

Conversation Boards

Conversation boards are a fun and easy way to include time for students to practice asking and answering general questions about daily life, i.e. jobs, school, weather, food, shopping, friends, home and family.

Each group will need a die and a marker for their game board. Depending on how long you want to allow for this activity and how many students are in a group, they can go around the game board one or two times.

You can also print out two or three different game boards and when a group finishes with one, they can find a different one and trade.

Other activities you can do with the boards

1. When students finish speaking have them choose one question they like, write it on an index card, then do a mixer where the students all walk around and ask each other their question.
2. You can expand this to a writing activity by having students choose a question they like and write an answer to it in their journals. If it is a yes/no or very simple question ask them to tell you more about the topic. For example, if a student chooses: "How many rooms are in your house?" you can ask them to tell you which room is their favorite room and why? Or to tell you the names of the rooms (living room, bedroom, kitchen, etc.) then make a vocabulary list of all the things in the rooms, or draw a picture of the room and label the things in it.
3. You can ask one student from each group to go to the whiteboard and write one of the questions, then assign each table a question (not the one their group member wrote) to answer. Correct together as a class.
4. Practice revising questions: Write "What do you do in the morning before you go to school?" on the whiteboard. Read the question together, and then erase "morning", "before" and "go" and "school," leave a line as a place marker for each word removed. Have students call out other words you could put in to make a new sentence. Once students have the idea, let them find one or two more on the conversation board to revise or write one or two more on the board and let them work on revising them in their groups. Debrief as a class and answer the new questions together.