

Let's discuss this! – Practising discussions in English

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Sprache wird zu 95 % gesprochen und nur zu 5 % geschrieben. Grund genug, anhand motivierender Übungen mit schülernahen Themen das Diskutieren und freie Sprechen in Kleingruppen zu trainieren. Dazu erhalten die Schüler Werkzeuge wie hilfreiche Redemittel und erarbeitete Regeln für den Diskussionsverlauf. Unterschiedliche moderne Methoden wie der „hot seat“, die Vier-Ecken- oder *Fishbowl*-Methode sorgen für die nötige Abwechslung.

Sei es die Frage, welches Teamevent veranstaltet werden soll oder welche Anschaffung für die Firma am sinnvollsten wäre – wo es unterschiedliche Meinungen gibt, muss man sich einigen können. Dann also: „*Let's discuss this!*“



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Diskutieren will gelernt sein! Anhand von abwechslungsreichen Methoden gelingt dies in einer ungezwungenen Atmosphäre.

Das Wichtigste auf einen Blick

Kompetenzen

- an Gesprächen zu vertrauten Alltagsthemen teilnehmen
- im Gespräch aufgaben-, situations- und partnerbezogen agieren, reagieren und diskutieren
- Gesprächsstrukturen anwenden und Formulierungsschwierigkeiten überwinden
- unterschiedliche Perspektiven einnehmen
- sich selbst einschätzen und anderen Feedback geben

Dauer

5 Schulstunden

Niveau

A2–B1

Ihr Plus

inklusive Partner-Feedbackbogen

Verlaufsübersicht

1 Stunde: Useful phrases for a discussion	
Material	Verlauf
M 1	Self-evaluation – discussion / die eigene Diskussionskompetenz anhand eines Selbsteinschätzungsboogens bewerten
M 2	How can you express yourself during a discussion? / Redemittel für Diskussionen erarbeiten
M 3	Useful phrases for a discussion / die eigenen Ergebnisse mit der Lösungsseite vergleichen und ergänzen
Stundenziel: Die Schüler kennen notwendige Redemittel für eine Diskussion.	

2. Stunde: Practising discussions	
Material	Verlauf
M 4	This year's team event – a fishbowl discussion / mithilfe der <i>Fishbowl</i> -Methode üben zu diskutieren
M 5	Feedback sheet – discussion / die Diskussionskompetenz der Mitschüler bewerten
M 6	Checklist for a group discussion / Regeln für eine Diskussion erarbeiten
Stundenziel: Die Lernenden kennen Regeln für den Diskussionsverlauf und diskutieren mithilfe der <i>Fishbowl</i> -Methode.	

3. Stunde: 4 corners – finding a compromise	
Material	Verlauf
M 7	The perfect purchase / Farbseite für die Diskussion in vier Ecken
M 8	The perfect purchase – a discussion in 4 corners / mithilfe der Vier-Ecken-Methode üben zu diskutieren und einen Kompromiss zu finden
M 9	Speaking cards – practising discussions / anhand von Rollenkarten diskutieren
Stundenziel: Die Schüler diskutieren in Kleingruppen und finden einen Kompromiss.	

4. Stunde: Fishbowl discussion	
Material	Verlauf
M 10	Our weekend trip / mit der <i>Fishbowl</i> -Methode über ein Wochenendtrip diskutieren
Stundenziel: Die Lernenden diskutieren in Kleingruppen und finden gemeinsam eine Lösung.	

5. Stunde: Hot seat – asking and responding to questions	
Material	Verlauf
M 11	Allowed or forbidden? – Social media at work / sich in eine Rolle hineinversetzen, ein kurzes Figurenprofil erstellen und ein Thema im <i>hot seat</i> diskutieren
M 12	Hot seat – prompts for questions / Fragen für die Figur im <i>hot seat</i> erarbeiten
Stundenziel: Die Schüler trainieren frei zu sprechen und spontan auf Fragen zu reagieren.	

