

Start Talking!



Leading to Conversation:

1. Reestablish connection with student: ask about weekend; the story s/he told you last week; the problem you discussed; the new grandchild.
2. Warmup: Review of previous lesson; ask questions. This will lead you in the direction of where you want to take the conversation for this lesson.
3. To set up the activity, ask questions, for example; if you are going to practice role playing a situation, give minimal instruction and allow the student to do the set up: we are going out to lunch;
 - Where is the restaurant
 - What kind of restaurant are we going to
 - What does it look like
 - Who are you(server) who am I (customer)
 - What will you ask
 - What will you want to order
4. The goal of a lesson is for the student to be able to practice the new language they have learned,

Types of Conversations:

Modeled: student is provided with a script

My Family (handout 1)

Ask student to read the script as you provide the answers:

With cell phone point out family members, ask student to repeat.

Other possible topics, my job, my hometown, my favorite hobby, my country.

Free Conversation: This is good for beginning or ending a session. Try to limit the time spent to a few minutes. If you are going to be working on a grammar point as part of your lesson, consider using the free conversation to lead into the lesson.

Ex: Next week is school vacation week, and my family and I are going to do some fun things. We are going to visit the New England Aquarium, and walk the Freedom Trail. We are going to go to the zoo. What are you going to do next week? **Practices using “be going to” to talk about things happening in the future**

Guided Conversation: This is conversation in which you use a “prop” or a dialog or a preplanned topic.

Always encourage additional conversation by asking follow up questions and by having your student do the same.

For Beginners; If you are talking about a particular topic create a set of word cards that you think might come up in the conversation. Place the word cards on the table in front of both of you. As you use them, point them out to the student. Then encourage them to use them when speaking to you.

EX: Let’s talk about things to do in free time.

Words: relax, read, take a walk, watch tv, go to the movies, cook, etc. (allow student to add their own words)

Story Sequence: Cut up the story and mix it up in front of the student (make sure that you have a copy for yourself). Have student talk about each picture

and what happened before and what happened after. Have student work to put the pictures in order, Have student tell the story of what happened.

Picture story: with a picture, have student work to place a verb above each picture , together choose the time that the story happened base on your lesson. Using the picture and verbs, create the story. Retell story.

Use pictures to tell a story. (show busy pictures)

For Intermediate Learners: Find out what interests the student, what they want to know. Use what students can talk about: family, job, country, holidays, hobbies, etc.

Read a news article together: News inLevels, NewsELA, have student tell you what it is about, who, where, why, when, and summarize or retell. Discuss.

Talk about Daily Routines, have student tell you theirs (two word verbs)-
Daily routine handout

Use a picture to brainstorm feelings, motivations (Here I come Handout)

Interview one another: Things I like, don't like

Play Games: Say 4 Things, Question Games

For High Intermediate, Advanced Learners, use Discussion Topics, Role Plays, Read Stories, articles - talk about vocabulary, give opinions

Scenarios, Dilemmas

Most of All: Have Fun