



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

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Procedure

- Tell students they are going to watch a man and a woman getting to know each other.
 - 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.
 - Ask students to think about what the characters are saying.
 - Show the scene again, this time with sound. Students compare the dialogue with their predictions.
 - 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.
 - Students in Group A find partners from Group B and exchange their ideas.
 - Show the second clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMozdl8mhZk>) with subtitles.
 - Students compare their thought bubbles with the subtitles in the original scene.
 - 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.