

Sentence Starters Poster

Printable classroom prompts that remove the 'blank page' problem for shy or hesitant speakers. From Post 4: How to Run a Speaking Activity When Half Your Class Is Too Shy to Talk.

How to Use This Poster

Print this page large (A3 if possible) and pin it somewhere visible in the classroom, or write the phrases on the board before any speaking activity. Tell learners they **MUST** begin with one of these phrases — it removes the paralysis of not knowing how to start.

Giving an Opinion

- "I think that..."
- "In my opinion..."
- "One thing I know is..."
- "From my point of view..."

Expressing Uncertainty

- "I'm not sure, but maybe..."
- "I could be wrong, but..."
- "I think, though I'm not 100% sure..."

Sharing Personal Experience

- "In my country..."
- "Where I come from..."
- "In my experience..."
- "Something similar happened to me when..."

Agreeing

- "I agree because..."
- "That's exactly what I think — ..."
- "Yes, and also..."

Disagreeing Politely

"I see your point, but..."
"I'm not sure I agree, because..."
"That's interesting, but I think..."

Asking for Clarification

"Sorry, could you explain that again?"
"What do you mean by...?"
"Could you give an example?"

Teacher Tip

Never cold-call a learner who is struggling. When you need a volunteer, use the generous invitation: 'Who would like to try? There is no wrong answer here — I just want to hear your idea.' Then wait. Silence is acceptable. Discomfort is not.