

ENGELSK

Conversation techniques

EXPRESSING AND EXCHANGING VIEWS ON FAMILIAR TOPICS



Velkommen til School To Go og dagens undervisning!

Dette er et forløb i faget "Engelsk" om "Conversation techniques" i tre episoder, med de tre temaer: "Using Question Words to Engage in Conversations", "Introduction and Conclusion Phrases in Conversations", og til sidst "Expressing and Exchanging Views on Familiar Topics". Der vil både være lytte-tekster og øvelser i episoderne.

Introduction

Today, we're going to focus on a very important skill: expressing and exchanging views on topics that you're already familiar with. This is a fantastic way to improve your English, as it involves both sharing your own thoughts and listening to what others have to say.

Imagine discussing your favorite movies, music, or even your thoughts on the importance of homework with friends from around the world. How cool would that be? Well, that's exactly what we're aiming for! By learning simple language techniques, you'll be able to engage in conversations, share your opinions confidently, and understand different viewpoints.

This isn't just about talking; it's about connecting. You'll learn how to ask questions to get to know others better, how to agree or disagree politely, and how to make your conversations more interesting. Remember, every great conversation is a two-way street—it's as much about listening and understanding as it is about speaking.

So, get ready to dive into the art of conversation. It's going to be fun, it's going to be informative, and most importantly, it's going to help you become more fluent and confident in English.

Learning objectives and goals:

- I should be able to identify key phrases used for expressing personal opinions in English.
- I should be able to construct sentences that clearly express my viewpoint on familiar topics.
- I should be able to ask questions to further understand a classmate's viewpoint on a topic.
- I should be able to compare and contrast my views with those of my classmates in a respectful manner.
- I should be able to participate in a group discussion, sharing my thoughts and actively listening to others.
- I should be able to reflect on how my cultural background influences my viewpoints on familiar topics.

How can students effectively express their own opinions on familiar topics such as hobbies, sports, or favorite movies in English?

Expressing your own opinions, especially on topics you are passionate about like hobbies, sports, or favorite movies, is a great way to practice and improve your English skills. Here are some steps and tips on how you can do this effectively:

1. Start with What You Know

Begin by talking about topics you are familiar with and genuinely interested in. This could be anything from your favorite sport to a movie you recently watched and enjoyed. Speaking about subjects you are comfortable with will make it easier to express your thoughts and feelings.

2. Learn Key Phrases

There are specific phrases in English that can help you introduce your opinions. For example:

“In my opinion, ...”

“I believe that ...”

“I think that ...”

“From my perspective, ...”

Using these phrases signals to others that you are about to share your viewpoint.

3. Use Simple Language

Don't worry about making complex sentences or using big words. The most important thing is to communicate your ideas clearly. Simple sentences like “I love playing soccer because it's exciting” or “My favorite movie is [Movie Name] because it's funny” are perfectly fine and effective.

4. Give Reasons

When you express an opinion, try to explain why you feel that way. For instance, if you enjoy a particular hobby, mention what makes it special to you. You could say something like, “I enjoy painting because it allows me to be creative and relax.” This not only makes your argument stronger but also helps the conversation flow more naturally.

5. Practice Active Listening

Expressing your opinion also involves listening to what others have to say. Show that you are paying attention by nodding, making eye contact, and using phrases such as “I see,” “That's interesting,” or “I never thought about it that way.” This encourages a respectful exchange of ideas.

6. Agreeing and Disagreeing Politely

In conversations, you might not always agree with others, and that's okay. You can express disagreement politely with phrases like:

"I see your point, but I think ..."

"That's interesting, but I feel ..."

"I understand, but from my experience ..."

7. Practice, Practice, Practice

The best way to become comfortable expressing your opinions is to practice as much as possible. Participate in class discussions, join English-speaking clubs or online forums, and practice with friends or family members who are fluent in English.

