

# Meet the parents

<b>Time</b>	30-50 minutes
<b>Interaction</b>	groups of 3-6
<b>Level</b>	B1 (Intermediate) to C1 (Advanced)

## Language areas practised

### Sub-skills and Functions

- greetings and introductions

### Grammar and Lexis

- past simple and present perfect
- 'going to' future
- relationships and family

## Preparation

Photocopy both role play cards, and cut up as indicated. Each learner will need a copy so they can see the example questions.

## Procedure

1. Find out if your learners know the film 'Meet the parents', and what they know about it. You may be able to show a short clip if you have access to YouTube.
2. Create groups of 3-6 students. 4 is ideal (a couple and 2 parents). If you need to create groups of 5-6, give additional students the roles of 'nosy' aunts and uncles. If you need to create a group of 3, pretend it's a 1-parent family: 'Meet the parent'.
3. Explain the basic idea of the role play, and get the learners in each group to decide who will be the couple and will be the parents. Note that this role play is similar to the 'Alibi' game, with both preparation and interview phases.
4. Separate the couples from the parents for the Preparation Phase, and give them 5-10 minutes to prepare. Remind couples that the parents could ask about anything, and give the parents some interesting ideas for questions (e.g. Are you living together? Have you kissed?).

5. The Role Play Phase should have 2 stages; first the father interviews Student A and the mother interviews Student B (5-10 mins). Make sure they keep notes on the answers to the questions.

6. Then swap them over so that the father interviews Student B and the mother interviews Student A (5-10 mins), asking the same questions and noting any differences in the answers. If you have any 1-parent families, they will have to interview Student A and B separately. The student who is waiting can listen to another group's interviews.

7. Finally each set of parents should decide whether they are happy with the marriage, and provide feedback to the class on their reasons for their decision. You might also want to find out who were the scariest parents!

**Note:** Nowhere does it say that student A is male and student B is female, so if appropriate, feel free to break gender stereotypes!

## Meet the parents – Role play card for the couple

### Preparation

Student A, you are the new partner of student B who has invited you round to meet her/his parents today. They will probably ask you lots of questions. Prepare for the role play with Student B by discussing these questions. You should have the same answers in case they ask you separately:

- How, where and when did you meet?
- Do you intend to get married? How will you earn a living?
- What does Student A do? Are you a student or do you have a job? Future plans?
- What do Student A's parents do? What are they like?

Now think about other questions they may ask you, and make sure you have the same answers!

### Role Play

Now you are prepared, roleplay the conversation. Remember to be polite and honest. Be prepared for some difficult questions, and make sure you give the same answers. At the end, tell them you want to get married!

## Meet the parents – Role play card for the parents

### Preparation

You are the parents of Student B who has invited her/his new partner (Student A) round to meet you today. You love Student B very much, and you want to make sure that Student A will make a good partner. When you meet them both, you will interview them separately, and ask the same questions to check that they are not hiding any secrets. If they are honest, the answers should be the same. Here are some example questions, but add some more.

- How did you meet?
- Do you have a job?
- What do your parents do?
- Have you kissed yet?
- How many partners have you had before?
- What did you study at university?
- What are your future plans?
- What are your political opinions?

**Add extra questions:**

### Role Play

Now it's time to meet the couple. The father should interview Student A first and the mother should interview Student B. Then swap over and ask exactly the same questions. Make notes on any differences you notice. After the meeting, decide if Student A is the right partner for Student B. Why? Why not?