



Tutor Training Workshop ESL Conversation

Winter 2023

Literacy
lifts Lives

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ESL Conversation Overview

- Understand basic principles for teaching dialogs.
- Learn and practice steps for teaching and creating a dialog.
- Learn about ways to foster new conversations.



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Dialogs: Basic principles

- Conversation involves listening and speaking.
- Introduce **oral** conversations before **written** ones.
- Establish a context.
- Students need to hear conversations in a normal tone and speed.
- Repetition, repetition, repetition
- Follow dialogs with role play.



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Gesturing

Listen



Stop



Repeat



Handout

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Steps for teaching dialog

- Pre-teach new vocabulary.
- Read or say the whole dialog at least two times.
- Have student repeat each line.
- Each of you take a role.
- Switch roles.



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Greetings dialog

T: Hello. How are you?

S: Fine thank you. How are you?

T: Fine thanks. My name's _____. (point to yourself)
What's your name?

S: My name's _____. (use student's name)



Handout

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Greetings dialog



Handout

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Helpful hints



Hints:

- Use pictures or puppets.
- Enter and say "hello."
- Simplify: begin at end and add one word at a time –

Example: "Hello, how are you?"
you
are you
how are you
Hello, how are you?



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Sample dialog

Clerk: Hi, may I help you?
Customer: I would like some stamps, please.
Clerk: How many?
Customer: Five stamps.
Clerk: That'll be two dollars and fifty cents.
Customer: Here. (giving him the money)
Clerk: Here's your change.
Customer: Thank you.



Handout

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Practice creating and teaching a dialog

- Choose a topic:
 - making a doctor's appointment, or
 - meeting the child's teacher
- Identify two roles
- Select 5 - 7 appropriate new words to use & teach
- Write your dialog of 3 or 4 exchanges
- Practice teaching dialog using gestures



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New Dialogs

Receptionist: Doctor's office. How may I help you?

Patient: My name is Maria Lopez. I would like to make an appointment.

Receptionist: Can you come next Monday?

Patient: Yes, what time?

Receptionist: Is 11:00 all right?

Patient: Yes.

Receptionist: Okay, we'll see you then.

Patient: Thank you.

Teacher: Hello, I'm Ms. Smith.

Parent: Hello, I'm Mrs. Garcia, Juan's mother.

Teacher: I'm happy to meet you. Thank you for coming.

Parent: How is Juan doing in class?

Teacher: He is doing well. He is a good student.

Parent: I'm glad. Thank you for meeting with me.



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Dialogs to role-plays

- Change the dialog
- Switch roles
- Add new dialog
- Use news articles, Q & A, or show and tell
- Talk about your surroundings



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Useful websites

Conversation lessons learningenglish.voanews.com

Greetings esolcourses.com

Conversation starters wordwall.net



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Tips for creating your own dialog

- Use a topic important to your student. Start with what your student knows in their environment.
- Use correct sentence structure.
- Build on what you have by using the same topic.
Enlarge the vocabulary and create more complex sentences.
- Return to and review dialogs periodically.
- The dialogs are not fixed. Keep them flexible and conversational.
- Act things out.



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