8. Be Open to Corrections

If you make mistakes or someone corrects your English, see it as a learning opportunity. Mistakes are a natural part of the learning process, and each correction is a step toward improvement.

Remember, expressing your opinions in a new language is a brave and rewarding endeavor. It opens up new avenues for learning, cultural exchange, and personal growth. So, dive into discussions on your favorite topics and enjoy the journey of expressing yourself in English.

What strategies can be taught to students to help them actively listen and respond to their classmates' opinions during discussions on topics like family traditions, school subjects, or environmental issues?

Active listening is a crucial skill, especially when engaging in discussions on various topics like family traditions, school subjects, or environmental issues. It involves not just hearing what someone else is saying but fully understanding and responding thoughtfully. Here are strategies that can help students like you become active listeners and effective responders in discussions:

1. Pay Full Attention

Give the speaker your undivided attention. This means putting aside distracting thoughts, avoiding interruptions, and maintaining eye contact. Showing you are focused on the speaker not only respects them but also helps you grasp the nuances of what they're saying.

2. Show That You're Listening

Use body language and gestures to show you are engaged. Nod occasionally, smile at the speaker, and make sure your posture is open and inviting. These non-verbal cues indicate that you are actively listening.

3. Provide Feedback

Reflect on what has been said by paraphrasing. For example, say, "So, what you're saying is..." or "If I understand you correctly, you believe...". This shows you are trying to understand the speaker fully and also helps clarify any misunderstandings right away.

4. Defer Judgment

Interrupting is a no-go in active listening. Allow the speaker to finish their thoughts before you respond. Avoid formulating a counter-argument while the other person is speaking. Instead, listen with an open mind, and don't make hasty judgments.

5. Respond Appropriately

Active listening is designed to encourage respect and understanding. So, when you respond, do so honestly and respectfully. Share your opinions clearly and directly, without attacking the speaker.

6. Ask Questions

If something isn't clear, don't be afraid to ask questions. This can help clarify the speaker's points and show that you are interested in what they're saying. Questions can be simple, like "Can you explain what you mean by..." or "Why do you think that...?"

7. Practice Empathy

Try to see the issue from the speaker's perspective, especially in discussions about sensitive topics like family traditions or environmental issues. Understanding where someone is coming from helps build a connection and makes for a more meaningful exchange of ideas.

8. Take Notes

In some situations, jotting down key points can help you remember what's been said and formulate a more thoughtful response. This is especially useful in academic settings or when discussing complex topics.

9. Summarize and Share Your Thoughts

After listening, summarize what you've heard to confirm your understanding, then share your thoughts. This could be an agreement, a different perspective, or

additional information. For example, "I understand you feel strongly about recycling because..., I also think that..., but have you considered...?"

10. Practice Regularly

Like any other skill, active listening gets better with practice. Engage in discussions regularly, and consciously apply these strategies. Over time, you'll find it becomes a natural part of how you communicate.

By developing your active listening skills, you'll not only enhance your ability to learn from others but also build stronger, more respectful relationships with your classmates. Remember, a good discussion is not about winning an argument but about understanding different viewpoints and expanding your knowledge.

In what ways can the teacher facilitate role-play activities that simulate real-life conversations on familiar topics, enhancing students' ability to exchange views and negotiate meaning in English?

Role-play activities are a dynamic and interactive way to enhance English language learning, especially for students like you who are 14 years old and learning English as a foreign language. These activities can simulate real-life conversations on familiar topics, helping you practice how to exchange views and negotiate meaning effectively. Here's how teachers can facilitate role-play activities to maximize your learning experience:

Setting the Stage

First, the teacher will choose topics that are relevant and interesting to you and your classmates. These might include discussions on hobbies, planning a school event, debating environmental issues, or deciding on a group project topic. The key is selecting scenarios that you are likely to encounter in real life, which will spark your interest and motivation to participate.

