

Upper Intermediate – Respect Rules & Boundaries

Aim: To help students understand that it's important to respect social rules and boundaries and to become aware of how their behaviour can affect other people.

Lead-in: Write the following on the board in two columns:

considerate behaviour

antisocial behaviour

Elicit from students what each phrase means and check everyone understands (*considerate*: thinking about the feelings and needs of other people; *antisocial*: showing a lack of care for other people or for society in general). Ask students to work in pairs and discuss what kind of behaviour would be considered considerate and antisocial in the following public places and situations:

- at the cinema
- in a queue
- on a train
- in a shopping mall
- on a street
- at an airport
- in a museum

Ask students to think of other examples of public social situations in which there are no official rules and regulations, but where it's important to behave in an appropriate way.

Choose A Scenario: Ask students to work in pairs and choose one of the three scenarios (A–C). Explain to students that they should identify the behaviour in the scenario that is acceptable and not acceptable in a public social situation. Write on the board:

- *Did the people in the scenario behave in a considerate or antisocial way?*
- *What things did they do could be inconsiderate or rude?*

Ask students to answer the questions on the board, and the question at the end of their scenario. Ask students to discuss ideas for how the people in their scenario should behave next time they are in a similar situation. What kind of things should they do to be considerate of other people's feelings and needs and to respect social boundaries? Encourage students to look at the Reflection Point while they are working.

Reflection Point: Explain to students that, in order for society to function, people have to behave in an appropriate way in public social situations. Although there are no official rules about behaviour, it is expected that everyone will respect written and "unwritten" rules about what is acceptable or not in a given situation.

When people in a group break these rules, it can lead others in the group to behave in the same way. We should try to set an example to our friends and be considerate to others when we are out in public.

Class discussion: Ask each pair to work with another pair who chose the same scenario. Ask students to compare the behaviour they identified in their scenario. Did they have the same examples as the other pair?

Ask students to compare their ideas for how the person in the scenario could improve their behaviour. Did they have the same ideas? Ask students if they have ever been in a situation similar to that described in their scenario? How did they feel? What happened?

Ask students how they would personally feel if one of their friends is behaving in an antisocial or inconsiderate way when they are with them in a public place. Ask students the following questions:

- *How difficult is it for you to say something to a friend who is behaving in an antisocial way?*
- *Why do some young people behave in an inconsiderate or antisocial way?*
- *Why is it important that everyone respects social rules and boundaries?*

Work alone: Ask students to work alone and choose a second scenario from A–C and follow the same steps as in section 2.

Once they have finished, invite volunteers to present their ideas about their scenario to the class.

Extension: Encourage students to think of the consequences that antisocial behaviour can have. Present the following scenarios and elicit what might happen:

- One of your friends drops litter in the street.
- A friend is lying across two seats on the bus.
- Some friends are playing football next to a family with small children who are having a picnic on the grass.
- Two friends are shouting outside the school library.
- At a party, people are playing loud music at 11.30pm.

Ask students what they would say to their friend or what they would do in the situations above. Ask if any of these things are against the law in the students' country.