

Refusal strategies, vocabulary, and model dialogs

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Step 1: Go over the following refusal strategies. Make sure you understand the meaning of all the vocabulary!

Refusal strategy	Example expression	日本語で
Positive response	<i>Umm, that sounds wonderful but...</i>	
	<i>Hm. I'd like to/love to but...</i>	
	<i>Ah, I wish I could, but...</i>	
Thanking	<i>Thank you for the invitation/offer.</i>	
	<i>Thanks, but...</i>	
Apology	<i>Umm, I'm sorry, but...</i>	
Alternative	<i>How about (next weekend)?</i>	
	<i>You could ask (someone else).</i>	
Direct refusal	<i>I can't go.</i>	
	<i>I can't make it.</i>	
Reason	<i>I already have other plans.</i>	
	<i>I have to...</i>	

Have you noticed these refusal strategies before? If so, please share your experience with the class.

Step 2: With a partner, read the model dialogs below, then underline and label each refusal strategy expression like in the example below:

Example:

A: I'm heading to that new restaurant with some friends on Saturday. Would you like to grab lunch with us?

B: Cool! That sounds like a lot of fun. I'd love to go, but I can't. I have to help my friend move that day. Thanks anyways!
(positive response) (direct refusal) (reason)

Dialog 1:

A: Would you like some chocolate?

B: Um, I'd love some, but I'm on a diet now. Thanks for offering!

Dialog 2:

A: I'm having a part next week! You should come!

B: Um, I'd love to, but I'll be out of town.

A: Ah, that's too bad.

B: Yeah. Well, I hope you have a good time!

Dialog 3:

A: Say, how about getting together this evening in the library to study for our text next week?

B: Oh, that sounds like a wonderful idea, but I have to go to my part-time job. How about tomorrow night?

Step 3: With a partner, read the refusal expressions on the board. What strategy is each one?