

## **Turn taking functions card game**

### **Teacher's instructions**

*Photocopy and cut up one pack of cards for each group of two or three students, throwing away any functions that you don't want to cover (e.g. "Keeping other people speaking"). They should deal them out and look at their own cards, preferably not showing each other. Give them a speaking activity such as a negotiation or debate. They have to do the thing given on their card to be able to discard it, using different words to anyone else who has already done the same thing. The other students can give them the cards back if they believe they have repeated the same phrase or not really done the thing on the card. The person with fewest cards left when you stop the game is the winner.*

*When the game is finished, ask them to brainstorm at least three phrases for each of the functions, then let them compare with the answer key. If you want to do controlled practice, they can identify the function of phrases then produce as many phrases with each function as they can with help from their partner if they get stuck). They can then play the game once or twice more, using phrases from the answer key first by looking at it then from memory.*

## Turn taking functions card game

### Cards to cut up and deal out

Interrupting
Stopping other people interrupting/ Refusing interruption
Taking the turn back/ Getting back on track/ Continuing what you were going to say
Offering other people the chance to speak
Keeping other people speaking
Signalling the end of your turn
Turning down the chance to speak
Ending your interruption
Interrupting
Stopping other people interrupting/ Refusing interruption
Taking the turn back/ Getting back on track/ Continuing what you were going to say
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## **Suggested answers (arranged alphabetically by section)**

### **Interrupting**

(I'm afraid) I can't let you go on without (saying)...

Before I forget,...

Before you go on/ move on/ continue,...

Can I/ Could I (just) say something/ come in (here/ there)?

Can I/ Could I interrupt you (for a minute/ moment/ second)?

Can I/ Could I stop you there?

Excuse me/ Sorry for interrupting/ the interruption, but...

I don't like to/ mean to interrupt, but...

I hate to interrupt (you) (in full flow)/ I wouldn't usually interrupt, but...

I have something to say (on this point).

I know it's rude to interrupt, but...

I'd like to make a point here (if I can/ could/ may/ might).

I'll let you finish in a minute, but...

I'm afraid I have to stop you there.

If it's okay to interrupt,...

If you don't mind me interrupting,...

If you think that sounds boring/ exciting/ frightening,...

If you will allow me (to say something/ to speak for a second),...

If/ Perhaps I can/ could/ may/ might (just) interrupt you (for just a minute/ moment/ second),...

Is this a good time to...?

Just wait until you hear...

May I interrupt?

Me too! In fact,...

Sorry for butting in, but...

Sorry for not letting you finish, but...

Sorry to interrupt/ butt in/ stop you in full flow, but...

That reminds me of...

That's nothing!...

The same (kind of) thing happened to me the other day.

This may/ might be a good point to/ the right time to...

Would this be a good time to...?

### **Stopping other people interrupting/ Refusing interruption**

(I have) just one more point (to make).

(I'm/ I've) nearly finished.

(Just) one more thing (before you interrupt).

Before you have your say/ interrupt/ reply,...

Can I/ Could I just finish (my sentence/ this point/ what I was saying)?

I can see that you want to interrupt/ say something (about this), but...

I haven't (quite) finished (my point/ what I was saying) (yet).

I haven't got to my main point (yet), which is...

I know what you're going to say.

I know you're dying to jump in, but...

I won't take long.

If I can/ could just finish (what I was saying/ what I wanted to say/ this one point),...

If you'd allow me to finish...

That is the next point I want to get to, once I've finished...

You probably want to say..., but...

### **Taking the turn back/ Continuing what you were going to say/ Getting back on track**

(Mmm. Good point.) Anyhow/ Anyway/ Anyhoo,...

As I was saying (before I was interrupted),...

Can I/ Could I get back to you later on that?

Can we get back to the point on the agenda?

Carrying on from where I/ we left off,...

I'll come/ I'll be coming on to that (point/ question) later.

If I can return to the original topic,...

Perhaps we can talk about that later (but...)

Shall I carry on?

To get back to/ Getting back to the point at hand/ on track/ to what I was saying,...

We seem to be getting off the point.

What was I saying?/ Where was I?/ Where were we? Oh yes,...

## **Offering other people the chance to speak**

(Am I) right?

(Now) I'd be (very) interested to hear your views (on...)/ what you think (about...)

..., but I'd be interested in hearing your take on it.

..., but I'm sure you have another point of view.

Any (initial) thoughts on...?

But that's enough from me.

Can you give me your (initial) thoughts on...?

Do you agree?

Do you have any (particular) thoughts/ views on...?

Do you have any opinions on/ about...?

Do you/ Did you want to add anything?

Does anyone want to say anything before we move on?

Don't you think (so)?

And you?/ How about you?/ What about you?

(Now) I'd like to hear what you think (about...)/ your views (on...).

From your point of view,...?

How do you feel about...?

I imagine you will have strong opinions on...

I know this is not your specialist subject, but...

I know you haven't had much time to think about this, but...

Or am I just talking nonsense?/ Or not?

Please tell me your opinion on...

What are your (first) thoughts on/ your views on/ your feelings about...?

What do you reckon/ think?

What do you think (about...)?

What reaction do you have to...?

What's your experience (of this)?

What's your opinion/ position (on this)?

What's your take on/ view on this?

Would you agree (that...)?

You haven't said anything yet.

You must have a view on this (too).

### **Keeping other people speaking**

(I'm) sorry to hear that.

Amazing!

Congratulations!/ Well done!

Shudder!

Glad to hear it!

Ha!

How wonderful/ exciting/ depressing/ embarrassing/ ironic!

I don't believe it!

I know (just) (what you mean).

Never mind!

Nice!

Lucky you!

No! ?/ No way!

Oh my goodness!

Really?

That sounds great/ awful/ horrible.

That was close!

That's a pity!/ That's a shame!

That's amazing!

Well I never (did)!

What a pity/ shame!

Whoops!

Wow!

You lucky thing/ poor thing!

You're joking!?

### **Signalling the end of your turn**

(I think) you get the idea.

And so on.

Etcetera etcetera.

I could go on.

I think I've made my point.

Sorry for waffling on.

That's all I wanted to say.

Which just about covers it.

### **Turning down the chance to speak**

I can't add anything to that.

I don't have any view on this at all.

I think you've covered everything.

I'm still just digesting what you said.

I'm still thinking about what I want to say.

### **Ending your interruption**

Sorry, please carry on./ Sorry, please go on.

Sorry, you were going to say?

Sorry, you were saying?

Sorry, you were saying...

Sorry. What were you saying?