

# Creating and Sustaining English Language Clubs to Enhance English Learning



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# Webinar Goals

1. To give a definition of “English Language Clubs”
2. To explain how English Language Clubs enhance learning
3. To discuss ways to create English Language Clubs
  - Membership
  - Leadership
  - Meeting places and times
4. To share practical ideas about sustaining English Language Clubs
5. **To exchange ideas about fun, interesting, and enjoyable English Language Club activities**

# What is an English Language Club?

- Meetings
- Like-minded people
- Language practice
- Community service
- Fun, interesting, enjoyable activities
- Relaxed, playful environment



# In the Classroom



- Teacher
- Students
- Academic learning
- Right/Wrong—Correct/Incorrect
- Formal
- Concentration, memorization
- School meeting times

# In the Club



- Facilitator and/or leader
- Members
- Language practice
- Creative, complex
- Relaxed
- Fun, playful
- Convenient times

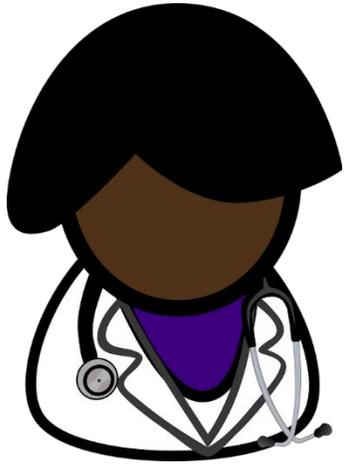
# How Do English Clubs Enhance Language Use?

1. Socially situated
2. Activity-based
3. Supportive, encouraging, respectful
4. Member-controlled
5. Intellectually challenging
6. Affective filter



(Brause, 1991; Krashen, 1994; Vygotsky, 1987)

# Who Wants to Practice English? Community Clubs



- Medical professionals
- Taxi drivers
- Tourist agents
- Faith communities
- Lawyers
- Artisans
- Musicians
- Athletes



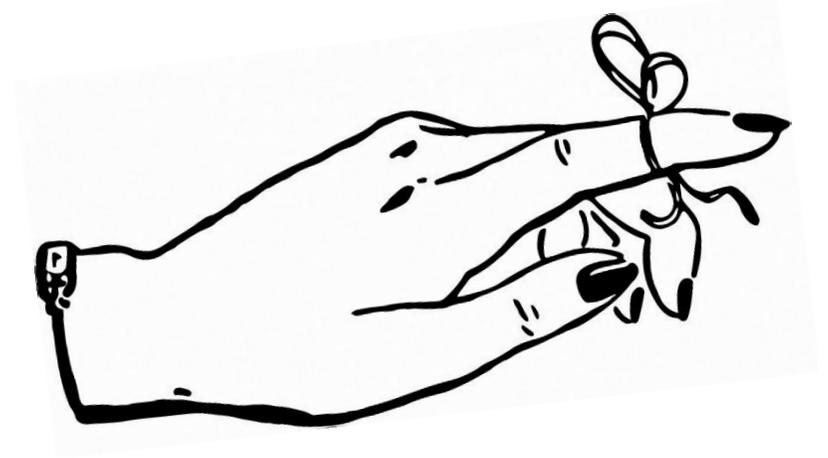
# First Steps for the Facilitator/Teacher

1. Find interested students/like-minded people
  - a. Word-of-mouth
  - b. Advertise
2. Focus on the goals
  - a. Practice English
  - b. Help the community
3. Find a meeting place
4. Choose initial meeting time



# Before the Meeting, Remember ...

- Be an advisor—not teacher
- Coach—don't teach
- Be supportive, flexible, nurturing
- Keep an open mind
- Focus on others
- Focus on collaboration, consensus, community
- Members are not students
- The club is not a classroom



# At the First Meeting ... Ask About



## Availability for Meetings

- Frequency of meetings
- Days
- Times
- Length of meetings
- Meeting location



# At the First Meeting ... Talk About

## Talk about ...

- Needs and goals
- Interests, topics for club activities
- Organizational structure
- Communication system
- Club rules
- Election/selection of leadership



# How Can We Organize an English Language Club?

1.

