

Oral practice

I Optimists and pessimists

Pupils form pairs; one is an optimist, the other a pessimist. They tell each other the kind of thoughts that cross their minds in the following situations (which are read aloud by the teacher, one by one).

1. The doorbell rings.
2. The mailman brings you a big brown letter.
3. The telephone rings.
4. The headmaster stops you in the corridor and says he wants to see you.
5. You put your hand in your pocket: your wallet isn't there.
6. You're watching videos with your friends when all the lights go out; there's no electricity because of a power failure.
7. You're sitting in a café. A group of young people of the opposite sex keep looking in your direction.
8. You win a mystery tour in a lottery.
9. You have agreed to go on a blind date.
10. Your teacher is smiling at you.
11. You have a part-time job. One day your boss invites you to his office, saying he wants a word with you.
12. Your fiancé/e breaks off your engagement.
13. You're at the airport. Suddenly they announce your flight will be delayed by two hours due to technical problems.
14. You enroll for a judo class. When the class meets for the first time, you realise you're the only guy (girl) in the group.
15. It's the morning of your wedding day. The skies are grey, and it's raining heavily.
16. You are asked to go to the school clinic. The doctor wants to talk to you.
17. You see new neighbours moving in next door.
18. Coming home one afternoon, you detect a lovely smell of newly-baked "pulla" drifting in the air from the direction of your house.
19. A famous film director calls you. There's a part for you in his new film, but he doesn't want to talk about it over the phone.
20. A police car has stopped in front of your house.
21. You go to a summer camp and realise you don't know anybody there.
23. You live on the fifth floor in a block of flats. One morning the lift is out of order.