

Role Plays for Today

by Jason Anderson

DELTA Publishing 2006

1-900783-99-1

This attractively designed photocopiable resource book will prove invaluable for anyone who would like to use role plays in their classroom. It provides a bank of around 40 role plays which can be used with teenage and adult students from elementary to advanced level.

The admirably clear teacher's notes indicate what level each role play is suitable for (this information is also given in tabular form in the handy 'at a glance' Contents pages). Most are suitable for at least three levels of student, a flexibility which many teachers will appreciate.

The role plays themselves are grouped into five categories: Services (covering practical issues, leisure and travel), Shopping (including supermarkets, clothes and restaurants), Social life (going out, friends and relationships), Lifestyle (work, accommodation and education) and Creative role plays (including a murder mystery, political debate and a TV chat show). There is plenty here to capture the attention of the most jaded teenager and get them talking in class!

Role plays can be great fun, but they can also have enormous pedagogical value and one good feature of this book is the emphasis on target language, key expressions and functions likely to be encountered and used whilst performing the role plays. A useful index at the back indicates the role plays which are suited to particular grammatical structures, vocabulary and functions.

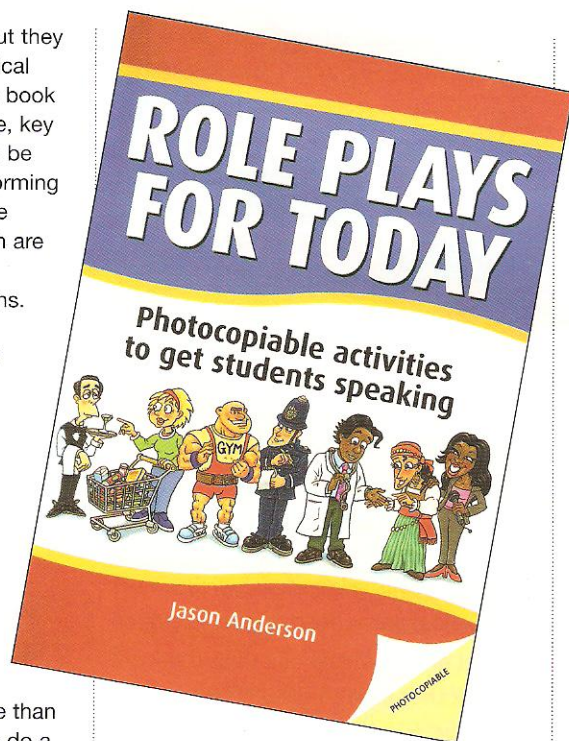
Step-by-step instructions are given for preparing, setting up and running the role plays, as well as useful follow-up suggestions.

Many of the role plays are preceded by a worksheet with a series of exercises to introduce the topic, familiarise the students with vocabulary they will need and act as a warmer. Elsewhere, lead-in activities are suggested in the teacher's notes. This would seem to be an excellent idea as there can be nothing worse than being thrown in at the deep end to do a role play on a subject you know nothing about.

The introduction to the book is also worth reading for its straightforward practical advice on selecting the right role plays to use and making them work in class.

This is a thoroughly well-thought-out and well-designed book which should prove a good addition to any teacher's shelves.

**Nora Delphine
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(KET/PET and Skills for Life Entry Levels 1 and 2). However, the support material is so well structured that the authenticity of the language is unlikely to present a problem and the sense of achievement that students will feel when they find that they can actually understand a native speaker in full flow at natural speed cannot be underestimated.

In *A Typical Day*, five speakers with a variety of British regional accents talk about a typical day in their lives. (The CD containing their monologues/interviews is attached to the inside back cover of the accompanying Teacher's Book.) The first three units, which are graded from easy to more challenging, contain a variety of exploitation exercises. The final two units are for revision purposes. There is only one exercise for each of these and the speakers recycle the grammar and lexis found in the previous three units.

The first speaker is Dorothy, a retired headmistress, originally from Yorkshire, but who moved to London in the 1950s. She has a neutral accent and speaks slowly and clearly, which makes her a good choice for the first unit of the book. Before they hear the full monologue, the students are invited to listen to short phrases from it so that they can underline the stressed words. Next they do an

A Typical Day

by Sheila Thorn

The Listening Business 2006

1-905848-01-3 (Student's Book)

1-905848-00-5 (Teacher's Book with CD)

This entertaining book, in the *Real Lives, Real Listening* series, gives students the chance to hear 100 per cent authentic unscripted spoken English in a variety of regional and international accents. This might seem rather a daunting prospect, especially as the author indicates that the book is intended for fairly low-level students

