

## Unit 11: Lesson 2

# To Ask or Not to Ask

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**PSYCHOLOGICAL COROLLARY:** A person who acts helpless or incompetent when it is not necessary makes others angry.

**LESSON OBJECTIVE:** Students will identify three reasons why people should not ask for assistance until they need it. For example, asking for unnecessary assistance makes employers angry, makes a worker seem incompetent, and wastes time.

### **SOCIAL BEHAVIORS**

This lesson shows students that successful people:

- admit mistakes
- ask for help
- solve their own problems
- apologize
- modify behavior based on feedback
- work independently

### **SOCIAL VOCABULARY**

- frustrated

### **OTHER VOCABULARY**

- cash register
- over-ring
- charge slip
- exchange

## SUGGESTED LESSON PLANS

### INTRODUCTION

- Read the story, “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” (or ask a student to recount the story).
- Discuss what happened in the story.
- Discuss why the boy cried, “Wolf!” (e.g., for attention, he thought there might be a wolf and wanted security, he wanted to be funny or to play a trick, he actually believed there was a wolf and needed help).
- Discuss which reasons would make the villagers angry. Why?
- Discuss the moral of the story.
- Ask students how this applies to real life (e.g., asking the teacher for help when you really don’t need it).
- Introduce vocabulary.

### GROUP USE OF STUDENT WORKBOOK

(p. 114 in SOFT SKILLS)

Part I: Ask students to read Part I of the story, “To Ask or Not to Ask ... ” and complete and discuss exercises that follow Part I.

- Discuss why Mr. Kojack became angry with Morris. (Because Morris knew what to do and only wasted Mr. Kojack’s time by asking for help.)

Part II: Ask students to read Part II of the story, “To Ask or Not to Ask ... ”

- Ask students to describe what happened in Part II.

- Explain why Morris might *not* have asked for help. (He knew Mr. Kojack was annoyed with him for asking the other questions, and he didn't want to anger him further.)

Part III: Ask students to read Part III of the story, "To Ask or Not to Ask ... " and complete and discuss exercises that follow Part III.

## **FOLLOW-UP**

- Ask students to pretend that they are Mr. Kojack and that a new computerized cash register has just arrived in the store. Mr. Kojack has four employees he might train to run the register. Ask students whom Mr. Kojack should choose:
  - ▶ Morris, who sometimes asks for help he doesn't need
  - ▶ Tran, who tries to figure things out on his own before he asks for help
  - ▶ Lee, who takes a break as soon as he gets frustrated
  - ▶ Neri, who tries to take equipment apart if she doesn't know how to run it
- Discuss the choices students make for Mr. Kojack.

## **REVIEW**

- Ask students to identify three reasons why a person should not ask for help until he or she really needs it (e.g., it makes others angry, makes a person seem incompetent, and wastes others' time).