

OBJECTIVE: To practice changing questions into noun clauses.

LEVEL: high intermediate - advanced

TIME: 10 – 15 minutes

MATERIALS: Handout

PROCEDURE:

- Pair off students - one is the police officer, one is the witness.
- Introduce the situation from the handout:

Here is the situation: You were at the bank to cash a check when all of a sudden, a bank robber burst in and robbed the bank teller right in front of you! You are very scared, because the robber told you that if you gave any information to the police, he would find you and do something awful!

- The police officer must gently question the frightened witness using noun clauses.
- The witness cannot give direct answers because of the robber's threat.
- The students should do this exercise orally.
- Follow up/Homework: Have the students write the questions and answers.

Here is the situation: You were at the bank to cash a check when all of a sudden, a bank robber burst in and robbed the bank teller right in front of you! You are very scared, because the robber told you that if you gave any information to the police, he would find you and do something awful!

Student A – Police Officer: You must ask the witness the questions below, but be gentle with the witness because s/he is very scared by the whole experience.

Use noun clauses. Begin your questions with:

Could you tell me...? Do you remember...?

Can you recall...? Please tell me...

(or your own words)

Student B – Bank Customer/Witness: The police officer is going to ask you a lot of questions, but you are too scared to remember the answers anything.

Use noun clauses. Begin your sentences with:

I don't know... I can't remember...

I don't recall... I can't tell you...

I wish I could remember... (or your own words)

EXAMPLE: What time did the robbery happen?

Officer:
Could you tell me what time the robbery happened?

Witness:
I don't recall what time the robbery happened.

1) When was the robbery?

Officer:
Could you tell me when the robbery was?

Witness:
I don't know when the robbery was.

2) What was the robber wearing?

Officer:
Please tell me what the robber was wearing.

Witness:
I can't tell you what the robber was wearing.

3) Was the robber a man or a woman?

Officer:
Could you see if the robber was a man or a woman?

Witness:
I couldn't see if the robber was a man or a woman.

4) Did the robber a mask?

Officer:
Can you recall if the robber wore a mask?

Witness:
I can't recall if the robber wore a mask or not.

5) What color was the robber's hair?

Officer:
Do you remember what color the robber's hair was?

Witness:
I don't remember what color the robber's hair was.

6) How much money did the robber steal?

Officer:
Do you know how much money the robber stole?

Witness:
I don't know how much money the robber stole.

7) Did the robber have a weapon?

Officer:
Can you tell me if the robber had a weapon?

Witness:
I couldn't see if the robber had a weapon or not.

8) Did the robber give the bank teller a note?

Officer:
Could you see if the robber gave the bank teller a note?

Witness:
I couldn't see if the robber gave the bank teller a note or not.

9) What did the robber say to the bank teller?

Officer:
Could you hear what the robber said to the bank teller?

Witness:
I couldn't hear what the robber said to the bank teller.

10) Did the robber have a getaway car?

Officer:
Do you know if the robber had a getaway car?

Witness:
I'm not sure if the robber had a getaway car or not.