

FAQ Mini-Roleplays (Practicing Present Simple)

INTRO: This roleplay is a suitable activity for:

Elementary students- for present simple requests: "Where is..?"
"Could I ?" "How much?" etc.

Pre-Intermediate students- indirect requests with verb "to be": "Do you know where it is?" and "to do": "Could you tell me how much it costs?"

Intermediate students- requests using "if" and gerunds: "Is it Ok if?" "Would you mind if?" "Would it be OK if..?" "I wonder if I could? Would you mind telling me if? "I was wondering if..?"

STEP 1

Write the words Airline, Fair, Hospital, Ticket Counter, University, Mall, & Library in a list down the board. Ask the students to give a (local if possible) name to each place. For example:

Airline.....Japan Airlines
University.....Bangkok University
Ticket Counter.....Skytrain Ticket Counter etc.

STEP 2

Select a student and ask them to choose one location and tell them they work at the the information counter and that you (the teacher) are a customer requesting information. Suppose they choose the Skytrain Ticket Counter and you are teaching an elementary class you might ask:

"When does the next train to downtown leave?"

"How much does a ticket cost?"

"Is there a train at 1AM?"

Can I buy a drink on the platform?"

and so on..

Model a roleplay with the student.

STEP 3

Ask pairs of students to select one location. Cross out the locations on the board as They are selected. Tell the students to write down 5 requests they might at ask at the information counter of their chosen location. Check their questions as they write.

STEP 4

Finally, for the roleplay, ask one student from each pair to stand up with the questions. Tell them to walk around the room and talk to the seated students. For example:

STUDENT A (standing): You are the Bangkok University Information Assistant

STUDENT B (seated): OK.

STUDENT A (standing): Excuse me, when does the next term begin?

STUDENT B (seated): : It begins on

STUDENT A (standing): And can I register late?

STUDENT B (seated): Well, ..

STEP 5

After the standing students have roleplayed with a number of students tell them to sit down and get the sitting students to stand and be the customers.