

Dr. BRR GOVT DEGREE COLLEGE JADCHERLA

Department of English



A PROJECT REPORT

ON

GETTING SOMEONE'S ATTENTION AND INTERRUPTING

Submitted By


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DECLARATION

We are hereby declare that the study project: **GETTING SOMEONE'S ATTENTION AND INTERRUPTING**

is a record of work done by us under the supervision of *Dr.P. Narahari Murthy*, Asst.Prof. in English, Government Degree College, Jadcherla, Mahabubnagar District and that the project has not been previously done by any others in this college and any other college/University.

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Date : 27/06/2022

Place : Jadcherla

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the Study project on **GETTING SOMEONE'S ATTENTION AND INTERRUPTING**

is a bonafide Project work done by B.A I students listed below,

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under my supervision in Government Degree College, Jadcherla, Telangana.

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GETTING SOMEONE'S ATTENTION AND INTERRUPTING

Generally speaking, it's rude to interrupt someone, right?

But this question is a perfect example of when it's necessary to interrupt: you're on a phone call or in a meeting and you need to share an important message, like the need to leave early.

There are three common reasons why it may be necessary to interrupt someone. You need or want to:

- Share an important message
- Ask a question or clarify something
- Join a conversation or express your opinion on the topic

The key is knowing how to interrupt someone **politely**. There are some essential tips and common phrases we use in English.

Ways to Interrupt Someone Politely in English

When you need to deliver a message:

- I hate to interrupt but I wanted to let you know I have to leave the meeting early.
- I'm so sorry to interrupt but...
- I don't mean to be rude but may I interrupt quickly?

When you need to end a conversation:

- I'm terribly sorry to interrupt you but I have to be at work for a meeting shortly and must *get going*. It was wonderful to see you. Have a nice day. (Note: In this context, to get going means to depart or leave.)
- Oh! Sorry to interrupt but I just noticed the time and I need to get to work. I'm very sorry. But it was great chatting with you.

When you need to ask a question or would like to clarify something:

- Sorry to interrupt but may I ask a quick question?
- I'm so sorry for interrupting but I'd like to make sure I understood you correctly.
- I don't mean to be rude but I'd like to ask a question.

When you want to join a conversation or express your opinion:

- So sorry to interrupt but before we *move on*, I'd like to add my thoughts on this topic. (Note: to move on means to start doing or discussing something new.)
- Excuse me but may I jump in here?
- May I add something quickly?

Getting Someone's Attention and Interrupting

Sometimes, when you need to speak urgently to a person who is busy doing something or talking to someone else, you have to get their attention by interrupting politely. You also need to be able to handle an interruption yourself. These are skills that every speaker of English will need to learn and practise, and this section will help you do so. Read the dialogues below, paying special attention to the phrases in bold.

Dialogue 1 (formal)

Razia wants to get the attention of her science teacher, who is in the staff room correcting examination scripts.

- Razia **Excuse me, ma'am. I know (that) you're busy, but may I speak to you for a moment?**
- Teacher **Yes, Razia? What can I do for you?**
- Razia **It's about** the chart for the science exhibition. Can I make one with pictures of what a healthy diet should include?
- Teacher I think that's a good idea, Razia. The chart will look attractive with pictures.
- Razia **Thank you, ma'am. Sorry to have bothered you.**
- Teacher **That's all right.**

Dialogue 2 (formal)

Manjula needs to deliver a message to the principal, who is in a staff meeting. She stands at the door of the staff room to get his attention.

- Principal (noticing Manjula at the door) **Yes, Manjula, what is it?**
- Manjula Sir, **sorry to interrupt, but** someone's come to see you. He's from the Board of Intermediate Education.
- Principal Thank you, Manjula. Please tell him I'll be coming in a minute. He could wait in my office.
- Manjula Yes, sir.

Dialogue 3 (formal)

Roopa interrupts two strangers talking to each other at a bus stop.

- Roopa **Pardon me, but could you tell me** which bus goes to the railway station from here?
- Stranger 47 B.
- Roopa **Thanks. I'm sorry I interrupted your conversation.**
- Stranger **That's okay.**

Dialogue 4 (informal)

Veena is among her friends. Something occurs to her suddenly and she butts into the conversation to ask a question.

- Veena **Just a minute.** Does anyone know if Mrs Sharma is leaving for Allahabad tomorrow?
- Naresh I think she is.
- Veena **Thanks.** I need to send a packet for Sunder with her. **Sorry, what were we talking about? Oh, yes, the movie ...**

Dialogue 5 (informal)

Lubna walks up to her friends who are chatting over coffee in the canteen.

