

One-Sided Conversation



Level:

Upper-Intermediate -Advanced



Objectives:

Student will be able to demonstrate understanding of conversational and social cues by speaking up at appropriate times and following along in a natural conversation.



Timing

5-10 minutes



Prep/

Materials:

- Device that can record and playback an audio clip (smart phone, tablet, laptop, etc.)
- Written conversation
- Recorded conversation

Write a dialogue between two people. The topic should be similar in style and content to the conversations that your student often encounters in the target language (eg: business meeting focus, watercooler talk, gossiping with a neighbor, talking to a child's teacher)

Perform and record both sides of the dialogue before coming to class. When you do, record only one speaker's lines, leaving the other speaker's lines out of the recording. You can do that by speaking one side of the conversation out loud and reciting the other side of the conversation in your head while leaving the recorder running.

As an example, you could record the receptionist speaking to a guest at a hotel:

Receptionist: Good afternoon. How can I help you?

Guest: Hi! Would you be able to make a reservation for 2 people in August?

Receptionist: Of course! What are your arrival and departure dates?

Guest: I will be arriving on August 15th and checking out on August 17th. Can you let me know pricing for a queen and a king-sized room?

Receptionist: Sure! One moment while I check that for you.



Breakdown:

Bring the dialogue and recording to the class. Give your student a copy of the dialogue. Based on their level and comfortability with the activity, you should decide if your student needs to see both sides of the conversation, or (if they're up for a challenge) just the side of the conversation that they'll recite.

Have the student read out-loud their portion of the dialogue along with the recording that you have prepared.

If your students are too slow to speak up, the recording won't hold the conversation for them. If they can keep good time with the recording, they are showing good fluency.