

Kehe, D., & Kehe, P. (2014). *Conversation strategies (3rd ed.)*. Brattleboro, Vt.: Pro Lingua Associates.

*Conversation strategies* is intended for students with an intermediate level of English, whether they are studying English as a second or foreign language. The interactive nature of the book aims towards developing communicative competence through practicing conversation strategies such as making comparisons, expressing probability, and using rejoinders. The introduction claims that the book offers enjoyable activities that are easy to implement and nonthreatening to students who are hesitant to participate in class. This book achieves just that. The activities are easy to follow and provide opportunities for authentic language within a framework that puts students at ease. The guidelines are simple and allow the students to create their own language without following a script while practicing the intended skill.

While this book would not suffice as the main text for a class to follow, it could be extremely helpful for students as an activity book or a tool to practice certain skills. The activities give good insight into the parts of language that don't depend strictly on meaning and are instead tied to cultural norms and the understood rules of communication. Some of the skills addressed include how to interrupt someone, how to correct someone, how to end a conversation, and how to clarify something. These skills are vital for communication and not necessarily something a native speaker thinks about when teaching ESL students. The strategic conversation strategies allow students to feel more confident about communicating with native speakers and understand more of the culture behind communication in English.

I used this book while working with an ESL university student during a tutoring session. She was describing that she has a hard time asking a question in class when the

professor was speaking or stopping someone when she needed to clarify something they said. It was making it difficult for her to communicate effectively and be as successful as she could in class. We discussed interrupting in her culture and in English and used this book to practice. Activity seven introduces how to politely interrupt someone and we went through the introductory activity together and then did a modified version of the production activity that worked for two people. The activity provided good practice to get comfortable interrupting and a good platform for a discussion about conversation rituals. The book was a great resource to have on hand and I will be keeping it with me in case similar occasions arise.

Overall, Conversation Strategies is a unique and helpful resource for students and teachers. The activities support meaningful learning in a beneficially affective environment. The small group environment and conversation guidelines reduce stress that could come from having to produce language or perform in front of the class. The skills addressed are vital for communication and will increase students' confidence and comfort level while communicating in English.

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