

FILM ENGLISH

Can I help you with anything?

Language level: Intermediate (B1) – Upper Intermediate (B2)

Learner type: All ages

Time: 90 minutes

Activity: Watching a short film, speaking and writing

Topic: Kindness

Language: Vocabulary related to kindness, expressions to offer, accept and refuse help

Materials: Short film



Overview

This ELT lesson plan is designed around a short film which was created for [Kindness.org](https://www.kindness.org), a charity that encourages people to take part in acts of kindness and share them online.

In the lesson students predict the content of a short film, watch a short film, speak about the short film and kindness, and perform a roleplay.

Step 1

Put your students in pairs. Tell them they are going to watch the first part of a short film titled 'Is there anything I can do for you?' Ask them to discuss the questions.

- 1 What do you think the film will be about?
- 2 What images do you think you will see?

Step 2

Hold a plenary discussion based on the questions in Step 1.

Step 3

Watch the film until 00:38. Ask students if their predictions were correct.

Link: <https://goo.gl/ZE6z99>

Step 4

Elicit that the film is about a young man, Joe, who wants to be kind to as many people as he can.

Step 5

Put your students into small groups. Ask them to discuss these questions.

- 1 Why do you think Joe wants to be kind to people?
- 2 How do you think people will react when Joe offers to help them?
- 3 What things do you think Joe will do to help people?

Step 6

Hold a plenary discussion based on the questions from Step 5.

Step 7

Tell your students they are going to watch the rest of the short film. As they watch they should answer this question.

- How do people react to Joe's offer to help them?

Show the rest of the film.

Step 8

Elicit that many people are suspicious and refuse his offer, but many others accept his offer and are very grateful to him.

Step 9

Tell your students they are going to watch the whole film again. As they watch they should answer this question.

- What things does Joe do to help people?

Show the whole film.

Step 10

Elicit that Joe gives a flower, pays a bus fare, carries shopping, sweeps up rubbish, holds up an umbrella, is a tennis ball boy, paints a structure, is a goalkeeper, paints walls, gives out free newspapers, buys a coffee, buys a pint of beer, makes a birthday cake, gives a hug and folds up a plastic sheet.

Step 11

Put your students into groups. Ask them to discuss these questions.

- 1 What do you think of Joe's project?
- 2 What adjectives would you use to describe Joe's personality?
- 3 Would you consider doing something similar to what Joe did? Why / Why not?

Step 12

Write the following quote from Joe on the board.

- 'We can't say what is meaningful or not, because a small thing can have that butterfly effect.'

Ask students to discuss what Joe means.

Step 13

Elicit or explain that Joe means small actions may lead to larger unforeseen consequences over time.

Step 14

Write these sentences from the film on the board.

- I wondered if there's anything I could do for either of you?
- I wonder if I could help you with your bags?

Elicit or explain that both sentences are used to offer help to another person.

Step 15

Elicit or explain other expressions to offer help such as:

- Do you need any help?
- May I help you?
- Can I do anything for you?
- Do you need a hand?

Step 16

Elicit or explain expressions to politely refuse help such as:

- That very kind of you, but I'm okay.
- That's very nice of you, but no thank you.
- That's really sweet of you, but I'm all right.

- I'm fine, thank you.

Step 17

Elicit or explain expressions to accept help such as:

That's really kind of you. Thank you so much.

That's so nice of you. Thank you.

Yes, please. Thank you.

Step 18

Pair your students. Tell them you want them to write a roleplay in which one person offers someone help, and the other person either rejects the offer politely or accepts the offer and is grateful.

Step 19

Students perform their roleplays in pairs.

Step 20

Students perform their roleplays in front of the whole class.

Homework

Ask students to do something kind for another person. In the next class they should explain what they did and how they felt.

I hope you enjoy the lesson.

Film English is a labour of love, it takes hundreds of hours and thousands of euros a year to sustain and provide free English language lesson plans. Keeping it a free, clean, experience means it's subsidised by the generous support of readers like you through donations. So if you find any inspiration, joy and stimulation in these lessons or if they help you teaching English, please consider a modest donation – however much you can afford.

Can I help you with anything?