



Teacher's Guide



Welcome to the **Host Family** activity in the **Communicative Activity Pack** series. This activity provides students with a goal directed, communicative task which will introduce them to vital words and sentence patterns related to family life, and give them practice putting them into use in a communicative setting. *Host Family* helps develop students' strategic English by allowing them to practice requests, compliments, invitations, complaints etc. The following instructions describe a method which has proved successful in classroom tests.

Please look at the cards, since they contain a full explanation of the activity, and then:

1. Give each student an *information/practice* card. Explain the useful words, model the practice conversations and get the students to practice them and ask questions.
2. If you have a large class, divide the class into groups of up to 10 students – the more students per group the better. Use one pack per group, keeping cards from different packs separate.
3. Give each student a character card and an approximately equal number of object cards, it does not matter which object cards they receive.
4. If there are fewer than 10 people in the group then the leftover characters will simply not be present. You could explain that they are out at the moment.
5. Go through the layout of the cards with the students, explaining that at the top are instructions for what to do, in the middle are scripts for what to say, and at the bottom are some things that their character likes or dislikes. These likes and dislikes will help students decide whether to accept or refuse invitations, requests etc.
6. Give the students plenty of time to read their cards and ask questions if there is anything they do not understand.
7. When the students are ready, it is time to start the activity. Ask them to stand up, walk around within their group, and try to talk to everyone else in their group. When they finish they can sit down. If there are spare character cards, students who finish early could take on a new role.
8. While the students are involved in the activity, you can mingle with them to answer questions, point out mistakes or ask them questions about what they are doing.
9. Some students will be waiting until the partner they want to talk with is free. You might consider making a 'waiting room' in a corner of the classroom so that students can easily find partners who are free.
10. This game can be played several times within the same group, so long as the students receive different character cards.
11. To encourage the students to use language creatively rather than just reading, the *character cards* can be folded in half so that students cannot see the scripts. Perhaps this could be done on the second or third time they carry out the activity.