

<i>900 exercises for Vocational Communication</i>	Notes for teachers	E1 / 43
<i>General aim</i>	E: Understand a message	
<i>Level of difficulty</i>	1	
<i>Intermediate aim</i>	4: Pass judgement on a simple message	
<i>Operational aim</i>	3: Answer questions like: “What are the different opinions that exist about...?” “Why?”	
<i>Pre-requirements</i>	None	
<i>Number of exercises</i>	6	
<i>Summing-up exercise</i>	1 / 43 – 1.6	
<i>Applications (examples)</i>		
<i>Comments</i>	The dialogues can be used for role-play. The summing up exercise is best done in a group, orally first.	

In a discussion with several people, there are many different opinions. Here is a discussion between two people, Tom and Anna. Read the dialogue, and then write down the opinions of each of the two people.

Tom and Anna are walking in the street. They see an unshaven man leaning against the wall. He holds out his hand. "I've got nothing to eat and nowhere to go." Anna reaches into her pocket and shows her empty hand. "I'm sorry, I haven't got any money on me," she says, giving him a smile. The man smiles back and says "Thanks anyway." Anna catches up with Tom.

Tom: *Do you give money to all beggars, then?*

Anna: *What if I do? Does it bother you?*

Tom: *No, but you make it too easy for them. Why can't they just work?*

Anna: *Maybe he can't. Maybe he's got problems.*

Tom: *Problems? You're kidding. He's just lazy.*

Anna: *Oh, so you know all about it then!*

Tom: *What do you mean by that?*

Anna: *Nothing. It's just that you seem to know everything. That bloke there is probably really poor, and simply can't find any work.*

Tom: *Yeah, but how do you know?*

Anna: *That's just it. You can't know. So you might just be walking straight past someone who really needs help.*

Tom: *So you give money to anyone who asks for it?*

Anna: *Yes, if I can. Not much, a few pence, but something. Or at least I answer politely. It's horrible if you don't even speak to them.*

Tom: *Oh right. So now you smile and give money left, right and centre. You've got to be a millionaire to walk around with you.*

Anna: *If you haven't got enough money to walk, why don't you take a taxi?*

Look at the suggested answers on the next page.

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Anna: *If you haven't got enough money to walk, why don't you take a taxi?*

Anna thinks that it's important to give a little bit of money to people who ask for it in the street. She believes that some people have real problems, and can't find work. She likes to talk to them at least. She thinks it's wrong to ignore them.

Tom doesn't agree with her. He thinks people should be able to look after themselves. If people haven't got a job, it's because they're too lazy or good for nothing to get one.

What do you do when you meet a beggar in the street?

Do you have friends or family who don't think the same as you?

Here are some ideas for your answers. You can choose more than one.

I say hello, or something kind.

I never give anything.

I smile at them.

I don't say anything.

I give a few pence if I can.

I pretend I haven't seen them and wait till they go away.

I give what I can: a cigarette, a sweet or something like that.

If I don't give anything I feel ashamed of myself.

It depends on what he or she looks like.

I like to look generous in front of my friends. So I give some money.

They make me angry. I feel like shouting at them.

I show that I haven't got any money on me.

If he or she is really poor, I give something.

It depends on how I feel.

How can you explain all these different opinions? Talk about it with your teacher or the class.

Roger and Christine are queuing outside the cinema. Roger is wearing a tie. Christine is wearing a skirt and jacket. They're going to see an old Hitchcock film.

Momo and Nicky are also queuing. They're wearing jeans and old trainers. Momo's cap is on sideways. They're going to see "Terminator 3".

They wait. Momo catches Roger's eye for a brief instant.

Momo: Did you see the look he gave me?

Nicky: Who?

Momo: That old man over there. The one in the other queue.

Nicky: Leave it. He's not worth it.

Momo: No, I don't like him looking at me like that. He's looking down his nose at me. Who does he think he is? With his tie, and his old lady. Look, now she's starting.

Nicky: Leave it, I said. They're just stupid.

Momo: I don't like being looked at.

Nicky: Come on, we don't care. Hey, I've got something to tell you...

She whispers something in his ear. They both laugh.

At the same time, in the other queue.

Roger: There's a young lad behind you. He's giving me a funny look. I don't like it.

Christine (looking round quickly): Yes. He does seem a bit hyped up. Turn round this way. Don't let yourself get worked up over a job like that... (she looks at Momo again) ...who's just trying to impress his girlfriend.

Roger: Even so. Where's this world going to? A young arrogant good-for-nothing trying to get at me like that. And what for? I'm blowed if I know.

