Practicing Hedges and Softening Comments

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Step 1: With a partner, read the following dialogues out loud, then discuss what you notice about each one.   
 How would you feel in each case if you were Speaker A?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | A: Say, there’s a big party happening on   Saturday night. Do you want to go with me?  B: No, I don’t. | 5 | A: Oh, I really enjoyed that manga you lent me last   month.  B: Hey! Give it back now! |
| 2 | A: Here’s your change. Thanks for shopping at      Family Mart! Please come again.  B: Hey! You didn’t give me enough money! | 6 | A: So, I’ll see you at the station on Sunday at noon,      right?  B: No. I will be late. |
| 3 | A: Tell me about your new part-time job! For          example, how much money do you make?  B: That’s private information. I don’t want to say. | 7 | A: May I help you?  B: This food I bought yesterday is out of date! |
| 4 | A: Oh, wasn’t that movie great? I loved it! What did      you think?  B: It was terrible. | 8 | A: Hello. What can I do for you?  B: Turn down your music! It’s too loud! |

Step 2: Repeat after your teacher to practice pronunciation of the hedging vocabulary below, then make sure   
 you understand each item. Take notes as needed in the space provided.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type | Examples | Notes |
| Modal  verbs | *can, could, will, would, may, might* |  |
| Nouns, adjectives, adverbs | *a bit, a good deal, kind of, sort of, about, possible, likely, sometimes, generally, perhaps, possibly, pretty, quite, rather, relatively, slightly, roughly, approximately, somewhat, usually* |  |
| Opinion softeners | *I believe, I think, I feel, I suggest, I guess,  I suppose, If you like, If you wouldn’t mind,  I’m afraid, I’m sorry, It’s not my cup of tea* |  |

Note: Other pronouns can be used here, such as *you, he/she/it, we, they*

Step 3: With your partner, take turns re-writing the replies from Step 1 to make them softer and more polite.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | A: Say, there’s a big party happening on   Saturday night. Do you want to go with me?  B: ~~No, I don’t~~.  => No, I’m afraid I can’t. I’m quite busy then. | 5 | A: Oh, I really enjoyed that manga you lent me last   month.  B: ~~Hey! Give it back now~~!  => |
| 2 | A: Here’s your change. Thanks for shopping at      Family Mart! Please come again.  B: ~~Hey! You didn’t give me enough money~~!  => | 6 | A: So, I’ll see you at the station on Sunday at noon,      right?  B: ~~No. I will be late~~.  => |
| 3 | A: Tell me about your new part-time job! For          example, how much money do you make?  B: ~~That’s private information. I don’t want to say~~.  => | 7 | A: May I help you?  B: ~~This food I bought yesterday is out of date!~~  => |
| 4 | A: Oh, wasn’t that movie great? I loved it! What did      you think?  B: ~~It was terrible~~.  => | 8 | A: Hello. What can I do for you?  B: ~~Turn down your music! It’s too loud~~!  => |

Did your classmates come up with other good replies? If so, write them in the spaces provided. Finally, practice these replies by reading each dialog aloud with your partner.

Step 4: With your partner, use the role-playing cards to practice giving softer replies in the situations above.