

ENGLISH AT LUNCHTIME - CONVERSATION IN ENGLISH (C1 / B2 LEVEL)

Introduction: Who is the course for?

A weekly conversation series designed for university teaching staff at B2 or C1 levels, (separate levels). Sessions focus on spoken fluency and confidence in everyday and semi-professional English, complementing the academic and technical English teachers already use in their disciplines. Rather than grammar instruction, the emphasis is on real-time communication practice in a relaxed, low-pressure setting.

Objectives

- Maintain and build spoken fluency through regular, low-stakes practice
- Develop comfort with non-academic, everyday English registers (social, administrative, informal professional) that complement subject-specific academic language
- Create a consistent space for staff to use English actively rather than passively (reading papers, writing emails) — recognizing that university contexts often demand technical fluency but leave general conversational skills underused
- Build a peer community of practice among teaching staff across departments
- Reduce anxiety around spontaneous speaking situations (conferences, international visitors, informal exchanges with colleagues/students)

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the series, participants should be able to:

- Sustain natural conversation on everyday and semi-professional topics with greater ease and spontaneity
- Use a wider range of colloquial expressions, idioms, and conversational fillers
- Navigate small talk, informal meetings, and social situations common in university life (welcoming visiting scholars, coffee-break chat, etc)
- Express opinions and negotiate meaning in unscripted exchanges
- Feel more confident switching between academic/formal register and everyday conversational register
- (C1 specific) Handle nuance, humour, and more abstract or debate-style discussion with fluency
- (B2 specific) Communicate clearly and confidently in familiar and semi-familiar situations, with improved accuracy and range

Format

- Once a week, fixed day/time
- Limited groups (max 20 participants) split by level: B2 and C1
- 60 minutes per session

- Facilitator-led but conversation-driven, not lecture-based
- Consistent group across a term/semester to build rapport

Possible Topics

University life (non-academic)

- Small talk with visiting scholars
- Staff room / coffee-break conversation
- Discussing university news informally (not policy debates)
- Talking about teaching experiences casually (student anecdotes, funny moments)
- Debates on lighter social issues

Functional / practical

- Giving recommendations, advice
- Complaining and problem-solving in everyday scenarios
- Storytelling and anecdotes
- Role-plays (asking for help, at a restaurant, at the doctor's, etc.)

Course duration:

The course consists of:

Semester 1 -

10 x 1hr sessions B2 level (10 hours)

10 x 1hr sessions C1 level (10 hours)

Dates: Weekly Tuesday 06.10.26 - 15.12.26

Timetable: 13:00 - 14:00 B2
14:00-15:00 C1