

Things to do when you interrupt card games

Instructions for teachers

Cut up one set of cards per group of two to four students and divide each set of cards into a pack of phrases and a pack of headings.

Give out just the phrases cards and ask students to divide them into three categories, first of all without any hint of what the categories might be. If they get stuck, you can tell them that the three categories should be the same size and/ or give out the main category cards (1, 2 and 3).

Ask students to split those categories into sub-categories, then those sub-categories into smaller sub-categories, again telling them how many cards to put into each set and/ or giving out the heading cards to help if they get stuck.

After students check their answers as a class or with a copy of the worksheet, they can test each other by:

- Reading out a list of phrases until their partner guesses the function
- Reading out phrases from two different sections for their partner to describe the difference between
- Reading out the name of a category and helping their partner make suitable phrases for it

They can then do speaking practice with the same phrases by:

- Dealing out the phrases cards and trying to use the phrases during group discussion
- Dealing out a set of functions cards and trying to use phrases with those functions during discussion, making sure that they use a different phrase each time
- Dealing out the sorry cards and using as many different phrases with that word as they can during the speaking
- Choosing and discussing the topics given (with or without cards to prompt them to use the language)

Cards to cut up/ Suggested answers

1) Interrupting and giving opinions
1a) Interrupting and disagreeing
1ai) Interrupting and disagreeing directly/ strongly
Sorry but do you really mean (to say that)...?
Sorry but I can't believe my ears.
Sorry but I don't understand how you can say that.
1aii) Interrupting and disagreeing politely/ indirectly
Probably, but my own experience of this is...
Sure, I understand what you are saying, but I'd say that...
Yeah, I see what you mean, but isn't it also true that...

1b) Interrupting and agreeing**1bi) Interrupting and adding to what your partner said**

Undoubtedly. In fact, I'd say that...

Absolutely. What's more,...

Quite right. In fact, I'd go further and say...

1bii) Agreeing and ending discussion of that point

Yeah, sure. I think we all agree on this.

Okay (*name*), I think you've about covered that.

Well, I think that about says it all.

2) Interrupting and checking/ clarifying
2a) Interrupting and checking something about what the other person said
2ai) Interrupting and checking what you think you heard/ understood
So, (if I understand you correctly), what you're saying is...(?)
Sorry, just to (double) check that I get what you are saying, do you mean...?
Sorry, did you say...?
2aii) Interrupting and showing that you didn't understand
Sorry, I'm not quite clear about...
Sorry, could you run that by me again? I'm not quite sure that I understand...
Sorry, could you clarify (exactly)...?

2b) Interrupting and confirming something about what you said**2bi) Interrupting and telling your partner that they misheard/ misunderstood**

Sorry, I think you've got the wrong end of the stick. What I mean is...

Sorry, I think you misunderstood my point. To put it another way,...

(Sorry), actually that's not quite what I said. (It's not that..., it's that...)

2bii) Interrupting and explaining yourself more/ better

Sorry, I don't think I explained myself very well.

Sorry, (I didn't mean to say...,) what I should have said was...

Sorry, (that was a slip of the tongue). What I meant (to say) was...

3) Interrupting and controlling the topic**3a) Interrupting and changing topic****3ai) Interrupting and going off topic/ digressing**

By the way, that reminds me. I should have mentioned that...

Sorry, this might be off topic, but...

Sorry, going off topic for just a second, I need to say...

3aii) Interrupting and moving onto the next (main) topic

Sorry, we'll have to deal with that another time. The next thing we need to discuss is...

Sorry, we don't seem to be getting anywhere with that point. Shall we move onto...?

Well, we seem to be going round in circles with that, so let's have a look at...

3b) Interrupting and getting back on topic**3bi) Requests to get back on topic/ Questions to get back on topic**

Sorry, can you mention that again in AOB at the end? Now, where were we?

Sorry, can we get back to...?

Sorry, can we come back to that later? We were supposed to be discussing...

3bii) More direct ways to get back on topic/ Statements to get back on topic

Sorry, we seem to be getting a bit off track. As I was saying...

Sorry, getting back to the matter at hand,...

Anyway, we need to get back to the main issue. We were talking about...

Roleplay a telephone call, teleconference or face-to-face conversation where you interrupt each other a lot. There are suggestions below for things to discuss and things to confirm. You can use things there for different purposes (e.g. using different main topics as minor topics) or use your own ideas if you like.