Materialübersicht

1. Stunde: Useful phrases for a discussion

- M 1 (Ws) Self-evaluation – discussion
 M 2 (Ws) How can you express yourself during a discussion?
 M 3 (Ws) Useful phrases for a discussion

2. Stunde: Practising discussions

- M 4 (Ws) This year's team event – a fishbowl discussion
 M 5 (Ws) Feedback sheet – discussion
 M 6 (Ws) Checklist for a group discussion

3. Stunde: 4 corners – finding a compromise

- M 7 (Cp) The perfect purchase
 M 8 (Ws) The perfect purchase – a discussion in 4 corners
 M 9 (Ca) Speaking cards – practising discussions

4. Stunde: Fishbowl discussion

- M 10 (Ws) Our weekend trip – a fishbowl discussion

5. Stunde: Hot seat – asking and responding to questions

- M 11 (Ca) Allowed or forbidden? – Social media at work
 M 12 (Ws) Hot seat – prompts for questions

Bedeutung der Abkürzungen

Ca: Cards; Cp: Colour page; Tk: Task; Tx: Text; Ws: Worksheet

Minimalplan

Sie haben nur zwei Stunden zur Verfügung? So können Sie die wichtigsten Inhalte erarbeiten:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Stunde: | Taking part in a discussion – the basics | M 2, M 3 und M 6 |
| 2. Stunde: | Practising discussions | M 7–M 9 |

How can you express yourself during a discussion?

M2

Find some useful phrases for a discussion.

Task

Take a look at the headings and the given phrases. For each heading find at least two more phrases.

Starting the conversation

Today we are here to discuss ...



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Expressing your opinion

In my opinion ...

Agreeing with an opinion

Exactly.

Disagreeing with an opinion

I disagree.

Asking for an opinion

What's your opinion on ...?

Clarifying

Can you explain what you mean?

Settling an argument

Let's find a compromise.

VORANSICHT

M3 Useful phrases for a discussion

With the help of these phrases, lead a discussion about a topic of your choice.

Starting the conversation

- Today we are here to discuss ...
- Let's begin/start talking about ...
- The goal of our discussion today is ...
- Let's talk about ...

Expressing your opinion

- In my opinion/view/eyes, ...
- My impression is ...
- From my perspective ...
- Personally, I think ...
- What I mean is ...
- As far as I'm concerned¹ ...

Agreeing with an opinion

- I think so, too.
- That's a good point.
- I see your point/what you are getting at.
- Exactly/definitely/absolutely.
- I couldn't agree more.
- I have to side² with you on this one

Disagreeing with an opinion

- No, I don't think so.
- You could say that, however, ...
- I see your point, but ...
- I'm not sure about that
- I'm afraid³, I disagree.
- Not necessarily ...
- We don't seem to agree here ...
- I see that quite differently.

Asking for an opinion

- What's your opinion on ... ?
- What do you think about ... ?

Clarifying and asking for repetition

- Can you explain what you mean?
- Could you say that again, please?
- So, are you saying that ... ?
- Sorry, I didn't get/catch that.

Settling an argument

- Let's move on, shall we?
- Let's find a compromise.
- I think we're going to have to disagree here.
- Why don't we agree on ... ?

Interrupting politely

- Sorry to interrupt, but ...
- If I may interrupt, ...
- Excuse me for interrupting, but ...
- Can I throw in my two cents⁴?
- Is it OK if I jump in for a moment?
- May I add something here ... ?
- Sorry to cut you off, ...
- I would like to add something to your point.

Vocabulary

1 **as far as I'm concerned**: was mich betrifft – 2 **to side with so.:** für jmdn. Partei ergreifen – 3 **I'm afraid**: leider – 4 **to throw in one's two cents**: seinen Senf dazu geben

The perfect purchase¹ – a discussion in 4 corners

M 8

Discuss in four corners which purchase for the office is the best.

Situation: You have a budget of 500€ to make a new purchase for the office. Have a look at the four options below.

Ideas

Corner 1	Corner 2
plants and outdoor furniture for the balcony 	an espresso machine 
Corner 3	Corner 4
a massage chair 	a football table 

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Tasks

1. Decide which purchase you would like best. Note down arguments for your decision below.

2. Each corner in your classroom stands for one of the four ideas. Based on your decision, go to one of the four corners. Talk to the others in your corner and think of arguments why your decision is the best for the office.
3. Get into groups of four (one member of each corner). Discuss what would be the perfect purchase for the office. Try to convince the others of your idea. Use the reasons and arguments you came up with in task 2.

Vocabulary

1 **purchase:** die Anschaffung

M 9 Speaking cards – practising discussions

Let's practise discussions with these speaking cards!

