

Dear Teachers,

With the September 2018 issue of Gate, instead of a single large Speaking Card, you will receive a perforated set of four smaller cards. These new cards are ideal for pair work and are designed to be shared directly with students in the classroom (one card per pair or group).

The new cards will still follow a single theme in each issue, and they will still be linked to the “Vocabulary SOS” page in the magazine.

One side of each card has a picture and some questions about the picture. The other side has a set of activities. The questions and activities are the same on each card; the pictures are different.



There are four specific types of activity, each indicated by a specific icon:



Explain: This activity specifically tests knowledge of vocabulary connected to the topic. It also helps students to practise giving explanations and definitions – a core skill.



Describe: This activity practises testing vocabulary through giving and eliciting descriptions. Some relevant vocabulary is provided.



Discuss: This activity provides an opportunity to talk about a specific event or situation based on personal experience. It provides an opportunity to use target vocabulary in a conversational context.



Play: This is a fun activity (such as a roleplay) that gives students a chance to practise vocabulary in a more playful or humorous way.

The cards practise core skills that students will later need for the final exams as well as in real-life situations. They are designed to suit A2–B1 students, but you will find that they can also be used with B2 or even C1 students. We recommend that you pool your cards with other teachers at your school to build a collection you can all use.

We've developed this new format based on our own collective teaching experience, but also inspired by suggestions from teachers we spoke to. Of course, we will be very happy to listen to your feedback, comments and suggestions regarding these new cards.

The old cards are available at www.bridge-online.cz.