

B1 Speaking – Developing Discussion Skills

Aims: To stimulate a discussion on values

Length of lesson: 60 mins

Level/age: Teenagers/Adults

Language: *It was his/her fault; S/he was the most to blame; He was innocent; Everyone is responsible for his/her actions; He was only doing his job.*

Materials: The Bridge – story and T/F questions. (The bridge picture was taken from clipart)
Ranking cards
Teachers' Notes
White/smartboard

Preparation: If you are doing this as a listening comprehension leading into speaking skills, you need only photocopy the ranking cards. **Before you read the story, make sure you have also completed a ranking card.**
If you prefer to do it as a reading exercise, then photocopy The Bridge story and T/F questions.

Procedure:

Warmer: Tell the sts they are going to listen to a story about a bridge. There are 5 characters, a husband, a wife, a lover, a boatman and a soldier. In pairs discuss what they think might happen. General feedback, T boards some of the ideas.

1. Read the story to the sts and tell them to take notes about what happened. Is it anything like any of their ideas? – refer back to what you have boarded.
2. Put sts in pairs, and from their combined notes they try to reconstruct the story. If they are still missing parts of the story, read it again so that they can fill their gaps.
3. Read out the statements on The Bridge handout and the sts individually write whether they are true or false. Compare with a partner and then get general feedback.
4. Sts individually rank the characters from 1-5 as to whom they think was more or least (5=more, 1=least) to blame for the woman's death on their ranking card. When everyone has finished (5mins max) put sts in small groups to compare their rankings and try and reach a consensus.

Sts fill in group ranking on their card. (If you have a 90 minute lesson or sts are of a higher level, after Step 4, you can regroup the sts and each student takes it in turns to role-play one of the characters while the other members of the group ask him/her questions).

5. Each group feeds back to the class their rankings and why. After hearing all the groups, sts make their final decision individually on their card – is it the same as their first ranking?

Follow up/hwk: Sts write a newspaper report on the death of the woman on the bridge.

Contributed by Hasan Ahmet, Sussex
(adapted from Wingate, J. (2012) *Knowing Me Knowing You*. Delta Publishing)
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Teacher's Notes

Context:

This story was given to undergraduates at Oxford University who were studying law. The aim was to show them that different people with the same information can come to very different conclusions about who is to blame in a hypothetical situation.

The suggestion is that your list reveals your values. The person you blame most for the woman's death, (the person you gave as number 5) represents the attribute you value least. The person you blame least represents the attribute you value most.

The attributes associated with the characters are:

- the woman = individual choice
- the husband = marriage
- the lover = sexual freedom
- the boatman = money
- the soldier = law and order

B1 Speaking – Teenagers' Discussion Skills

The Bridge

A woman lived with her husband in a town beside a river. One day her husband went away for three months. While her husband was away, the woman took a lover, who lived across the bridge on the other side of the river.



One day while she was with her lover, the woman heard that her husband was coming home. She left her lover and tried to cross the bridge. But now there was a soldier on the bridge. The soldier said, 'Stop. I have orders that no-one must cross the bridge. If you try to cross the bridge I will shoot you.'

Near the bridge was a boat. The woman told the boatman she needed to cross the river. The boatman said he would take her across the river, if she paid him \$100. The woman didn't have \$100, so she asked her lover to give her the money, but he refused.

The woman tried to cross the bridge. The soldier shot her dead.

True/false questions

1. The woman's husband took a lover.
2. The lover lived on the other side of the bridge.
3. The boatman wanted £100 to take the woman across the river.
4. Her lover gave her the money.
5. The soldier had orders to shoot anyone who tried to cross the bridge.
6. The soldier shot the lover dead.

(adapted from Wingate, J. (2012) *Knowing Me Knowing You*. Delta Publishing)

B2 Speaking – Ranking card

	First list	Group list	Final list
Wife
Husband
Lover
Soldier
Boatman

	First list	Group list	Final list
Wife
Husband
Lover
Soldier
Boatman

	First list	Group list	Final list
Wife
Husband
Lover
Soldier
Boatman