



10

**HERE ARE 10
DIFFERENT WAYS
TO GET
STUDENTS
SPEAKING
(EVEN THE SHY
ONES)**

30-Second Talk

Give students a simple topic (food, pets, school, weekend).

They should speak for 30 seconds without stopping.

Beginners: allow sentence starters on the board.

(I have... / I like... / I go... / My favourite...

Stronger students: no notes allowed.

Find Someone Who...

Give students prompts:

- Find someone who likes pizza.
- Find someone who woke up early today.
- Find someone who plays a sport.

Students walk around asking full questions.

Beginners: "Do you like...?"

Stronger students require follow-up questions.

Talking Dice

Write question words on a dice:

Who / What / Where / When / Why / How

Students roll the dice and ask a question.

You can use flashcards/pictures to help the students ask questions. E.g. A picture of a family eating breakfast. Who is eating breakfast? What is the family doing?

Would You Rather?

Give two options:

- Would you rather fly or be invisible?
- Would you rather eat pizza forever or never eat chocolate again?

Students answer and explain their choice.

Even shy students usually engage with funny choices.



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Picture Prompt Pass

Show a picture.

Each student says ONE sentence before passing to the next student.

Beginners: simple description.

Stronger students: add details or create a story.

Two Truths and a Lie

Students say three sentences about themselves. Two are true. One is false.

The class asks questions and guesses the lie. This works very well for building confidence.

The Question Ball

Throw a soft ball.

Whoever catches it must answer a question.

Easy questions: What's your name? What colour do you like?

Variation: The student asks the next question before throwing.

This adds movement and lowers anxiety.

Secret Role

Give each student a secret role:

- teacher
- famous singer
- chef
- football player

Other students ask questions to guess who they are. This removes pressure because they are "playing" someone else.



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Finish the Sentence

Write starters on the board:

- I feel happy when...
- My favourite place is...
- If I had a million dollars...
- On Saturdays I...

Students have to complete the sentence aloud.
Great for structured speaking practice.

My 3 Things – Easy Personal Speaking

I have... / I don't have... / I like... / I don't like... / It is...
Each student chooses 3 simple picture cards.

Examples:

- food
- animals
- school items

They say 3 sentences about their cards.

Not all students feel confident speaking in English.

These activities for students:

- Reduce anxiety through structure and repetition
 - Give clear speaking frameworks
 - Encourage movement and interaction
 - Allow differentiation for mixed levels
- Increase student talk time significantly

These activities for teachers:

- * Quick Informal Assessment
- * Gives Structure (Less Teacher Talking)

**When students speak more, they gain confidence faster —
and confident students learn better.**

*In English
with Debbie*

listen • understand • speak