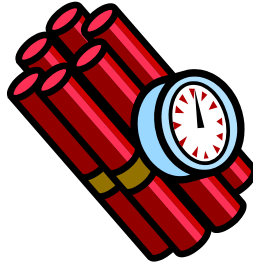




Activity: Terrorists!

Skills: Verb tense, conditionals, conversation



Hostage Crisis

You are the president of the Republic of Korea. You have just learned that terrorists, calling themselves the Seoul Liberation Army, have taken over the observation deck of the DL63 Building on Yoido. They have 100 hostages: 90 elementary school students and 10 teachers. They demand freedom for their leader, who is serving out a sentence of life imprisonment for murder and espionage; 10 billion won in ransom money; and an airplane that will take them to North Korea. If their demands are not met in six hours, the terrorists say they will blow up the observation deck with all 100 hostages still in it. North Korea has denied that it has any ties to the SLA, but will allow the airplane to land in its territory. What do you do?

Your options are the following:

1. Give in to all of the terrorists' demands. Consider the possibility that this may increase the chance of future terrorist activity in Korea.
2. Cut off all communication with the terrorists, evacuate the area, and refuse to negotiate. Consider the possibility that all of the hostages may die and that your political career will probably be over.
3. Attempt to negotiate with the terrorists. What will you attempt to negotiate? What compromises are you willing to make?
4. Try to rescue the hostages. Consider the possibility that the rescue attempt will be a partial failure—that is, that many hostages will die—or a complete failure—all hostages will be killed in the rescue attempt.
5. Take measures against the families of the terrorists. This is assuming you know who the individual terrorists are and can locate their families. Consider the question: "Does this reduce you to the same level as the terrorists?"

Discuss these or other solutions using infinitive clauses, if possible:
"One thing we could do is..."