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# Behind the Words

**Focus: Writing / Speaking**

**Level: B2 upwards**

**Key Language: Speculation**



Use the QR code to find out more and see more cards in the NILE A-Z activity series!

## Aims

- To develop awareness of 'inner speech'
- To develop spoken/written fluency skills
- To practise specific language of speculation

# Behind the Words

## Procedure

1. Tell students they are going to watch a man and a woman getting to know each other.
  2. Show the balcony scene from Woody Allen's film *Annie Hall* without the sound.  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2wA4jNAha8>). Use this clip as it has the subtitles from the original scene blacked out.
  3. Ask students to think about what the characters are saying.
  4. Show the scene again, this time with sound. Students compare the dialogue with their predictions.
  5. Students work in two groups to imagine the characters' inner thoughts. Group A produce thought bubbles for Alvy (Woody Allen). Group B do the same for Annie (Diane Keaton). Tell students to consider how what you think may differ from what you say.
  6. Students in Group A find partners from Group B and exchange their ideas.
  7. Show the second clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMozdl8mhZk>) with subtitles.
  8. Students compare their thought bubbles with the subtitles in the original scene.
  9. Repeat Steps 2-6 with another film or TV clip showing two people in a conventional social situation.
- **Tip 1:** The dialogue from *Annie Hall* includes a number of slang / colloquial expressions (yo-yo, what a jerk, hang in there) whose meanings students should be able to infer from context / co-text.
  - **Tip 2:** The activity could be adapted, using any suitable film or TV clip, for lower level learners.
  - **Tip 3:** An extension activity could be added for groups of four, with two speakers and two 'shadow' speakers voicing the speakers' thoughts.