Main topic/ function	Minor topics	Things to check/ confirm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apology ● Asking for payment ● Audit ● Bad news ● Booking ● Budget ● Complaint ● Conference/ Trade fair ● Enquiry ● Finances ● Ideas for new products ● Job interview ● Making arrangements/ Scheduling ● Marketing ● Negotiating ● Permission ● Placing an order ● Policies ● Products ● Progress ● Purchasing ● R&D ● Staff training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advice/ Feedback ● AOB ● Cultural differences ● Delivery ● Directions on how to get somewhere ● Food and drink ● Gifts ● How things used to be done ● How to celebrate when a project is finished ● Meeting minutes ● Mutual acquaintances/ Message from or for someone else ● Next conversation ● Offer ● Other things you are working on ● People not there ● Possible political changes ● Socialising ● Something you forgot to mention last time you spoke ● Something you read online/ on social media ● Stationery ● Technology problems ● Thanking ● The news ● Who made a decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Addresses ● Amounts/ Quantities ● Dimensions ● Getting in somewhere ● How to get more information ● How you heard about something ● Internet addresses ● Lengths of time ● Names ● Numbers ● Password ● Phone numbers ● Places ● Prices ● Pronunciation ● Reasons for an opinion ● Reasons for something ● Reference number ● Spelling ● Times and dates ● What order something should be done it ● Where that info/ data came from ● Which part of a document



Saying sorry when you interrupt card game

Roleplay a conversation like one of those above. Each time you say sorry plus a phrase that no one has used in this round you can discard one sorry card. The person who has got rid of most by the end of the game is the winner.

sorry	sorry	sorry
sorry	sorry	sorry
sorry	sorry	sorry
sorry	sorry	sorry
sorry	sorry	sorry
sorry	sorry	sorry
sorry	sorry	sorry
sorry	sorry	sorry

Functions when you interrupt card game

Choose one version of the packs of cards below. Deal out the cards between you. You can discard the cards if you use a phrase with that function that no one has used yet.

Very general functions version

1) Interrupting and giving opinions	1) Interrupting and giving opinions
2) Interrupting and checking/ clarifying	2) Interrupting and checking/ clarifying
3) Interrupting and controlling the topic	3) Interrupting and controlling the topic
1) Interrupting and giving opinions	1) Interrupting and giving opinions
2) Interrupting and checking/ clarifying	2) Interrupting and checking/ clarifying
3) Interrupting and controlling the topic	3) Interrupting and controlling the topic
1) Interrupting and giving opinions	1) Interrupting and giving opinions
2) Interrupting and checking/ clarifying	2) Interrupting and checking/ clarifying
3) Interrupting and controlling the topic	3) Interrupting and controlling the topic
1) Interrupting and giving opinions	1) Interrupting and giving opinions
2) Interrupting and checking/ clarifying	2) Interrupting and checking/ clarifying
3) Interrupting and controlling the topic	3) Interrupting and controlling the topic

More specific functions version

1a) Interrupting and disagreeing	1a) Interrupting and disagreeing
1b) Interrupting and agreeing	1b) Interrupting and agreeing
2a) Interrupting + checking what was said	2a) Interrupting + checking what was said
2b) Interrupting + confirming what you said	2b) Interrupting + confirming what you said
3a) Interrupting and changing topic	3a) Interrupting and changing topic
3b) Interrupting + getting back on topic	3b) Interrupting + getting back on topic
1a) Interrupting and disagreeing	1a) Interrupting and disagreeing
1b) Interrupting and agreeing	1b) Interrupting and agreeing
2a) Interrupting + checking what was said	2a) Interrupting + checking what was said
2b) Interrupting + confirming what you said	2b) Interrupting + confirming what you said
3a) Interrupting and changing topic	3a) Interrupting and changing topic
3b) Interrupting + getting back on topic	3b) Interrupting + getting back on topic

Very specific functions version

1ai) Interrupt and disagree directly/ strongly	1ai) Interrupt and disagree directly/ strongly
1aai) Interrupt and disagree politely	1aai) Interrupt and disagree politely
1bi) Interrupt and add to what they said	1bi) Interrupt and add to what they said
1bii) Agree and end discussion of that point	1bii) Agree and end discussion of that point
2ai) Interrupt and check what you heard	2ai) Interrupt and check what you heard
2aai) Interrupt and say you didn't get it	2aai) Interrupt and say you didn't get it
2bi) Interrupt and say they misunderstood	2bi) Interrupt and say they misunderstood
2bii) Interrupt and explain more/ better	2bii) Interrupt and explain more/ better
3ai) Interrupt and go off topic/ digress	3ai) Interrupt and go off topic/ digress
3aai) Interrupt and move onto the next topic	3aai) Interrupt and move onto the next topic
3bi) Requests/ Questions to get on topic	3bi) Requests/ Questions to get on topic
3bii) Direct ways/ Statements to get on topic	3bii) Direct ways/ Statements to get on topic