



ALARM CLOCK - A LOVE-HATE STORY

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PDF 2: Varied Speaking Activities

Title: Alarm Clock: A Love-Hate Story – Speaking Activities

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

Time: 25–40 minutes

Activity 1: Image Discussion (Pairs)

Look at the big image and discuss:

- What is happening in the picture? Describe the teenager and the alarm clock.
- How does the alarm clock look? How does the teenager feel?
- Which part of the image is the funniest?
- Does this picture show the “love” or the “hate” part of the story?

Activity 2: Would You Rather...? (Groups of 3–4)

Discuss these funny morning dilemmas:

1. Would you rather wake up with a very loud alarm clock or with cold water on your face?
2. Would you rather have an alarm clock that only rings at 4 a.m. or never wake up on time?
3. Would you rather invent a new alarm clock or invent a way to never need sleep?
4. Would you rather your alarm clock plays your favorite song or your least favorite song?

Activity 3: Role-Play Prompts (Numbered Dilemma)

Close your eyes and point to a number (1–8). Act out the situation with your partner.

1. You are Levi Hutchins in 1787 explaining your new invention to a friend.
2. You are a tired teenager trying to convince your parent to let you sleep 10 more minutes.
3. You work in a shop selling alarm clocks. A customer hates all of them — try to sell one anyway.
4. You are complaining to the inventor of the snooze button.
5. You are a parent trying to wake up a sleepy teenager who keeps pressing snooze.
6. You just invented a “perfect” alarm clock that everyone will love. Explain it.
7. A friend says “Alarm clocks are the worst invention ever!” Agree or defend them.
8. You are a tourist who has never seen an alarm clock before and hear one for the first time.

Activity 4: Design Your Dream (or Nightmare) Alarm Clock

In pairs or small groups, design your perfect (or terrible) alarm clock.

Decide:

- What will it look like?
- What sound will it make? (music, animal sounds, funny voice, etc.)
- Will it have a snooze button? How many minutes?
- Any special features? (smells coffee, throws pillows, tells jokes, etc.)

Give your alarm clock a funny name and present it to the class.

Activity 5: Quick Reflection

Choose one and answer:

- Would you like to try Levi Hutchins' original 4 a.m. alarm clock? Why or why not?
- What is your biggest "alarm clock problem" in the morning?
- If you could invent one rule about mornings for the whole world, what would it be?