

# eslactive

## Pop Topics

Tags: [advanced](#), [beginner](#), [grammar](#), [intermediate](#), [kids](#), [vocabulary](#), [warmer](#)

In the fast-paced Pop Topics ESL conversation setup, students only discuss topics for a short time before switching to another.

 2+  10-30 mins  None

### Setup

You will need a list of suitable topics for the students to discuss (see Target Language), that you can present one at a time. If you have a projector and an Internet connection, try using our [Conversation Topic Generator](#).

If not, prepare a slideshow, or a list that you can read/write on the board. Or if you're feeling confident, you could also just make them up on the spot.

Divide the class into groups of two, three or four.

### Conversation

1. Present the students with a conversation topic.
2. The students discuss this topic in their group for an allotted time. They must keep the conversation going and avoid any long pauses/silence!
3. The right amount of time will depend on your group and your topics, but a good guide is one minute for beginner, two minutes for intermediate and three minutes for advanced levels.
4. After the allotted time is up, stop the discussion and repeat with a new conversation topic.

## Target Language

The Pop Topics ESL conversation activity is a fast-paced technique that can work great as a warmer or time-filler, or as part of the main class. The frequent changes in topic really help to keep students alert and the conversation fresh. It's also good for students who have a short attention span or who get bored in long discussions.

You can adapt the topics to any level or grammar/vocabulary topic appropriate to your class. These could range from simple questions about personal experiences, plans and preferences, to more complex grammar (e.g. second conditional *What would you do...* questions) or discussion questions on a particular vocabulary topic. You can find many examples on our [Conversation Topic Generator](#).

For an extra element to keep students interested, Pop Topics is often combined with [Inner Circle Outer Circle](#). Here, the students move and change conversation partners after each topic.