to develop, the only word that you know is “Me!” No other words are allowed during the role play, although you can say “Me!” in many different ways*)  
Situation: You are roaming a grassy plain hunting for food for your family

Scenes: i) You discover the carcass of a huge giraffe. Your rival comes along and tries to steal the carcass. You fight to see who is the strongest. Unfortunately, your rival finds a hefty wooden club, and employs it to beat you over the head repeatedly, until you hand over the giraffe carcass  
ii) The next day, while out hunting and gathering, you clash again over food. But this time you have the superior weapon – a sabre-toothed tiger! Your rival is very afraid and runs away, pursued by the tiger  
iii) A few months later, the whole camp is starving. While looking for food you both find an enormous woolly mammoth carcass at the same time. Neither of you can move it on your own. You need each other to get it back to the camp. Do you fight for supremacy, or work together for the common good?

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) The dead giraffe, then the sabre-toothed tiger, then the woolly mammoth carcass
- b) A cavewoman and mother, who tries to bring peace between the warring rivals

# Talk a Lot

## Politics

### Role Plays

#### Role Play Extensions

*Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Politics":*

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#### Politics

1. You are butler to the king in a country which has had a monarchy for over 1,000 years. One day there is a revolution and the people take over. They decide to get rid of the monarchy. The revolutionaries order you to inform the king that he is no longer required. You don't want to do this, because you have been a loyal servant to the royal family for nearly fifty years, but the alternative is to be thrown into prison – or worse! First you try to be tactful and break the news gently. When the king refuses to accept it, you have to be more persuasive. Finally, when the king declares that he will never leave his position, you have to take more drastic action to get rid of him – before the revolutionaries come looking for you...

2. You work for the navy on board a submarine. The crew is organised in a very democratic way, with everybody able to take part in the decision-making process via a committee. One day there is an emergency and your submarine starts to sink. The committee meets to decide what action to take. The problem is that nobody can agree what to do, and everybody comes up with a different response to the crisis. The rules of the committee state clearly that there must be a majority in agreement before action can be taken. As discussion and debate continue, the submarine sinks slowly to the ocean floor. Will your committee be able to agree what to do before the oxygen runs out?

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# Talk a Lot

## Internet

### Role Plays

#### 1. “Should I click here?”

Place: At your home  
Time: 10.34 am  
Characters: You and your elderly grandma  
Situation: You work as a professional web designer. Your grandma’s beloved dog has just died, so to cheer her up you offer to help her learn how to use the internet. It’s difficult to teach her because she has never used a computer before, while you are a computer expert – and not a very patient person

Scenes: i) You teach her how to use a search engine, but she can’t work the mouse  
ii) You try to teach her to send an email. Clicking wildly, she accidentally sends an offensive email to your mother-in-law that you had saved as a draft  
iii) You leave the room for a moment. When you get back your computer screen has frozen. Your grandma has downloaded a virus by mistake, which has deleted all of your web design work – worth thousands of pounds! But you can’t be too angry, because she’s your grandma and her dog has died...

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *One of your grandma’s friends from the day centre, who is against new technology*
- b) *One of your clients, whose work has been deleted, but who needs it finished today*

#### 2. “Hmm... this looks familiar!”

Place: At school, college, or university  
Time: 4.08 pm  
Characters: You are a student and the other person is a teacher (or lecturer)  
Situation: Your teacher has invited you to meet them, to talk about your recent homework assignment

Scenes: i) The teacher accuses you of plagiarism, saying that you have copied 80% of your assignment from an article on the internet. You deny it, but they show you the evidence. You apologise and promise not to do it again. The teacher warns that next time they will give you detention for a month!  
ii) A week later, your teacher again accuses you of plagiarism. You deny it, but they reveal that you have plagiarised *their* research work! To avoid the detention, you say how good you thought it was. The teacher is flattered and gives you their latest (long) article to proof-read – as well as the detention  
iii) While proof-reading it, you recognise some paragraphs that look familiar. You realise that your teacher has copied another work published online. You threaten to reveal their plagiarism unless they remove the detention...

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *The head teacher of the school, or the principal of the college / university*
- b) *The writer whose work the teacher has copied*

# Talk a Lot

## Internet

### Role Plays

#### Role Play Extensions

*Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Internet":*

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#### Internet

1. You are at the library, using the internet for free. You are only allowed to use it for thirty minutes, because other people are waiting, but you become engrossed in playing a complicated online game that will last for much longer. The librarian – a very quiet, timid person – politely asks you to finish your session after thirty minutes. You lie and say that you are downloading an important file for your homework that will take about twenty more minutes. After one hour, the librarian again tries to get you to leave the computer, but you tell them that you have to wait for an important message from a relative who has just gone into hospital. Later, as the library is about to close, you are still trying to complete the game. Try to persuade the librarian – and later the security guard and cleaning staff – that you should be allowed to stay on the computer just a little while longer...

