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LESSON PLAN FOR FIRST CLASS WITH OLDER TEENS & ADULTS

This lesson plan covers the first class you have with a new private individual or small group.

It uses a Needs Analysis to assess the students' strengths, weaknesses, preferences, goals and interests and allow you to design relevant and specific lesson for them in the future.

To learn about the Needs Analysis, watch this video:

<https://youtu.be/mQKRUmFH4xg>

It also aims to create a positive learning atmosphere from the beginning, and start to build connections.

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ENCHANTED ESL FIRST LESSON PLAN

In this lesson, you don't teach anything new. There's no point because you don't know your students yet, so you'll more than likely teach something inappropriate.

Instead, we do a Needs Analysis. Throughout the lesson, pay attention to their strengths and weaknesses and note them down. Also write down goals, interests and preferences they indicate. All this information will help you plan future classes.

PRE-CLASS PREPARATION

- Gather the resources and prepare for the various Main Activity possibilities.
- Print or have easily available the list of conversation questions for the Getting to Know Each Other chat.

LESSON STRUCTURE

1. Greeting and goals (10 mins)
2. Getting to Know Each Other (20-25 mins)
3. Main Activity? (20-25 mins)
4. Roundup (5 mins)

1. Greeting and goals (10 mins)

- **Introduce yourself and say a few things about you.**
- Ask students to introduce themselves and say one or two bits of personal information (career, hobbies, etc.).
- Ask why students are in the class. What are their goals for learning English and what do they think they need to do to achieve them? Go into detail and make sure you all understand the direction you will take.

2. Getting to Know Each Other (20-25 mins)

- **Ask questions in an informal way to prompt conversation.** When students can't handle the complexity of the increasingly difficult questions, don't push too far, instead develop the ideas you've already touched on.
- You can use the following list as a guide, or inspiration, but I recommend you add your own and adapt them to the specific context of your class.
- Where are you from?
- Tell me about where you live.
- What's your favourite movie/series, and why?
- Are you a sporty person?
- What sports do you like playing? And watching?
- Do you prefer reading books or watching TV?
- When was the last time you went on vacation?
- Would you like to go on vacation to New York?
- What did you do earlier today?
- What are you going to do at the weekend?
- If you had a free day tomorrow, what would you do?
- If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?
- If you hadn't chosen to study English, what language would you want to learn?

3. Main Activity (20-25 mins)

- **For students who want conversation:** Continue from phase two, but focus on something in particular. Vacations are a good topic to start with. Ask them about their favourite vacation, where they'd like to go, where they went last summer, etc. Or, pick up on something they were excited about in part 2, and go even deeper.
- **For students who want grammar practice:** Talk about what grammar they struggle with. Consider asking a few questions from a placement test to identify specific strengths and weaknesses. There are plenty of placement tests at [ISL Collective](#). I wouldn't do it all in class, but pick out a few questions and maybe set the whole thing for homework.
- **For students who want exam preparation:** Identify the exam they're doing. Look together at the specifications and discuss when/where they're going to take it. You may need to search the internet to do this. Draw up the outline of a plan together based on how much time you have and what skills you need to focus on.
- **For students who want pronunciation practice:** Find a list of words/sentences which are tricky to pronounce and get your student to say them, noting major difficulties. Here are some good ones on [English Club](#). Talk about sounds that are different between English and your students' language.
- **For students who have no specific goals:** Pick and choose between the activities above (except for the exam prep). If they're chatty, keep the conversation going, but if they're shy, focus more on the placement test questions.
- **EXTRA ACTIVITY:** If you're struggling, play [Two Truths and a Lie](#). Follow the link for instructions.

4. Roundup (5 mins)

- **Share your initial Needs Analysis findings.** Point out any obvious strengths and weaknesses and give students an idea of what you'll do in the next lessons. Let them have their input, too.