

# Our English Class

## *A Student Voice & Negotiation Activity*

A speaking-class activity where students think, pair, and negotiate in groups to help shape how their own lessons run — then agree on it as a class. Includes two versions, one for younger teens and one for older teens, so you can pick the right fit for your group.

Speaking Class

Class Agreement Activity

### WHAT'S INSIDE

1. How to Run This Activity (for teachers)
2. Younger Teens Worksheet — Our Choice
3. Younger Teens — Group Negotiation & Class Agreement
4. Older Teens Worksheet — You Decide
5. Older Teens — Group Negotiation & Class Agreement

# Our English Class — Teacher Instructions

Kristof Abrath · English Exam Preparation · Speaking Class

**Purpose:** give students real, structured input into how their own lessons run, and practise the functional language of suggesting, negotiating and compromising.

## Why This Matters

Students are far more invested in a class they had a genuine say in shaping, and the negotiation stage isn't just classroom management — it's a real communicative task. Fitting six activity types into a fixed points budget only works if students actually use suggesting, conceding and compromising language ("I can agree to that if...", "How about once a month?") rather than simply stating a preference. That gives the THINK/PAIR/GROUP/CLASS structure a genuine reason to communicate, not just a worksheet to fill in.

## The Four-Stage Flow

### 1 THINK

Answer alone. No wrong answers.

~2-3 min

### 2 PAIR

Compare your answers with a partner.

~3-4 min

### 3 GROUP

Discuss and negotiate in a group of 4.

~5-7 min

### 4 CLASS

Agree together as a whole class.

~5 min

## Running the Activity

- 1 **Choose the version.** Use the **Younger Teens** worksheet for early/mid-teens, or the **Older Teens** worksheet for older teens and young adults — the topics, tone and point totals are calibrated differently for each. Both follow the same four-stage flow below.
- 2 **Run the THINK stage.** Give students 2-3 minutes to tick their choices alone on the first worksheet page. Remind them there are no wrong answers — this is about preference, not correctness.
- 3 **Run the PAIR stage.** Students compare choices with a partner and identify one thing they agree on and one thing they disagree on, using the boxes provided.
- 4 **Run the GROUP stage.** Groups of 4 move to the Group Negotiation page and distribute a fixed number of points (10 for Younger Teens, 20 for Older Teens) across the activity types. The total must add up exactly — this is what forces real negotiation rather than everyone just listing their own favourite.
- 5 **Collect a CLASS agreement.** Each group reports back. As a class, agree on 2-3 things you'll definitely include more of, 1-2 things to avoid, and (for Older Teens) the topics students are most excited for. Write the agreed version somewhere visible (board, shared doc, or the worksheet itself) and revisit it later in the course.

**TIP** Keep the finished class agreement somewhere visible and refer back to it a few weeks later — "we agreed on more debates, so here's one" — so the activity feels like a real decision, not just a survey.



# Our English Class – Our Choice

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**1 THINK**

Answer alone. No wrong answers.

~2–3 min

**2 PAIR**

Compare your answers with a partner.

~3–4 min

**3 GROUP**

Discuss and negotiate in a group of 4.

~5–7 min

**4 CLASS**

Agree together as a whole class.

~5 min

**1 · PICK YOUR TOP 3 FAVOURITE THINGS TO DO**

- ☐ Games / Kahoot
- ☐ Role plays / acting
- ☐ Music / songs
- ☐ Working with a partner
- ☐ Projects
- ☐ Moving around the room

- ☐ Team competitions
- ☐ Watching videos
- ☐ Stories
- ☐ Working in groups
- ☐ Using phone / tablet
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**2 · PICK YOUR TOP 2 "NO THANKS"**

- ☐ Writing long texts
- ☐ Grammar exercises
- ☐ Presentations
- ☐ Repeating words
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Speaking alone in front of class
- ☐ Vocabulary tests
- ☐ Sitting still a long time
- ☐ Homework

**3 · PICK 3 TOPICS YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT**

- ☐ Gaming
- ☐ Films / TV
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Mysteries / crime
- ☐ Weird facts
- ☐ Travel

- ☐ Music
- ☐ Sport
- ☐ Animals
- ☐ Future / jobs
- ☐ Family & friends
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Talk to Your Partner**

Why did you choose these? Find 1 thing you agree on and 1 thing you don't.

**We agree on:**


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**We disagree on:**


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# Group Negotiation & Class Agreement

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Speaking Class

## Group Negotiation

Your group of 4 has **10 points**. Decide together how many go to each activity — the total must equal exactly 10.

| Games  | Speaking /<br>Role play | Videos /<br>Music | Team<br>competitions | Projects | Grammar /<br>Vocab |
|--------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------|--------------------|
| points | points                  | points            | points               | points   | points             |

### USEFUL LANGUAGE

"I think we should have more..." · "I can agree to that if..." · "What about...?" · "Maybe we could..."

## Our Class Agreement

**We definitely want more of...**

1.

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2.

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**We don't want much of...**

1.

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**Our English class should feel like...**

1.

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# Our English Class — You Decide

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**1 THINK**

Answer alone. No wrong answers.

~2–3 min

**2 PAIR**

Compare your answers with a partner.

~3–4 min

**3 GROUP**

Discuss and negotiate in a group of 4.

~5–7 min

**4 CLASS**

Agree together as a whole class.

~5 min

**1 · WHAT DO YOU WANT MORE OF? PICK YOUR TOP 4**

- ☐ Games / quizzes
- ☐ Discussions (random / current topics)
- ☐ Pop culture (films, music, YouTubers, sport)
- ☐ Funny / light topics
- ☐ Working in groups

**2 · WHAT SHOULD WE AVOID? PICK UP TO 3**

- ☐ Cold-calling (put on the spot)
- ☐ Textbook-style dialogues
- ☐ Speaking alone in front of class
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**3 · TOPICS — PICK YOUR TOP 5**

- ☐ Gaming
- ☐ Films / series
- ☐ Social media / TikTok
- ☐ Money
- ☐ Cars / bikes / tech
- ☐ Weird & funny stuff

- ☐ Debates
- ☐ Role plays / simulations
- ☐ Speaking for your trade (customers, interviews, explaining your job)
- ☐ Working in pairs
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Forced presentations
- ☐ Serious / heavy topics
- ☐ Anything that feels like "school"

- ☐ Music
- ☐ Sport
- ☐ Relationships
- ☐ Travel
- ☐ My trade / future job
- ☐ Current events

**Talk to Your Partner**

Compare your picks with a partner.

**We agree on:**


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**We disagree on:**


---



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# Group Negotiation & Class Agreement

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Speaking Class

## Group Negotiation

Your group of 4 has **20 points**. Decide together how many go to each activity — the total must equal exactly 20.

| Games / Fun | Debates / Discussions | Pop culture / Topics | Role play / Trade speaking | Presentations (light) |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| points      | points                | points               | points                     | points                |

### USEFUL LANGUAGE

"I'd rather have \_\_\_ than \_\_\_." · "Could we have both?" · "How about once a month?" · "I can agree if..."

## Our Class Agreement

### We want lessons to include...

1.

2.

3.

### We want to avoid...

1.

### Topics we're most excited for...

1.

