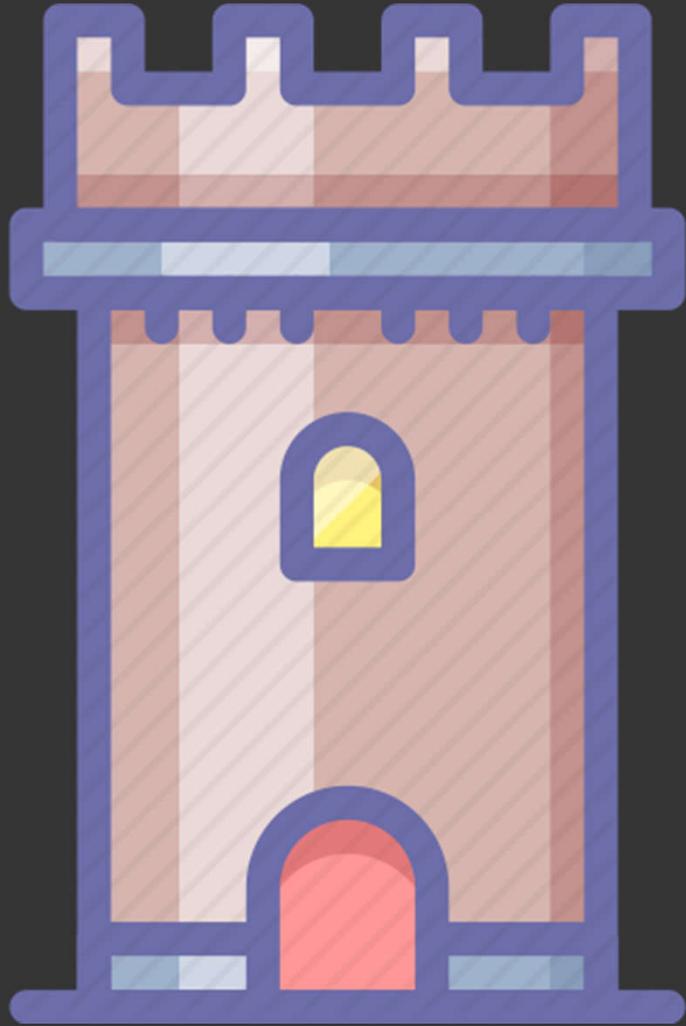




Rethinking and
revamping
conversation classes
for adults

by Jędrzej Stępień



The exceptionalism of
**Conversation
Classes**
Today

(disruption-proof)

Professional vs. amateur conversations



The state of conversation questions

1. What is your perfect day like?
2. What is your biggest achievement?
3. Is there anything you would like to know about your parents that you don't?
4. What couldn't you forgive?
5. Were you bullied at school?
6. How do you make sure a boy becomes a good adult?
7. Should sport be important at school?
8. Which country would you like your country to be more like?
9. Do you have any problems sleeping?
10. Are you good at admitting you were wrong?

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James M.
Taylor

How Was Your
Weekend?

1001
DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS

*To Use With Your
EFL/ESL Students*

TMC

The state of conversation questions

1. Would you rather be a boy or a girl?
2. Would you rather have one long finger or 10 short fingers?
3. Have you tried doing anything dangerous that could risk your life?
4. What do you do when you feel that something might happen to you?
5. What is your best memory of childhood?
6. What is your attitude toward a church wedding ceremony?
7. Do you think your body is beautiful? Why?
8. Does your mother have a driver's license?
9. Did you study a foreign language in school? Was it taught well?
10. Does it make you angry when motorists drive too closely behind you?

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<http://iteslj.org/questions/>

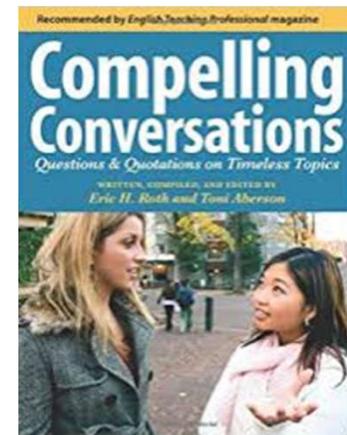
The state of conversation questions

1. Can you name anything which is the same as it was 100 years ago?
2. What personal changes would you welcome?
3. What do you like to do outside? Why?
4. Do you have any older brothers? Sisters? Younger siblings?
5. Who chose your name? Why?
6. Can you describe a typical summer/winter afternoon for you?
7. Have you ever taken a personality quiz from a magazine or online?
8. Are you bold or careful? Give one or two examples

