GoTeach

50 ESL Conversation Activities for Adult Learners

Pick by time and CEFR level. Step-by-step guides, plus a free generator that turns any activity into a full lesson: **goteach.io**

§1 5–7 min warm-ups **§2** 10–20 min activities **§3** 30–60 min lessons **§4** A1–A2 beginners **Bonus** B2–C1, online, mixed level

§1 Warm-ups and openers

5–7 min · no prep

#	ACTIVITY	LEVEL	MIN	PREP	HOW IT WORKS
1	**Three Words, One Lie**	A2+	5	None	Learners tell a partner three true facts about their weekend and one lie; the partner guesses the lie.
2	**Photo of the Week**	A1+	5	One news photo	Pairs say what they see, where it is and what is happening. Always push for speculation.
3	**Saturday Morning**	A2	5	None	Pairs compare their perfect free Saturday, with one rule: you can't leave the house.
4	**Soundtrack of My Life**	B1+	7	None	One song for one period of your life; your partner asks when, what was happening, why it matters.
5	**Best / Worst**	A2+	5	None	Pick a best/worst prompt and talk for 90 seconds; your partner asks one real follow-up.
6	**The Disappearing Sentence**	B1+	7	None	Back to back: A describes something for 60 seconds, B retells it. What got lost?
7	**One Good Thing, One Bad Thing**	A2	5	None	Share one good and one bad thing from the weekend, always explained with because.
8	**Map of My Week**	A1–A2	7	None	Draw a 7-day grid with one phrase per day and walk a partner through your week.
9	**Strange Object**	A2+	5	One odd photo	Pairs invent a 30-second story about an odd object: what it is, who owns it. Class votes.
10	**Six-Word Story**	B2+	7	None	Two minutes of silent writing: a six-word story about your week. Share, then vote.

§2 Short conversation activities

10–20 min

#	ACTIVITY	LEVEL	MIN	PREP	HOW IT WORKS
11	**Apartment Dilemma**	B1+	15	Two apartment listings	Friends with different needs and different listings must agree on one apartment.
12	**The Birthday Party**	A2–B1	15	None	Groups of 3 plan a party; each person has a secret constraint (budget, diet, noise).
13	**Story Chain**	A2+	12	None	Groups build a story one sentence each, and every sentence uses the grammar target.
14	**Hotel Complaint**	B1+	15	Role cards	The guest has 5 complaints; the receptionist must resolve at least 3 of them.
15	**Picture Differences**	A2–B1	12	Two similar pictures	Back-to-back pairs describe their pictures to find 8–10 differences.
16	**Job Interview — The Bad One**	B1+	18	Job ad + weak CV	The interviewer has 10 minutes to probe a weak CV with tough, polite questions.
17	**Travel Agency**	B1	15	Two role cards	An agent with 3 imperfect packages negotiates with a customer who has strict limits.
18	**News Report**	B2+	15	A one-paragraph article	Summarize a short article in 60 seconds; your partner asks 3 follow-up questions.
19	**The Untranslatable Word**	B1+	12	None	Explain a word from your first language that has no English equivalent.
20	**Telephone Message**	A2–B1	12	A written message	A reads a message with 5–6 details; B writes down what they remember; compare.
21	**Debate — Light Version**	B2	18	One simple statement	Two sides, 3 minutes to prepare, then alternating 30-second turns with no interruptions.
22	**Survey Says**	A2+	15	6–8 survey questions	Survey 5 classmates, then report the results: most, a few, half, three out of five.
23	**Lost in Translation**	B1+	12	6 idioms	Guess what 6 idioms mean without a dictionary, then use all 6 in a short story.
24	**The Doctor's Office**	B1	15	Role cards	The doctor must ask at least 8 questions before giving a diagnosis.
25	**Mashed-Up Movie Pitch**	B2+	18	10 random elements	Groups combine 5 random elements into a movie and pitch it in 90 seconds.
26	**Email to the Boss**	B1+	15	A short work scenario	Dictate an email to your boss to a partner, then read it back to check.
27	**The Wrong Recipe**	A2	12	Recipe with 3 errors	A reads a recipe aloud; B has to catch the 3 wrong steps.
28	**Compare and Contrast**	B1+	15	Two photos	A 60-second spoken comparison: what's the same, what's different, which you'd prefer.
29	**The Conspiracy Theory**	C1	15	A weird-but-true fact	Pairs invent a theory that explains a strange fact; the class votes for the most plausible.

#	ACTIVITY	LEVEL	MIN	PREP	HOW IT WORKS
30	**Mystery Phone Call**	B1+	15	Role cards	A has 5 minutes of open questions to work out who is on the phone.