Leader

Assistant  
Leader

Secretary

Members

Members

Members

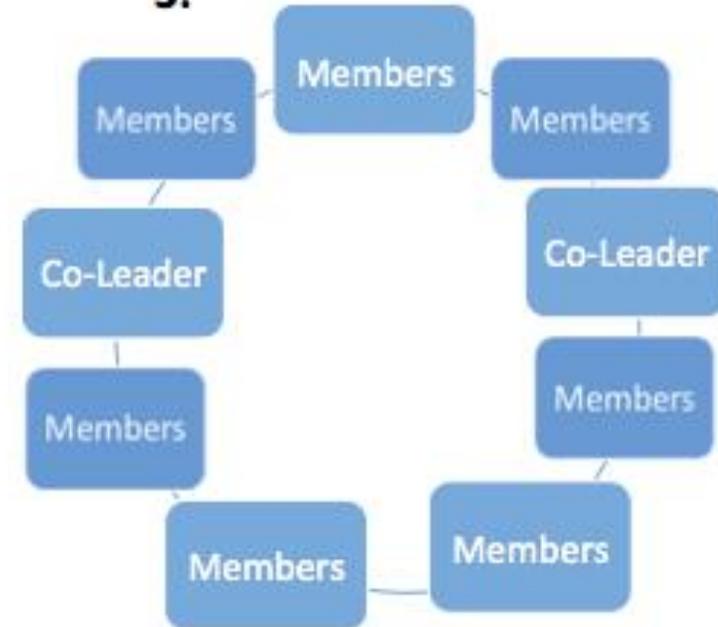
Top-Down Model

2.



