

I'm running a little late . . .

10

A: Good afternoon, General Corporation. This is Mr. Cleary.

B: Hello, Mr. Cleary. This is Ms. Aubry of Maxwell Corp.

I'm sorry to bother you but I'm running a little behind and

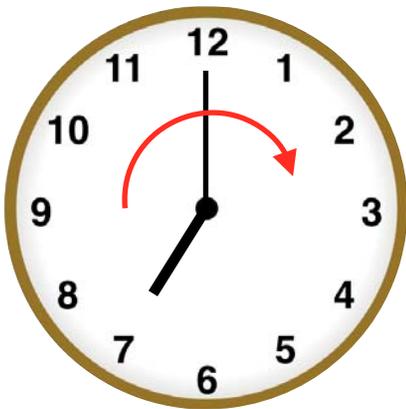
I'm going to be about ten minutes late for our meeting.

A: I see. Thank you for letting me know Ms. Aubry. That won't be a problem. We'll be waiting for you.

B: Thank you so much.

I'm	(running)	a little	late.
		a bit	behind.

I'm going to be		five minutes	
I'm probably going to be	(about)	ten minutes	late.
I might be		five to ten minutes	



A: Good afternoon, Maxwell Corporation. This is Ms. Marcus.

B: Hello, Ms. Marcus. This is Mr. Hitto of XYZ Corp.

I'm sorry to bother you but my train has been delayed so

I'm running a bit behind and I'm probably going to be about fifteen to twenty minutes late for our meeting.

A: I understand. Thank you for letting me know Ms. Marcus.

That won't be a problem. We'll push the start time back.

B: Thank you for understanding.

A: It's not a problem. We'll look forward to seeing you.

My train		delayed.
My flight	has been	cancelled.
My other meeting		long.
My earlier appointment	is running	late.

Using the worksheet:

- **Introduce** the topic
- **Elicit** language or reasons or examples of being late.
- **Read** the first conversation and **check** comprehension.
- **Drill** the patterns.
- Students **practice** the conversation. (**Evaluate**)

Variations / Adaptations

Depending on the students' levels just use the first or second conversation.

Conversation 2

This conversation is a little harder and requires students to say why they were late and use slightly harder language from the drill.

Replacement Drills

Have students run the same conversation but change the information to suit different situations.

Key phrases (and variations):

I'm sorry to bother / trouble you but . . .

I hate to bother / trouble you but . . .

I'm (running) a little / a bit late / behind.

I'm going to be about ten minutes late.

I'm probably going to be . . .

I might be . . .

My train has been delayed. (My train is running late.)

My flight has been cancelled. (My flight was cancelled.)

Be Careful:

Although, "I'm running late," and "I'm running behind" have the same meaning the simpler phrase "I'm late" is not replaceable with "I'm behind." It could be replaced with "I'm behind schedule." Take care students don't get confused between the two.