

LESSON 4 ACTIVITY

Peer Influence Scenarios

Scenario 1: *The Shortcut Across the Tracks*

You're walking home with friends. They say, "Let's just cross here — it's quicker," and step over the barrier even though the crossing is closed.

Questions:

- What type of influence is happening?
- What might "doing nothing" look like?
- What is an assertive response that protects your safety?

Modelled assertive option: "I'm using the proper crossing — I'll meet you on the other side."

Scenario 2: *The Packed Tram Stop*

You're waiting for the tram. A group of classmates crowd forward, squeezing in front of you without saying anything. You feel pushed in closer than you want to be.

Questions:

- Is this spoken pressure or a subtle nudge?
- What happens if you do nothing?
- What could you say or do assertively?

Example assertive option: "I need a bit more space — I'm just going to step back."

Scenario 3: *Riding Too Close*

You're riding your bike on a shared path. A friend rides right behind your wheel, joking, "Come on, go faster!" even though you feel rushed and unsafe.

Questions:

- What influence is happening here?
- What might stop someone from speaking up?
- What is a calm, assertive response?

Example assertive option: "I'm riding at my pace — can you give me some space behind me?"

Scenario 4: *The "Just Hold My Bag" Moment*

On the bus, a friend places their heavy bag on your lap without asking because the bus is crowded. They don't say anything, but you feel uncomfortable and squashed.

Questions:

- Spoken influence or subtle nudge?
- What does doing nothing look like?
- What could you say assertively?

Example assertive option: "Can you hold your bag? I don't have the space for it."

Scenario 5: *The Group Blocks the Footpath*

You're walking with a group after school. They spread out across the whole footpath, forcing others to step onto the road to get around. No one says anything, but you feel it's not respectful.

Questions:

- What kind of influence is this?
- What might happen if you stay silent?
- What is an assertive, respectful way to speak up?

Example assertive option: "Let's move to the left so people can get past."