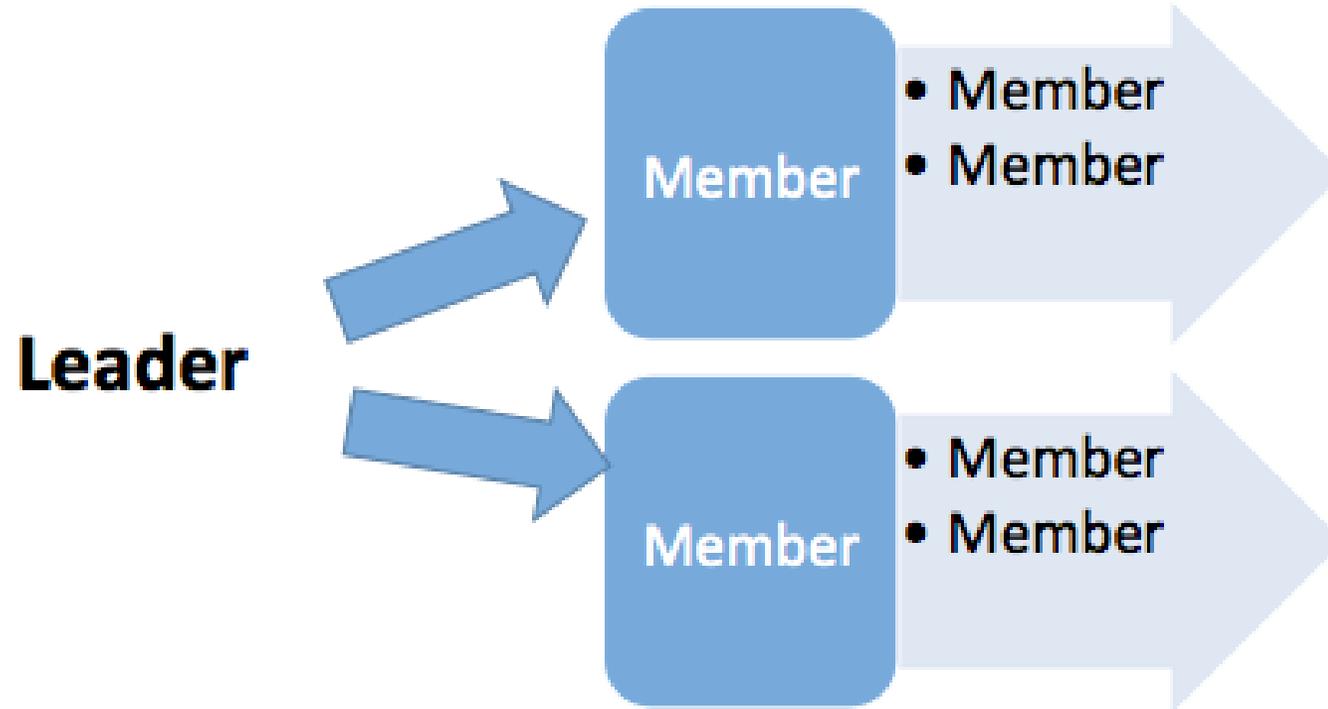
Collaborative Model

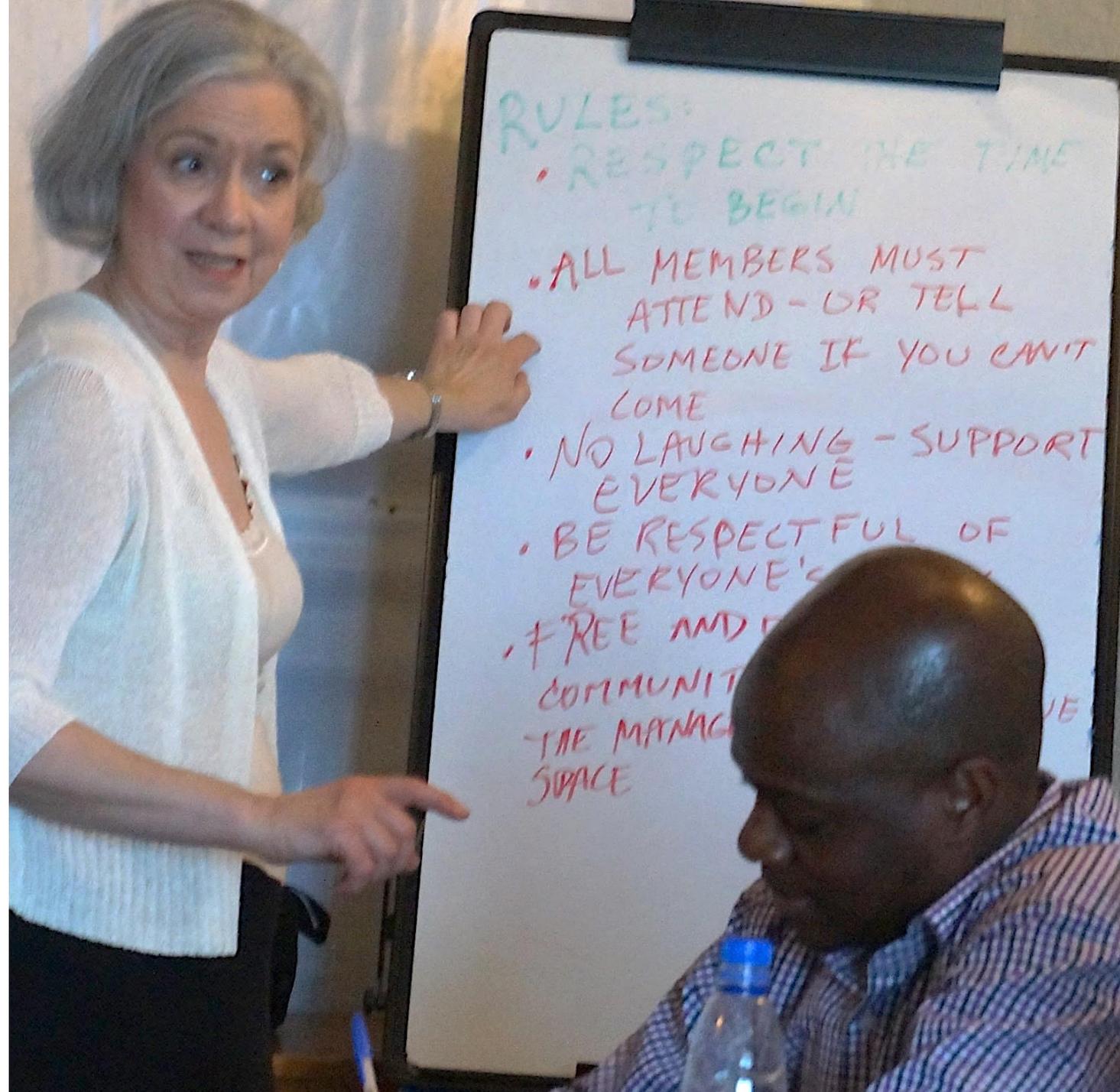
3.



