# PUTTING VOCABULARY INTO CONTEXT – ROLEPLAY GAME

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| LEVEL: | **Adult English as a Second Language (ESL)/ French as a Second Language (FSL) )** - beginner to intermediate |
| TIME REQUIRED: | **45 to 55 minutes** |
| THEME: | **Understanding the Canadian census** |
| LANGUAGE FOCUS: | **Vocabulary development, oral fluency, reading comprehension** |

## Lesson overview

This lesson is intended as a follow up to Activity 1 – Understanding Key Canadian Census Terminology. The aim is to help adult learners apply key vocabulary in a meaningful and realistic context by participating in a roleplay activity between a census enumerator and a resident. Through this roleplay, learners will practice speaking, listening, and functional communication skills required to complete a census questionnaire.

While this activity can be used on its own, for optimal results it is recommended to first complete Activity 1—Census vocabulary worksheet and Activity 2 - Census guessing game.

**Learning objectives:**

By the end of this lesson, learners will be able to:

- Use key census vocabulary accurately in conversation
- Participate in a simulated census interview through roleplay
- Share personal and household information using vocabulary introduced in class

# Lesson procedure:

## 1 Quick vocabulary review (5 minutes)

- Review the key vocabulary used in the roleplay script, along with any additional terms the instructor finds relevant.
- Invite learners to ask questions or clarify meanings before starting the activity.

## 2 Introduce the roleplay (5 minutes)

- Explain the scenario: learners will take turns acting as both the census enumerator and the resident, using the script to complete a mock census interaction.
- Emphasize the purpose: to practice vocabulary and build real-life speaking and listening skills in the context of the Canadian Census of Population.

## 3 Model the roleplay (5–10 minutes)

- Distribute printed copies of the roleplay script (one per learner).
- Model the full script aloud with clear pronunciation, pacing, and expression.
- Pause to check understanding and review any difficult words or pronunciations before learners begin.

## 4 Guided practice in pairs (20–25 minutes)

- Learners pair up and take on the roles of enumerator and resident.
- Using the script, they fill in the blanks with made-up answers (e.g., a fictional name or household size) for privacy and creative engagement.
- Circulate to provide support with pronunciation, vocabulary, and fluency as needed.

# 5   Group reflection and discussion (10 minutes)

- Lead a brief discussion with the following prompts:
  - *Did you struggle with any vocabulary words? Which words did you find particularly difficult?*
  - *Was it easy or hard to answer the questions? Why?*
  - *What did you learn about the census process?*
- Clarify any final questions about vocabulary or how the census works.

# 6   Wrap-up (5 minutes)

- Summarize key takeaways from the lesson.
- Congratulate learners on using their new vocabulary to successfully simulate a real-life civic task—completing the census!

## Adaptations and differentiation:

- **To simplify:** Allow learners to work with a partner who shares their first language so they can check understanding before starting the roleplay.
- **To extend:** Encourage more advanced learners to expand on their answers, add extra details, or create their own census-style questions to ask during the roleplay.
- **To support language development:** Permit the use of translator apps or dictionaries to help learners understand vocabulary and question phrasing as needed.

## Extension Ideas:

- Review the actual 2026 Census of Population questionnaire as a class. (Reference: 2026 Census - Form 2A-L)
- Identify any questions learners find confusing or unclear.
- Practice filling out a sample short-form census questionnaire in English to build confidence with real-world language and formats.

## Teacher tips:

- Emphasize that most people in Canada complete the census online, independently. Enumerators are only sent out when a household hasn't completed their questionnaire by the deadline, to help ensure everyone is included.

# CENSUS ROLEPLAY SCRIPT

**Enumerator:** Hello! My name is _____. I'm an enumerator with Statistics Canada, which means I help people complete their census questionnaires if they haven't done so online. I'm here to assist you today.

**Resident:** Hello! Sure, that's fine.

**Enumerator:** Thank you. Before we begin, I want to let you know that all the information you provide is confidential and protected by law. It will only be used for statistical purposes.

**Resident:** I understand.

**Enumerator:** Great. Let's start: can I confirm the address for this dwelling?

**Resident:** The address is [insert pretend address].

**Enumerator:** Including yourself, how many people were living at this address on May 12, 2026?

**Resident:** There were [insert number] people living here on May 12, 2026.

**Enumerator:** Thank you. May I have your full name for the questionnaire? Let's start with your family name (last name).

**Resident:** My family name is [insert name].

**Enumerator:** And your given name (first name)?

**Resident:** My given name is [insert name].

**Enumerator:** Thank you. What is your date of birth?

**Resident:** [Insert pretend birth date].

**Enumerator:** And how old were you on May 12, 2026?

**Resident:** I was [insert age].

# CENSUS ROLEPLAY SCRIPT

**Enumerator:** What was your sex at birth? The options are "male" or "female".

**Resident:** I am [insert answer].

**Enumerator:** Are you a Canadian citizen? The options are "Yes, a Canadian citizen by birth", "Yes, a Canadian citizen by naturalization" or "No, not a Canadian citizen". "Canadian citizenship by naturalization" refers to an immigrant who was granted Canadian citizenship under the Citizenship Act.

**Resident:** [insert answer].

**Enumerator:** Can you speak English or French well enough to conduct a conversation? The options are "English only", "French only", "Both English and French", or "Neither English nor French".

**Resident:** I speak [insert answer].

**Enumerator:** And what is the language you first learned at home during childhood and still understand? The options are "English", "French", or specify another language.

**Resident:** [insert answer].

**Enumerator:** Wonderful—thank you for your participation!

*Now, switch roles and repeat!*