

Communication Lesson Plan: Developing conversation skills through collaborative activities

Age group: Teenage and adult learners

Life Competency: Communication

Language focus: Language of conversation

***Aim:** This task aims to help teen and adult learners develop conversation and communication skills in online classrooms. Learners develop language and communication skills by authentically engaging with one another and reflecting on the process. Their goal is to engage in conversations to solve a problem and then reflect on their communications.*

Step 1:

Identify a global issue that interests your learners and identify a number of YouTube videos on the topic to share with them. Learners watch the videos on the topic for homework.

Step 2:

In online classes, put learners into breakout rooms in pairs or groups of three to encourage collaboration.

Step 3:

Give the learners a task of “solving” the global issue presented in the videos in their pairs/groups. Remind them of key strategies for managing conversation such as “repair strategies” for communication breakdown e.g.:

- “What I meant to say was...”
- “Sorry, let me try that again...”

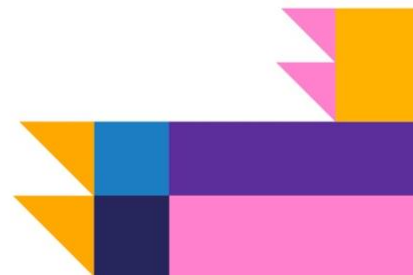
Step 4:

Get learners to record their conversations. This allows for effective use of technology and will allow learners to listen back and reflect on their use of communication strategies later.

Step 5:

Bring the learners back to the main class and ask each group to share their proposed solutions (this could include an outline/small presentation/graphics). The class can then vote for the best solution.

Step 6:





For homework, get the learners to listen back to their recording. Ask them to reflect on their speaking in ways such as:

- Noticing a particular conversation strategy (how they ask and answer questions, how they show (dis)agreement, etc.).
- Reflecting on any breakdowns in communication, what went wrong, any strategies used and how effective they were.

For support whilst teaching this lesson, refer to either the [Teenage Learners](#), [Adult Learners](#) or [Communication](#) booklet, from the [Cambridge Life Competencies Framework](#).