

## **Pragmatics Role-Play Worksheet for Groups of 3-4**

### **Scenario 1: Offering Help Without Sounding Patronizing**

Roles:

- Helper (offers help)
- New coworker (may feel unsure or proud)
- Observer (gives feedback)
- Optional: Manager (joins at the end)

Task:

Role-play the interaction. The helper should offer assistance in a polite, respectful way.

After-Task Discussion:

- How did the helper phrase the offer?
- Did it sound helpful or condescending?

Reflection:

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### **Scenario 2: Interrupting Politely in a Group Conversation**

Roles:

- Two people having a conversation
- One person wanting to join in
- Observer (gives feedback)

Task:

Role-play joining the group conversation smoothly and respectfully.

After-Task Discussion:

- What phrases worked well for interrupting/joining in?
- Was the tone appropriate?

Reflection:

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### **Scenario 3: Apologizing for a Social Mistake**

Roles:

- Speaker who made the mistake
- Listener who was affected
- Observer (notes tone and word choice)
- Optional: Friend who helps mediate

Task:

Role-play an apology for a culturally insensitive comment made at a party.

After-Task Discussion:

- Did the apology sound sincere?
- What helped repair the situation?

Reflection:

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### **Scenario 4: Making a Suggestion Without Sounding Bossy**

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Roles:

- Team member suggesting a change
- Other members responding
- Observer

Task:

Role-play a team meeting where one member diplomatically suggests a new idea.

After-Task Discussion:

- What language softened the suggestion?
- How did others react?

Reflection:

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### **Scenario 5: Responding to Personal Questions Politely**

Roles:

- Curious question-asker

- Person being asked
- Observer

Task:

Role-play a social setting where someone asks a personal question.

After-Task Discussion:

- How was the question handled?
- Was the response polite yet clear?

Reflection:

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### **Scenario 6: Expressing Gratitude for Unexpected Help**

Roles:

- Colleague who helped
- Grateful coworker
- Observer

Task:

Role-play a conversation where someone expresses gratitude for unexpected help.

After-Task Discussion:

- Did the gratitude feel genuine?
- How did the receiver respond?

Reflection:

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### **Scenario 7: Refusing an Invitation Without Offending**

Roles:

- Person refusing the invitation
- Person inviting
- Observer
- Optional: Friend helping smooth the situation

Task:

Role-play a polite refusal to a dinner invitation from a new acquaintance.

After-Task Discussion:

- What phrases softened the refusal?
- Did the inviter understand and feel respected?

Reflection:

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### **Scenario 8: Requesting a Favor from a Busy Colleague**

Roles:

- Person requesting a favor
- Busy colleague
- Observer

Task:

Role-play requesting help on a work task from a colleague who is under pressure.

After-Task Discussion:

- Was the request phrased respectfully?
- Did the tone show awareness of their workload?

Reflection:

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### **Scenario 9: Disagreeing in a Professional Meeting**

Roles:

- Person who disagrees
- Speaker making a point
- Observer
- Optional: Manager

**Task:**

Role-play a professional disagreement during a meeting, aiming to maintain politeness.

**After-Task Discussion:**

- What language showed disagreement respectfully?
- How did the speaker react?

**Reflection:**

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**Scenario 10: Responding to Unexpected Criticism**

**Roles:**

- Person receiving criticism
- Critic
- Observer

**Task:**

Role-play an unexpected piece of negative feedback and how to respond constructively.

**After-Task Discussion:**

- Was the response defensive or open?
- What helped manage the situation?

**Reflection:**

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**Scenario 11: Negotiating a Compromise in a Conflict**

**Roles:**

- Two people in conflict
- Mediator
- Observer

**Task:**

Role-play resolving a disagreement over project roles through compromise.

**After-Task Discussion:**

- What language helped de-escalate the tension?
- Was a fair solution reached?

**Reflection:**

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**Scenario 12: Making Small Talk with a Stranger**

**Roles:**

- Two strangers at a networking event
- Observer

**Task:**

Role-play starting and maintaining a light, polite conversation with someone new.

**After-Task Discussion:**

- What topics were used to break the ice?
- Did the conversation feel natural?

**Reflection:**

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**Final Group Discussion**

- Which scenario felt most natural? Most difficult?
- What pragmatics strategies did you find most useful?
- Any differences compared to your native language culture?