

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE to foster oral communication

Prompt cards

WORKING WITH PROMPT CARDS



These prompt cards can help you to prepare many different activities to practice oral communication. Preparation is very easy as long as the teacher has a very well stocked card index box or a very wide range of different situations at hand.

The activities which are provided here are as closely as possibly aligned with the action-oriented approach. *That means that learners of a language are primarily seen as 'social agents', i.e. members of society who have tasks to accomplish in a given set of circumstances, in a specific environment and within a particular field of action.*¹

When using these prompt cards, the following aspects are important:

- a concrete situation,
- a role which is provided or chosen by the learner.

These prompt cards can be used at any language learning level and only simple instructions/rules of the game will be needed. These should be easy to understand as well as simple to create.

THE TEACHER'S ROLE AS FACILITATOR

Your job will be to support your students to accomplish the task and to form groups of two or three who can help and motivate one another.

Allow your students to think out loud. Mistakes will occur due to a wish to communicate and are of course part of the learning process.

It is the aim of these examples of best practice to motivate, to create a positive attitude towards mistakes, to stimulate the learning process, to enhance

the joy in learning and to provide reassurance as well as realistic self-evaluation.

RULES OF THE GAME

The answers always need to be explained or additional details need to be given! (If the questions do not apply at all, it is possible to ask for another prompt card).

Work in pairs: Both participants draw one (or more) cards with the questions.

- They answer each others questions and ask for more details. They also take notes of their answers.

Working in a team of three: A third person takes notes of the answers and summarizes the conversation.

At the end the answers are presented to the colleagues.



N	Proposed items	Number of cards
1.	FREE TIME	32
2.	SCHOOL, EDUCATION	27
3.	FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS	25
4.	FOOD AND BEVERAGES	27
5.	PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS	15
6.	HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT	23
7.	LANGUAGES AND CULTURES	20
8.	COMMUNICATION and MEDIA	15
9.	SOCIETY AND POLITICS	12
10.	WORK AND THE ECONOMY	40
	Total number of prompt cards	236

¹ CEFR, Chapter 2.1 An action-oriented approach, p.9



FREE TIME

32 cards

Rules:

You have to go into detail when you answer each question. If the question does not fit at all, please pick another card.



FREE TIME

1. How often do you go out per week?



FREE TIME

2. What do you usually do on weekends?



FREE TIME

3. What is your favourite sport?



FREE TIME

4. What is your favourite free time activity ?



FREE TIME

5. What do you think of extreme sports?



FREE TIME

6. Do you prefer winter or summer sports?



FREE TIME

7. How do you spend your holidays?



FREE TIME

8. Do you prefer team sports or individual sports?



FREE TIME

9. What did you do last summer?



10. How do you spend your Christmas holidays?



11. During your holidays, you can choose between a language course or an adventure camp. What would you prefer?



12. Have you ever been on holiday abroad?



13. What do you generally use your computer for?



14. Do you prefer reading the newspaper or reading books?



15. What type of music do you prefer?



16. Which books do you like?



17. Do you prefer going to the movies or watching a film with friends at home?



18. Are you into paintings? Who is your favourite artist?



19. What can young people do to entertain themselves in your town/city?



FREE TIME

20. Please describe the last movie you have watched.



FREE TIME

21. Do you prefer going to a public swimming pool or the gym?



FREE TIME

22. Do you prefer spending your free time actively or passively?



FREE TIME

23. Do you spend a lot of time using your smartphone?



FREE TIME

24. Do you spend a lot of time watching TV?



FREE TIME

25. What did you do last weekend?



FREE TIME

26. Celebrations. How do you organise your parties?



FREE TIME

27. If you had more money, how would you spend your free time?



FREE TIME

28. Do you like shopping?



FREE TIME

29. Do you sometimes feel bored?



FREE TIME

30. Do you have a particular hobby?



FREE TIME

31. In your opinion, what are the teenagers' most popular free time activities?



FREE TIME

32. Do you sometimes feel lonely?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

27 cards

Rules:

You have to go into detail when you answer each question. If the question does not fit at all, please pick another card.