- Lubna **Sorry, am I interrupting?** I came to ask if some of you could come to the college on Sunday. We need people to help us decorate the place for the Independence Day celebrations.
- Tony **Sure, we can come. What time?**



Listen

Listen to the podcast from 02:00 > 05:04 and tick the phrases that you hear.

After you have finished listening to the podcast, look up the phrases and fill in the gaps.

Phrases for interrupting

- Excuse me, could I just say ...
- Sorry, I didn't catch that, can you tell me that again.
- I'm sorry to interrupt, but ...
- Do you mind if I cut in for a moment?
- Sorry for butting in, but I'd just like to say ...

Phrases for getting back to your topic

- Where was I?
- Anyway ...
- As I was saying ...
- I was just getting to that.
- Can I get back to what I was talking about?

Speaking

In pairs, decide who is going to speak and who is going to interrupt. Take turns to pick a topic and try to speak about it for a minute while your partner interrupts and tries to stop you from saying anything.

<i>Favourite footballer or football team</i>	<i>The last party you went to</i>	<i>First time on a plane</i>	<i>Favourite food or drink</i>
<i>Something in the news that made you laugh</i>	<i>Favourite musician or band</i>	<i>An unusual place you've visited recently</i>	<i>First trip to another country</i>
<i>The strangest / funniest person in your family</i>	<i>First English conversation</i>	<i>Favourite book or film</i>	<i>The best football match you've ever seen</i>

Premier Skills English

Teaching Speaking - Interrupting

Introduction

This lesson focuses on speaking skills, specifically on the language we need when we want to interrupt someone and the words and phrases we need to return to a previous topic. There are worksheets for you to download and print and you can choose to listen to the audio online on the Premier Skills English website or download and use offline in the classroom.

Level

B1/B2 (intermediate/upper-intermediate)

Age group

Teenagers and adults

Aims

1. To practise speaking when interrupted.
2. To learn how to interrupt in a polite way.
3. To learn words and phrases to return to a previous topic.

Approximate time

40 - 60 mins.

This lesson is flexible, and the length will depend on the level of your learners. If your students are stronger, you may want to drop the language focus.

Materials

- Worksheet 1: Comic, activities and speaking game (student version)
- Worksheet 2: Comic, activities and speaking game (teacher version)
- Premier Skills English podcast: Speaking Skills - Interrupting

Preparation

- Read this plan, and familiarise yourself with the topic.
- Make copies of worksheets.
- Download the podcast to play on a phone / tablet or listen to it online

Procedure

1. Joke

Listen to the beginning of the podcast. Rich tells Jack a joke about a cow. Play the podcast from 0:00 to 0:41. Give out the comic strip without the text (worksheet) and ask learners to complete the joke.

Ask them if they think it is funny or silly or both.

2. Introduction:

Tell your students that the topic of the lesson is interrupting.

Write the word interrupt on the board. Draw two circles and write who and why in the middle of the circles.

Ask learners to brainstorm ideas about who they might interrupt (e.g. a teacher, someone in the street) and why they might interrupt (they are in a rush, something is very important) and why.

Procedure

3. Interrupting 1

Play the next part of the podcast - 02:00 > 05:04.

In this section, Jack interrupts Rich a lot. Ask learners to listen and ask them to tell a partner what topic Rich was talking about and why Jack was interrupting.

4. Language

Write on the board the following sentences.

Sorry for interrupting but why didn't you invite me to the match?

Not far from Madrid, yes. **Anyway, as I was saying**, they're ...

Explain to learners that the first phrase in the first sentence is used to interrupt and the phrases in the second sentence are used to get back to the topic.

5. Worksheet

Give your students the worksheet.

Play the same section again 02:00 > 05:04. Tell learners to look at the *phrases to interrupt* and *phrases to return to a previous topic* on the worksheet.

Students listen and tick the phrases that they hear. Ask students to complete the gaps.

6. Listen

Ask your learners to listen to a game about interrupting. Learners need to listen and when the section finishes they have to tell each other how to play the game.

7. Play the interrupting game

Play the podcast from 07:15 > 09:48.

Tell the learners it's their turn to play the game. Tell them to look at the worksheet again. Tell them to look at the list of topics. Decide who will speak about the topic and who is going to interrupt. The speaker needs to look at the phrases to return to a previous topic and the interrupter needs to look at the phrases to interrupt.

Remember to give the speaker 30 seconds to think about the topic.

Partners change roles when they finish.

Continue until learners have spoken about most or all of the topics.

8. Homework / Follow-up

There are discussion questions on the Premier Skills English podcast page.

Your students are welcome to join in the discussion.

Premier Skills English

Speaking Skills - Interrupting Transcript

Rich: I love knock knock jokes.

