

A. Getting Started About Your Learner

The First Session

The first time you meet with your learner your goal is to set the stage for your future work. The learner may be nervous and his/her English may be much better than it might seem the first time. Here are a few activities you may want to carry out:

Introductions:

1. Introduce yourself (your introduction can serve as a model of what you want the learner to say as well)

- Name
- Occupation (what you do or did)
- Residence (city where you live)
- Background (place where you were born or raised, time living in current area)
- Family composition
- Interests and hobbies
- Anything else you would normally say

2. Ask your learner to tell you about himself/herself.

(note: if he/she is hesitant prompt by asking personal information questions)

- What is your name?
- Where are you from?
- Where do you live?
- How long have you been here?
- Tell me about your family. etc.

Getting an idea of where to start:

The learner has joined the program with the expectation that they will "practice" English.

They provided some information about what they can already do in English.

During this first interaction, you will only learn a bit, but over time, you will be able to find out what is really highest on their list.

Setting the Stage and Getting Started:

Explain that during your sessions, you will pick a scenario/an interaction and practice using English.

For this first session pick an easy one (maybe one from the list above) to get an idea of what the learner can do.

Example:

Let's practice one interaction. Let's pretend that you are sick and are at the emergency room. I am the receptionist.

You: Good morning, what brings you in today?

Learner: _____

Proceed as you know from your experience about the ways that that these interactions unfold/
See what the learner can do.

Complicate it if you want to get an idea of their range in dealing with the unexpected.

Make sure you compliment your learner for what they can already do.

Repeat depending on time

Wind down and look forward to the next session.