Rotation Model

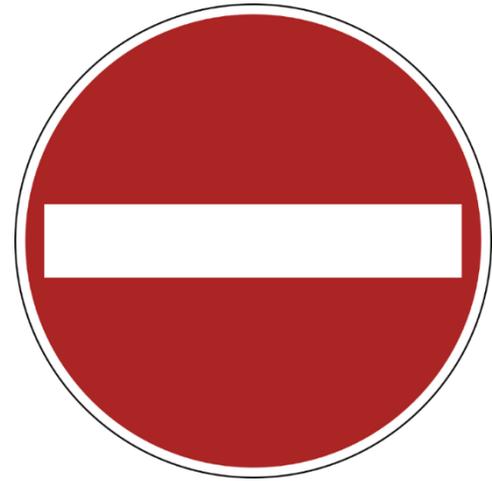
# Communication System



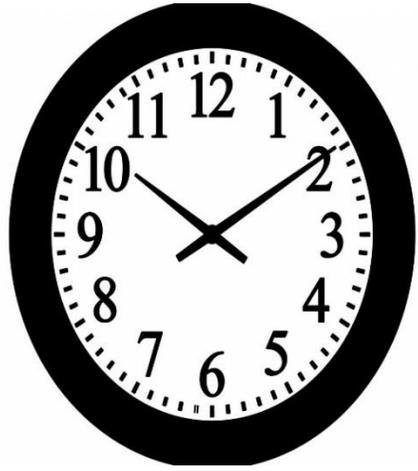


## RULES:

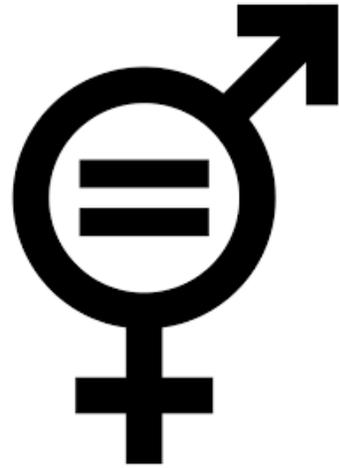
- RESPECT THE TIME TO BEGIN
- ALL MEMBERS MUST ATTEND - OR TELL SOMEONE IF YOU CAN'T COME
- NO LAUGHING - SUPPORT EVERYONE
- BE RESPECTFUL OF EVERYONE'S
- FREE AND COMMUNIT
- THE MANAG
- SPACE



# Sample Club Rules



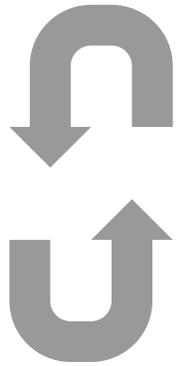
- Time
- Respect
- Participation
- Politics
- Religion
- Relationships



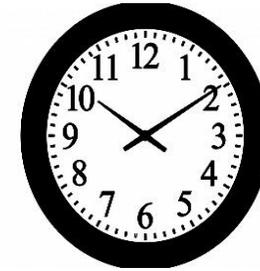
# Why are Rules Important?

## Challenges and Solutions

### Some members talk too much

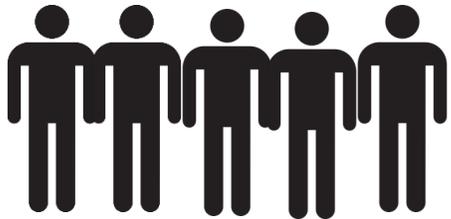


- Members choose a **turn monitor** who makes sure everyone participates



- Members choose a **time limit** for each speaker (3 minutes)
- Members choose a **timekeeper**, responsible for keeping time

# Men speak more than women



- Leader, in private, encourages women to speak more
- Some meetings have separate rooms for men and women—depending on the topic
- Some meetings are “for men only” and others “for women only”
- Meeting presents a skit or role play about this problem



# Members argue about ...

- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Controversial issues
- Politics
- Religion



One member notes the grammar or vocabulary problem and discusses this at the end of the meeting—or finds the answer and reports to the club at the next meeting.



