



Please Leave a Message After the Beep

Domains:

Access to information from spoken texts

Oral social interaction

Benchmarks:

Locate relevant information for a specific purpose

Give short spoken messages

Description:

In this task, pupils listen to a recording of messages left on an answering machine or voicemail system. They write down the relevant information contained in these messages.

Then pupils play a game. Each pupil throws the dice (included in this teacher's guide). One die shows whom to call; the other shows what to talk about. For example, if a pupil throws the dice and gets "teacher" and "chocolate," he or she must role-play leaving a telephone message for the teacher that contains the word "chocolate" in it.

Rationale for choice of topic:

The ability to comprehend and relay telephone messages is an essential skill. Children of this age are often expected to take messages at home. It is hoped that this task will encourage children to take this responsibility seriously.

Suggestion for implementation (prior to and/or during):

Have the class practice listening to taped messages and extracting information from them. Discuss the difference between recording the main points and writing down every word. Brainstorm vocabulary that is likely to recur in the context of telephone messages: phone numbers, days of the week, times, place names and personal names.

Note: It is very important to teach pupils how to use a checklist before they are given this performance task.

Suggested time allotment:

One lesson

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Prerequisites:

- ◆ Ability to extract relevant information from a spoken message
- ◆ Knowledge of the present and past tenses
- ◆ Knowledge of pronouns

Materials:

- ◆ Two dice, which need to be cut out and glued or taped together
- ◆ A CD or cassette of the recorded messages

(You will need a CD or cassette player for this task.)

SCRIPT

BEEP

Hi, this is Joe. I have tickets to a basketball game next Wednesday. Can you come with me? Please let me know by Sunday. My number is 5523311.

BEEP

Good morning. This is Dr. Shen's office. We're calling to remind Eva Eden that she has an appointment on Tuesday at 9:15. Please remember that our office is now at 31 King George Street.

BEEP

Hi, this is Susan from next door. Can Mark babysit next Thursday? Please call me as soon as possible. My number is 522-3344. Thanks, bye.

