Run the conversation

B1-B2 | Adults & older teens | 50-60 minutes

PREPARE

Student pages 1-3 per learner. Cut the cards on the next page apart: one rehearsal A/B card per partner, then one role card per group member. Keep student page 3 folded below the first-choice box until the update. Images are AI-generated scenes of a fictional town.

Explore | 8-10 minutes

Use the exterior photo to elicit ideas before reading the brief. Clarify setup costs versus running costs and trade-off (a benefit balanced against a drawback). Learners compare the three ideas; each has a plausible opening plan and a funding risk.

Notice & practise | 10-12 minutes

Task 2: Version B gives a reason and invites a response; “obviously” and “terrible” close discussion down. Read the six moves with different intonation. Task 3: accept natural rewrites that preserve the concern and sound constructive.

Private pair rehearsal | 6-8 minutes

Give partners A and B cards. They must share the £500 cost, Sunday timing, Sunday volunteers and the need to separate noise from quiet work. A possible next step: check a separate room and volunteer availability. Listen for a question and a response to a concern.

Negotiate & update | 15-18 minutes

Groups of four, one private role each. Allow preparation, then discussion of all three proposals. In pairs, each learner represents two roles. Reveal the update only after a first choice. A Sunday tool-loan or social session might work for A, but learners must check staffing and safety; repairs need supervision.

Recommend & reflect | 8-10 minutes

Learners complete the recommendation. Ask which argument changed a view. Feedback: one good invitation, one reason supported by the brief and one constructive disagreement. Improve two anonymous sentences together.

ANSWERS & CHECKS

3 Possible rewrites: a “I’m concerned about the café’s costs. How could we manage them?” b “I see your point, but people also need quiet desks.” c “Can I add something here?”
Before update: A £8,000 / £4,000 left; B £11,000 / £1,000 left; C £9,000 / £3,000 left.
After update: A unchanged; B £10,000 / £2,000 left; C with social session £9,500 / £2,500 left. All meet the preferred reserve. A needs a viable fourth-day activity. B still needs 35 paying customers daily. C must manage social noise.
Success: a reasoned decision with accurate costs and a realistic next check. There is no single correct proposal.

Support: “I’d choose ... because ...”, “What do you think?”, “I agree, but ...”.
Challenge: ask a learner to chair and summarise unresolved concerns.
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Different priorities

Teacher copy: cut apart and distribute privately. Do not give out this full page.

PAIR REHEARSAL / TASK 04

A / THE COST

A weekly free social session adds £500 to setup. You worry about noise during working hours. Ask when people could attend. Agree on a next step.

B / THE PEOPLE

Several residents can attend only on Sundays. Two volunteers could host on Sundays, subject to confirmation. You want quiet desks protected. Ask about cost.

COMMUNITY MEETING / TASK 05

MORGAN / LOCAL RESIDENT

Prefer the Lunch Table: you want affordable company. You could support another option with a weekly free social session. Ask how people with little money can use it.

RAVI / VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Prefer Fix & Share: it saves useful things. Six volunteers are ready, but extra help is not guaranteed. Ask who will run the busiest days. You can compromise if the plan is staffed.

ELLIS / HOME WORKER

Prefer the Quiet Corner: you need calm and Wi-Fi. You can accept another option if it offers a separate quiet area. Ask how noise will be managed.

FRANKIE / BUDGET LEAD

No favourite. Prefer at least £1,000 left for surprises. Ask how income will cover running costs. Support the best practical plan, even if it is not the cheapest.

Print extra copies as needed. A role is a starting position, not a script: listen, question and negotiate.

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