One member is the Monitor and reminds members about Club rules.

# Club Rules

REMEMBER: **KISS**

**Keep**

**It**

**Simple,**

**Silly!**

Don't make complicated rules!

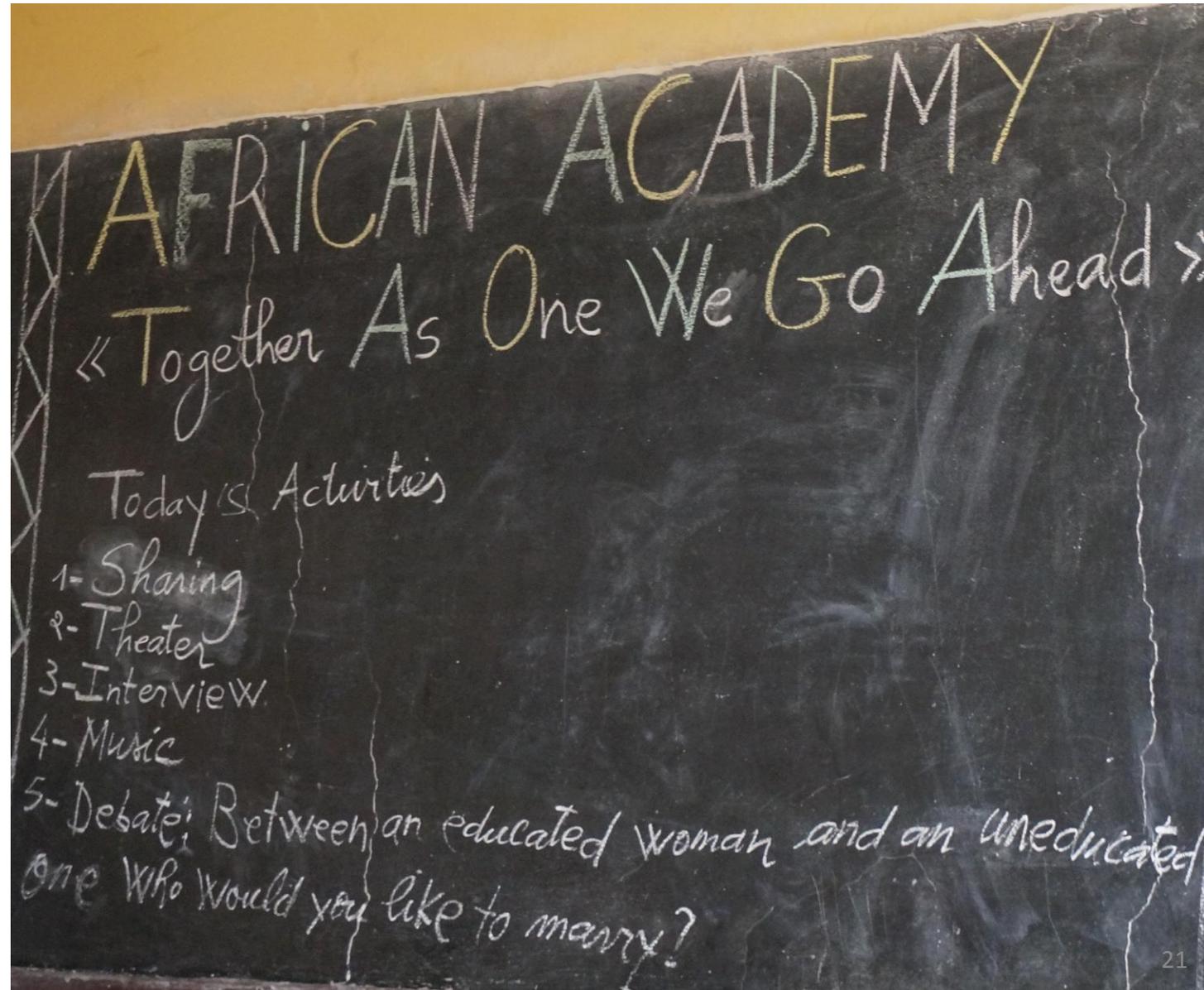
# What Happens ... and When?

