

90. Brush-Up English Conversation

Course Overview

This course helps senior learners enjoy English conversation through familiar and practical topics. You will practice talking about yourself, hobbies, daily life, feelings, Japanese traditions, and travel experiences. You will also learn useful English for real-life situations, such as talking with people at a café or asking questions at a cooking class abroad. Share your experiences, build your confidence, and enjoy connecting with people around the world.

Schedule

- Instructor: Rodger James Douglas
- Day & Time: Thursday 10:00 – 12:00
- Venue: Nagahori Yasuda Bldg. near Shinsaibashi station, Conference Room C, 8th Floor
- Capacity: 25 participants

Session	Month	Date	Theme	Description
1	4	8	Introduce Yourself	This lesson focuses on introducing yourself and getting to know someone for the first time. Learners practice talking about their name, hometown, where they live, former job, hobbies, family, and travel experiences. They also learn useful expressions for asking questions, showing interest, and keeping a conversation going.
2	4	22	Cherry Blossoms and Picnics	This lesson uses cherry blossoms and hanami picnics as a theme. Learners practice planning a picnic, choosing a place, sharing food, and talking about the weather and the blossoms. They learn useful expressions such as “in full bloom,” “The petals are falling,” “Would you like some?” and “Help yourself.”
3	5	6	Aya and Her Garden	This lesson focuses on gardening and growing plants. Learners practice talking about planting seeds, watering plants, removing weeds, adding fertilizer, and harvesting vegetables and herbs. They also discuss their favorite plants and why people enjoy gardening.
4	5	20	Ken’s Daily Life	This lesson focuses on daily life after retirement. Learners practice talking about routines such as walking, gardening, volunteering at a local library, running errands, and reading. They also learn expressions for frequency, regular routines, and activities they do in their free time.
5	6	3	Expressing Feelings	This lesson teaches learners how to express feelings such as happiness, excitement, worry, nervousness, disappointment, relief, and frustration. Learners also practice responding appropriately to other people’s feelings with empathy and encouragement.
6	6	17	Hiro at a Coffee Shop	This lesson focuses on practical English at a coffee shop. Learners practice ordering drinks and food, asking for a seat, requesting the bill, and talking with other customers. The lesson also shows how English can help learners make new friends and talk about shared interests such as photography and hiking.
7	7	1	Eri’s Cooking Class in Italy	This lesson takes place at a cooking class in Bologna, Italy. Learners practice useful English for asking about ingredients, cooking methods, and cooking times, as well as asking for help. The story also shows that people can communicate successfully in English even when it is not their first language, by using simple words, gestures, and demonstrations.
8	7	15	Mid-Course Review	
9	9	2	Talking About Hobbies	Students talk about their hobbies, interests, and free-time activities. They share what they enjoy doing, what they are good at, and what hobbies they would like to try or improve. Through conversations about photography, baking, music, and other activities, students discover common interests and practice describing their hobbies.
10	9	16	Checking Into a Hotel	Students learn useful English for checking into a hotel and asking questions at the reception desk. They practice making a reservation, showing a passport, asking about breakfast and Wi-Fi, requesting a quiet room, and asking for directions and local recommendations.
11	10	7	Visiting the Tulip Fields	Students follow Aya’s visit to the tulip fields in the Netherlands. They learn how to talk about travel experiences, beautiful scenery, guided tours, photographs, and meeting people from other countries. The lesson also provides opportunities to discuss travel and cultural experiences.
12	10	21	Japanese Culture	Students explore a variety of Japanese cultural traditions, including ukiyo-e, kabuki, tea ceremony, ikebana, calligraphy, taiko, matsuri, bonsai, kimono, rakugo, wagashi, and shinrin-yoku. They learn how to describe these traditions and share their own experiences and opinions about Japanese culture.
13	11	4	Life Experiences	Students talk about memorable, pleasant, or interesting experiences from their lives. They practice describing when and where something happened, who was involved, what happened, and how they felt. They also reflect on what they learned from their experiences.
14	11	18	Future Plans	Students discuss their future plans, dreams, and things they would like to do someday. They practice expressions such as “hope to,” “would like to,” and “plan to,” and learn to describe practical first steps toward achieving their goals.
15	12	2	Sharing Opinions	Students practice expressing their opinions and giving reasons. They learn useful expressions such as “In my opinion,” “I think,” “I prefer,” “I agree,” and “It depends.” Through discussions about travel, hobbies, food, and everyday life, students learn to listen to different opinions and respond appropriately.
16	12	16	My Story Presentation & Celebration	Students prepare and present a personal story based on a memorable experience, hobby, trip, or something they have learned. They use the language and communication skills developed throughout the course to share their stories with classmates and celebrate their learning together.