

Hotel receptionist

Level: Intermediate +

Ages: all ages

Time 10 – 15 minutes

Materials: slips of paper with prompts on them

Purpose: fluency practice

Method:

Step one – the teacher prepares slips of paper with problems written on them – one for each member of the class (there are some samples here but some may not be suitable for your classes).

Step two – the teacher forms the class into groups of six and distributes the slips. Students must not show each other the slips.

Step three – the teacher explains the scenario. They are all guests at a hotel where there has been a sudden outbreak of laryngitis. They have all lost their voices except the receptionists, who live outside the hotel and have not been affected.

Step three –in each group of six, two people are to be the receptionists.

Step four – students take it in turns to mime their problem to the receptionists – the receptionists can, of course, speak and prompt the guest, check their guesses etc.

Step five – as each “guest” gets their message across, they replace one of the receptionists.

Anticipated problems: despite being a mime activity, this can get quite noisy!

Prompts for hotel receptionist activity:

1. You went on your balcony this morning. Unfortunately you sneezed and your false teeth flew out and landed in the deep end of the swimming pool six floors below. You can't swim.
2. You woke up this morning and found a complete stranger in the bed next to you. It's a man. He's very fat and smells strongly of alcohol. He's still there now ... snoring!
3. Your wedding ring has fallen down the drain of your shower.
4. The remote control of your television doesn't work and you can't switch the television off.
5. A large bird has flown into your room. It has eaten your breakfast and is refusing to leave.
6. It's a very hot today but the air-conditioning in your room is blowing out hot air. None of the windows will open.