

Learner Level: High Intermediate - Advanced

Theme: Family, relationships

Skills: Writing, persuading

Time: 20 minutes

Materials: None

Grouping: Pairs (or 3s)

Preparation: Write the following partnerships on the board:

Ex-boyfriend-Ex Girlfriend / Teacher-Student(s) / Parent(s)-Child / Friend-Friend/ Husband -Wife / Employer-Employee(s)

Quick Reference: ☑

Students brainstorm examples of “**reverse psychology**” and then create a short dialogue based on an example from another group.

Teacher Instructions: ✍

1. Teach the word “**reverse psychology**”: *a method of convincing another person by suggesting the opposite of what you want them to do.* Ask students to give real life examples of this type of persuasion. Offer hints if your students can't think of any. (Telling an elderly person she can't do something. Suggesting that a type of food is too spicy to try. Informing children that it is way too cold to play outside. Telling an ex-boyfriend that his new love interest is really pretty and he should never leave her.) 2 minutes
2. Put students in pairs. Tell each pair to choose one of the partnerships from the board (EX. Parent-Child.)
3. Pairs should brainstorm a list of scenarios where reverse psychology might work based on this relationship. (5 minutes)

For Example: ✓ (Parent-Child)

Brainstorm: eating vegetables (You're going to get too smart.), cleaning room (Your friends will all want to come over.), going to bed (You'll wake up way too early and there will only be cartoons on TV.), spending money (You should spend ALL of your money on one thing so that your piggy bank is empty.)

4. After a few minutes of brainstorming, have partners swap papers with another pair. Pairs choose 1 example from their peers' list of examples and write a short dialogue (up to 5 lines) based on one of the suggested scenarios. If time allows, have partners read out the dialogue to the class.

For Example: ✓ (Dialogue based on Parent-Child “eating vegetables”)

Parent: I wouldn't eat those vegetables if I were you.

Child: I wasn't going to eat them. You know I hate carrots.

Parent: I know, and you don't want to get any smarter.

Child: What do you mean?

Parent: Well, carrots make you smart. But, if you get smart, you might get an A on your test. The other kids in your class would be so jealous.

Child: Jealous? I want to get an A! Maybe I should eat my carrots.

Parent: I wouldn't.

Teacher 2 Teacher: ☀

If you have an uneven number of students make sure one group writes a dialogue with three speaking parts. For example, Mom and Dad can use reverse psychology on a child, or a teacher can use reverse psychology on two students.