Directions: For this activity, find someone who will play a conversation game with you. Then follow the instructions given.

1. Think of a subject you and your partner can talk about. Consider controversial topics like the economy, the homeless, the farm bill, terrorism, etc.

2. Have a 2-way conversation that makes sense.

3. In your conversation, you cannot use any of the 1st-person pronouns listed below:

   I   We
   Me  Us
   My  Our
   Mine Ours
   Myself Ourselves

4. You cannot pause more than 4 seconds between the time when one person finishes saying something and the other person responds.

5. You must say at least 4 words when it is your turn.

6. You may not ask questions of each other.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How long were you able to continue the conversation?
2. How much longer could you have continued if you could have used the personal pronouns?
3. How does using personal pronouns affect the communication between two people?
4. Based on your conversation, what generalizations can you make about how we communicate with each other?
5. What improvements do you recommend to enhance 2-way communication?

Adapted from "I-ME-MINE," Dr. John E. Jones and Dr. William L. Bearley, Energizers for Training and Conferences