13C Have you got a moment?

Activity type: Speaking - Role play - Pairs

Aim: To practise using language for starting and finishing conversations

Language: Starting and finishing conversations in different situations – Use at any point

from Explore Speaking, p112.

Preparation: Make one copy of the worksheet for every two learners.

Time: 20-30 minutes

1 Divide learners into pairs and give each pair a set of expressions and a box of phrases. Learners work in pairs to complete each expression using the phrases in the box.

1 doing anything 2 later 3 talk now 4 things 5 for a long time 6 it going 7 care 8 you some time 9 keep you 10 talking to you 11 to you later 12 for a cup of tea

2 Learners decide which of the boxes contain expressions for starting a conversation and which for finishing a conversation.

Starting: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12 Finishing: 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

- 3 Elicit suggestions for places where two people might begin a conversation, and ask for suggestions for names for the people. On the board, write the first line of a dialogue between these two people, using one of the expressions in the boxes (e.g. *Hi Lorenzo, I haven't seen you for a long time.*) and elicit suggestions from the learners for how the conversation might develop. Build up the dialogue on the board using suggestions from the group as a whole.
- When the dialogue has developed into a reasonably long conversation, learners suggest a way for one of the two participants to finish the conversation, using one of the expressions in the boxes, and add this to the dialogue on the board.
- 5 Learners work in pairs and act out the dialogue, taking it in turns to play the two roles.
- They prepare similar dialogues, using other expressions for opening and closing conversations from the boxes. As they do this, go round and check.
- 7 Explain that they are going to act out their conversations for the rest of the class. Give them sufficient time to practise reading their dialogues in their pairs.
- 8 Choose different pairs to act out their dialogues for the class. Ask other learners to listen carefully and note down the expressions they hear for starting and finishing a conversation in each case.

Extension: Improvised conversations

When learners are comfortable with using a range of the expressions in the box, they walk around the class and improvise conversations with other learners, using some of the expressions for starting and finishing conversations on the worksheet.

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1	2	3	
Are you	See you	Can you	
now?	·	:	
4	5	6	
How are	I haven't seen you	How's	
	•	·	
7	8	9	
Well, it was good to see you. Take	l'll call	Anyway, I won't	
	•	·	
10	11	12	
It was nice	l'll talk	Have you got time	
•	•	· ·	

doing anything	later	it going	for a long time
for a cup of tea	you some time	keep you	to you later
talk now	things	care	talking to you