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

1. Where do/did you go to school?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

2. What are/were your favourite subjects?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

3. Why did you attend your last school ?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

4. What would you change about schools in case you had the chance to do so?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

5. Does homework make any sense?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

6. What should the ideal teacher be like?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

7. Would you like to be a teacher?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

8. Could you imagine going to school/studying abroad?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

9. What would you like to learn during an internship in a company?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

10. How does/did your school prepare you for your business life?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

11. Do you have concrete ideas about your future job?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

12. What would you improve in case you could change the educational system?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

13. Should smartphones be allowed in classrooms?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

14. Do you think obligatory classroom attendance could be more flexible?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

15. What do you think of distance learning?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

16. Do you think that schools should offer more sports, maybe even outside school?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

17. Do you think that there should be more tutoring courses helping and supporting learners?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

18. Are/Were boys and girls treated equally?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

19. Should there be school rules about clothing?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

20. What is your best memory about school life?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

21. Which extra-curricular activities does your school offer?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

22. Are you happy with your timetable?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

23. Do you attend optional/extra courses?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

24. In order to learn languages well, what should lessons be like?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

25. Which types of activities would help you improve your speaking skills?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

26. Should the school system encourage/require stays abroad?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION

27. Should public schooling/university be for free?



SCHOOL, EDUCATION



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

25 cards

Rules:

You have to go into detail when you answer each question. If the question does not fit at all, please pick another card.



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What do you like best about your parents?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

2. What would be your most favourite birthday present?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

3. What should your friends be like?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

4. If you had the chance to pick another first name, which one would you choose?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

5. What do you like the most/least about your looks?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

6. What are you really good at?
What are your strengths?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

7. What are your greatest weaknesses?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

8. Would you like to have children one day?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

9. Which of your best friend's strengths do you appreciate the most?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

10. What are you scared of?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

11. What makes you happy?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

12. Are you allowed to go out without your parents?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

13. Do you smoke? If yes, in which situations?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

14. Do you help your parents doing the chores?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

15. Who does the housework at your place?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

16. If you could choose your ideal apartment, what would it look like and where would it be?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

17. Do you feel like a typical woman/man?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

18. Is gender equality well implemented in your country?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

19. In your opinion, which behavior is unsuitable for a woman/a man?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

20. Who is in charge of your family, in your opinion?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

21. Do you think one should raise boys and girls differently?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

22. Should military/civil service be obligatory in your country? In your opinion, should that be obligatory for women too?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

23. What does “happiness” mean to you?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

24. What was the happiest moment in your life?



FRIENDS, FAMILY, PERSONAL QUESTIONS

25. Do you need to be rich to be happy?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

27 cards

Rules:

You have to go into detail when you answer each question. If the question does not fit at all, please pick another card.



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

1. What do you not like eating?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

2. What is your favourite food?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

3. Do you like cooking?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

4. What do you put on your favourite pizza ?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

5. Healthy food, what is that in your mind?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

6. Do you often eat convenience or frozen food?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

7. Into which type of restaurant would you never go?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

8. Do you like having brunch?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

9. Do you like ethnic food or exotic dishes?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

10. Is a Sunday breakfast different from a breakfast on any other weekday?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

11. What do you typically have for dinner?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

12. Which typical local dish would you cook for foreign guests?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

13. What's your opinion on drinking alcohol?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

14. What do you eat with your fingers?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

15. What is your favourite restaurant?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

16. Do you have any allergies or do you know somebody who has allergies?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

17. Do you use spices? If yes, which and for which dishes?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

18. Which fruits do you prefer ?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

19. Do you like eating fast food or at McDonald's?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

20. Eating and watching TV at the same time, is that a bad habit?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

21. Do often eat together as a family?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

22. What is "junk food" for you?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

23. Do you think that there is a connection between nutrition and health?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

24. Are you a fan of organic food?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

25. What's your point of view on teenagers and their use of alcohol?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

26. Is there something like a "wine culture" in your country?



FOOD AND BEVERAGES

27. What do you think of energy drinks?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

15 cards

Rules:

You have to go into detail when you answer each question. If the question does not fit at all, please pick another card.



