



ENGLISH CONVERSATION HELPERS

WELCOME!

We are excited that you are interested in becoming an English Conversation Helper and investing in the lives of International students. Now, more than ever before, people around the world are seeing the need to learn English, not only for their own advancement, but also for the advancement of the Gospel.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Zoom and WhatsApp are the main forms of communication that we will use. Both are free and will need to be downloaded to the device (cell phone, iPad or computer) that you will use prior to our future meetings. We will have a virtual 90-minute training session on January 30, at 10:00a to go over the details associated with communications.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A CONVERSATION HELPER?

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- The expectation is that you will give between 15 – 30 minutes of time per week to your student for the duration of the semester (February - May). You can do more if you wish, but the program is designed for only 15 - 30 minutes per week.
- I will send you the material for “conversation starters” that you will use each week. You and your student will agree on a time that you will meet week. The “conversation starters” will consist of paragraphs taken from their textbook, and new vocab words will be underlines.
 - You do not have experience as an English teacher to do this! I will provide you with the training necessary to be a Conversation Helper.
 - Read the text aloud to your student. You might need to speak a bit slower than normal, at least for the first couple of weeks.
 - Listen to the student read the material aloud to you. Correct pronunciation errors if necessary. Your goal is to help them practice speaking correctly and to encourage them in the learning process.
 - There are suggested comprehension questions for each of the readings. You don’t have to do all the questions. You can pick and choose; you can rearrange the order if you want. Just keep in mind that the questions are written with simple vocabulary and structure that the student should understand.
 - If you and your student want to talk about other things and you have the time to do so, feel free!
 - Some weeks, you will help your student develop a Gospel presentation using the presentation known as 3 Circles. A short, written text will be provided to you, and you can follow the same procedure as before. You will read first, and your student will read after you. You can then offer correction and encouragement. On the week you work on this, you will not work on material from the textbook.

You will focus on one new section of the Gospel presentation at a time. If you have time remaining, you can review previous sections. I will give those to you for your reference.

- You do not have to send a report on how the student is doing each week. It is just to provide practice speaking with someone who has a different accent and fluency than their regular teacher. Please feel free to communicate your questions and/or concerns with me via email. Consistency is very important. If you (or your student) miss more than two weeks in a row, we ask that you contact Stephanie.Ott@cottonwoodcreek.org so she might offer some additional follow up assistance.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

The explicit purpose of this program is to practice English within the context of the material being studied. Please do not forward texts, personal photos and other information to your student's phone or email during the course of the semester that are not related to studying English in this context. The conversation starters that are provided will always be related to our unit of study.

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT MY STUDENT?

We will send you the name and contact information of the student with whom you will be working. Together, you and your student will determine the best day/time to meet. Following our orientation meeting, your student will make the initial contact with you. There is a time zone difference that you need to be aware of, for example, Brazil is 2-3 hours ahead of Central Standard Time (depending on daylight savings time in the USA).

Feel free to send me a message if you have further questions. There will be an orientation meeting towards the end of January. (I don't have that date yet, but I will let you know as soon as possible.)

Dream it – Do it,

Dr. Justin Hillhouse

Missions/Evangelism Pastor

Cottonwood Creek Church

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