



PDF 2: Varied Speaking Activities

Activity 1: Image Discussion (Pairs)

Look at the image and discuss:

- What do you see in the picture?
- How do the people and cats look?
- Would you enjoy this kind of volunteer work? Why or why not?
- Which part of the island life looks the most attractive to you?

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

1. Would you rather volunteer with cats on a Greek island or with dogs in another country?
2. Would you rather live for free on Syros but work with animals every day, or pay for a normal holiday with no work?
3. Would you rather care for stray cats or teach English to children on the island?
4. Would you rather volunteer for one month or for six months?

Activity 3: Design Your Dream Volunteer Program

In pairs, create your own volunteer program on an island (or anywhere).

Decide:

- What animals or cause will it help?
- What will volunteers do every day?
- What benefits will volunteers receive? (free stay, food, etc.)
- Give your program a cool name.

Present it to the class.

Activity 4: Role-Play Prompts (Numbered)

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

1. You are a volunteer explaining the Syros Cats program to a friend.
2. You are interviewing for the volunteer program.
3. You are a local on Syros thanking a volunteer for their help.
4. You are a cat lover who wants to join but is a bit scared of hard work. Convince them.
5. Someone says “Volunteering is a waste of time.” Disagree.
6. You just arrived on Syros and are meeting the other volunteers for the first time.
7. You are calling your family to tell them about your experience on the island.
8. You and a friend are deciding whether to apply for the program together.

Activity 5: The "Voluntourist" Pitch

The Mission: You want to go on a "Voluntouring" trip, but your friend wants to go to a luxury resort and sit by a pool. You must convince them to come to Syros instead!

The Roles:

- **Partner A:** The Volunteer (Excited about the cats and the culture).
- **Partner B:** The Tourist (Wants to relax and do nothing).

The Conversation Starters:

1. "Why should we work on our vacation?"
2. "What can we learn from the local people on Syros?"
3. "How will 'giving back' make our trip more memorable?"

Activity 6: Quick Reflection

Answer one of these:

- Would you like to volunteer on Syros? Why or why not?
- What is more important to you when traveling: comfort or making a difference?
- Have you ever volunteered or helped animals? Tell the story.