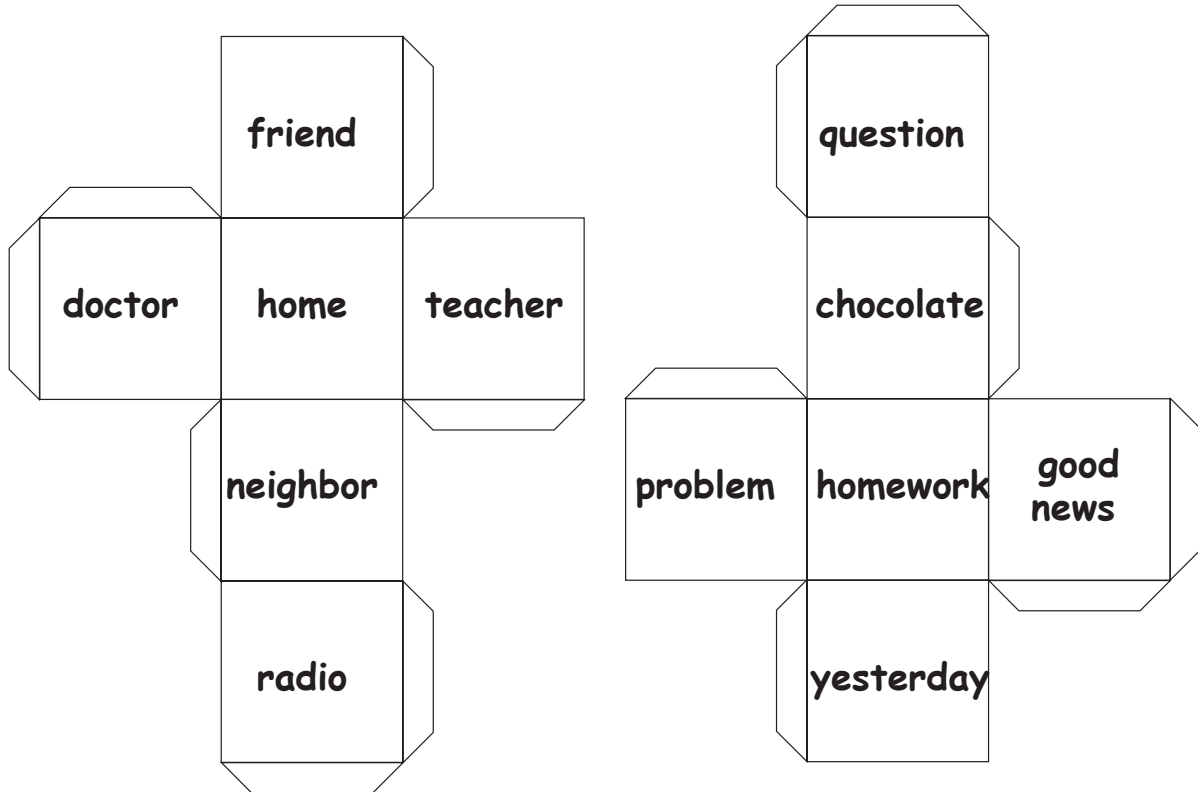
BEEP

Hey Mark, it's me, Jack. I'm making a surprise birthday party for Johnny. Tell Guy and Tom to come to my house at 5 o'clock on Monday. Make sure they don't say anything to Johnny. Oh yeah, don't forget to bring your guitar. Bye.



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Dice for Part Two:



Note for the teacher:

Photocopy this page (enlarge it if possible). Cut out the dice and glue or tape them together in cube form. If you prefer, you can use regular dice, with the numbers corresponding to the following key:

1. teacher	1. problem
2. friend	2. chocolate
3. doctor	3. question
4. radio	4. good news
5. home	5. yesterday
6. neighbor	6. homework

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Points	Part One* Listening Comprehension	Part Two Speech
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Filled in most of the chart ◆ Information is accurate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Message corresponds to both of the words that appear on the dice ◆ Message is clear and easy to understand ◆ Some degree of fluency, with a few hesitations ◆ Only English was used
4		
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Filled in some of the chart ◆ Most information is accurate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Message corresponds to one of the words that appear on the dice ◆ Message is fairly clear and understandable ◆ Speech was hesitant ◆ English was used some of the time
2		
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Did not fill in the chart ◆ Contains little accurate information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Message does not correspond to the words that appear on dice ◆ Message is unclear and difficult to understand ◆ Found it difficult to speak at all ◆ First language was used often

* Do not take off points for spelling and grammar in Part One.



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		Good start → → → → → → → Well done!				
Score	Part One:	1	2	3	4	5
	Part Two:	1	2	3	4	5

	The message is for:	The message is from:	What the message says:
1.	LOD PIMNIC	jow	i have tickets to the basket ball game at next wansday please come.
2.	evaa edan	doctore shines	u have an apoyntment dont forget we moved to 31 king gorges st. at tuesday at naen 16
3.	mark	sozan	he i am the haebur can mark babysit at next sorth day? please cod me.
4.	mike	jack	i am doing a sprays to joni. please come. & dont forget to bring your gitar.

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		Good start → → → → → → → → Well done!				
Score	Part One:	1	2	3	4	5
	Part Two:	1	2	3	4	5

	⁸ The message is for:	^N The message is from:	What the message says:
1.	٧١٣٠ ٤٥	you	5524411 basket ball game
2.	ewda eidan	doctor Sheh	opitan to doctor shen
3.	mark	Buzan	baby stgil 522334
4.	mark	Jak	surprise party to juni to mg haas



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Good start → → → → → → → Well done!

Score	Part One:	①	2	3	4	5
	Part Two:	1	2	3	4	5

	The message is for:	The message is from:	What the message says:
1.	0121 45	jog	basketboletets
2.		D.r	
3.		sosuh	mnak dsog.
4.	manhiek		prttyto