



Conversation Curriculum

Misunderstandings and Clarifications

Learning Objective: Students will gain practice with clarifying questions and expressing a misunderstanding that occurs within the context of colloquial English conversation.

Before Class: *Review lesson plan and packet content. Make copies as necessary.*

- Connect teacher laptop in to the projector for the 'I do/We do' activity.
- Let the coordinator know that you need speakers from the computer office

15 minutes

Warm-up activity: *Hand out picture story cards. Students arrange cards in order that 'tell a story'.*

- Finished students: they will explain to another student the story that he/she created. Give all students the chance to explain their picture story.

10 minutes

I do/We do activity: *Briefly explain the song "Mary had a little lamb".*

- Write the lyrics on the board. Have the students read the lyrics out loud. Play the video segment of native English speakers, each of whom who has a distinct accent.
- Ask students who was the most difficult to understand and why? Who was the easiest and why? Play the video again

*Once students are discussing their first questions, unplug the laptop from the projector and wheel the laptop cart back to the far front corner of the room

20 minutes

They do activity: Students will be in opposite-level pairs for this activity

- Hand a conversation question to each pair. Students discuss for 1-2 minutes then will pass it to their **left**.

- Collect the question at the end of the chain (if students are not sitting in a circle around the table).
- Pass out new questions to the first pair in this ‘loop’ every one to two minutes, then pass out the questions that have accumulated at the other end of the ‘loop,’ starting with those on the bottom of the pile. This ensures that all students will have the change to discuss all questions.

10 – 15 minutes **Journal Writing:** Students will write in their dialog journals about one of the four options:

- Respond to the last entry (i.e. continue the ‘dialog’)
- Introduce yourself to the teacher (for students who are new to the group)
- Do have trouble understanding English spoken with an accent? What kind of accents?
- Free write about a topic of the students’ choice

“Mary had a little lamb” lyrics

Mary had a little lamb
 Its fleece was white as snow
 And everywhere that Mary went
 That lamb was sure to go

It followed her to school one day
 Which was against the rules
 It made the children laugh and play
 To see a lamb at school

Do you ever have trouble understanding people from Minnesota when they speak? Think of an example of

How do you get someone to repeat what they said? Act this out with your partner

What do you do if someone is speaking too fast? Act this out with your partner

How do you let someone know that you do not understand? Give an example.

Do people speak English in your home country? Who? If yes, how was it different than the English that you hear in MN?

Have you visited other parts of the U.S.? If yes, how do people there speak differently than people in MN?

Do people have trouble understanding you when you speak English? What do you do?

Does a person need to “lose” their accent when they learn English? Why or why not? What are the benefits to having an accent?

When you are on the phone, how do you make sure that you understand what the other person is saying? Give an example.

Where did you first hear English spoken? How old were you? Was it easy or difficult to understand?

Who do you speak English with? Why? Is English their first language?

Do you watch TV in English? What do you watch? Is it easy or difficult to understand what they say?

Is there a place you go where it is difficult to talk to people? Where? Why is it difficult?

Connecting the teacher laptop in 266 to the projector

- **Take the blue plug from the elmo (white overhead projector) and plug it in to the teacher laptop on the right side.**
- **Turn the computer on. Make sure the speakers are connected to the laptop.**
- **When ready to show the video, turn on the projector (make sure it is plugged in :)**

****To adjust the picture, move the cart that the projector is resting on.**

Connecting portable speakers to the teacher laptop

- **Place the green plug in the headphones (black) port on the right side**
- **Plug the black USB plug into a USB port on the right side of the laptop**
- **Adjust the volume using both the control on the right speaker as well as on the computer (icon on the toolbar in the bottom right corner of the screen)**

American Tongues Video Segment

- **Open the internet browser**
- **Go to youtube.com**
- **Search for “American Tongues Tease”**
- **Start the video at the 33 second mark.**
- **Stop video once the “Mary had a little Lamb” segment is over (main title and credits will start)**