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

1. Which animal would you like to be?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

2. If you could work for a circus, what would you like to do there?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

3. If you were an animal trainer, which animals would you like to work with?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

4. You were going to spend a whole year on an island – which 5 things would you take with you?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

5. Where would you like to be at the moment?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

6. Would you like to be of the other sex?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

7. What would you do with €1 million?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

8. What should your ideal wife/husband be like?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

9. If you could change the world, what would you change first?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

10. What will you do during your next holidays?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

11. What would you like to do after graduating from school/after this course ?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

12. Do you dream of touring the world?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

13. How do you imagine your life in ten years?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

14. Would you like to be an entrepreneur/a freelancer?



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND DREAMS

15. Would you like to go to university/college?



HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT

23 cards

Rules:

You have to go into detail when you answer each question. If the question does not fit at all, please pick another card.



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

1. Do you live a healthy life?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

2. Do you exercise?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

3. What do you do when you have the flu?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

4. Do you suffer from stress? What do you do against it?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

5. Which drinks are unhealthy, in your opinion?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

6. Do you separate waste?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

7. What do you think of the use of plastic bags?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

8. Do you try to avoid plastic?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

9. Do you know someone who has become very old? What is the secret of their longevity?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

10. In your opinion, what are the greatest environmental problems?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

11. Do you think that the climate is changing/has changed?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

12. Do you think that everyone can do something to protect our environment?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

13. Is it possible to protect the environment as well as maintaining our way of life?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

14. In your opinion, what is the ideal source of energy?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

15. How can mobility and environmental protected be combined?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

16. Do you think that every single person can do something to reduce energy consumption?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

17. Are renewable energies opportunities or threats to our planet?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

18. Do you think that you can be seriously addicted to your smartphone?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

19. What are the most dangerous drugs in your opinion?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

20. Do you think one can consume drugs without becoming addicted?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

21. Which advice should one take in order to stay healthy?



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

22. Could the obsession with health become a problem too? (e.g. hypochondriacs, extreme athletes, people who buy organic only...)



HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

23. Is it easy to reverse climate change?
Who is suffering from it?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

20 cards

Rules:

You have to go into detail when you answer each question. If the question does not fit at all, please pick another card.



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

1. Would you like to spend a year in an English-speaking country?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

2. What would you like to see in Great Britain /the USA / Australia ...?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

3. What is your favourite country?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

4. If you think of Germany/Austria/Switzerland, what do you think of exactly?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

5. Do people tip staff, e.g. waiters, in your country?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

6. Which languages are spoken in your surroundings?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

7. Which languages do you speak or would you like to speak?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

8. Do you know expressions in your mother tongue which are used in other languages as well?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

9. Is your first- or second language important in the world?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

10. Do you think that languages are sometimes abused for political intentions?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

11. Could you imagine raising your children bilingually?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

12. In which culture would you like to live or not like to live?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

13. Could you ever adapt to a culture which is totally different from yours?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

14. What is for you personally more important: A very good range of vocabulary or a very good structural and grammatical accuracy?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

15. What is your opinion on the use of very strong dialects or regional varieties of a language?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

16. Could you imagine being strictly monolingual?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

17. What do you prefer in your first or second foreign language: writing, reading, speaking, listening?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

18. Would you work abroad as an au pair in order to learn a new foreign language?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

19. Why are you learning one or two languages?



LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

20. Do you think that learning languages broadens the horizon? Is one more tolerant?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

15 cards

Rules:

You have to go into detail when you answer each question. If the question does not fit at all, please pick another card.



