

TIPS FOR THE CONVERSATION CLASS

LET STUDENTS OWN IT

In traditional classes, students learn grammar, follow their lessons, and complete assigned homework. But in conversation classes, students should have more control. Let students bring in topics they care about. This gives you authentic material to build from and helps them learn the language they'll use.

ASK THEM QUESTIONS

Start with prompts like:

“What have you learned in your other classes today?”

“What words do you need help with?”

These get them thinking and speaking about things they already have interest in or experience with.

TAKE NOTES

When the students are talking, listen for clues about their interests. Use them to shape future lessons around what really matters to them.

LET THEM STEER

You may have a plan, but if a student walks in eager to talk about something, follow their lead. Their motivation is a powerful learning tool.

GIVE STUDENTS AIRTIME

You shouldn't be the one talking the most. Keep students engaged and talking by incorporating tools like:

- Turn Taking Signals
- Pair Practice
- “Talking stick”
- Threading Questions
- Roleplay
- Visuals

CAREFUL WITH CORRECTIONS

Correction is important, but balance is key.

Some students want detailed feedback, while others feel discouraged by too much correction. Focus on keeping confidence high. Prioritize fluency over perfection and never embarrass a learner. This is already a big step for them!