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Evaluate the Impact of Negative Comments

TRANSITION OBJECTIVE

Students will analyze a series of comments and determine whether they are harmful to others.

RELEVANCE TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

The way we communicate is based on many factors, including our feelings about ourselves. When happy, we will probably have an upbeat communication style. If we are insecure or unhappy, our communication style may be negative, sarcastic and demeaning. It is important for each of us to examine our communication style and to change it when necessary.

INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

❑ STEP 1: Update Journal

How I talk to my friends . . .

❑ STEP 2: Convene Roundtable

"When I talk to someone, the things I say are _____."

❑ STEP 3: Advance Organizer

"Today you will analyze a series of comments and determine whether they are harmful to others."

❑ STEP 4: Activity - 25 Minutes

Discuss the negative effects and high personal cost of put-downs, sarcasm and negative jokes that are made at the expense of another person. Many of these could also be considered bullying. Talk about bullying as you go through this lesson. Use the examples on the handout **How Much Does It Cost to Talk?** to examine the difference between free and expensive communication. Draw a scale on the board in \$10 increments with \$0 at the bottom and \$100 at the top. As you go over each comment on the handout pairs of students have one minute to decide how much each statement will cost from \$0 to \$100. Ask for a volunteer to share the cost they assigned.

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CAREER MANAGEMENT: Unit 1 LESSON 5

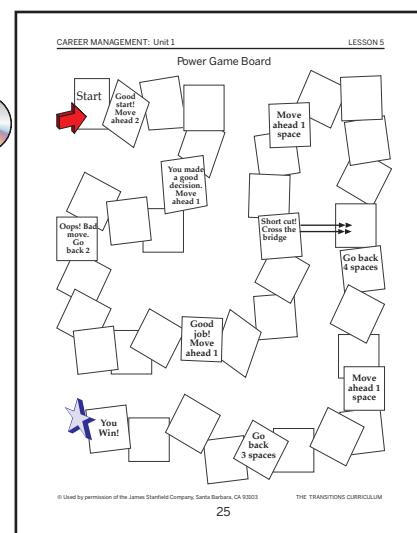
How Much Does It Cost to Talk?

Is it free or does it have a price? Statements that hurt another person are very expensive because they have a high cost on that person's feelings. Put a price on each statement from \$0 to \$100.00.

Cost	Statement
_____	1. You're wearing those pants again?
_____	2. Your hair looks cute like that.
_____	3. That hair cut is much better than the one you had!
_____	4. Look at the way Robbie runs — like a girl!
_____	5. You always get good grades from this teacher because you're the teacher's pet!
_____	6. Who helped you with that project?!
_____	7. She won't get it; she's an air-head.
_____	8. I bet it was hard for you to figure that out.
_____	9. Shut up! You're getting on my nerves.
_____	10. Where did you get that shirt? I really like it.

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□ STEP 5: Activity - 20 Minutes

Students play the game **Free & Expensive** using the **Power Gameboard** and **Answer Cards**. To make **Answer Cards**, students label one 3" x 5" card with "free" and another with "expensive." To play the game, read the **Free or Expensive?** statements, one at a time. After each statement, students select an **Answer Card** and hold it up on your signal. Students move their game token according to the statements until someone wins by reaching the end of their game board. Check answers and give the winner a standing ovation. Tell students that in the future, they may kindly remind each other of the cost of their statements by simply saying "free" or "expensive" when responding to negative or positive comments.

□ STEP 6: Evaluate Outcomes

A reason to use free communication is "_____."

□ STEP 7: Connecting Activity

Have students watch a sitcom on TV and keep a tally of the free and expensive

statements that are made throughout the show. Ask, "Why do TV sitcoms often use expensive comments in their dialogue? What effect does this have on the children and adults who watch these shows?"

CAREER MANAGEMENT: Unit 1		LESSON 5
Free or Expensive		Game Statements
1. "I'd like to have a hat like yours." If you chose: "free," move ahead 3 spaces. "expensive," move back 1 space.	11. "May I have one of your sweaters?" If you chose: "expensive," move ahead 2 spaces. "free," move back 4 spaces.	
2. After a try out: "Are you sure you want to play in the band?" If you chose: "expensive," move ahead 4 spaces. "free," move back 5 spaces.	12. "Didn't you wear that sweater yesterday?" If you chose: "expensive," move ahead 3 spaces. "free," move back 3 spaces.	
3. You forget your P.E. clothes: "That's just what I expected: no running!" If you chose: "expensive," move ahead 3 spaces. "free," move back 2 spaces.	13. "Your pitch is great way to go!" If you chose: "free," move ahead 5 spaces. "expensive," move back 3 spaces.	
4. Your sweatshirt was stolen: "Wow, that's really fast! Look, do you want to borrow mine?" If you chose: "free," move ahead 5 spaces. "expensive," move back 5 spaces.	14. "What grade did you get? A, C? No! Get on A!" If you chose: "expensive," move ahead 5 spaces. "free," move back 2 spaces.	
5. "Where did you leave your brain?" If you chose: "expensive," move ahead 3 spaces. "free," move back 5 spaces.	15. "You handled that jerk really well." If you chose: "free," move ahead 5 spaces. "expensive," move back 3 spaces.	
6. "Hey everybody! It's the jocks! Look they're too cool!" If you chose: "expensive," move ahead 4 spaces. "free," move back 5 spaces.	16. "Last time we went there you acted so stupid." If you chose: "expensive," move ahead 6 spaces. "free," move back 4 spaces.	
7. "That is a great outfit on you." If you chose: "free," move ahead 2 spaces. "expensive," move back 3 spaces.	17. "You look tired today." If you chose: "expensive," move ahead 2 spaces. "free," move back 1 space.	
8. "Where did you find those clothes, the junk shop?" If you chose: "expensive," move ahead 4 spaces. "free," move back 4 spaces.	18. "Come on, slow poke, you are always late." If you chose: "expensive," move ahead 4 spaces. "free," move back 2 spaces.	
9. "Are you still wearing those pants, nobody wears that kind anymore!" If you chose: "expensive," move ahead 3 spaces. "free," move back 6 spaces.	19. "Next time, I don't! You always get lost!" If you chose: "expensive," move ahead 3 spaces. "free," move back 3 spaces.	
10. "It's great the way you don't let things bother you, like what other people say or think about you." If you chose: "free," move ahead 2 spaces. "expensive," move back 3 spaces.	20. "What a great outfit! I love it!" If you chose: "expensive," move back 5 spaces. "free," move ahead 5 spaces.	

KEY WORDS

free

expensive

communication style

comment

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Student Handouts: **How Much Does It Cost To Talk?**, page 24; **Power Gameboard**, page 25; **Free or Expensive, Game Statements**, Appendix A, page A7.
- Prepare to discuss negative communication. Become familiar with the handout.
- Prepare to play game.

SCANS FOUNDATION SKILLS

- Basic Academic Skills: Reading, Listening, Speaking
- Thinking Skills: Knowing How to Learn, Reasoning
- Personal Qualities: Sociability, Self-Management