## Two Sample Meeting Agendas

### A Community-Based Club Agenda

Today's activities:

1. Sharing
2. Theater
3. Interview
4. Music
5. Debate



# A School Club Agenda



1. Members sing a song (10 minutes)
2. Member presents news report (10 minutes)
3. Members discuss news report (15 minutes)
4. Members form groups
5. Groups plan for community action—collecting plastic bags
6. Groups share their action plans
7. Leader wraps up meeting
8. Secretary announces next meeting date, place and time
9. Members select news reporter and song for next meeting
10. Club meeting ends



# How Can We Get Started? Hold an Election



- Nominate officers
  - Leader
  - Assistant Leader
  - Secretary
- Choose Timekeeper
- Listen to candidate speeches (3 minutes)
- Ask-answer questions



# Candidate Speeches





# The Vote

- Distribute ballots
- Cast votes







# English Language Clubs - Activities

**CHAT BOX:** What are some fun activities people can do to learn English?

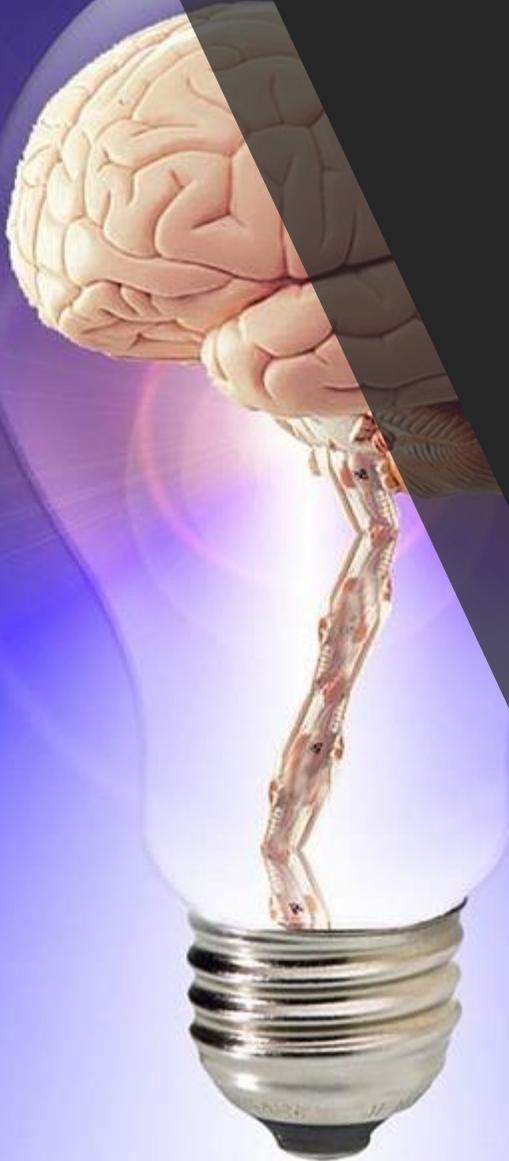
# Today we will discuss the following activities

- Choosing a topic / Brainstorming
- Facilitated Club Discussion
- Group Conversations
- Skits /Role Plays
- Debates
- Guest Speaker / Mock Interviews
- Red Pen
- Games / Music
- In the News
- Community Projects
- Special Events



# Choosing a Topic - Brainstorming

- Ask members to share topics they want to discuss
- Write all ideas on the blackboard
- Make sure someone is taking notes
- Vote on all topics. The topics with the most votes should be discussed during the next meeting



# Facilitated Club Discussion

- Pick an interesting topic and choose a member to lead the conversation
- Introduce the topic
- Have members raise their hands to participate
- Make sure both men and women participate
- Ask questions to keep the discussion going
- Don't dominate the conversation; allow members to do most of the talking



# Group Discussion

Divide club members into smaller groups

- ✓ Assign group responsibilities
- ✓ Group leader
- ✓ Group notetaker
- ✓ Time keeper
- ✓ Vocabulary collector
- ✓ Grammarian



