

Thank you!

by Lindsay Clandfield

Level: Beginner

Aim: Students learn and practise giving thanks in a variety of situations

Time: 20 minutes

Preparation: Copy and cut out the four situation cards so that there is one card for every two students.

Stage 1

Go round the class, thanking different students. Try to include a couple of different situations. For example:

Thank you very much for coming to class today.

Can I borrow your pen? Thanks a lot.

Thank you for the homework.

Thanks for doing the homework.

Is this for me [gesturing to something on the table]?

That's very kind of you.

Repeat this several times around the classroom.

Stage 2

Write the following on the board.

T..... you.

T..... you v..... much.

Thanks a l.....

T..... very kind of you.

Thanks for do..... the homework.

Ask students to copy it in their notebooks and complete the gaps. When they have finished, tell them to check in pairs. Ask individual students to come to the board and complete the gaps. Highlight that we use the -ING form of the verb after *Thanks/Thank you for*.

Stage 3

Ask students what people say to respond to thanks. Elicit, or write up, the following responses.

You're welcome.

That's all right.

Don't mention it.

Stage 4

Drill the pronunciation of the phrases. Pay attention to the intonation – a flat intonation while saying "Thank you" can sound disinterested and insincere. The intonation should start high, get higher and fall at the end.

Stage 5

Choose one of the situation cards and go over it with the students. It's best to demonstrate this activity with a 'good' student. Let them read the useful language to do the dialogue a first time, then tell them to fold the card so they can't see the useful language and repeat the dialogue.

Stage 6

Ask the students to work in pairs. Distribute each pair a situation card. Tell them they have three minutes to improvise a short dialogue. They should do it first while referring to the useful language, then again from memory. When they have finished, tell them to exchange cards with another pair and repeat the exercise.

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Situation cards

Situation 1

A: You are saying goodbye to your favourite teacher. Thank him/her.

B: Respond.

Situation 1

Useful language:

Thank you/thanks for teaching us this year.

You're welcome.

Situation 2

A: You borrowed a book from

B. Thank him/her.

B: Respond.

Situation 2

Useful language:

Thanks a lot for the book.

I enjoyed it.

Don't mention it.

Situation 3

A: You are leaving a friend's house after dinner. Thank him/her.

B: Respond.

Situation 3

Useful language:

Thank you very much for dinner. It was very good.

You're welcome.

Situation 4

A: B took you to the airport.

Thank him/her.

B: Respond.

Situation 4

Useful language:

Thanks for taking me to the airport. That's very kind of you.

That's all right.