I'm sorry, but...

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

Refusing invitations and responding to a refusal

Choose the correct response (A or B) to each invitation or refusal. Then practice the conversations with a partner.

	A	B
1 Do you want to go to a movie Friday night?	Let me know if you change your mind.	I'm sorry. Unfortunately, I have to work.
2 I'm sorry I can't go to your soccer game on Saturday.	I understand.	I'd love to.
3 Do you want to come over for dinner tonight?	But thanks for asking.	I'd love to, but I already have plans.
4 I'd love to go shopping on Saturday, but I have too much to do.	OK. Let me know if your plans change.	I'm sorry. Unfortunately, I can't.

Put the conversations in order. Then practice with your partner. Switch roles.

Conversation 1	
___	**B** I'm sorry. Unfortunately, I have plans on Sunday.
___	**B** I'd love to, but I have to work on Saturday.
___	**A** I understand. Let me know if your plans change.
___	**A** Do you want to go out to dinner on Saturday?
___	**A** Oh, that's too bad. How about lunch on Sunday?

Conversation 2	
___	**B** I think I want to stay home on Friday. But thanks for asking.
___	**B** I have to finish my paper right now. Maybe after that.
___	**A** Yeah. I need to buy some new shoes.
___	**A** I understand. Let me know if you change your mind.
___	**B** Right now?
___	**A** Do you want to go shopping with me?
___	**A** OK. Oh, are you free on Friday? Jack and I are going to the movies.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

REAL-WORLD STRATEGY

Softening comments

Soften each comment with "kind of" or "sort of."

1 Unfortunately, I'm busy this weekend.

2 I'd love to, but I'm tired.

3 I'm sorry, but I think romantic comedies are silly.

4 No thanks. I think talk shows are boring.

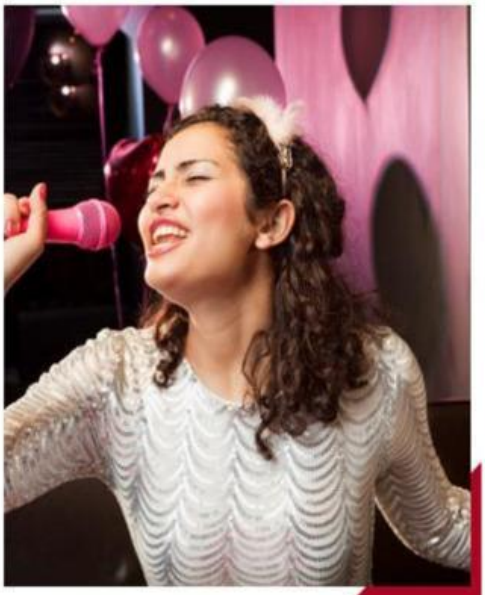
5 I'm sorry, but it's too late.

6 That sounds interesting, but I think it's dangerous.

7 Unfortunately, I think it will be crowded.

8 No thanks. I think going to the movies is expensive.

9 I'd like to go to the concert, but I'm broke right now.



Work with a partner. Respond to each invitation with a direct refusal and a softened refusal using "kind of" or "sort of" and your own reason. Then share with the class.

Invitation	Direct refusal	Softened refusal + reason
1 Do you want to study together after class?	No, I can't.	I'd love to, but I'm kind of busy this afternoon. I have a doctor's appointment.
2 Are you free to come over later?		
3 Would you like to go see a baseball game together?		
4 Do you want to get a bite to eat?		
5 I was wondering if you'd like to go skating this weekend?		
6 Would you like to see that new horror movie with me?		

LIVEWORKSHEETS