

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

**Phone Conversations Lesson Template**

***Now, Why Would She Say That?***

(To be used as a lesson in recognizing and understanding cultural referents in authentic dialog in order to gain *cultural competence*)

**Preparation**

Make a list of statements in the selected phone conversation that require cultural background knowledge to understand correctly. Download, print, and copy accompanying lesson worksheet for students.

**Objectives**

- (1) Students recognize statements that are not literal in nature require more context.
- (2) Students enhance their cultural competence related to the target culture.

**Warm Up**

Ask students to imagine that they are teaching English in the target country. Their lesson is on English phrases that require cultural background to understand. Have them brainstorm the list and teach it to you, answering your questions.

**Transition**

Explain that all naturally occurring language contains cultural referents and that this activity is designed to help them recognize such situations and strengthen their cultural awareness.

**Listening Activity**

Pass out the prepared list and tell students that you will be listening to a naturally occurring conversation. When you get to each selected phrase in the conversation, stop the audio and ask for guesses as to what the person might be referring to. Encourage speculation about history, daily life, customs, holidays, etc. before giving the answer.

**Wrap Up**

Summarize/discuss important/common referents in the daily conversations of speakers of the target dialect. Encourage students to continue to use the LingNet website and resources to practice listening to Arabic dialects by noting how conversations change based on who is speaking.