

Spanish Phone Net Project
Lesson Plan Template 16
Higher Level (Abstract)

Phone Conversations Lesson Template

Girl Talk, Boy Talk

(To be used as a lesson in recognizing and understanding gender relations and their effect on conversational interaction in the target culture and in gaining *sociolinguistic competence*)

Preparation

Listen to portions of three conversations – one between two men, one between two women, and one between a male and a female. Review/familiarize yourself with social norms of gender interaction between men and women in the target culture. Download, print and copy lesson worksheet for students.

Objectives

- (1) Students gain a greater awareness of gender relations in the target culture.
- (2) Students enhance their linguistic competence regarding interactional patterns between males, females, and mixed gender groups.

Warm Up (5 Minutes)

Ask students to imagine a conversation between two men in English. What are they talking about? Now ask them to imagine that a female enters the room. How would the conversation change? Why does it change? [The reverse scenario can also be discussed.]

Transition (5 Minutes)

Explain that gender plays a large role in conversations – what people talk about and how. Point out that this is particularly true in the target culture and that there are much stricter rules regarding how men and women interact. Explain some of the more commonly accepted rules.

Listening Activity 1 (10 Minutes)

Play five minutes of a phone conversation between two men. Ask students to listen for things such as: greeting patterns, politeness markers, status markers, formality level, etc. Discuss for five minutes and point out anything that students may have missed.

Listening Activity 2 (10 Minutes)

Play five minutes of a phone conversation between two women. Ask students to listen for things such as: greeting patterns, politeness markers, status markers, formality level, etc. Discuss for five minutes and point out anything that students may have missed. How did the women's conversation differ from the men's?

Listening Activity 3 (10 Minutes)

Play five minutes of a phone conversation between a man and a woman. Ask students to listen for things such as: greeting patterns, politeness markers, status markers, formality level, etc. How is this exchange the same as the other two? How is it different? What additional "rules" did students notice about mixed gender interaction?

Wrap Up

Summarize/discuss important patterns of gender interaction and reinforce the importance of adhering to these social norms when living and working in the target culture. Encourage students to continue to use the LingNet website and resources to practice listening to Spanish dialects by noting how conversations change based on who is speaking.