# Skits/Role Plays

- A skit is a short conversation or dialogue between two or more people - it usually tells a story or part of a story
- Synonyms for “skit” are “sketch,” “drama,” or “dialogue”



# Possible Debate Topics

**CHAT BOX:** What are some topics that could be debated in English Club?



# Debates



- Team A is FOR the topic – this is the PRO side
- Team B is AGAINST the topic – this is the CON side

# Guest Speaker/Mock Interview

## Guest Speakers

- Someone who can discuss a topic at your English Club (English speakers might be located at local hospitals, schools, universities, international businesses, non-governmental organizations, embassies, libraries, or within your community)



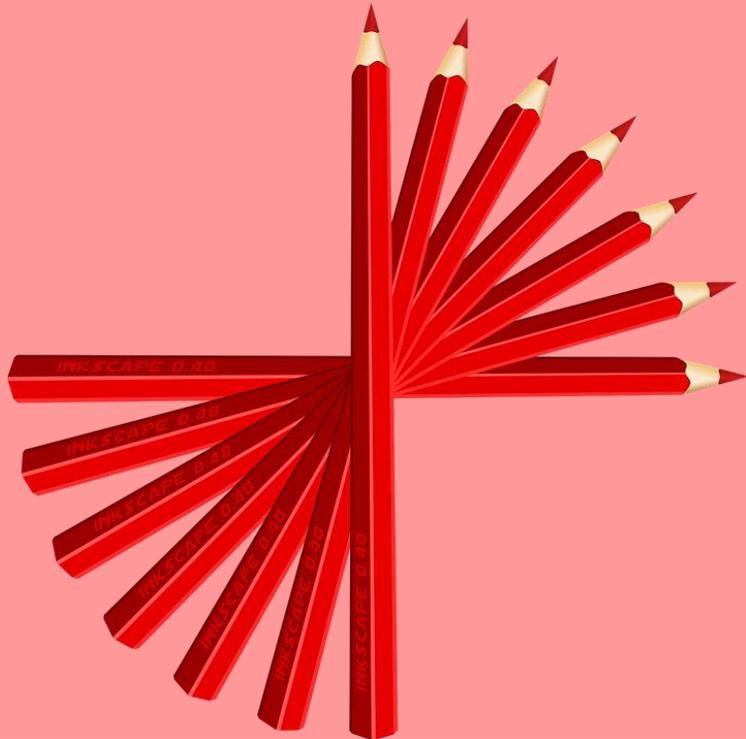
## Mock Interviews

- Job interviews
- News interviews
- Expert interviews
- Celebrity interviews
- Interview a club member



# Red Pen

- Red Pen is an activity that records members' mistakes in English



- ✓ **Appoint someone to listen for members' mistakes**
- ✓ **Record all mistakes in a notebook**
- ✓ **Share the mistakes at the end of the meeting**
- ✓ **Don't use names**
- ✓ **Ask members to correct the mistakes**

# Games / Music

## Possible Games

- Activate – Games for Learning American English
- Monopoly
- Cards
- Flash cards
- Word games
- Charades



# In the News



**Purpose** – Keeps members informed about current events and allows them to practice their English language skills

- ✓ Share current news on global, regional, national, or local events
- ✓ Find an audio recording from the radio like Voice of America and have the club listen to the broadcast
- ✓ Have members share the news they know
- ✓ Discuss news from another part of the world



# Community Projects

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- Identify a local community problem
  - Discuss possible solutions
  - Decide how to help solve the problem
  - Organize an activity to give back to the community
- Possible projects
  - Cleaning up a public park, beach, or public space
  - Recycling
  - Volunteering with a local non-government organization
  - Teaching others English



# Special Events

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## English Clubs can organize...

