

Lesson 1

Inviting neighbors to a barbeque party

Teacher's booklet

Phase 1: Guided noticing (approx. 30 min)

Exercise 1. Warm-up and predicting

Note: The terminology should be removed in the student's version of the booklet.

Instructions: Can you think of some real-life situations in which people may say something like this:

Note: Here teachers can provide more than 3 examples (any examples from the shortlist).

- Would you and your family like to come?

Possible situation (s): _____

- It would be great to have you there!

Possible situation (s): _____

- Please feel free to come on ____ + [date]!

Possible situation (s): _____

Exercise 2. Exploration through written contextualized input

Background: 8 native speakers of English were asked to respond to the following scenario:

You are organizing a barbeque party and would like to invite five families from the street. What would you say to invite one of your neighbours?

Read their responses below and try to notice and underline any expressions/word combinations that were similar to those discussed at the beginning of today's lesson (e.g. *It would be great to have you there!*). The first response has been done for you.

1. Hi, I'm planning a barbeque on [date and time], would you and your family like to come? Feel free to bring a salad or dessert.
2. Hey! If you're not up to anything this weekend I'm having a BBQ at my place. It'll be really casual, just inviting a few local folks. Bring the fam if you're free.
3. Hi! We are having a barbecue, please feel free to come on [date]!
4. I am not sure if you have heard, but we are having a neighborhood barbeque this weekend and we would love it if you could join us.
5. We're having a BBQ at our place. It would be great to have you there. Are you able to come?
6. Hi, Tom. Say, we're going to be having a bit of a street party – a barbecue – and would be happy if you could come.
7. We're having a barbeque next Sunday – 3PM – hope you can make it!
8. Hey, we're having a barbeque on Saturday. Come by if you're free.

Phase 2: Deep cognitive engagement and stimulating retention (approx. 60 min)

Exercise 1. Form-comparison and explicit metapragmatic explanation

Instructions: Now compare the expressions you've underlined in Exercise 1 with the list provided in your handout. Were you able to notice most of them?

Teacher's script:

Such expressions are also called '*pragmatic formulas*'. These are fixed or semi-fixed multi-word combinations *frequently used* by the native/highly proficient speakers of the language for *specific communicative purposes*. Such expressions can be very beneficial for developing *fluency* and *accuracy* in a second language. The knowledge of these expressions can also help you improve your *pragmatic competence* (ability to use your second language in a contextually appropriate way in order to be properly understood by the native/highly proficient speakers of the language). Such expressions can help you *sound more natural* in your second language, and, as a result, you are more likely to be accepted into the '*inner social circle*' of the second language community.

Now let's move on to Exercises 2 and 3. These exercises were designed to help you better memorize these formulas and understand how they are used in context (in this lesson, *Inviting neighbors to a barbeque party*).

Target pragmatic formulas:

1. Would you and your family like to come?
2. I'm/We're having a ____ + [noun: barbeque party]
3. Please feel free to come on ____ + [date]!
4. Would love it if you could ____ + [verb: join]
5. It would be great to have you there!
6. Would be happy if you could ____ + [verb: come]
7. Hope you can make it
8. Come by if you're free

OPTIONAL: At this point in the lesson, teachers may also want to discuss the following questions with the group to enhance cross-cultural linguistic awareness:

Awareness-raising discussion questions:

1. Are the responses provided by the native English speakers different from/similar to your your native language?
2. Are these responses different from/similar to your own responses in English?
3. What are the main similarities (if any) between your own responses and those provided by the native speakers?
4. What are the main differences (if any)?

Exercise 2. Understanding the implied meaning of the target formulas and explicit metapragmatic explanation

Review 1. Match the pragmatic formulas with their best paraphrased versions. Pay careful attention to the hints provided for you.

1. Hope you can make it!

Hint: the verb 'make' doesn't mean 'make something with your hands' in this context

2. Would love it if you could ____ + [verb: join]

Hint: the phrase 'would love it' doesn't mean 'have romantic feelings for somebody' in this context

3. It would be great to have you there!

Hint: the verb 'have' doesn't mean 'own/possess' in this context

4. Please feel free to come on ____ + [date]!

Hint: the phrase 'feel free' doesn't refer to freedom in the literal/direct sense in this context

- a. It would be a great pleasure for me if you come
- b. It would be great if you are going to be present at my party
- c. I hope you are able to come to/join my party
- d. Come to the party if you like

Note: Note that these paraphrased versions are the interpretations of the author; teachers may want to create their own paraphrases.

Answer key: 1-c; 2-a; 3-b; 4-d.
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Review 2. Review each pragmatic formula again and decide whether each pragmatic formula is a direct or an indirect speech act.

In other words, how direct was the speaker when he/she invited his/her neighbour to the party? Circle or underline the chosen answer.

Very direct Somewhat direct Somewhat indirect Very indirect

Hint: Direct speech acts is when the speaker says exactly what he/she means. Indirect speech acts is when the speaker means more than he/she says in reality. Indirect speech acts are generally considered more polite in English.

1. I'm having a ___ + [noun: barbeque party]

How direct was the speaker when he/she invited his/her neighbour to the party?

Very direct Somewhat direct Somewhat indirect Very indirect

2. Would love it if you could ____ + [verb: join]

How direct was the speaker when he/she invited his/her neighbour to the party?

