

## Activity Type

Reading and Vocabulary Exercises: matching, writing sentences

Speaking Activities: asking and answering questions, guided discussion, controlled and freer practice (pair work)

## Focus

Discussion skills

Interaction patterns

Hesitation expressions

## Aim

To learn and practice discussion interaction patterns and hesitation expressions.

## Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

## Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

## Time

35 minutes

## Introduction

In this reciprocal speech worksheet, students learn and practice discussion interaction patterns and hesitation expressions.

## Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

First, students read a brief introduction to the three A's interaction pattern (ask, answer, and add) and review a model interaction.

Students then read four questions and give their opinions by answering each question yes or no.

Next, students look at their answers and match the statements that can be used to add comments to their answers.

Exercise B - Answer key

a. 4   b. 3   c. 1   d. 2

After that, students match follow-up questions to the comments.

Exercise C - Answer key

1. d   2. b   3. c   4. a

Students then read a list of hesitation expressions and add two more phrases of their own.

Next, in pairs, students take turns responding to questions using the hesitation expressions.

Finally, students practice the ask, answer and add technique and hesitation expressions by discussing four questions.

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

In seminars, you are often required to interact with the tutor and other students by responding immediately to what they say. This style of communication is often referred to as reciprocal speech.

Below is an example of an exchange that you might experience in a seminar. You will notice that the exchange follows a simple pattern: (1) asking questions, (2) answering questions, and (3) adding comments. We call this pattern the three A's: **Ask**, **Answer**, and **Add**.

Student A: (1) Do you think the recent need to move to online classes will result in a significant move away from traditional face-to-face learning?

Student B: (2) No, absolutely not. (3) I think that the past year has clearly demonstrated the limitations of online learning. Apart from the fact that it limits meaningful interactions between the teacher and students, and between students themselves, online learning is not as effective in facilitating the establishment of a learning community.

Student B: (1) What about you? What are your views on online learning?

Student A: (2) Well, I think...

**A. For each of the four questions below, give your opinion by writing Yes or No. Then, exchange your views with a partner. (Ask and Answer)**

1. Do you see artificial intelligence as a future threat? .....
2. Should social media companies be held responsible for all content posted by users? .....
3. Should learning a second language be made compulsory? .....
4. Do you think we will ultimately be able to bring the climate crisis under control? .....

**B. Look at your answers above. Match the statements that can be used to add comments to your answers? (Add)**

- a. The situation doesn't look hopeful now, but I believe in our capacity to work together. ....
- b. While it does bring benefits, people would have less time to develop other skills. ....
- c. It's an opportunity to free people to spend more time doing the things they love. ....
- d. Ultimately, I believe individuals are responsible for their own actions. ....

**C. Match the follow-up questions to the comments above? (Ask)**

1. So, how do you think we should police this anti-social behaviour? .....
2. Do you support making it a mandatory subject? .....
3. Do you have any concerns about the future of this technology? .....
4. Do you share my optimism? .....

Answering questions in front of others can make us feel anxious and cause our minds to go blank. However, there are a few hesitation expressions you can use in a discussion to buy a little thinking time before giving a response.

**D. Read the list of hesitation expressions and add two more of your own.**

1. Hmmm... That's a good question.
2. Let me see. That's a tough question.
3. You know. I'd have to think about that for a moment.
4. Um, I'm not sure, so let me think about that for a second.
5. ....
6. ....

**E. In pairs, take turns asking the questions below. Buy time with a hesitation expression before answering each question.**

**Student A**

Do you think the government is dealing with the current crisis effectively?

What would you do if you found out a good friend betrayed you?

What's the most pressing issue facing young people today?

What's your all-time favourite movie?

**Student B**

How can you be sure a source of information is credible or not?

What advice would you offer to a friend who is suffering from mental illness?

What aspect of your culture would you like to change?

What's the best way to impress someone on a first date?

**F. With your partner, practice the ask, answer and add technique by discussing the topics below. Take it in turns to begin discussing each topic and begin each answer with a hesitation expression.**

1. Universities are more concerned with profit than education.
2. Essential workers such as teachers, nurses, and police officers should be paid more.
3. International tourism causes more harm than good.
4. Television series have replaced movies as people's preferred form of entertainment.