Christine: and going to see films like that won't help them. "Terminator 3." I ask you!

Roger: And just look at the way they're dressed! Honestly! Where's this country going to?

Christine: Yes my poor darling husband. It's going to the dogs! Now why don't you be a dear, and go and get me an ice-cream.

Go to the next page.

What do your friends think of old people? What about you? Write down some ideas.

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What do old people think of the younger generation? Again, write down some ideas.

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Norbert, Crosspatch and Rosie are coming out of a shop. Crosspatch is looking really angry.

Norbert: Hey, you really let her have it!

Crosspatch: Come on she was really annoying: change, she wanted! She's the one that should have change... She's the shopkeeper, not me.

Rosie: Come off it! Poor woman, she didn't say anything wrong...

Crosspatch: Well, she shouldn't do that! And she should be more energetic. There are too many soft-headed people around.

Rosie: What are you like? Calm down a bit! Why are you always shouting?

Crosspatch: I don't know. I just refuse to be a hypocrite.

Norbert: You can be sincere without attacking people, you know.

Rosie: Yes, and without shouting all the time.

Crosspatch: Yeah, I know. I just hate people that are soft in the head.

Rosie: Being kind or friendly isn't being soft in the head.

Crosspatch: Yeah, well each to his own. You're nice, I'm irritable. Anyway, I like it when the going gets rough. You can have a good laugh.

Rosie: Maybe. But one day you might need that woman. Then you'll regret it. What about the other day? You couldn't decide if you wanted the paper or the magazine.

Crosspatch: Yeah, so?

Norbert: So, she could have sent you packing.

Crosspatch: You're not going to start on at me, are you?

Norbert and Rosie, laughing: Here we go again. You're heading straight for a heart attack!!

Crosspatch, mumbling: Heart attack! Yeah, great, thanks a lot...

Which characters do not agree?

What is Crosspatch's opinion?

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What is Rosie's opinion?

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What is Norbert's opinion?

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What is the reason for their disagreement?

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Which characters do not agree? **Crosspatch doesn't agree with Rosie and Norbert.**

What is Crosspatch's opinion? ...**He thinks it's wrong to be a hypocrite...**

...and pretend to be nice.....

What is Rosie's opinion?**She thinks you can be sincere and friendly**

.....**at the same time.....**

What is Norbert's opinion? **He thinks you don't have to be aggressive**

.....**to be sincere.....**

What is the reason for their conflict? ...**Crosspatch overreacted, as usual,**

...and got angry. The others say he shouldn't have.

<i>900 exercises for Vocational Communication</i>	Exercise	E1 / 43-1.5
		Eval.:

Skinflint or spendthrift?

Two friends come out of a supermarket.

Fred: No, money doesn't grow on trees. I don't like spending it if I don't have to. You've got to enjoy life. But there are fun things to do that don't cost money. You just have to look, that's all.

Jimbo: Oh sure. You don't have to go to the pub. You can just sit on a bench with the tramps. Just watch the cars go by. Fascinating. Oh yes, there are bikes as well. Variety being the spice of life, and all that.

Fred: No, wait. If it's only a choice between spending and being bored out of your mind... That's a bit sad. But things are happening everywhere. There are people to talk to, things to look at. You don't have to spend money for that.

Jimbo: You sound just a little bit of a skinflint, you know.

Fred: No, I just prefer to keep my money. As I said, it doesn't grow on trees. I work hard for it. And there are so many people just out to take your money. They sell you stuff you don't need. Well, I don't need them!

Jimbo: Yeah, maybe. But that's life. You take a risk. Sometimes you're right, sometimes you're wrong. It's like going on a roundabout: you don't actually win anything. But you've had a good time. You're alive!

Fred: Right. And the other bloke is alive too. And having fun with your money!

Jimbo: So, you can give the stuff you don't need to your mates. You know, you can't take your money with you when you go...

Fred: And when your money runs out, what will you do?

Jimbo: Like you. I'll sit on a bench and watch the cars go by.

What are the different opinions?

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Which one do you agree with? Why?

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Show your work to the teacher.

Sport should be physical. It should involve effort. Like running, or weightlifting.

Or should the effort be in the mind? Calculation, cunning. Like fishing. Or chess.

There are a lot of different opinions on what sport should be. Almost as many opinions as there are people.

What do you think? What do your friends think?

If you are in a group, ask the others for their opinions.

What do the members of your family think?

Write down the different opinions you find.

Who do you agree with? Did anyone manage to make you change your mind? Why, or why not?

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