Very direct Somewhat direct Somewhat indirect Very indirect

3. Hope you can make it!

How direct was the speaker when he/she invited his/her neighbour to the party?

Very direct Somewhat direct Somewhat indirect Very indirect

4. It would be great to have you there!

How direct was the speaker when he/she invited his/her neighbour to the party?

Very direct Somewhat direct Somewhat indirect Very indirect

5. Come by if you're free

How direct was the speaker when he/she invited his/her neighbour to the party?

Very direct Somewhat direct Somewhat indirect Very indirect

6. Would you and your family like to come?

How direct was the speaker when he/she invited his/her neighbour to the party?

Very direct Somewhat direct Somewhat indirect Very indirect

7. Would be happy if you could ____ + [verb: come]

How direct was the speaker when he/she invited his/her neighbour to the party?

Very direct Somewhat direct Somewhat indirect Very indirect

8. Please feel free to come on ____ + [date]!

How direct was the speaker when he/she invited his/her neighbour to the party?

Very direct Somewhat direct Somewhat indirect Very indirect

OPTIONAL: At this point in the lesson, teachers may also want to provide some explicit explanation as to 3 key socio-pragmatic factors speakers have to keep in mind when engaging in a conversation to enhance L2 pragmatic competence development:

Teacher's script: When you engage in a conversation with 2 or more people, there are 3 key factors you need to keep in mind:

1. **Social distance** (how well do the speakers know each other; age & gender)

Note: As the level of social distance increases (goes up), the level of politeness increases (goes up), *which affects the language choices*

2. **Power** (does the speaker have any power/authority over the hearer or vice versa; what are their roles)

Note: As the level of power (goes up), the level of politeness increases (goes up), *which affects the language choices*

3. **Imposition** (the type of obligation the speaker is forcing the hearer to do- e.g., borrow money vs to borrow a pen- is this a high stakes context? What are potential risks?)

Note: As the level of imposition (obligation/responsibility) increases, so does the level of politeness, *which affects the language choices*

Exercise 3: Speech act analysis

Instructions: Read each response and divide it into meaningful components (parts). Next, find a phrase that matches speaker's communicative strategy, as shown in the example. Check your answers with the rest of the class.

Example: Hi, I'm planning a barbeque on [date and time], would you and your family like to come? Feel free to bring a salad or dessert.

Part 1

Hi, I'm planning a barbeque on [date and time]

Part 2

Would you and your family like to come?

Part 3

Feel free to bring a salad or dessert

Speaker's strategy

Phrase

Greeting +context → Hi, I'm planning a barbeque on [date and time]

Invitation → Would you and your family like to come?

Additional information → Feel free to bring a salad or dessert

1. Hey! If you're not up to anything this weekend I'm having a BBQ at my place. It'll be really casual, just inviting a few local folks. Bring the fam if you're free.

Greeting+ invitation → _____

Context → _____

Additional information → _____

2. Hi! We are having a barbecue, please feel free to come on [date]!

Greeting + context → _____

Invitation → _____

3. I am not sure if you have heard, but we are having a neighborhood barbeque this weekend and we would love it if you could join us.

Context → _____

Invitation → _____

4. We're having a BBQ at our place. It would be great to have you there. Are you able to come?

Context → _____

Invitation → _____

Follow-up question → _____

5. Hi, Tom. We're going to be having a bit of a street party – a barbecue – and would be happy if you could come.

Greeting → _____

Context → _____

Invitation → _____

6. We're having a barbeque next Sunday – 3PM – hope you can make it!

Context → _____

Invitation → _____

7. Hey, we're having a barbeque on Saturday. Come by if you're free.

Greeting + context → _____

Invitation → _____

Phase 3: Practice (approx. 30 min)

Instructions:

The class is divided into two groups: 'hosts' and 'guests (*neighbours*)'. Each 'host' will have to 'visit' each 'guest', introduce himself/herself, tell them they are planning a street BBQ and invite them to join it (by using the target pragmatic formulas).

Each 'guest' will also have to introduce himself/herself and accept the invitation. In addition, each 'guest' will mention what he/she will bring to the party to share with other guests (*each 'guest' will be given an information card containing a script*).

For example:

Guest: Sure, I would love to come/join! I'll bring a salad/desert etc.

As a result, the 'hosts' will make a 'guest list' (their names and what they are going to bring). They'll have to make sure to write down all the information (*each 'host' will be given instruction cards on how to proceed*).

Next, the students switch roles: 'hosts' become 'guests' and vice versa and repeat the same scenario.

The teacher is going to monitor students' performance and provide feedback when necessary.

Instructions for 'hosts':

1. Visit' each 'guest', introduce yourself, tell them they are planning a street BBQ and invite them to join it (by using the target pragmatic formulas).
2. Make a 'guest list' (your guests' names and what they are going to bring to the party). Make sure to write down all the information when you talk to your guests.

The 'guest list'

Guest's name	What is he/she going to bring?

Scripts for the 'guests:

Guest 1: Sure, I would love to come! I'll bring a salad.

Guest 2: Sure, I would love to come! I'll bring some plastic plates and forks.

Guest 3: Sure, I would love to join! I'll bring some soft drinks.

Guest 4: Sure, I would love to come! I'll bring some fruit.

Guest 5: Sure, I would love to join! I'll bring some homemade banana bread for desert.

Guest 6: Sure, I would love to come! I'll bring some beer.