

## You can't visit me because ... by Joanna Naporowska

<b>Age:</b>	Teenagers / Adults
<b>Level:</b>	Intermediate + (B1 +)
<b>Time:</b>	45–60 minutes
<b>Objective:</b>	to develop creativity and fluency in writing
<b>Key skills:</b>	writing
<b>Materials:</b>	one copy of the email per pair or small group of students (or you can write your own email); four or five small pieces of paper per pair or small group of students (see note below)

### Before the lesson

Cut out four or five small pieces of paper per pair or small group of students. On each piece of paper, write one meaningful word in English (preferably a noun or a verb). Students will have to include these words in a reply to an email – you can make this activity less challenging, using words like 'sorry' and 'arrange', or more challenging, or even funny, depending on the level and character of your students.






### Procedure

1. Introduce students to this imaginary situation: they get an email from a friend who wants to visit them.
2. Distribute copies of the email from a friend and have students read it – you can use the email provided or write your own. Explain that, now, they will have to answer their friend. They must:
  - say 'no' to the suggested date of the visit;
  - state the reason for this;
  - make an alternative suggestion.
3. Divide your students into pairs or small groups. You should ideally have an even number of pairs or groups.
4. Taking the pieces of paper you prepared earlier, hand out four or five words to each pair or group. Explain to students that their task is to come up with a reason for not being able to receive their friend using the words they have been given. They must then write a response to the email. Remind them that this is an email to a friend so they should use informal language. Don't give students a word limit, but it is definitely reasonable to set a time limit

depending on how much time you have in class.

5. Monitor and help students while they are writing.
6. Once students have finished, they swap emails with another pair or group. Each group then imagines that they are the friend who wants to visit but they have received this negative answer. They reply to the email. Tell the students to make it short (just a few sentences).
7. Students then give their replies to the relevant group and read the response they got from the other group. You can ask for a group to volunteer to read all the emails they sent and received out loud or ask for all groups to do so, if time allows.
8. Note down the most serious errors students made. Discuss the mistakes with the students.

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 Send    Attach    Picture    High Priority  
 Low Priority

To:






Cc:

Subject:

Hi Katie,

I hope this email finds you well. Since we haven't seen each other for quite a while, maybe I could visit you at the beginning of next month for a couple of days? Let me know what you think!

Take care,  
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