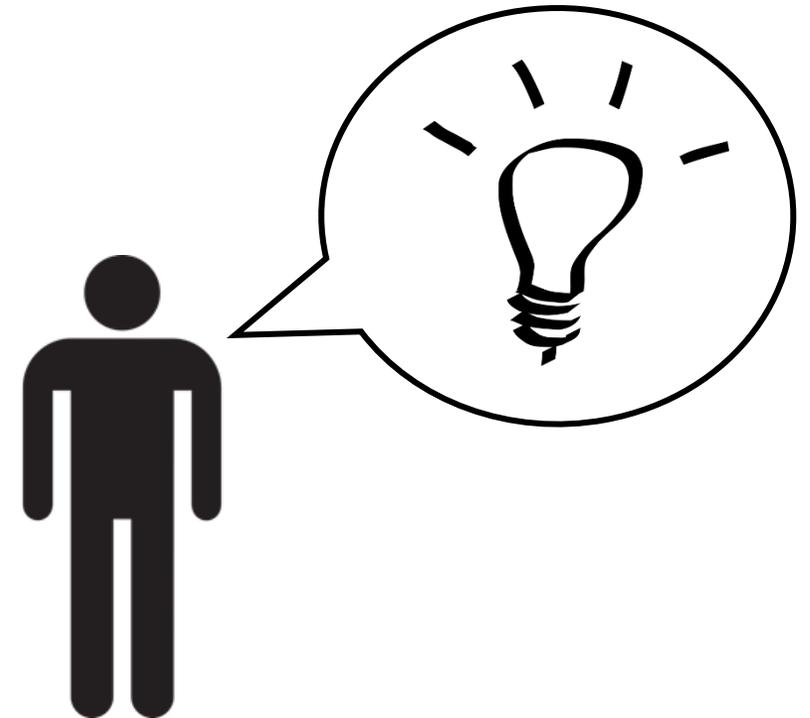
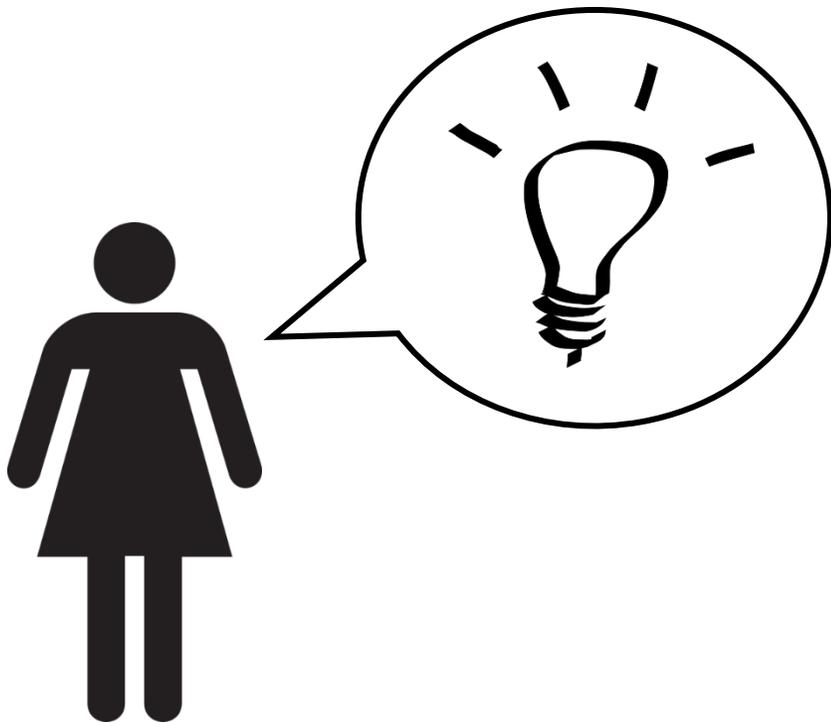
- Sporting games (football, softball, basketball or local sport)
- Singing competitions
- Spelling bees
- Art competitions
- Volunteer projects
- Visiting schools to promote English
- Planting a tree or garden

# Conclusion – Today we talked about....

- Defining “English Language Clubs”
- Creating English Language Clubs
  - Membership
  - Leadership
  - Meeting places and times
- Challenges and solutions for sustaining English Language Clubs
- English Language Club activities

# Final Question

What is one idea you learned today that you want to try?



**Thanks Everyone!**

Merci!

Asante!

Çok Teşekkürler!

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We look forward to continuing our interactions on the Ning!

Good-bye!