

ESL ROLE PLAYS FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS

40 GREAT ROLE PLAYS FOR ESL CLASSES



This sample worksheet contains six role playing situations from the book "[ESL role plays for English teachers: 40 great role plays for ESL classes.](#)"

Each role plays presents some useful vocabulary, each student role and a *let's go further* twist the teacher may use to keep conflict going.

I hope you find these activities to be engaging and enriching for your students. Let the action begin!

Isaac Bueso

**(Almost) Normal
situations**

Technical service call

Useful vocabulary: technical service, technician, brand new, work as a charm, power up, refund, recover

Student A: The user

Not even a week ago you bought a brand-new computer. Compared to the old one, it works as a charm and you're very happy with it. You were just using it a moment ago when suddenly it has gone off. When you power it up again, nothing works. Programs do not open, you can't write, screen looks very dark... Eventually, you decide to call the technical service. They either help you fix the problem or you're going to ask for a refund.

Student B: The technician

You work as a computer technician for a computer company. Your task is to deal with customers by phone and try to solve their problems. One customer calls. Listen to his problem and try to help him. Ask what is wrong, how it happened, whether the computer got hit, if he has visited websites with viruses... whatever you can think of. Finally, try to give him a solution.

Let's go further: After following the technician's advice, the computer works fine again, however... all your documents have been deleted! The user has to deliver a project tomorrow so he asks the technician how to recover his files.

Meeting with parents

Useful vocabulary: devil, breaking point, behavior, improvement, to expel, exemplary, household chores, to have it in for somebody

Student A: The teacher

There's a child in your class who is the devil himself. He doesn't work, he talks all the time, he bothers other classmates, he fights... a disaster. The situation has reached a breaking point and you have decided to talk to his parents. Tell them about their child's behavior in class and that if there is no improvement you'll have to expel him from school for a while.

Student B: The father/mother

Your child's teacher has called you to a meeting. According to what he told you on the phone, it seems that does your son doesn't behave appropriately. But that's just impossible. At home, your son is an exemplary child. He helps with the household chores, he is very polite and he always does his homework. May it not be that the teacher has it in for him? In any case, it is clear that this teacher doesn't know how to deal with children. Listen to what he has to say and tell him what you think.

Let's go further: The teacher reviews his notebook and realizes that... he has called the wrong parents!

Sell a product

Useful vocabulary: supplies, sale, to go through the roof, to deal with, to be reluctant, bribe

Student A: The salesman

You are the salesman of a company that sells office supplies. Today you have a sales visit to a very big company. If you get this company to buy office supplies from you it will be the sale of the year. Profits are going to go through the roof. Talk to them about how good your supplies are, what kind of things you can offer them, why the competition stuff is the worst, etc. Eventually, get them to sign the contract.

Student B: The possible buyer

You are in charge of hiring suppliers for a large multinational company. That means you deal with a lot of money. Today you have the visit from a salesman who sells office supplies. You are interested in his products but you want to get the best deal. And given how much money you are going to spend, you have power to negotiate. Try to get the lowest possible price. If the salesman is reluctant to lower prices, tell him you know other sellers who offer the same products cheaper.

Let's go further: The buyer suggests a deal to the salesman. He will sign the contract if the salesman pays him a \$5000 bribe without anyone knowing.

**Not so normal
situations**

The (in)experienced ice skater

Useful vocabulary: to approach, to make a fool of yourself, to claim, to be charming, to gather, at all costs

Student A: The boy

The girl you like practices ice skate. To impress her, you have told her that you are an expert ice skater. The reality, however, is that you have not worn skates in your whole life. Today after school she has approached you and she has asked you to go skating with her. If you accept you will make a fool of yourself, so you have to invent all kinds of excuses not to go without it looking like you don't want to go.

Student B: The girl

You practice ice skating quite often and there is a boy in your class who claims to be very good. The truth is that he is very handsome and charming and you really want to go skating with him. Today you have gathered enough courage to ask him. He doesn't seem to be looking forward to it, but you want him to come at all costs.

Let's go further: Eventually, fearing that the girl may lose interest in him, the boy agrees to go. As expected, he looks tremendously ridiculous. He is obviously not an expert. Not even a beginner. The boy tries to justify himself.

The inconvenient tow truck

Useful vocabulary: tow truck, car pound, downtown, misunderstanding, fee, no matter what

Student A: The driver

You take your car to go downtown to do some shopping. It is often difficult to find a parking spot but today you parked right in front of the store. What a satisfaction. However, when you return to the car... It's not there! It has been towed, but you are sure you have parked correctly. You go to the car pound. Explain the misunderstanding to the manager and get him to let you go without paying.

Student B: The car pound manager

You are the manager of a car pound. Every day angry people come because the tow truck has taken their car. Today is no exception. Is it your fault if they park in prohibited areas? Of course not. One of them wants to get his car without paying the fee because he says he had parked correctly. Yeah, sure. Like it is the first time you hear that. Tell him that if he wants to get his car he must pay no matter what.

Let's go further: When the driver is eventually going to get his vehicle... it is damaged! The tow truck hit it several times while carrying it to the pound.

The locked astronaut

Useful vocabulary: astronaut, expedition, to land, spaceship, to run out of, to take off

Student A: Astronaut #1

You're an astronaut and you are part of an expedition sent to a distant planet. Your spaceship just landed and the other astronaut is already outside. Suddenly, you get a message from Earth. There seems to be a toxic substance in the atmosphere of this planet. If your partner reenters, the entire ship will be contaminated and you both will die. You lock the door. Explain the situation to your partner by radio.

Student B: Astronaut #2

You're an astronaut on a special mission to a distant planet. The spaceship just landed and you have gone outside to inspect the surface. After collecting some samples, you decide it's time to go back in but the spaceship door doesn't open. It's locked from the inside! Use your radio to ask your partner to open the door. You must hurry, you are running out of oxygen!

Let's go further: They call again from Earth. There's been a mistake. There is actually no toxic substance. Astronaut #2 enters without problem. However, it seems that there is too much weight on the ship for it to be able to take off and come back. One of the two astronauts must stay there.