



ACCIDENTAL POST-IT NOTE

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PDF 2: Varied Speaking Activities

Title: Accidental Post-it Note – Speaking Activities

Level: Pre-Intermediate to Intermediate (A2–B1)

Time: 25–40 minutes

Activity 1: Image Discussion (Pairs)

Look at the image and discuss:

- What do the two main parts of the image show?
- Why is Dr. Silver looking confused in the left picture?
- What is happening in the right picture with Art Fry?
- Why do you think the Post-it Note became so popular?

Activity 2: Would You Rather...? (Groups)

1. Would you rather invent something very useful by accident or work hard for many years to invent something?
2. Would you rather use colorful Post-it Notes or only white ones?
3. Would you rather be Dr. Silver (the glue inventor) or Art Fry (the idea person)?
4. Would you rather have a job where mistakes are encouraged or a job where mistakes are not allowed?

Activity 3: Role-Play Prompts

Close your eyes and point to a number (1–8). Act it out:

1. You are Dr. Silver explaining your “useless” glue to your boss.
2. You are Art Fry telling Dr. Silver about your brilliant new idea.
3. You work at 3M and have to convince the company to produce Post-it Notes.
4. A customer in 1975 tries a Post-it Note for the first time.
5. Someone says “Mistakes are always bad.” Disagree and use the Post-it story as an example.
6. You are presenting the Post-it Note at a big international meeting.
7. You are a teacher showing students how to use Post-it Notes for studying.
8. Two friends argue: one loves Post-it Notes, the other thinks they are a waste of paper.

Activity 4: Design Your Own "Happy Accident" Product

In pairs, invent your own product that started as a mistake.

Decide:

- What was the original "failed" idea?
- What is the new successful product?
- What does it look like and how does it work?
- Give it a fun name.

Present your invention to the class.

Activity 5: The "Mistake" Interview

The Mission: Think of a time you made a mistake at work, while cooking, or while traveling. Was it a "happy accident"?

The Roles:

- Partner A: You are a Talkmor Reporter.
- Partner B: You are the Accidental Inventor.

The Interview Questions:

1. What were you **trying** to do?
2. What went wrong?
3. How did you **feel** when it "failed"?
4. Did anything **good** happen because of the mistake?

Activity 6: Quick Reflection

Answer one:

- What lesson can we learn from the Post-it Note story?
- Have you ever turned a mistake into something good?
- Would you like to work for a company like 3M that encourages new ideas?

Bonus: Timeline

Put these events in order:

- _____ Art Fry gets the idea for reusable bookmarks
- _____ Dr. Silver invents the weak glue
- _____ The yellow color is chosen by accident
- _____ Post-it Notes become popular worldwide