Creating Scenarios

For each role-play, the teacher will create a scenario that outlines the situation, the characters involved, and their backgrounds. This gives you a clear context and helps you understand your role better. For example, in a role-play about planning a school event, one student could be the event coordinator, another could be in charge of entertainment, and others could represent the catering service or publicity team.

Assigning Roles

The teacher will assign roles to students, taking into account your personalities, strengths, and learning needs. This is an opportunity for you to step into someone else's shoes, which can be a powerful way to learn empathy and perspective-taking. You might be encouraged to play roles that are different from your usual behavior to challenge you and help you grow.

Providing Language Support

Before starting the role-play, the teacher will provide you with useful phrases and vocabulary related to the topic. This might include expressions for making suggestions, agreeing or disagreeing, asking for clarification, and expressing preferences. Having this language toolkit ready will boost your confidence and enable you to participate more actively in the role-play.

Practicing the Role-play

During the role-play, you will interact with your classmates, using English to communicate your ideas, negotiate, and make decisions. The teacher will observe and take notes, allowing the role-play to unfold naturally while being ready to step in with support or clarification if needed.

Debriefing

After the role-play, the teacher will lead a debriefing session where you can reflect on the experience. This is a chance to discuss what went well, what was challenging, and how you managed to overcome those challenges. The teacher might highlight good uses of language, effective communication strategies, and areas for improvement.

Feedback and Reflection

The teacher will provide feedback on your language use, pronunciation, and interaction skills. You might also be asked to self-reflect on your performance and set goals for future role-plays. This reflective practice is crucial for language development and helps you become more aware of your learning process.

Encouraging Continuous Practice

Finally, the teacher will encourage you to continue practicing English outside the classroom by engaging in similar conversations with peers, family members, or through online platforms. The more you practice, the more comfortable you will become with using English in various contexts.

Through carefully planned and supported role-play activities, teachers can significantly enhance your ability to communicate in English. These activities not only help you practice language in a safe and supportive environment but also develop critical thinking, social, and cultural competencies that are essential for real-world interactions.

How can the use of multimedia resources, such as videos or podcasts on familiar topics, aid in improving students' abilities to express and exchange views in English?

Using multimedia resources like videos or podcasts is a fantastic way to help improve your abilities to express and exchange views in English, especially on topics you are familiar with. Here's how these resources can be beneficial:

1. Exposure to Various Accents and Dialects

Videos and podcasts often feature speakers from different parts of the world, exposing you to a variety of English accents and dialects. This exposure is invaluable because it helps you understand that English can sound very different depending on the speaker's background. As a result, you become more adaptable and better prepared to understand and engage in conversations with people from diverse backgrounds.

2. Understanding Non-Verbal Cues

Videos, in particular, are excellent for observing non-verbal communication cues, such as facial expressions, gestures, and body language. These cues are a crucial part of expressing and exchanging views because they add another layer of meaning to the spoken words. By watching how speakers use these cues to emphasize their points or express their feelings, you can learn to incorporate them into your own communication in English.

3. Learning in Context

Multimedia resources often discuss topics within a real-life context, making it easier for you to understand and remember new vocabulary and expressions. For instance, if you watch a documentary on environmental issues, you'll not only learn related vocabulary but also how to discuss the topic in a meaningful way. This context helps you to use the language more naturally when you express your own opinions or respond to others.

4. Improving Listening Skills

Listening to English through videos and podcasts is an excellent way to improve your listening skills. You learn to catch nuances, understand different speaking speeds, and decipher meaning from context. As your listening skills improve, so does your ability to actively participate in conversations, understanding others' viewpoints, and effectively expressing your own.

5. Encouraging Critical Thinking

Many multimedia resources are designed to make you think critically about the topics discussed. This encourages you to form your own opinions and express

them. Engaging with content that asks thought-provoking questions or presents multiple viewpoints on a subject can inspire you to share your thoughts and engage in discussions with others.

6. Convenient and Flexible Learning

One of the best things about using videos and podcasts for learning is the flexibility they offer. You can pause, rewind, and replay as many times as you need, which is particularly helpful when you come across new or challenging material. This allows you to learn at your own pace and spend extra time on aspects of the language or topic that you find difficult.

