**Adjacency pairs exercises**

Adjacency pairs are a very natural part of conversation. It is important for our students to learn that in any language when a dialogue is happening there are some preferred responses that can follow the beginning utterance on the basis of natural turn-taking in the conversation. If our students learn and understand this they can lead more effective and natural sounding conversations in the target language. The teacher can begin by simply showing the students an example of a short dialogue that follows these rules. Then the teacher can follow with an exercise that focuses on finding and connecting these pairs.

**A simple example of an adjacency pair with a preferred response:**

* *Hi! How are you?*
* *Fine, and you?*

**Connect the following phrases to create short dialogues.**

**1.** What day is it? **a.** Yes, you may.

**2.** May I go now? **b.** Oh, thanks!

**3.** I hope it’ll be sunny! **c.** Thursday

**4.** I really like that shirt. **d.** Yeah, bye!

**5.** See you! **e.** Sure, help yourself.

**6.** Is it okay if I borrow this? **f.** So do I.

It is also highly important (especially in the more advanced levels) that we equip our students with the knowledge of dispreferred responses, so that they are able to respond to them.

Dispreferred responses tend to be more complex, as they are usually not what the first speaker expected or wanted, and so the second speaker needs to soften their response with some kind of apology or explanation. Otherwise, they might be seen as impolite or even aggressive.

**A simple example of an adjacency pair with a dispreferred response:**

* Is it OK if I borrow this?
* I'd rather you didn’t, I need it.

**Connect the following phrases to create short dialogues.**

**a.** Can I help you? **1.** No, that’s her job!

**b.** Come on, try it again! **2.** No, that is Jane’s uncle.

**c.** I hope it’ll be sunny. **3.** I’m just looking, thanks.

**d.** Your job is to get it right! **4.** I’d rather you didn’t, I need it.

**e.** That’s her brother? **5.** No, I cannot do it.

**f.** Is it okay if I borrow this? **6.** I doubt it will be.