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Eric Roth and Toni Aberson



Conversation questions today

8/10* are personal questions

Undermine confidence

* Data by me

Interrogations rather than conversations

Stem willingness to communicate

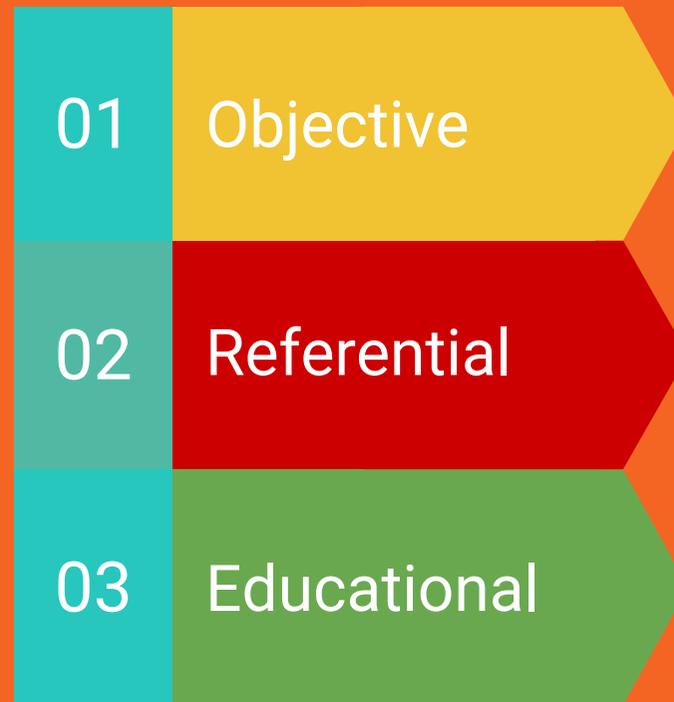
Cheap impulses

(gossip, controversy, nosiness)

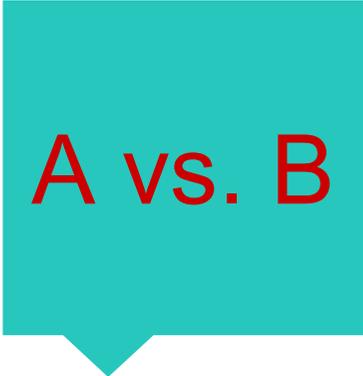
as engines of conversations

Kill persistence in communication

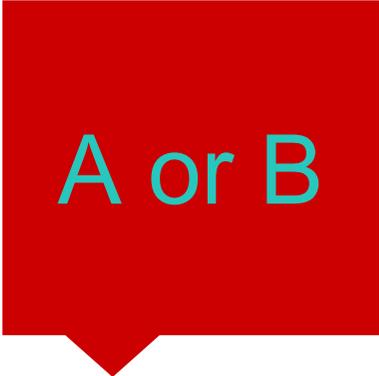
The way forward: new type of questions



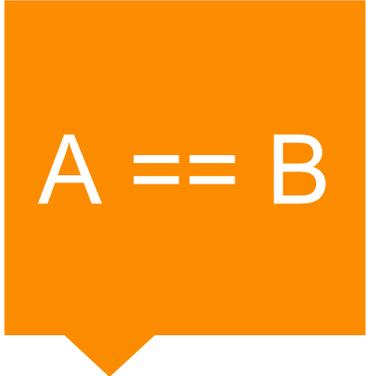
4 types of professional conversation questions:



A vs. B



A or B



A == B



OPEN

Examples of educational questions:

Is cooking art or craft?

What is stronger: a promise or a contract?

Could a black character be likable?

Is there order or chaos in the jungle?

What is the difference between a shy person and a coward?

Is it possible to work with passion in a supermarket?

Can a monster be small?

Is it profitable to go against the grain?

What is the relation between smell and taste?

Is sugar a spice?

Why bother?

“What torments me is not these hollows nor these humps, nor this ugliness, but a part of the murder of **Mozart** in every one of these men.”

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
Wind, Sand and Stars

Thank You!



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