

48 - Finding your way in town: the local library

Aims: - Learn about local library services.
- Learn how to ask the way.

Communicative situations

- Understand simple directions.
- Understand simple instructions and information.
- Ask for information about transport.

Materials

Leaflet about the local library.

Language activities

Activity 1

Show some pictures of libraries, asking refugees to:

- describe the pictures in simple language.
- talk about libraries or similar places in their own country.

Activity 2

Show them the leaflet about the library nearest to where the refugees are living. Ask them to exchange information about the leaflet in pairs (when the library is open, what services are provided etc.).

Activity 3

Ask refugees to plan a trip to the local library, working in groups.

- Give each group a map showing the route to the library.
- In pairs, refugees exchange information about how to reach the library.

Activity 4

Introduce a dialogue like this:

A. *Excuse me, I want to go to the library in Europe Street. How can get there?*

B. *The train to the town centre takes you nearby.*

A. *Where is the station?*

B. *Go straight on, take the second turning on the right and walk about 150 metres.*

A. *Sorry, I don't understand. How many metres from the turning?*

B. *150.*

A. *Many thanks.*

B. *You're welcome.*

Check refugees' comprehension, focusing on expressions used to:

- ask for directions.
- tell the other person you do not understand.
- thank them.

Then organise a role play between pairs of refugees. To start with, you take one of the roles, then refugees work in pairs, following the example, but varying destinations – library, post office etc. (allow some time for preparation).

Activity 5

Play a recording of a station announcement like: *The train for the town centre is arriving at platform 5.* Then hand out a transcript of the announcement with some of the words missing (e.g. the number of the platform). Play the recording again, asking refugees to complete the text by filling in the missing words.

Suggested next step (see Tool 57 *Practising language in the real world*)

Depending on the context and the status of refugees, check whether they are eligible to join the local library. If so, give them the necessary information and explain what documentation they need to provide when applying to join. Help them to complete a library application form and prepare whatever documentation is needed.

Ideas for learners with low literacy

Invite refugees with low literacy to copy the main words that occurred in the activities so that they can use them again later:

- Ask them to find easy words on the worksheet and leaflet (e.g. library, book, computer, borrow ...).
- Ask them to read the information about library services and to fill in a simplified application form.

Sample material

RIVERDALE LIBRARY

- Adult study area.
- Photocopying.
- Free internet access and computer use.
- Dual language books.

Read the information about Riverdale library:

1. What services are available?
2. Which services would you like to use?
3. Which services would you like to know more about?
4. Ask about words/phrases you don't understand.
5. If you have used a library before, are these services different or similar to those at the libraries you know?