

# Conversation Cards that work

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GRADE LEVEL: All  
SKILLS: Speaking, Listening,  
TIME: Out of class activity

MATERIALS: 1 card per student

OBJECTIVES:

1. To get students to come and talk to you outside class and get to know you (and vice versa)
2. To let students know that its easy to have easy English conversations

PROCEDURE:

This is an example of a FAILED conversation card that didn't work:

<h2>English Conversation Card</h2>				
Have a conversation in English with Kieran-Sensei. 1 conversation = 1 stamp. One conversation per day. You must engage in active conversation.				
name: _____		No: _____		
date: _____	date: _____	date: _____	date: _____	date: _____

students had to come and talk to the ALT. Each time they would get a stamp and a date

← stamp

← date

It failed because there was nothing specific to *talk about* and there was *no reason* to talk (motivation wasn't high enough even though it counted towards their grades). So only the usual suspects came to talk to me.

This is an example of a SUCCESSFUL conversation card:

<h2>find one word</h2>						5
○	r	○	○	○	○	Class No: _____  Name: _____
○	○	v	○	○	○	
○	○	t	○	○	○	
○	○	○	d	○	○	
○	n	○	○	○	○	
○	○	○	a	○	○	

← each student has their own number, one for each

← Once a day students come and ask for a hint for one of these words:  
"Can you give me a hint please"  
When they have all six words they should be able to make a new word from the first letters. They then had to write "their word" in the exam

This was successful because it was fun, low stress (students had nothing to worry about - just turn up to get their hint) and any other conversation was incidental and voluntary.

Another great thing about this was they could ask either the ALT or JTE for hints - team teaching out of class! Here are the answers for the above card, the answer is "flower":

**find one word** 5

f	r	o	g			
l	o	v	e			
o	c	t	o	b	e	r
w	e	d	d	i	n	g
e	n	e	r	g	y	
r	e	l	a	x		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class No: \_\_\_\_\_

On the next page is a blank you can use. The process is

1. think up lots of 6 letter words
2. then make up other words starting with those key letters
3. use tipex (or digital equivalent) to blank out the circles you don't need

**NOTES:**

- It takes a couple of hours to produce enough cards for a class of 40 students. If you do it for a whole year I advise repeating the same cards for each class otherwise it's a lot of work.
- In order to be able to give the students their hint you need to have an answer sheet keep that sheet on you ready when students ask.