Explain an expression

Supported B1-B2 | Adults and teens | About 15-20 minutes

1. Read the conversation

A: Does turn over a new leaf mean get a new job?
B: Not just that. Len used to interrupt people. Now he waits for them to finish. He has turned over a new leaf.
A: So it means change your behaviour in a better way?
B: Yes. A new job alone does not show that change.

2. Choose an expression

Choose one you know in any language, or use one below. You do not need to speak for everyone who uses that language.

Turn over a new leaf: start behaving in a better way.
Break the ice: help people feel more relaxed when first meeting.
Example: A short name game helped to break the ice in the new group.

Plan a few words. You can explain the picture in the words if it helps.

Expression: _____
Meaning: _____
Who might say it, and when? _____
_____

3. Explain and check

Tell your partner the expression and a short situation. Explain the message in ordinary English.
Listener: ask one question about its meaning or use. Then say the message in your own words. The speaker checks. Swap roles.

Explain: It means ... / We might say it when ...
Ask: Do you mean ...? / Could it sound friendly or critical?
Check: Yes, that is what I mean. / Not quite. I mean ...

Can you suggest an English expression with a similar meaning? If you are unsure, keep the clear ordinary-English message. An exact match is optional.

4. Does it fit?

Tell two short situations: one fits your expression and one does not. Do not say which.
Your partner chooses and explains why. Check together, then swap.
After feedback, try your teacher's new situations.