7. Expanding Vocabulary

Regularly listening to and watching content in English exposes you to a wide range of vocabulary. Not only do you learn new words, but you also see how they are used in different contexts. This exposure helps you to expand your vocabulary, making it easier to express yourself more precisely and understand others better.

8. Boosting Confidence

The more you understand and engage with multimedia resources, the more confident you become in your English language abilities. This increased confidence is key to participating more actively in conversations, expressing your views, and understanding the perspectives of others.

In summary, multimedia resources like videos and podcasts offer a rich and engaging way to improve your English. They help you become a more confident and effective communicator by improving your listening skills, expanding your vocabulary, and providing you with the tools you need to express and exchange views on a wide range of topics.

Let us hear 5 to 10 new words about the topic to expand vocabulary.

- Multimedia (n.) - The use of a combination of different content forms such as text, audio, images, animations, video, and interactive content.

- Podcast (n.) - A digital audio or video file or recording, usually part of a themed series, that can be downloaded from the internet to a personal device and listened to at the listener's convenience.
- Dialect (n.) - A particular form of a language that is peculiar to a specific region or social group.
- Non-verbal (adj.) - Communicating without the use of spoken language, using gestures, facial expressions, and body language instead.
- Context (n.) - The circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed.
- Nuance (n.) - A subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound.
- Critical thinking (n.) - The objective analysis and evaluation of an issue in order to form a judgment.
- Flexibility (n.) - The quality of being able to adapt to new, different, or changing requirements.
- Vocabulary (n.) - The body of words used in a particular language.
- Confidence (n.) - The feeling or belief that one can rely on someone or something; firm trust.

Incorporating these words into your vocabulary will not only help you understand more about using multimedia resources for learning English but also enable you to discuss and explore the topic more effectively.

Now it's time to do a few tasks and think about what we just learned.

Tasks:

1. **Opinion Paragraph Writing:** Write a short paragraph about your favorite hobby, including why you enjoy it and how you got started. Use key phrases for expressing opinions, such as "I believe," "In my opinion," or "I feel."
2. **Role-Play Exercise:** In pairs, choose a familiar topic (e.g., the importance of homework, school uniforms, or environmental conservation) and conduct a role-play. One student expresses their opinion on the topic, and the other student listens, then responds with their viewpoint.
3. **Opinion Exchange Worksheet:** Complete a worksheet where you list three familiar topics (such as favorite foods, sports, or subjects in school) and write your opinion on each. Then, swap worksheets with a partner and write a response to their opinions.
4. **Group Discussion:** Participate in a small group discussion on a given topic, such as "Are smartphones good for students?" Ensure everyone gets a chance to share their thoughts and ask questions to understand differing viewpoints.

Once you have answered the tasks, this episode ends.

Here start the ideas for the teachers:

Ideas for the teacher

- **Key Phrases Review:** Start the session with a review of key phrases used for expressing opinions and asking for others' viewpoints. Provide examples and have students practice saying them.
- **Opinion Sharing Circle:** Organize a circle where students take turns sharing their opinions on a predetermined topic. After each opinion, ask another student to summarize what was said to practice active listening.
- **Debate on Familiar Topics:** Host a friendly debate on a familiar and engaging topic. Divide the class into two groups, with each side presenting arguments either for or against the topic. Emphasize respectful disagreement and understanding differing viewpoints.
- **Cultural Perspectives Discussion:** Facilitate a discussion on how cultural backgrounds can influence opinions on common topics like food, celebrations, and education. Encourage students to share aspects of their culture and how these aspects shape their views.
- **Feedback Session:** After a role-play or group discussion activity, hold a feedback session where students reflect on their performance in expressing and exchanging views. Discuss what went well and areas for improvement, focusing on the use of language, listening skills, and respect for differing opinions.