

Communicative worksheet

Asking for and offering help

1 Ask students to look at the pictures on the story worksheet. Ask:

What kind of problems is Tom facing on his first day at work?

Elicit ideas and useful vocabulary, for example: *fail to access the building, try to reboot/restart his computer, can't get rid of the insect, be blocked in by a car, etc.*

2 Divide the class into pairs. Hand out the Student cards. Ask students to form expressions with the given words. Tell them to think of expressions in section 3d of the Student's Book (page 40), or to improvise their own expressions. In pairs, students check answers and practise saying the expressions.

Answers

Student A

- 1 Can/Could you give me a hand?
- 2 What does that involve?
- 3 What (else) do you suggest?
- 4 I'll give that a try.
- 5 I'm having trouble ... /The trouble is ...

Student B

- 1 Let me have a look.
- 2 There are (two) possibilities.
- 3 You can either ... or ...
- 4 That should do the trick.
- 5 What do you want to do exactly?

3 Ask pairs to choose the role of Tom or his colleague and to prepare expressions that they could use in their conversation. With a strong class, ask students to improvise the conversation in pairs.

With a weaker class, ask students to work in pairs to prepare and write a conversation before acting out.

4 Ask some pairs to act out their improvised or prepared conversation for the class. To create a task for the class, write the following questions on the board and ask students to listen and find the answers:

- 1 *What is Tom's colleague's advice?*
- 2 *Does Tom solve the problem in the end?*

Alternative idea

Make this a mingle. Half the class play Tom, half the class offer help. Tell the students playing Tom to walk around and talk to three different people, asking for advice. In feedback, ask the 'Toms' which piece of advice was most useful.

5 Personalise

Ask students to describe the last time they had to ask for any help at work or college. Ask students if they found the solution in the end. The rest of the class must suggest other solutions for the problem.

6 Writing

Ask students to write the story of Tom's first day at work. Alternatively, ask them to write instructions about how to solve one of the problems Tom has.