§3 Full conversation lessons

30–60 min

#	ACTIVITY	LEVEL	MIN	PREP	HOW IT WORKS
31	**The Perfect Neighborhood**	B1	45	Two versions of a map	Find 8 differences between two maps, then agree on 3 improvements as residents.
32	**The Family Reunion**	A2–B1	35	6 family roles	Family members with secret constraints plan a reunion together.
33	**The Company Retreat**	B2	50	A company scenario	Plan a 2-day team retreat that fits the budget and everyone's needs.
34	**The News Conference**	B2+	45	A local news story	Journalists prepare 10 questions; a spokesperson faces the press.
35	**The Court Case**	C1	60	A short dispute	Two sides argue a 20-minute hearing; a learner-judge gives the verdict.
36	**The School Reunion**	A2–B1	40	8 memory questions	Old classmates meet after 20 years and talk about their school days.
37	**The Travel Vlog**	B1+	45	Photos of a city	A local shows a vlogger the city; pairs record a 3-minute vlog.
38	**The Job Fair**	B1+	50	5 job ads + 5 CVs	Seekers get 4 minutes per recruiter; recruiters pick second interviews.
39	**The Invention Convention**	B1+	50	20 everyday problems	Invent fixes for 3 problems, pitch each in 90 seconds; the class votes.
40	**The Time Capsule**	B1+	40	None	Agree on 8 things for a 25-year time capsule, then explain each choice.
41	**The Escape Room (In Class)**	B1+	50	6 puzzles in English	Teams solve 6 puzzles in 30 minutes, speaking only English.
42	**The Debate Tournament**	B2+	60	3 statements	Teams of 2 prepare 3-minute arguments and debate in rounds; class votes.
43	**The Cooking Show**	A2+	40	A simple recipe	The chef explains a dish; the host asks why, how long and what if.
44	**The Tourist Information Office**	A2–B1	35	Brochures, map, events	The officer recommends 3 activities that fit a tourist's needs, with reasons.
45	**The Lost Passport**	B1	30	Two role cards	A traveler explains a lost passport at the embassy; the official decides.

§4 Low-prep activities for A1–A2

10–20 min

#	ACTIVITY	LEVEL	MIN	PREP	HOW IT WORKS
46	**Picture Dictation**	A1	15	A simple picture	A describes a picture, B draws it without looking; then compare.
47	**True or False — Personal**	A1–A2	10	None	Read 3 true sentences and 1 false one about yourself; partner guesses.
48	**The Memory Chain**	A1–A2	12	None	"I went to the market and I bought..." Repeat the chain and add one item.
49	**Same or Different**	A1	12	6 pairs of pictures	Find 5 differences: "In this picture, the man is wearing..."
50	**Storyboard**	A1–A2	20	Wordless 4-panel comic	Write the dialogue for a 4-panel comic, then perform the scene.

Bonus: B2–C1, online and mixed-level classes

§5–§7

#	ACTIVITY	LEVEL	MIN	PREP	HOW IT WORKS
B1	**The Expert Witness**	C1	45	A technical article	Journalists interview an expert for 15 minutes and push back on the claims.
B2	**The Lecture**	B2+	30	None	A 5-minute lecture without notes, then 5 minutes of questions.
B3	**The Pitch**	B2+	45	A product brief	Startups design a product, pitch it for 5 minutes, then face the investors.
B4	**The Negotiation**	C1	50	A deal scenario	Pairs with fixed limits have 20 minutes to reach a deal.
B5	**The Podcast**	C1	60	A topic + 3 articles	Plan and record a 15-minute episode, then listen back and review it.
R1	**Show and Tell — Webcam**	A2+	10	One object each	Hold an object up to the camera; the class has 30 seconds of questions.
R2	**The Interview — Round Robin**	B1+	15	5 unusual questions	Breakout pairs interview each other, rotate and report on the last partner.
R3	**Mute-Unmute Storytelling**	A2+	12	None	Speak for 30 seconds, mute, and the next person continues the story.
R4	**The Chat Box Conversation**	B1+	18	A debatable statement	One partner can only speak, the other can only type in the chat.
R5	**Whiteboard Story**	B2+	25	A shared whiteboard	Build a story one word at a time on a shared online whiteboard.
M1	**Expert and Novice**	A2–B1	20	A simple how-to topic	The expert teaches a task in 5 minutes, the novice asks; then switch.
M2	**The Modified Press Conference**	B1–B2	30	A short news article	B2 journalists phrase questions a B1 spokesperson can answer.
M3	**The Translation Game**	A2–B2	15	6 sentences in L1	B2 partner turns the A2 partner's L1 sentence into simple English.
M4	**The Tandem Story**	A2–C1	25	None	Mixed groups build a story; each level adds its own grammar target.
M5	**Shadow the Native**	B1+	20	A 2-minute audio clip	Shadow a 30-second clip, then retell it and rephrase it more precisely in pairs.