

The LANGUAGE SCHOOL AT VANIER COLLEGE

CONVERSATION PARTNERS PROGRAM

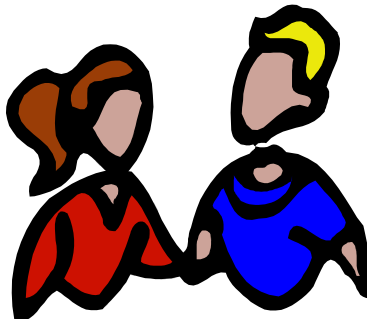
Vanier College has established a language school that welcomes both international and local students. These students are working hard to improve their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. The teens range in age from 12 to 16 and the EAP students are, for the most part, between 16 and 22 although a few are older. Our school is student-centered and we believe in a positive and interactive approach to learning a new language.

The goal of the Conversation Partners' Program is to encourage students in their efforts to improve their English language skills. To accomplish this goal, you should:

1. Show genuine interest in the students you are talking to.
2. Speak slowly and clearly in vocabulary they can understand. This doesn't mean that you should speak down to people, but it does mean that you should choose your words carefully.
3. Approach students who are not talking and try to include them. They may be shy so you could speak to them individually. Over time, you can encourage them to join in the group.
4. Repetition is an important teaching strategy. If you are giving a correction, have the student repeat it. If you say a word that is new to the group, repeat it. Ask them to use the word in a sentence.
5. Give lots of praise, especially when you can see that a student has used a particularly difficult structure or new word.
6. Correct occasionally, but at all times remember to be sensitive to the needs of the student. Some students will become frustrated if you correct inappropriately. If you see that a student persists in making the same kind of mistake, just say the correct version. It is not necessary to go into an explanation of a grammar point.
7. To define a word, give several explanations to make sure the student really understands. If you are near a blackboard, you could draw a picture or

diagram to make your point. You could also refer to objects to ensure greater understanding.

8. Topics of conversation can vary. What is important is to find a topic the students want to discuss. You could ask students about their family, school, country, hobbies and interests. The students will also be curious about you so be willing to share your experiences with them.
9. The Language School has various games (Boggle, Scrabble). Feel free to start one of these games or any other language games that you know.
10. Enjoy yourself. If you are interested in the students and get involved yourself, we are sure your sessions will be great.
11. Come prepared for every session with either an activity or a subject for a discussion group.
12. You must attend a Training/Information Session. Pamela Espinosa will email you with the date and time.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE VANIER COLLEGE LANGUAGE SCHOOL