

English Conversation Club

Potential meeting time: Weekly, during the lunch hour (14-15:00)

Objectives

- Create a space for students to practice speaking English in a casual setting
 - Encourage student-led discussion about the week's topic
 - Encourage students to bring in their own questions and topics
- Incorporate aspects of U.S. culture (e.g. U.S. holidays & events)

Classroom Culture

- “Open door” policy: Students can join at any time during the semester
- The weekly topics are a guide/suggestion
 - The discussion may always deviate to align with the students' interests and comments

Example Meeting Timetable (with 1-hour timeslot)

[5] students coming into class, introductions

[15] ice breakers

[30 min] conversation

Potential Ice-breakers

Purpose: Short and fun activities that get all the students to talk. If we start the meeting out with everyone chatting and talking, then students will be more likely to participate in the discussion afterwards. It breaks the ice and gets the students more comfortable speaking in English.

Potential Topics

Since this type of meeting is more casual in form, there is not a set in stone calendar for when these topics should be discussed. Also, I hope this meeting can be accessible to students with varying levels of English. Some topics will be more simplistic while others might encourage a deeper conversation in order to match the level of the students that attend that meeting. Further, I will collect suggestions from the students based on their interests and backgrounds.

Some potential topics may include:

- U.S. Culture (see: U.S. Culture for further topic ideas)
- English language Media (music, books, etc.)
- English Dialectology: introduce the students to different regions of the world that speak English and the ways that the language differs
- Business/Formal English (i.e. How to have an interview in English)
- Basic debate between students
 - Talk about different styles of language; what makes a good public speaker
 - Provide a topic and give each student a minute to defend their view
 - This can be done throughout the semester in a “round-robin” sort of way. Doing a bracket system and playful competition has had positive results in past experiences

