

Ma France en classe

Unité 22 : L'hôtel

Activities based on this unit will help your learners to:

- *Ask for what they need in a hotel*
- *Make polite requests using the conditional tense*

Here are some suggestions for using the films and activities in the classroom. There are so many ways of exploiting the material; don't forget to let us know if you think of more.

Introduce the theme

- Show the very beginning of Video A and pause on the picture of the Hotel, La Résidence. Revisit previously learnt vocabulary by inviting everyone to mind-map (in pairs, small groups or whole class,) the things one might ask for in a hotel.
- Play vocab bingo: each learner chooses 3 of the expressions he/she thinks will come up in a film about hotels. Watch the clip and listen out for the chosen words, ticking them off as they are heard. The first to tick all three predicted expressions is the winner.

Asking for things ... and saying thank you

- Write up on the board the following expression
 - « *Est-ce qu'il y a ?* »
 - « *Est-ce qu'il serait possible ... ?* »
 - « *Est-ce que vous pourriez ... ?* »

Watch/listen to the clip without subtitles and get everyone to listen carefully for the things that are asked for in each way.

Invite suggestions, then watch again pausing at each phrase and showing subtitles to confirm what was asked for.

- Watch/listen to the end of the clip and ask if learners can pick out any of the ways of saying thank you and complimenting the receptionists.
- Assess overall comprehension by asking the Quiz questions; no need to offer the three possible answers unless the learners need a prompt.
- To reinforce these polite requests, try the E-mail activity. If there's no Internet access, give out printed versions as a gap-fill task. As a follow up at home, ask learners to compose a similar e-mail with queries about different facilities.
- For more speaking practice and revision of vocabulary, set up a question and answer chain in class. Go to the home-page of the Hôtel La Résidence du Vieux Port: www.hotelmarseille.com/vieuxport/vp_fr/. Click on the Hôtel button on the left, for details of all the facilities and services offered. The page prints out neatly on an A4 page so give a copy to everyone.

Start a chain in which Student 1 asks politely about one of the services, e.g. « *Est-ce qu'il serait possible d'envoyer une télécopie ?* » Student 2 replies appropriately, e.g. « *Oui, pas de problème.* » and then turns to ask Student 3 a different question. The Q & A moves around the class. No repetition of

requests allowed and no one knows in advance just what they'll be asked. Some will feel able to say more than others, but that's quite natural, indeed it's a welcome opportunity for differentiation. You the tutor can intervene if you think someone is getting into difficulty.

All in a day's work

- In Video B, Mélanie and Marie-Noelle talk about some of the situations that arise regularly. Invite suggestions of items that might commonly be left or forgotten in hotel rooms. Run the film a first time asking everyone to listen carefully to see if the receptionists mention those things. What are the other items mentioned?
- Help the learners to follow the detail of the dialogue more easily. Print copies of the French transcript (one for each pair of students) and cut it into question and answer strips. The learners can then work in pairs to try and reassemble the conversation prior to hearing it. Watch and listen to the film to confirm the order.
- Watch the film without subtitles, pausing from time to time. Ask individual learners to read out from the transcript what comes next.
- Show the film again, pausing to do the Comprehension Quiz.
- Challenge the receptionist. Ask group members to work in pairs, spending just 5 minutes composing a list of things they'll need to apologise for, e.g. «*Je suis désolé, mais j'ai cassé la fenêtre, la baignoire a débordé, nous avons perdu la clé.* » Which couple is the most disaster prone?

Consolidation

- The Quiz Culturel reinforces some common hotel vocabulary. Do the drag and drop activity in class and ask learners to compose similar definitions for homework. Use these to challenge other members of the group at the start of the next session.
- Pétanque offers plenty more practice with polite requests in the conditional tense. Encourage everyone to get one right answer before leaving.

For more support

All the activities are available online:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/hotel/activity.shtml>

All transcripts are available online:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/hotel/summary.shtml>