2. You spend most evenings downloading music and films from the internet – illegally. One day your internet connection speed is cut dramatically and it takes forever for even a normal web page to load. You phone your ISP to complain, and they tell you that you have been branded a web pirate because of all the illegal downloading. You use your charm to persuade them to increase the speed again. A month later, you have returned to your downloading habits, and once again your internet speed is cut – without warning. You phone your ISP again and this time you blame neighbours in your apartment building for hacking into your Wi-Fi connection. You give names and addresses of your neighbours to the ISP, and they lift the restriction on your connection speed. Later you meet some of your neighbours, who complain that their internet service has been cut – for no reason. Some of the children from the building are even crying because they can't get online anymore. You feel guilty, but do you come clean and tell them – *and* your ISP – the truth?

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# Talk a Lot

## Australia

### Role Plays

#### 1. “This is for Pru in Woolloomooloo!”

Place: A travel agent's  
Time: 10.34 am  
Characters: You and a rather bizarre travel agent  
Situation: You want to book a return flight to Perth in Western Australia to visit your sister, who you haven't seen for four years. You'd also like to book a three- or four-star hotel for twenty nights, and hire a rental car...

Scenes: i) Tell the travel agent your plans and ask them to arrange your flight, accommodation, and car. The travel agent – who behaves quite oddly throughout – takes your payment and promises to mail you your tickets  
ii) A few days later, you receive your tickets, but the travel agent has booked you two weeks in Woolloomooloo – a docklands suburb of Sydney, New South Wales – on the other side of Australia. Go back to complain. The travel agent explains that their ex-wife, Pru, lives in Woolloomooloo, and begs you to take them a package (ten blue cotton handkerchiefs)  
iii) You decide to be philosophical about the mix-up and agree to take the package to Woolloomooloo. When you return to your country, you rush back to the travel agent's with an urgent, shocking message from their relative...

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *The travel agent's ex-wife, Pru from Woolloomooloo*
- b) *Your sister, who is disappointed that you went to Sydney rather than Perth*

#### 2. “Have I told you my dingo stories?”

Place: A remote part of the Australian Outback  
Time: A starry night. 1.26 am  
Characters: You and a colleague  
Situation: Your work has organised a team-building walking expedition in the Outback where you have to carry all of your own kit and make a camp every night beneath the stars. The rest of your colleagues are fast asleep, except one...

Scenes: i) Remind your colleague of the time when you once fought off an aggressive dingo. Your colleague is sceptical, but can't sleep, due to insomnia  
ii) A few minutes later: recall a tall tale about how you once witnessed a dingo killing an elephant at a safari park in New Delhi. Your colleague tries to sleep  
iii) Your colleague has finally got to sleep. However, you suddenly notice a pack of wild dingoes approaching your camp. You try to wake your colleague, but they find it hard to believe your stories, and would much rather sleep...

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *Another colleague, who is allergic to absolutely everything in the Outback*
- b) *A grizzled old Bushman, who is an expert at rounding up pesky dingoes*

# Talk a Lot

## Australia

### Role Plays

#### Role Play Extensions

*Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Australia":*

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#### Australia

1. It's your first day at work on a popular Australian soap opera. You are a famous soap actor and you believe that you will be the number one actor on the show. However, you meet another actor, who is also starting work there today. You're very jealous of this actor because they have had parts in successful Hollywood movies, and you haven't. First speak to the director about getting a bigger part in the soap than your rival. Use your influence as a well-known soap star to persuade them. Next speak to the lighting designer and camera operator about making yourself look slimmer on camera than your rival. Offer them a few dollars to make it worth their while. Finally, speak to the make-up artist about your rival. Offer them the use of your luxury yacht if they will make your rival appear less tanned than you...

2. You are on a boring coach trip in the Australian Outback with a large party of tourists. You stop at a small town by a creek where everybody is shown how to pan for gold. A few people find very small nuggets of unrefined gold, and everybody gets very excited. Suddenly you uncover a huge gold nugget that weighs about 2 kg. Your dilemma is how to get it back onto the coach without anybody else noticing it. First, the tour group leader wanders over to see how you're getting on; then a nosy middle-aged tourist wants to borrow your shovel; and finally one of the locals from a nearby watering hole comes over to invite everybody for a drink. Whatever happens, don't let anybody else get your gold!

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