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| Skill Area(s): Conversation |
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Talking Cards

From: <http://iteslj.org/Lessons/Brown-TalkingCards.html> by Michael J. Brown

Level: beginner, intermediate, advanced

Topic: conversations

Goal: To get the student used to answering general questions at a level that resembles normal speech.
To give the students conversational confidence

Materials needed: One or two packs of playing cards and the questions sheet

Activity:

You distribute the cards among your students. If you have a large class tries using two packs of cards. The student answers the corresponding question to that card. The student is awarded 4 points for a complete answer, 3 points for a reasonable answer, 2 points for an incomplete answer, and 1 point for any answer at all. If your class is up to it, you can get them to award the points.

(This activity was taken from an ELL web site. You can adapt the questions and directions to fit your group.)

Follow up suggestions:

- You can eliminate the points for answers.
- There are many other conversation questions commercially made or found on the internet.
- Divide your group into pairs for this activity. You chose the pairs.
- Have the groups share one or two things they learned about their partner with the whole group.

Talking Cards – Question Sheet

♠ Spades (Describing things)

- ♠ Ace - Describe your face.
- ♠ King - Describe your clothes.
- ♠ Queen - Describe your mother.
- ♠ Jack - Describe your father.
- ♠ Ten - Describe an apple.
- ♠ Nine - Describe your bedroom.
- ♠ Eight - Describe your best friend.
- ♠ Seven - Describe what you had for breakfast today.
- ♠ Six - Describe your English teacher.
- ♠ Five - Describe the difference between a dog and a cat.
- ♠ Four - Describe a pencil.
- ♠ Three - Describe your favorite hobby.
- ♠ Two - Describe this game.

♦ Diamonds (if clause)

- ♦ Ace - If you could have a pet what would it be?
- ♦ King - If you had a million dollars what would you spend it on?
- ♦ Queen - If you could meet any person in the world who would it be and why?
- ♦ Jack - If you could change something about your school what would it be?
- ♦ Ten - If you had to live in another country which one would you choose?
- ♦ Nine - If you could do anything in the world what would you do?
- ♦ Eight - If you could speak three languages well, what would they be?
- ♦ Seven - If you were rich, what would you do?
- ♦ Six - If you had to spend a day alone at home, what would you do?
- ♦ Five - If everyone in the world suddenly disappeared, what would you do?
- ♦ Four - If you could choose how old you were, how old would you be and why?
- ♦ Three - If you could choose any meal you wanted, what would it be?
- ♦ Two - If you found \$100,000 what would you do?

♥ Hearts (what questions)

- ♥ Ace - What did you have for dinner last night?
- ♥ King - What did you have for lunch today?
- ♥ Queen - What is your favorite sport? Why?
- ♥ Jack - What did you do last night?
- ♥ Ten - What type of music do you like? Why?
- ♥ Nine - What is your favorite game? Why?
- ♥ Eight - What does your mother do?
- ♥ Seven - What does your father do?
- ♥ Six - What is your favorite lesson at school? Why?
- ♥ Five - What did you do last Sunday?
- ♥ Four - What is your favorite television program? Why?
- ♥ Three - What would you do if you could do anything in the world?
- ♥ Two - What is the one thing you would change about yourself?

♣ Clubs (mixed questions)

- ♣ Ace - What is your address in English?
- ♣ King - What time do you usually get up?
- ♣ Queen - Where did you go for your last holiday?
- ♣ Jack - Where were you born?
- ♣ Ten - Why are you studying English?
- ♣ Nine - Which do you prefer, summer or winter, and why?
- ♣ Eight - Which magazines do you like to read?
- ♣ Seven - How many hours do you usually sleep at night?
- ♣ Six - Do you like shopping? Why?
- ♣ Five - How often do you go to the cinema?
- ♣ Four - What was the last movie you saw?
- ♣ Three - Would you like to travel to other countries? Why?
- ♣ Two - How many friends have you got and who are they?