

Activity 5

Dialogue that could be better...

Read the following extracts and talk about what aspects make them weak.

Example 1.

'Where to?'

'King's Cross,' replied Duncan. 'I need to get to London urgently – my mother has just died in mysterious circumstances and I need to find a 24-hour cleaner.'

'Return or single?'

'Return, please. I have to get back for the funeral although I am not looking forward to meeting my relations who clearly find my behaviour highly suspicious.'

'Underground?'

'Sorry? I am finding it hard to concentrate on account of the terrible thoughts which haunt my every waking moment.'

'Do you want to include the Underground?'

'Er, yes I think so...'

Example 2

'Where to?' the clerk demanded.

'King's Cross, please,' Duncan rejoined.

'Return or single?' she enquired.

'Return please,' he retorted.

'Underground?' she quizzed.

'Sorry?' he posed

Etc. Etc.

Example 3

Mandy opened the door and came over to the two men sitting at the bar.

'Ah,' said Dave, 'I don't think you've met my cousin Barry. He used to be in the army, but was wounded in the Gulf. Despite only having an invalidity pension and being a widower – remember his wife ran off with the man from the co-op – he's managed to bring up his daughters. He lives over in Suffolk in a semi-detached house, where he spends his time water-colour painting and studying Feng Shui.'