

911, What's Your Emergency?



| 30 min

Category: ✓ General English

Topic: ✓ Emergency

Media: ✓ Audio

Level: ✓ B2-C1 Upper-Intermediate / Advanced

Grammar: ✓ Compound Relative Pronouns

Learning Focus: ✓ Grammar, Listening, Speaking, Vocabulary



Activity 1



5 min

Warm-Up Discussion

VOCABULARY, SPEAKING

Ask the following questions. Next, ask the student(s) to complete task 1. Discuss the answers.

- Have you ever called 911 or the equivalent in your country?
- What are common reasons for someone to call an emergency number?
- What emergency have you had before? How did you deal with it?
- What do you think “stop, drop, and roll” is in reference to? When is it used?
- Have you used a first aid kit before? What can you find inside of one?
Possible answers include cleansing wipes, antiseptic cream and spray, thermometer, sterile gloves, bandages, sticky tape, painkillers, safety pins, and scissors.
- How fast do you think police or first responders can arrive at the scene after you call for help?

“Stop, drop, and roll” is a simple fire safety technique taught to children, emergency personnel, and workers as part of health and safety training in North America and most other English-speaking countries.

**Task 1**

Put a check mark next to the reasons that someone would call 911. Next, answer the question.

1. There is a fire. ✓
2. You witnessed a burglary. ✓
3. Your brother took your cell phone.
4. There is a serious car accident. ✓
5. You witnessed an attack. ✓
6. Your food was not delivered on time.
7. Someone is choking. ✓
8. There was a kidnapping. ✓
9. A store didn't have your correct shoe size.
10. You saw someone pass out. ✓

Have you ever witnessed or been involved in any of these emergencies before?

What happened? _____ *student's idea(s)* _____

**Activity 2****Reviewing Compound Relative Pronouns****GRAMMAR, SPEAKING**

10 min

Review compound relative pronouns with the student(s). Next, ask them to complete task 2. Discuss the answers.

GRAMMAR REVIEW**Compound Relative Pronouns**

Adding -ever to question words changes their meaning to "it doesn't matter how / what / which / when / where / who".

- who** + **-ever** = **whoever** (it doesn't matter who)
what + **-ever** = **whatever** (it doesn't matter what)
where + **-ever** = **wherever** (it doesn't matter where)
when + **-ever** = **whenever** (it doesn't matter when)
which + **-ever** = **whichever** (it doesn't matter which one)
how + **-ever** = **however** (it doesn't matter how/in what way)

"Whoever / whatever / wherever / whenever / whichever / however" are called **compound relative pronouns**. They can be used as subjects, objects, and adverbs, or as conjunctions to join a clause (partial sentence) to the rest of the sentence.

- **However = in any way**

Examples:

How should I do your makeup?

You can do it **however** you want. (= adverb modifying "do")

- **Whatever = any thing (unlimited choices)**

Examples:

What should I do tomorrow?

You can do **whatever** you feel like. (=object of action "do")

- **Whichever = any one from a limited set**

Examples:

Which T-shirt should I choose?

Choose **whichever** you prefer. (=object of action "choose")

- **Whenever = any time**

Examples:

When should I come to your apartment?

Come **whenever** you want. (=adverb that modifies "come")

- **Wherever = any place**

Examples:

Where should I live?

You can live **wherever** you like. (=adverb that modifies "live")

- **Whoever = any person**

Examples:

Who should I invite to the Christmas party?

You can invite **whoever** you want. (=object of action "invite")

NOTE: "**Whoever**" can also be used as a subject when the identity of the subject is not important or unknown. For instance, if you say, "**Whoever** left their baby on the playground is very irresponsible!", you are saying that the person who left their baby is very irresponsible.



Task 2

Choose a compound relative pronoun from the box to fill in the blanks. Some words are used more than once. Next, answer the question.

whoever / whatever / wherever / whenever / whichever / however

1. She locks the door whenever she leaves the house.
2. Tell whoever comes to go away.
3. Here are two books. Whichever one you choose, you are sure to enjoy it.
4. However much he works out, he is still overweight.
5. I bring my pepper spray with me wherever I go.
6. Whatever I ate yesterday is still hurting my stomach.
7. Here is a black pen and a red pen. Take whichever one you need.
8. However long it takes, they will not give up.

What would you do if you needed to call 911 but your phone battery was dead?

_____ *student's idea(s)* _____



Activity 3

Audio and Comprehension

LISTENING, VOCABULARY, SPEAKING



10 min

Play the **audio** of a young man calling 911 during an emergency. Review any unfamiliar vocabulary mentioned in the audio. Play the audio again while the student(s) complete task 3. Next, check and discuss the answers.

Audio:

(Phone rings)

911 operator: 911, what's your emergency?

George: (concerned/scared tone) Uh...hello. I...I need help.

911 operator: Okay, sir. My name is Chelsea. What seems to be the problem?

George: (concerned/scared tone) My friend collapsed on the grass, and I think he is unconscious!

911 operator: Okay. I will help with whatever you need, but I need you to stay calm. I need some information from you. First, what is your name, and how old is your friend?

George: My name is George. My friend is 20 years old.

911 operator: Okay, George. Where are you right now?

George: Uhh, we are at the park. The...the Jefferson Green Park.

911 operator: Okay. Is your friend breathing? You need to check his pulse.

George: Um, I think I can do that. Hold on. (checks pulse) Yes, he is!

911 operator: Okay, that is good. An ambulance is on the way to you right now. Whatever you do, do not leave your friend.

George: Tell whoever is coming to please hurry!

911 operator: Don't worry. They will arrive in five minutes. The first responders will find you wherever you are.

George: Thank you whoever you are!

911 operator: Of course, George. You are in safe hands. Please stay on the line until the ambulance arrives.



Task 3

Listen to the **audio** and answer the questions.



1. Who calls 911, and what is the emergency?

George calls 911 because his friend collapsed in the grass.

2. What information does the 911 operator need first?

The 911 operator needs to know George's name and the age of his friend who collapsed.

3. What does the operator tell George to do? What was the result?

The operator tells George to check his friend's pulse to see if he is breathing. He was breathing.

4. Who is coming to help? When will they arrive?

First responders were sent to help in an ambulance and will arrive in five minutes.

5. The operator says, "you are in safe hands". What do you think this means?

student's idea(s)

6. Why do you think it is important to stay on the line with a 911 operator?

student's idea(s)

"You are in safe hands" means you are looked after by a reliable person, and there is no risk.



Activity 4

Discussion

VOCABULARY, SPEAKING



5 min

Ask the student(s) to complete task 4. Discuss the answers.



Task 4

Answer the questions relating to the topic.

1. What are some important things to remember when calling 911? ___ *student's idea(s)* ___
2. What information is not very important to share when calling 911? Why shouldn't you include all the little details? _____ *student's idea(s)* _____
3. Have you ever been involved in an emergency in which someone had to give CPR or perform the Heimlich maneuver? _____ *student's idea(s)* _____
4. If you hear someone say, "hang on for dear life", what do you think they mean?
_____ *student's idea(s)* _____
5. Why do you think the emergency number in the United States is called "9-1-1"? What is the emergency number in your country? _____ *student's idea(s)* _____

"Hang on for dear life" is used when you are in a dangerous situation, and you need to grip something firmly, so you do not fall.

"9-1-1" was chosen by the FCC and AT&T because it is short, unique, easily remembered, and can be dialed quickly.