

B. Lesson 2 (60 min.): Role-play activities

1.1. Instructions: There are two situations (requests of your close friend and professor with high imposition) below. Read each situation carefully, imagine you are a participant in it, then think about how you would make the request in that situation. You can add any details you like to your request. You can make notes; however, try to perform the situations without looking at the paper. Your performance will be evaluated by one of your group members.

Situation 1

You have recently moved to a new apartment. Because it is very far from campus, you need to buy a used car as soon as possible. However, since you have never bought a car by yourself, you want **your close American friend (Peter)** to go and find a good, affordable used car with you. What do you do?

You: Hi, Peter.

Peter: Hi, (your name).

You:

Situation 2

You are planning to apply to several (under)graduate programs in order to study (). Therefore, you have to ask **your professor (Prof. John Smith)** to write a letter of recommendation for you to these programs. **You know him well and are taking his class now.** What do you say?

You: (knock)

Prof: Yes. Come in.

You:

Student's Evaluation Form for Role-Plays

As the evaluator, your task is to listen carefully to the other two students in your group. Put a ✓ next to the expressions used by the person who is making the request. Also try to add some comments about his/her performance (e.g. Is it too polite / not polite enough? Is it clear?)

Native Speaker's Requests

1.2 Let's compare your role-plays to those of native speaker's and practice the native speaker's versions.

Situation 1

- A: Hi, Peter.
P: Hello.
A: How are you doing today?
P: Just fine. How are you?
A: Pretty good. Listen. I have a favor I need to ask of you.
P: What's that?
A: You know I recently moved into a new apartment here.
P: Uh huh.
A: And I need to get a used car.
P: Yeah. You're kind of a long way out, huh?
A: Yeah, a long way out. And I've never gone to buy a car by myself. I wouldn't know what to look for. So, I was wondering ...
P: Need some help?
A: Yeah, please, could you help me?
P: Sure. I'd be happy to. How's Saturday for you?
A: Saturday? Sounds good. I should be free in the afternoon, so ...
P: See you then.
A: Okay.

Situation 2

- A: (Knock)
P: Come in.
A: Hi, uh, Professor Smith. Uh, if you have some time, I would like to ask a big favor of you.
P: What's that?
A: Um, I am going to apply to graduate schools right now in computer science, as you know. And, well, I kind of need a letter of recommendation. And you are the professor who by far knows me the best, so I was wondering if, maybe, you could write a letter for me.
P: All right, certainly. I'd be glad to.
A: Oh, thanks so much. It'll be such a help for me.
P: Um, no problem. It's a pleasure to do it for you.
A: All right. Thanks!