

The Community Hero Awards

Expressing Gratitude and Responding

PART 01 Warm-Up Activity

- When was the last time someone did a big favor for you? What did they do?
- How do you feel when someone says "no worries" instead of "you're welcome" after you thank them?

PART 02 The Scenario

Your neighborhood recently finished a "Community Garden Project." Many people helped in different ways. You are now at the "Thank You Dinner." You need to talk to the people who helped and express your gratitude appropriately based on how much they did.

The List of Contributors:

1. **Mr. Henderson:** A neighbor who donated \$500 worth of rare plants.
2. **Sarah:** A teenager who spent every Saturday morning weeding the garden for three months.
3. **Local Café:** They provided free coffee and sandwiches to the workers for one afternoon.
4. **The Mayor:** She attended the opening ceremony and gave a 5-minute speech.
5. **Your Best Friend:** They lent you their shovel and gloves for the weekend.

THE TASK & GOAL

Work with your partner to practice the interactions at the dinner.

1. Review the list of contributors and decide which phrases from the "Useful Language Box" are best for each person.
2. Role-play the conversations between the organizer and the contributors.
3. Switch roles so everyone practices both thanking and responding.

ROLES & PERSPECTIVES

A: THE ORGANIZER

You are hosting the dinner. You must go around the room and thank each contributor. You need to make sure your level of "thanks" matches what they did (e.g., a bigger favor needs a stronger "thank you").

B: THE CONTRIBUTOR

You are one of the people on the list. Respond to the organizer's thanks naturally. Decide if you want to be modest ("No worries") or formal ("It was my pleasure").

REFERENCE Useful Language

STRONG GRATITUDE	CASUAL GRATITUDE	RESPONDING
I can't thank you enough!	Thanks a million!	Don't mention it.
I really appreciate it.	Cheers / Thanks a lot.	My pleasure!
You shouldn't have!	I owe you one!	Any time / No worries.

PLANNING & NOTES

Plan your dialogue here

PART 03 Reflection

1. Which contributor was the hardest to thank? Why?
2. Did you feel any of the responses were too formal or too casual for the situation?

The Community Hero Awards

Target language practice.

⌚ TIME

30 MINS

📄 OBJECTIVE

To help students distinguish between formal and informal gratitude and select appropriate responses.

🎓 GRAMMAR FOCUS

MODALS AND PRESENT PERFECT FOR GRATITUDE

- I can't thank you enough
- You shouldn't have
- Thanks for having me over

📖 KEY VOCABULARY

APPRECIATE

MENTION

PLEASURE

OWE

GRATEFUL

Procedure

1. **Warmer (5 mins):** Ask the warm-up questions to the whole class. Elicit a few "thank you" phrases they already know.
2. **The Task (15 mins):**
 - Group students into pairs.
 - Direct them to the "List of Contributors" in the Situation section.
 - Monitor as they role-play. Encourage them to use different phrases for the Mayor vs. the Best Friend.
 - Ensure Student B is using a variety of responses (e.g., "Don't mention it" vs "No worries").
3. **Feedback (10 mins):** Ask a few pairs to perform one of their scenarios (e.g., thanking Mr. Henderson). Correct pronunciation of "appreciate" /ə'pri:ʃi.eɪt/ and the intonation of "You shouldn't have!"