

Situational

Approach

Teaching

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A group of students had just completed a successful year in the classroom with memorized dialogues, practice situations, etc. and were now in Austria on a semester abroad program. They had just settled into their hotel when one of their members, who had gone ahead of the rest raced back into the lobby. "I did it! I did it! I did it!" he explained breathlessly. "Someone stopped me, right out in front of the hotel, and asked me where to find the Post Office. Just like dialogue six, I told him how to find it. He thanked me and drove off. They were right-we really can communicate in German."

Another student asked him where he had told the stranger the post office was to be found. "Just like the dialogue--straight ahead two blocks, then turn to the right,..." Suddenly he stopped. "Forget the dialogue. Just where was the post office?"