Task: Get together in groups of two and discuss the topic and questions on your speaking card.

Jobs and languages A	Working abroad B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How important is it to know languages in your job? Why? • What languages do you speak? Where have you learnt them? • Would you like to learn more languages? Yes: Give reasons why. No: Why not? What else might be of interest for you to learn? • What do you consider the most important language in the world? <p>Vocabulary</p> <p>to improve one's knowledge of languages: seine Sprachkenntnisse verbessern – to broaden one's mind: seinen Horizont erweitern – to get to know a foreign culture/language: Bekanntschaft mit einer fremden Kultur/Sprache machen – school exchange trip: der Schüleraustausch – to avoid misunderstandings: Missverständnisse vermeiden – to improve one's chances of finding a better job: die eigenen Chancen auf eine bessere Arbeitsschelle verbessern</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think working abroad or doing an internship abroad is important to your career? • Have you ever worked abroad? Yes: Where and when? Talk about it. No: Where would you like to go? Say what you like about this place and the company. • Talk about pros and cons of an internship abroad. <p>Vocabulary</p> <p>a work placement/an internship: ein Praktikum – to go abroad: ins Ausland gehen – to have an experience: eine Erfahrung machen – to get better at a language: die Sprachkenntnisse verbessern – to understand another culture/mentality: eine andere Kultur/Mentalität begreifen</p>
Apprenticeship C	Job interview D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about your apprenticeship and your future plans after your apprenticeship. • Do you think it is good to stay with a company after an apprenticeship? Yes: Give reasons. No: Why not? What might be an alternative? • Where could you get appropriate information on your job career? <p>Vocabulary</p> <p>to do further training: sich weiterbilden – to relax and travel abroad: sich ausruhen und ins Ausland reisen – to apply for a job: sich bewerben – to collect information from other companies: Informationen von anderen Firmen sammeln/einholen – to do a vocational diploma: ein Fachabitur machen – to gain more experience: weitere Erfahrung sammeln – to know the company's processes: die Abläufe im Unternehmen kennen – human resources: die Personalabteilung</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you already experienced a job interview? Yes: Talk about it. No: What is important in a job interview? (presenting yourself, your skills, knowledge of foreign languages, educational background, future plans, ...) • How could you prepare for a job interview? <p>Vocabulary</p> <p>to apply for a job: sich bewerben – an applicant: ein Bewerber – to be reliable: verlässlich sein – to work in a team: in einem Team arbeiten – to have work experience in: Arbeitserfahrung haben bei/in – to be suitable: geeignet sein – fluency in English: fließende Englischkenntnisse – to be interviewed for a job: ein Bewerbungsgespräch haben – to enjoy challenges: Herausforderungen mögen – appropriate information: geeignete Information – professional organisation: der Berufsverband</p>

M 11 Allowed or forbidden? – Social media at work

Choose a role and discuss the following in the hot seat.

Question: Should employees be allowed to check their social media and/or private emails on their work computers?

Employee

Task

Think about your character and try to step into his or her shoes. Answer the following questions. They will help you while being in the hot seat.

1. What is your name and age?
 2. What is your job? What position do you have in the company?
 3. How often do you check social media? What do you use it for? Do you do it at work?
 4. Why should/shouldn't you be allowed to check social media/private emails on the work computer? What would be the advantages/disadvantages for you/for the company ... ?
- What is your overall opinion?

Manager

Task

Think about your character and try to step into his or her shoes. Answer the following questions. They will help you while being in the hot seat.

1. What is your name and age?
 2. Do you use social media/check private emails at work? How often do you do it?
 3. What is your experience with employees checking social media/private mails at work?
 4. Do you have concerns about safety (e.g. computer viruses, spy ware) if employees use work computers for private purposes?
 5. What reasons are there for/against checking social media/private mails on work computers?
- What is your overall opinion?

Works council

Task

Think about your character and try to step into his or her shoes. Answer the following questions. They will help you while being in the hot seat.

1. What is your name, age and job?
 2. How often do you check social media/private mails a day? Do you do it at work?
 3. What are the laws concerning using private email or social media accounts at work? Think about data safety, the employer being able to track browser history and employees' private messages. Do employees have a right to access their social media or private emails at work?
 4. What reasons are there for/against checking social media/private mails on work computers?
- What is your overall opinion?