



# MOTIVATING IDEAS FOR MOTIVATING CONVERSATION CLASSES

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- What is a conversation class?
- 9 basic principles
- Small talk: Tic Tac Toe
- Very useful surveys for Small Talk
- A hot air balloon ride
- A Chat GPT Lesson
- Useful links

Contents  
of  
today's  
session

# What exactly is a conversation class?

- The goal of a conversation course is **to communicate**, with emphasis on quickly producing language and getting the right idea across.
- English conversation classes provide an opportunity for students **to practice** their English communication skills in a safe and supportive environment.
- Conversation classes are usually taken by students who want **to use and improve** their speaking and listening skills.
- Conversation classes also provide a valuable opportunity for students **to meet** other English speakers and **learn** about different cultures.
- English conversation classes can be **an enjoyable and enriching experience** for both students and teachers alike.

# 9 Basic Principles

- Communication and fluency, not correctness
- Laying the groundwork – ‘rules for engagement’
- Students choice of topics
- Small groups/pair work
- Encourage students to change partners
- Teaching conversation strategies
- Teaching key vocabulary
- Informal assessment
- STT vs TTT

Adapted from an article on: <https://busyteacher.org>

# Small Talk: Tic Tac Toe or Noughts & Crosses!

Small talk is often overlooked as it is not easy to design tasks to practice the relevant language.

1. Use one grid for every 4 students
2. The first pair chooses a topic such as “this morning” and talk about it for 2 minutes (advanced), 1 minute (intermediate) or 30 seconds (elementary). The other team is the “timer”, they can use their mobile phones to do this.
3. If the team can keep up a conversation about the chosen topic for the full time, they get to mark that topic on the board with either an “X” or “O,” with the goal being three in a row, which equals one point. If the person speaking can’t speak for the full time, they can ‘tag’ their partner to continue speaking.
4. The next team then chooses a topic and the game continues.
5. For a short activity, the winner can be the first team with one row of three. For a longer game, continue for a certain amount of time (10 minutes is good) and the winner is the team with the most rows.

From an idea on <https://www.eslactivity.org/>

# Small talk: Surveys

- Surveys are a great resource for getting students out of their chairs and mingling with the rest of the class – whatever age they maybe.
- Surveys can be prepared by the teachers, or better still by the students themselves, practising their skills at forming questions.
- Surveys can be effective for all levels from beginners to more advanced students.
- Remember – Feedback is an important part of the survey activity – provide students time to prepare their feedback, which they can deliver

# A Hot Air Balloon Ride







# Title???

There has been a spate of muggings in cities across the globe as muggers are focusing on a new item to steal – luxury coats. In recent weeks, people in London, Washington DC and other metropolitan areas have been robbed of their coats at knifepoint.

One man in Birmingham in the UK was slashed across his face as thieves made off with his jacket. Criminals are targeting coats that cost as much as \$2,200 each. As well as literally stealing the coats off people's backs, thieves are breaking into people's vehicles.

Professor David Wilson, a criminologist at Birmingham City University, warned that the muggings were the start of a new "luxury crime trend". He said the thefts were "worrying".

# Lesson ideas from Chat GPT

- 1. Warm up on the topic of street safety
- 2. Pre-teaching vocabulary
- 3. Reading
- 4. Comprehension questions
- 5. Group discussions on the reasons for the disturbing trend, the psychological impact of such attacks and how we can protect ourselves.
- 6. Role play – victim, reporter, police etc
- 7. Debate: Increased security measures vs addressing the root causes of such crimes
- 8. Vocabulary expansion with vocabulary linked to crime – creating a word wall
- 9. Final reflection on the topic and lesson
- 10. Homework : Students write about their personal position on the topics discussed.

Using images - Imagine a backstory to this image.



# Useful websites/links

- [www.teachingenglish.org.uk](http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk)
- [BusyTeacher: Free Printable Worksheets For Busy English Teachers](#)
- [35 Ideas for ESL Conversation Lessons For Adults And Children \(twinkl.fr\)](#)
- <https://www.eslactivity.org/>
- [National Geographic](#)
- [Breaking News English Lessons: Easy English World News Materials - ESL](#)



**THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING!!**

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