

# Talk a Lot

## Hospital

### Role Plays

#### 1. "You won't feel a thing!"

Place: A busy hospital on the edge of a large city  
Time: 10.20 am  
Characters: You are a patient; the other student is a nurse  
Situation: You're staying in hospital for a few days. Your doctor has sent you to the blood clinic to have a routine blood test. You are terrified of needles and can't stand the idea of anyone sticking a syringe in your arm. However, your treatment cannot continue without the results of the blood test...

Scenes: i) You go to the blood clinic; you're very nervous, but try to remain calm. When the nurse produces the syringe you run screaming from the room  
ii) A few minutes later, you return to the clinic. You try to compose yourself. The nurse says that it will only take a second, and won't hurt. You try to think about something pleasant, but at the last minute you see the syringe coming towards you and flee the room, gibbering as if you've seen a ghost  
iii) Evening of the same day. The doctor needs the blood test results. You must have the blood test, no matter what. The nurse must convince, cajole, entice, or otherwise persuade you to have the blood test

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *The doctor – who has an important appointment with some golfing chums*
- b) *Another patient, who seems to love having blood tests*

#### 2. "We need a place to smoke!"

Place: The grounds and car park area of a large hospital in the UK  
Time: 11.35 am  
Characters: You are a very conscientious security guard; the other student is a patient  
Situation: Whilst patrolling the grounds you find somebody smoking behind a bike shed. The hospital has a "zero tolerance" policy on smoking, which means that smoking is not allowed anywhere on the hospital site – inside or outside

Scenes: i) You confront the offender and remind them of the hospital's policy. The patient makes up an excuse. Tell them that if you see them smoking again you will be forced to issue a fine of £100  
ii) A few hours later, you catch the patient smoking again. This time you issue the fine. The patient tries to bribe you with some cheap cigarettes...  
iii) In the final scene you and the patient are running an unofficial smoking area behind the bike shed, where other tense patients and relatives can smoke in safety without fear of prosecution – for £5 per cigarette!

*If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:*

- a) *A nervous patient who can't get through the day without twenty cigarettes*
- b) *Another security guard, who finds out what's going on and threatens to report you*

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### Role Plays

#### Role Play Extensions

*Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Hospital":*

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#### Hospital

1. It's your first day in hospital, and it looks like you could have to stay for a few weeks. You're lying in bed reading a magazine, when a nurse brings you a menu where you have to choose your evening meal option. The problem is that you're a fussy eater – and a borderline vegan, who likes fish, but is not allowed nuts, whole grain, or beetroot in any form (on the advice of your astrologist) – and you want to know in detail exactly what the ingredients of every meal are, and how they have been prepared – and even *who* has prepared them! It seems that whatever the nurse suggests, there's something about it that you can't tolerate. But you have to choose something. Or will you simply book an outside catering company to deliver your meals every day?

2. You are a bit of a hypochondriac – you always think there's something wrong with your health, when 99.9% of the time you're absolutely fine. As such, you are well known at your local hospital's A & E (Accident & Emergency) department. You often fake an attack of something nasty at A & E in order to get seen by a doctor or nurse, or anyone who will listen to you, more quickly – without waiting in line like everybody else. Today you are sure that you are at death's door – that your final hours have come – and you must be seen at once. How will you go about jumping the queue at A & E, when the average waiting time is around 4½ hours? To complicate matters further, there's a big football match on in the town this afternoon, so A & E is about to get even busier than usual...

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