**Learning Outcomes:**

In this lesson, students will:

1. View Episode 6 of Lifeswap “Just Sharon”.
2. Write about and debate New Zealanders’ practices of and attitudes towards formality and informality.
3. Compare and contrast German and Kiwi practices of and attitudes towards formality and informality.
4. Differentiate between scenarios where the formal “Sie” and the informal “du” are used in Germany.
5. Practise using the formal “Sie” and informal “du” forms of verbs in German.

**At the start of the lesson:**

(Re)introduce the class to the formal and informal modes of address in German and the fact that, though these have almost completely died out in English, in Germany they are still widely used and very important. Remind or teach the students that, in order to avoid embarrassing themselves or offending someone, it is best to practise using the “du” and “Sie” forms and to learn to identify situations in which each would be used in Germany.

A good start of the class might be to introduce the phrase “ins Fettnäpfchen treten” and, if you have any, to prepare and engage the class for the lesson by recounting any strange, embarrassing or funny situations you experienced in Germany around formal dress and/or speech.

**Before viewing:**

In this lesson, you will be discussing and practising different scenarios in Germany where you should either use the informal “du’ or the formal “Sie” to address another person. Think of this as a survival kit to help you understand and practise speaking appropriately so as to avoid unintentionally disrespecting, embarrassing or amusing people!

**Task:**

Let’s start by considering how formal we are in New Zealand.

In episode 6, Jörg tells Duncan that “New Zealanders associate formality with coldness, even snobbery.” Do you agree with him? How do you think an older neighbour or the bus driver would react if you addressed him as “sir”? Would you feel strange arriving at a party and shaking hands with all your friends? Find out what the person next to you thinks about this.

1. Let’s try that out. Stand up and move around the room. Greet your classmates with eye contact, a handshake, and a formal “Hallo” or “Guten Tag” (a smile is encouraged but not necessary to show friendliness in Germany). This is normal for school students in Germany.

*Note to teacher: Stop students at a certain point and ask them to take a seat with the person they are currently shaking hands with. This is a good way to mix up the usual seating order and inject some fresh energy into the class!*

1. Let’s test Jörg’s theory about Kiwis. In your pair, discuss and fill out the following table with advice for your German exchange student who needs to know how formally to dress, behave or speak in different contexts in New Zealand. If you’re not sure, leave a box blank and wait for some advice from your classmates.

Note: Don’t confuse informal for insulting. All your ideas should be respectful.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Die Frage: | Too informal: | About right: | Too formal: |
| Ich gehe am Wochenende zu einer **Hochzeit** in Auckland. Was soll ich anziehen? |  |  |  |
| Meine Klasse besucht morgen das Marae. Wie spreche ich dem **Kaumātua** an?Wie soll ich mich dort benehmen? |  |  |  |
| Ich lade meine Klassenkamerad\*innen und meine Lehrer\*innen zu einer **Abschiedsparty** ein. Soll ich das Haus putzen und aufräumen? Was soll ich vorbereiten? |  |  |  |

1. Find out what advice the other pairs in the class have given to the exchange student. Be prepared to share your ideas and hear theirs and don’t be shy to challenge each other. That is also expected in a German classroom! Viel Spaß!

**After viewing:**

1. Consider Jörg’s advice to Duncan about when to use “Sie” and when to use “du”. Circle what you think is the right form of “you” to use when addressing the following people in Germany:

* The chancellor of Germany     DU             SIE
* Your science teacher     DU             SIE
* The 25-year-old brother of a friend     DU             SIE
* Your host dad     DU             SIE
* Your host dad’s elderly mother     DU             SIE
* A group of young trick-or-treating kids     IHR            SIE
* Someone your age who you don’t know

working at the supermarket checkout   DU             SIE

* A group of friends’ parents at a dinner party    IHR             SIE
* A train conductor in her late 20s                           DU             SIE
* A train conductor in her late 50s                          DU             SIE

1. Share your answers with your partner. Do you agree on all of them? Are there some can’t work out? Get ready to hear the class’s ideas and your teacher’s advice.

1. Working with your partner, imagine a meeting between you and 1 of the 10 people / groups above. Write a small scene of at least 10 lines where you want something from this person / these people, or where something has gone wrong.

Make sure you use the correct word for “you” and the correct form of the verbs. Have fun with the conversation. Important: leave a line free between each line of text.

Extension for senior students: Include at least 2 imperative verbs, for example “Setzen Sie sich, bitte, Frau Kanzlerin!” or “Esst das bitte nicht Kinder!”

*Note to teacher: circulate through the class as the pairs work on their dialogues, giving help where required. Further steps could include:*

* *Students hand in their dialogues at the end of the class or finish them for homework*
* *EITHER The teacher checks and corrects the texts and hands them back the following lesson*
* *OR, for an extra learning opportunity, pairs could swap dialogues and check / correct each other’s work. Then continue with steps 4, 5 and 6 below. If you want to keep tabs on the class’s learning, you could use one pair’s text and distribute copies of it to the whole class so that you could go through the “answers” in step 5 together. This could mean fewer mistakes are made and allow for more grammar-teaching.*

1. Working with the same partner, swap your dialogue with another pair. Read out their scene together, taking a part each.

1. Lastly, imagine the same scene were to become more or less formal by swapping the characters out with others from the list above. For example, instead of the children, a group of friend’s parents have come trick or treating at your door or the conversation with the chancellor of Germany is now informal because she is speaking to her younger sister! As a pair, use the free lines between the text to rewrite parts of the dialogue as appropriate (this will mostly affect “du”, “ihr” and “Sie” and the verbs, but you might want to change other words or phrases too).

1. Hand in to the teacher or pair-mark and get ready to perform the scene dramatically to the class!