Mindful Communication Phrase Game: Connecting or Disconnecting?

Number of players: 2-3

Directions:

- 1. Choose one person (Player 1) who will read from the card deck and one person Player 2) to guess if it is a connecting or disconnecting phrase.
- 2. Player 1 chooses one card and reads the Connecting or Disconnecting phrase.
- 3. If Player 2 guesses if the phrase is a disconnecting or connecting phrase correctly, they keep the card. If they guess incorrectly, the card goes to the bottom of the card deck.
- 4. Switch positions so that Player 1 now guesses and Player 2 draws and reads a card.
- 5. The game continues until all of the cards have been read.

Card Deck		
Connecting or Disconnecting?	Connecting or Disconnecting?	
"Don't talk to me like that!"	"I feel angry."	
Connecting or Disconnecting?	Connecting or Disconnecting?	
"Could we talk when we are both calm?"	"I will never talk to you again!"	

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Connecting or Disconnecting?	Connecting or Disconnecting?
"I want to listen."	"You are mean and are making me feel angry."
Connecting or Disconnecting?	Connecting or Disconnecting?
"It's all your fault!"	"I feel disappointed. I don't think either of us wanted things to be this way."
Connecting or Disconnecting?	Connecting or Disconnecting?
"What would have helped? Let's brainstorm solutions."	"You are showing me that I can't believe or trust you."

Disconnecting Phrases	Connecting Phrases
"Don't talk to me like that!" (demand)	"Let's talk when we have both cooled off." (observation)
"What do you think you are doing?" (challenge)	"I realize that you wanted a turn and notice that you are frustrated." (acknowledge feelings and needs)
"I told you want I wanted, this is all your fault!" (blame, guilt)	"Fairness and making sure everyone has a turn is important." (acknowledge needs)
"I don't want to talk to you ever again!" (consequence, fear)	"What are some things that can be done to make sure you are feeling heard?" (solutions and requests)

Name	
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Date _____

Answers

Connecting	Disconnecting
"I feel angry."	"Don't talk to me like that!"
"Could we talk when we are both calm?"	"I will never talk to you again!"
"I want to listen."	"You are mean and are making me feel angry."
"I feel disappointed. I don't think either of us wanted things to be this way."	"It's all your fault!"
"What would have helped? Let's brainstorm solutions."	"You are showing me that I can't believe or trust you."