

11B The situation game

Activity type: Speaking – Game – Groups of three

Aim: To talk about pros and cons / ask for and give advice

Language: Problem solving / Making suggestions with *would / should / could* – Use any time after 11.3.

Preparation: Make enough copies of the worksheet for each group to have one set of the ten situation cards. Cut out the cards.

Time: 15–20 minutes

- 1 Write a sentence about yourself on the board. It should relate to an imaginary thing that you are considering, for example *I'm thinking of moving house, but everything is so expensive in this area. What should I do?* (or *What would you do?*) Ask learners for suggestions using *You should / could ...* (or *I would ...*).
- 2 Divide learners into groups of three (A, B and C). Explain that they are going to play a game where they ask for and give advice about invented situations. Give each group the ten situation cards from the worksheet and put them face down on the table.
- 3 A draws a card and explains the situation described (relating it to himself/herself: *I ... / My ...*). A asks: *What would you do?* or *What should I do?* B and C each make a suggestion using *I would ...* or *You should / could ...*. (Make it clear that they need to use *would, could* or *should* when they make their suggestions.) A decides who makes the best suggestion and awards this person the situation card he/she has drawn.
- 4 B now draws a situation card, and A and C make suggestions. The game continues, learners taking turns to draw situation cards, until all cards are used. The learner with the most situation cards is the winner.

Extension

Learners work in groups to create their own situation cards, which they then give to another group to play the 'situation game'.

Stronger classes

Expand on the structures learners should use for making suggestions, for example add: *Have you thought of ...ing ...?, What about ...ing ...?, Would you think of ...ing ...?, It might be an idea to ...*

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You are thinking about going to Australia next summer, but you haven't got enough money for the fare.

You want to change your job, but you haven't got time to look at job ads.

Your son/daughter wants to go to stage school, but you are not keen on the idea.

You want to get fit so you're planning to take up running, but you can't find a nice place to run near your home.

You are thinking about moving back to your parents' house to save money, but you know that they will treat you like a child.

You have been offered a fantastic job abroad, but you don't want to move away from your friends and family.

You are thinking of becoming a vegetarian, but you are afraid that you will miss eating meat.

Your friend wants to borrow some money to start a business, but you are not confident that the business will be successful.

You have seen an advertisement for an evening course that might help you with your job or studies, but it is very expensive.

Your best friend wants to get married, but you think he/she has made the decision too quickly.