Classroom activity 4 — Preparing the conversation

Grade: GESE Grades 5 & 6 (CEFR B1)
Focus: The Conversation phase
Time: 2x 45 minutes
Aims:
- To prepare vocabulary for the subject areas for the Conversation phase
- To practise asking and answering questions on the subject areas for the Conversation phase
- To practise discussing the subject areas for the Conversation phase interactively
Materials needed:
- Worksheet 1 — Subject areas for the Conversation phase Grade 5
- Worksheet 2 — Subject areas for the Conversation phase Grade 6
- Worksheet 3 — Grade 5 Question cards
- Worksheet 4 — Grade 6 Question cards

Preparation

1. To create interest, bring objects that represent the six subject areas for the Conversation phase. Ask the students to decide what each object represents. Suggestions for objects:
   Grade 5
   - Festivals: clothing or objects from a festival (local/religious/national)
   - Means of transport: car keys, bus or train ticket
   - Special occasions: birthday card
   - Entertainment: cinema/theatre tickets
   - Music: mp3 player, cd
   - Recent personal experiences: a diary/calendar indicating the last week
   Grade 6
   - Travel: a passport, train or plane ticket
   - Money: a wallet or purse
   - Fashion: a new item of clothing
   - Rules and regulations: a sign (maybe from school) saying what students must/mustn’t do
   - Health and fitness: sports clothes, exercise DVD
   - Learning a foreign language: an English dictionary.

2. Before the lesson, put your Grade 5 and/or 6 objects on a table and cover them with a cloth or blanket. Don’t let the students look at them when they enter the room.

In class

Session 1 — Planning questions
Students remember questions/prompts (10 minutes)
1. Put all of the students into small groups of two (or three, if necessary).
2. Then ask the students to try and remember as many questions as possible that they have used for practising their topic. (The students should try to remember questions from Classroom activity 2 which they have already done.)
3. If the students haven’t prepared their topics yet, ask them to think of as many questions as possible to ask each other about their freetime. Tell the students they have 6-7 minutes.
Stimulate interest (10 minutes)
1. Lift the blanket or cloth and show the class the objects that you have brought. Do not tell them what they represent.
2. Give them 1 minute to look at the objects and try to memorise them.
3. After 1 minute, cover the objects. Tell the students they have 5 minutes to remember the objects and decide what they represent.
4. After 5 minutes, give the Grade 5 students Worksheet 1 and the Grade 6 students Worksheet 2 and ask them, in their groups of two or three, to decide which object represents which Subject for Conversation.

Question preparation (20 minutes)
1. Give each group of two or three a set of question cards from Worksheet 3 or 4 (or re-use the question cards from Classroom activity 2 – Developing a topic), depending on their Grade (5 or 6).
2. Tell the students they now have to use the question cards to create at least two or three questions for each subject area for the Conversation phase on Worksheets 1 or 2, depending on their Grade.
3. Tell the students they have 15 minutes to think of all of their questions. Make sure that the students think of questions for all subjects.
4. Also, make sure that each student has written down some example questions on their own worksheet as they will need a copy for the next activity.

Group feedback of example questions (5 minutes)
Ask the class for example questions from each subject area.

Session 2 – Students practise asking and answering questions
Students interview each other about the subject areas for the Conversation phase (35 minutes)
1. The students have now practised making the questions. Now they need to practise answering them. Tell them they’re going to do it six times – once for each subject area.
2. Tell the students to find a partner and sit with a new person.
3. Tell the students that you are going to tell them a subject area and they have 5 minutes to ask each other questions about this subject – and answer the questions!
4. After 5 minutes, tell the students to stand up and go and sit with a new partner. Once they are sitting with a new partner, give the class a new subject. Let them ask and answer questions for 5 minutes.
5. Repeat this activity, changing partners and subject 5 minutes until the class has discussed all six subject areas for the Conversation phase.

Class feedback (5 minutes)
Ask the students to tell you their favourite questions of the lesson.

Ask the teacher! (5 minutes)
Take off the blanket or cloth from the objects on the table at the beginning of the lesson. Invite the class to ask you questions connected to the objects and the subject areas that they represent.
Worksheet 1 – Grade 5 Subject areas for the Conversation phase

Festivals:


Means of transport:


Special occasions, eg birthday celebrations:


Entertainment, eg cinema, television, clubs:


Music:


Recent personal experiences:
Worksheet 2 – Grade 6 Subject areas for the Conversation phase

Travel:

Money:

Fashion:

Rules and regulations:

Health and fitness:

Learning a foreign language:
Worksheet 3 – example prompts for Grade 5

IMPORTANT! These are only example prompts. The real exam will contain other questions. (Cut these prompts into 18 individual cards)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever…?</td>
<td>How many times have you…?</td>
<td>How long did you… for?</td>
<td>How long have you… for?</td>
<td>How long will you… for?</td>
<td>Do you think you’ll ever…?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long do you think you’ll…?</td>
<td>When do you think you’ll…?</td>
<td>Where do you think you’ll…?</td>
<td>Why have you…?</td>
<td>Tell me about why you…</td>
<td>Tell me about which you prefer: X or Y?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
<td>How has … changed in the last 2/5/10 years?</td>
<td>Have you ever…?</td>
<td>Have you ever been to…? Tell me about it.</td>
<td>Have you ever been to…? Tell me about it.</td>
<td>Why did you…?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Why do you prefer…?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Worksheet 4 – example prompts for Grade 6

IMPORTANT! These are only example prompts. The real exam will contain other questions. (Cut these prompts into 18 individual cards)

Tell me what you must/mustn't do.

What did you need to do when you...?

What do you need to do when you...?

What will you need to do when you...?

What's your opinion of...?

What do you think of...?

Tell me what you were doing when you...

What do you do if...?

What do you think you'll do if...?

What might happen if...?

What were you doing this time last week/month/year?

What did you have to do when you...?

Do you think you might...?

What do you have to do to...?

Next month, I'm travelling to... What about you?

Why do you do it? To... or to...?

What were you doing when you...?

Why?