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

1. Are you interested in the news?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

2. What do you do to stay informed about what's going on around the world?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

3. Which modern means of communication do you use regularly?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

4. Do you blog?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

5. Would you like to be a journalist?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

6. How do you try to differentiate fake news from real news?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

7. Do you think that television has a future?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

8. Do you prefer reading print media or digital media?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

9. Is the public opinion manipulated?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

10. Are social media an ethic danger?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

11. In your opinion, how does the best advertisement look like?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

12. Do you think that advertisements should be controlled?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

13. Do advertisements influence your shopping behaviour?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

14. Is there a foreign means of communication that you like very much?



COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

15. Why are the press and the media called the fourth power?



SOCIETY AND POLITICS

12 cards

Rules:

You have to go into detail when you answer each question. If the question does not fit at all, please pick another card.



SOCIETY AND POLITICS

1. Are you interested in politics?



SOCIETY AND POLITICS

2. Do you think it is important to vote?



SOCIETY AND POLITICS

3. If you were president of your country, what would you do first?



SOCIETY AND POLITICS

4. Do you feel European?



SOCIETY AND POLITICS

5. Do you think that democracy is the best form of government?



SOCIETY AND POLITICS

6. What do you like about people?



SOCIETY AND POLITICS

7. What do you hate about people?



SOCIETY AND POLITICS

8. Do you think that men and women are equal in your country?



SOCIETY AND POLITICS

9. Do you know cases of inequality among men and women?



SOCIETY AND POLITICS

10. Do you know cases of inequality due to a person's origin?



SOCIETY AND POLITICS

11. What would you do to improve migrants' situations? Is that a global problem?



SOCIETY AND POLITICS

12. Which advice would you give in order to make integration work?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

40 cards

Rules:

You have to go into detail when you answer each question. If the question does not fit at all, please pick another card.



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

1. Studying or working? What would you like to do after your school leaving exam?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

2. Do you think that you will find work?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

3. Do you think that internships can prepare for the real work-life?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

4. How do you think you should be dressed at a job interview?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

5. Which advice would you give somebody who wants to apply for a job?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

6. How should you behave at a job interview?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

7. In your opinion, which working conditions are the best in order to develop as a person?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

8. In your opinion, what are the favourite jobs of today's youth?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

9. What is most important for teenagers when looking for a job?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

10. Which qualities and skills are required in order to find a good job these days?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

11. What is the value of certificates these days?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

12. Does one have to do various internships before getting a contract?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

13. What job(s) would you really like to do in the future?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

14. What was your dream job when you were younger?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

15. Do you have concrete ideas about the job you'd like to have one day?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

16. What are your dream jobs?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

17. Would you like to be a teacher?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

18. In your opinion, what is the most dangerous job?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

19. Would you like to volunteer for an NGO (non-governmental organisation)?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

20. If you had no money and no family support, what could you do to make your own money?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

21. In your opinion, how should companies motivate their employees?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

22. How do they treat disabled people in your country?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

23. Please describe the job market in your country?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

24. In your opinion, what are good business relationships?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

25. Is it possible to avoid labour conflicts?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

26. How should we fight unemployment?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

27. In your opinion, what should the ideal boss be like?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

28. What is the value of new technologies for today's world of work?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

29. In order to have a little extra money, do many teenagers work in your country?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

30. Why do some teenagers want to earn pocket money?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

31. In your opinion, how important is the salary?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

32. Would you ever work for a company which is not close to your hometown?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

33. Could you imagine working abroad?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

34. Are foreign language skills important for finding a job?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

35. What would you do if they offered you a very good job in a country whose language you don't speak?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

36. Are people in your country generally happy with their jobs?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

37. What might be the role of work in a person's life?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

38. How could one balance work life with family life?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

39. What is the most important aspect of a job?



WORK AND THE ECONOMY

40. Are there jobs where either men or women find it difficult to be accepted?