Topic: Just Say No

Let's get started… How often do you say "no" in one day? What do you say "no" to?

Story:
Once upon a time, there was a rich and powerful man named Carl. He wanted to marry a woman named Tammy. Tammy was not rich nor powerful, but was very kind and beautiful. But Tammy loved another man. That man was not rich nor powerful, but Tammy hoped to marry him in a few years, when he had saved money to buy an apartment.
Carl proposed to Tammy but Tammy refused:

Carl: I'm asking you to marry me.
Tammy: You are very kind, but I can't marry you.
Carl: Why not? I can take care of you always.
Tammy: You are kind, but I must say no.
Carl: I can buy you anything you want
- houses, cars, diamonds
Tammy: No, I'm sorry. I won't marry you.

In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

In the story above, Tammy says no to Carl. Do you think she was wise (smart)? Do you agree with her decision? Explain. What advice can you give to Tammy or Carl?

Share your partner's answers with the group.

Interview 2-3 people about refusing. Say to them, "Have you ever _____?" Write their names on the left and then yes or no for each box. Extra challenge – ask why they said no or why they did not say no.

Name	Refused to take a job?	Refused food or drink?	Refused a request?	Refused to give money?

Discussion Questions – talk in pairs or small groups.

In English we may be very polite and refuse with an apology and a reason, "No, I'm sorry, I can't do it." Or we may refuse with a very short, "No, thanks," or a casual "No way!"
In your native culture, how do you refuse politely? When are you polite and when are you casual in saying no? Is there ever a time to be rude? Give examples.

Tell about times (situations) when you refused something. What did you refuse and why?
Think of different situations when you . . . . . .
were happy saying no.
were sad saying no.
were angry saying no.
were afraid saying no.

Are there times when you want to say no, but say yes? Explain.
Are there times when you want to say yes, but say no? Explain.

In your native culture are there any situations when you must ask permission of someone else (a parent, a boss, a teacher, etc,) before you can say 'no' to someone?

At what age in life can people make decisions by themselves? What kind of decisions should be group decisions? What kind of decisions should be individual decisions? Has this changed with time and place? Explain.

In your native culture, do you teach young children to say no? What do you teach them?

Extra Activity – Teacher models making a request. Have students write requests on small pieces of paper. Mix them up and then hand them out to students. Each student reads the request and **refuses**. Try using some of the language Tammy used in the story. Add "thank you" or "thank you very much" if you wish. Or to make it easier, the teacher can write the requests.

New vocabulary: propose, refuse, "neither . . nor . . ", saved, can't, won't, diamonds, wise, advice, request, ask permission, decision

In American culture, we use these symbols to say "No".

Keep thinking about it this week: Look for these symbols in different forms. Draw or list what you find and share them at TalkTime.

More on how to teach children to say no: http://www.mcgruff.org/Advice