Jack: What?

Rich: Knock, knock jokes. You know ... I say knock, knock you say who's there and ...

Jack: I know knock, knock jokes. Have you got one?

Rich: Yep. Loads. Knock, knock.

Jack: Who's there?

Rich: Water.

Jack: Water who?

Rich: Water you doing in my house!

Jack: Knock, knock jokes are always awful!

Rich: No, they're not. Listen. This is my favourite. Knock, knock.

Jack: Who's there?

Rich: Interrupting cow.

Jack: Interrupting c ...

Rich: Mooooo!

Welcome - Interrupting

Rich: Hello my name's Rich

Jack: and I'm Jack

Rich: and welcome to this week's Premier Skills English podcast

Jack: Where we talk about football and help you with your English.

Jack: What's happening this week, Rich?

Rich: In this week's podcast, we're going to talk about ...

Jack: What are we going to talk about?

Rich: I was just about to say. In this week's podcast, we're going to talk about ...

Jack: I was just getting a bit of revenge for that silly interrupting cow joke.

Rich: Alright ... alright ... In this week's podcast, we're going to talk about the language we use when we want to interrupt somebody.

Jack: That's right. We're going to look at the language of interruption and how we can interrupt somebody politely and not so politely.

Rich: We've got lots of language to teach you and we've got a game you can play with friends or in the classroom that's great for practising your English.

Jack: And don't forget to listen to the end of the podcast because we've got a new football phrase for you too.

Topic Focus

Rich: That cow joke is really funny. I love it.

Jack: It's not that ...

Rich: Moo!

Jack: Stop it. As I was saying, it's not that funny but it does allow us to introduce something that we often need to do in English. We often need to interrupt someone when they are speaking. We might have something important to say or we might want to respond to what a person has just said.

Rich: That's right and when we want to interrupt it's probably best not just to say moo!

Jack: No, probably not!

Rich: Anyway, before we start I'd like to talk about a match that I saw recently. It was ...

Jack: Sorry, which match was it?

Rich: I was just getting to that. It was Tottenham's match against Real Madrid. I went to watch it in a cafe with a couple of friends and I ...

Jack: Sorry for interrupting, but why didn't you invite me?

Rich: Erm ... you're an Arsenal fan you never show much interest in Tottenham matches. In any case, I think it might be too far to meet up to watch a match.

Jack: You're right it is and it's true I didn't watch the match.

Rich: Where was I? Ah yes, the Spurs match. We got a drink but ...

Jack: What did you have?

Rich: I had a coke because I was driving.

Jack: Really not very good for you.

Rich: What?

Jack: Coke - fizzy drinks. They aren't very healthy.

Rich: I know, I know ... but it's not important. Anyway, the cafe was packed and we had to stand to watch the match.

Jack: Could I ask something?

Rich: What? I mean, sure.

Jack: Which cafe did you go to?

Rich: The one by the square.

Jack: Near the fountain?

Rich: No, at the other end. As I was saying...

Jack: It's nice there. You could have invited me.

Rich: Yes. That's why I went. As I was saying, my friends were Real Madrid fans so ...

Jack: Excuse me for butting in. Are your friends from Madrid?

Rich: Not far from Madrid, yes. Anyway, as I was saying, they're Real Madrid fans so they didn't have a great time. I think it was already 2-0 at half-time.

Jack: Actually, just 1-0.

Rich: OK, just 1-0. But in any case, they weren't having much fun and we actually left before Ronaldo scored a consolation goal for Madrid.

Jack: It finished 3-1.

Rich: It did. What did you do yesterday?

Jack: Well, I'm glad that you asked because I went ...

Rich: MOOOOO.

Jack: Not you again.

Language Focus

Jack: In the last section, Rich was speaking about a football match he saw. While he was speaking I interrupted him quite a few times. I used different words and phrases to let Rich know that I wanted to say something.

Rich: After the interruption, I wanted to return to the topic I was speaking about - the football match. To return to the topic I used a few different phrases too.

Jack: Let's start by looking at the phrases that I used to interrupt. The most common way to interrupt someone is to say sorry or excuse me. If you want to be polite you should use these words **all** the time even if you are not sorry!

Rich: Jack said sorry for interrupting and excuse me for butting in and then asked his question.

Jack: Butting in, that's an interesting phrase. It's more common to use it when you want to join a group conversation and if someone says stop butting in the phrase can mean interrupting a conversation in a rude or impolite way.

Rich: But if you say sorry or excuse me and use the phrase yourself it means the same as sorry for interrupting.

Jack: After my interruptions, Rich wanted to return to the topic of the football