



## CONVERSATION QUEUE

It can be very difficult to assess learners' speaking skills in a large class environment. Confident learners seem to speak up most often and it's sometimes difficult to get around the room to listen to everyone. This activity is a simple and engaging way to assess whether learners have mastered a simple speaking task such as a question/answer pair or a short dialogue.

**OBJECTIVE:** to assess learners' ability to quickly use spoken English in a familiar context.

**MATERIALS:** (none)

**DESCRIPTION:**

1. Two students start at the front of the room facing each other with all other students lined up behind them.
2. Assign a role to each line, depending on the content that you're reviewing (ex. Landlord and renter calling about a problem, doctor and patient, or one line asks a question and the other line gives an answer).
3. The two people at the front of each line speak to each other. This can be a scripted dialogue that they have previously practiced and memorized or an unscripted conversation with familiar vocabulary and phrases.
4. When they finish, each goes to the end of the opposite line.
5. Try to keep the pace moving. This should be content that most students have mastered and so it should go quickly. If it is dragging, it may be a sign that the class needs more practice with the material.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

1. Call on others in line to answer simple questions about each mini-dialogue. This will keep them actively listening while they're waiting for their turn.
2. This activity can also be combined with TPR (Total Physical Response) by having one line give a command and the other line act it out (ex. In a cooking unit, "Can you slice the carrots? Can you peel the onion?")