

GUIDED CONVERSATION PRACTICE

Fall 1 2021

Course Information

Meeting Dates: August 11 ~ September 17(Japan) / August 10 ~ September 16 (USA)
Meeting Times: Weds. & Fri.8 a.m.—10 a.m. (Japan) / Tues. & Thurs.6 p.m.-8 p.m. (USA)
Meeting Location: via Zoom Video Communications

Contact Information

Email: StudyEnglish@olemiss.edu
WhatsApp, Line, or Viber: +16628163680
Or join our WhatsApp group to ask questions along with other prospective students:
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LrhTwTjMLS4GsxZMazDGIW>

Course Description

This course is designed for speakers of English as a foreign language to

- strengthen the speaking and listening skills used in social interaction;
- explore sociolinguistic functions of American English;
- increase awareness of factors that can complicate intelligibility and fluency; and
- practice techniques and strategies for the most common or frequent types of conversation.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this course, students will be able to sustain conversational interactions with native speakers of American English with greater confidence, by means of:

- anticipating, reacting to, and performing conversational cues;
- adapting oral production (volume, rate of speech, pitch) appropriately for various contexts;
- interpreting and enacting non-verbal forms of communication (posture, gesture, facial expression, eye contact); and
- employing conversational techniques and strategies in social interactions.

Required Materials

Each student must have access to:

- an active email account for sending and receiving course-related materials (digitized documents, links, written communications with the instructor, etc.);
- a computer or electronic device from which video clips and sound files can be played;
- reliable internet service for synchronous or 'live' interaction via Zoom Video Communications;
- both audio (microphone & speakers) and visual (camera) capabilities for synchronous or 'live' interaction via Zoom Video Communications; and
- software or app(lication) for recording/creating audio and video files.

Students will not need to purchase a textbook for this class. Any reading assignments will be distributed via Blackboard (the Learning Management System used by the University of Mississippi) and/or email.

Activities

During each two-hour class meeting, we will usually follow this schedule of events:

- 1.) 'Loosen Up'/'Warm Up' discussion with a conversation partner or small group
- 2.) Learn about new topics
- 3.) Observe and/or listen to mode conversation
- 4.) Practice in discussion groups with international conversation partners
- 5.) Report back to the class and share your group's results or observations
- 6.) Q&A session for review, clarification, and/or feedback
- 7.) Present or perform any homework assignments.

<i>Tentative Schedule of Topics:</i>	
Week 1	Course Information; Fluency vs. Error Avoidance; Body Language
	Politeness & Manners; Introducing Yourself & Others; Starting a Conversation
Week 2	Small Talk; Talking about Yourself; Getting Acquainted
	Asking for Information (Questioning; Answering; Getting More Information)
Week 3	Techniques & Strategies; Getting People to Do Things (Requesting; Attracting Attention)
	Agreeing; Refusing; Hesitating; Preventing Interruptions; Interrupting Politely
Week 4	Bringing in others; Impromptu Speaking
	Making Suggestions; Giving Advice; Expressing Enthusiasm
Week 5	Persuading; Complaining; Apologizing
	Forgiving; Expressing Disappointment
Week 6	Telling a Story (Narrating; Handling Dialogue; Controlling a Narrative)
	PERFORMANCE OF GROUP PROJECTS