



How Can Teachers Help Learners Practise Small Talk?

S06E19 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Purpose

Start with safe, familiar topics, then place the language inside a realistic social situation. Learners need more than opening questions. They need ways to respond, follow up, change topic and end the conversation naturally.

Try this in your next lesson

Choose one setting, such as a conference coffee break.

Our suggested routine

- ☐ Choose one setting, such as a conference coffee break.
- ☐ Give learners three safe opening topics.
- ☐ Each learner must ask at least two follow-up questions.
- ☐ After two minutes, introduce a natural way to end the conversation.
- ☐ Swap partners and repeat with less support.

After the attempt

What worked? What needs another model or a smaller step? Note one change for next time.

Read the full explanation and examples:
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