



How Can TEFL Teachers Use Natural Lead-Ins to Get Students Talking?

S06E12 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Teaching focus

A visible object, a recent event or an unexpected observation can provide an accessible opening. We ask a question, listen to the reply and decide how to connect the exchange with useful language practice.

Our suggested routine

1. Choose something visible, recent or easy to imagine.
2. Ask a specific question that learners can answer with familiar language.
3. Prepare one genuine follow-up rather than a string of unrelated questions.
4. Allow thinking time or pair rehearsal when useful.
5. Respond to the message and note useful language for later.
6. Make a clear bridge into the lesson aim.
7. Move on while the opening still has a purpose.

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

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