HOW TO ENGLISH
With Gav & Em
Free teacher practice card

How Can Collaborative Activities Help a New English Class Work Together?

S06E04 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Teaching focus

Give learners an accessible reason to listen and respond to one another. A short question-building task or a shared reconstruction can establish learner-to-learner interaction from the first lesson.

Our suggested routine

1. How could we run a short question-building task? Classroom adaptation: prepare a small choice of question beginnings and endings suited to the group. Model one complete question and a simple follow-up. Give learners a moment to prepare, then let pairs exchange questions and answers. Ask them to listen for something they could respond to. Swap roles so each person asks and answers. Allow learners to choose another prompt if a topic does not suit them. We want an accessible conversation, not compulsory disclosure on the first day. After a short exchange, change partners if that is useful. Finish by reviewing a few effective questions and selected language points.

After the attempt

What could learners do? What needed another model or a smaller step? Choose one useful adjustment and try the task again.

Notes for our next lesson

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Read the full teaching article and listen to the episode at howtoenglishpod.com