



Five College Center for the Study of World Languages

Conversation Preparation Guides

Title: Borrowing a Friend's Car

Topic: Transportation or phone call

Level: Intermediate-Advanced

Practice on Your Own

Imagine a situation where you are calling one of your friends because you want to borrow a car for one day. You have to go to a remote area the next day and there is no public transportation. You have to go by car, but you do not own a car. In some cultures, this is not a big deal.

- Be prepared to tell your friend where you want to go and why you need her/his help. Think of a situation to explain to your friend why you have to go to that place.
- Make a list of words that are difficult or new for you. The list should be in the target language.
- Come up with a dialogue where you call your friend and ask for help. The friend will let you know what she/he can do for you.
- Make a list of things that you find difficult and ask your conversation partner about them.

Practice in Conversation Session

- Be prepared to talk about issues like this with your conversation partner, paying attention to cultural differences.
- Do a role play where your conversation partner will play the role of your friend according to the culture of the country/ies where the language is spoken.
- Do another role play where your conversation partner will call you as a friend and ask for your car for one day. You, according to the culture that you are used to, will answer your friend. See how the conversation on the phone goes. You can ask questions that you might think of about the culture while you do these role plays.