unit

I'd rather not say!

Aims

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Practice giving an approximate answer or avoiding answering questions.

Language focus

Functions

Answering and avoiding answering

Set-up

Pair work

Lesson link

For use after Unit 8, Lesson B

Time

25 minutes

Preparation

Duplicate the worksheets and cut the role cards apart. Make enough for each student to have one card.

Procedure

- 1. Tell students they are going to do a role play to practice giving an approximate answer or avoiding answering a question.
- 2. Put students in pairs. Give each student a role card. There are two situations, 1 and 2. In each pair, one student should have the Student A card for a situation, and the other student should have the Student B card for the same situation.
- 3. Have students read the information on their card. Answer any questions about vocabulary. Tell students not to look at their partner's card.
- 4. Explain that Students A will ask questions, and Students B will either give an approximate answer based on the information on the card or avoid answering the question. Elicit language from Lesson B that students can use to do this (*I'd say about* . . . , *Probably* . . . , *I'd rather not say*, *I'd prefer not to say*.).

- 5. Have students role play the situations in pairs. As students are working, walk around to monitor the activity and help as needed. Make sure students understand that they should give approximate not exact answers and that they should avoid answering some questions. Make note of any errors or problems to review later.
- 6. After about 10 minutes, collect and redistribute the cards. Students who had Situation 1 the first time should now have Situation 2, and they should change roles so that both students practice asking and answering the questions.
- 7. To end the activity, have a few pairs perform their conversations for the class.
- 8. **Option:** As a follow up, ask students which questions they avoided answering and why.

I'd rather not say!

SITUATION 1 Student A

unit

Your friend has just started a new job, and you want to know all about it!

Ask your friend:

- What kind of company is it?
- How many people work there?
- What is your boss like? How old is she?
- How much vacation do you get?
- What is your salary? Do you get a bonus? How much?
- I want to work there! Can you give me your boss's email so I can ask her for a job?

SITUATION 2 Student A

Your co-worker is going to get married soon, and you want to know all about the wedding!

Ask your co-worker:

- Who are you going to marry?
- What does this person do? How much money does he / she make?
- How much did the ring cost?
- When and where is the wedding going to be?
- Are you stressed about the wedding plans? Is anyone arguing about it?
- How many people are coming to the wedding? Are you going to invite anyone from the office?

SITUATION 1 Student B

You have just started a new job, and your friend is going to ask you all about it!

If you don't want to answer a question, you can avoid it. Here is some information about the job:

- Company: Cambridge Ad Agency
- 100-200 people work for the agency.
- Your boss is a really funny woman named Amber. She looks like she's in her early 30s.
- Your salary is \$52,300. You get three weeks of vacation and a 4.5% bonus in December.
- Your boss's email is amber@cambridge.org.

SITUATION 2 Student B

You are getting married soon, and your co-worker is going to ask you all about it!

If you don't want to answer a question, you can avoid it. Here is some information:

- You are going to marry someone named Pat.
- Pat is a teacher at a local high school and makes \$57,400 a year.
- The ring cost \$1,480.
- The wedding is going to be on June 17 in a pretty garden 145 km from town.
- You are very stressed about the wedding, and you and Pat often argue about it.
- About 100 people are coming to the wedding. You are going to invite a few co-workers, but *not* the person you're talking to.