

NEGOTIATING AND COMPROMISING

A2-B1 | Conversation practice examples for finding a solution together

Conversation: Sharing a quiet evening

Flatmate A	I'd like to invite two friends over on Thursday. We were thinking of watching a film here.
Flatmate B	I've got an exam on Friday, and I need to study. Could we keep the living room quiet that night?
Flatmate A	They can't come on Friday. Would it help if we started early?
Flatmate B	Maybe. What if we agree that the film finishes by eight? Then I'd have the rest of the evening.
Flatmate A	The film's nearly three hours long, so we'd have to start at five. They won't be here that early.
Flatmate B	How about a shorter film this time? You could watch the long one at the weekend.
Flatmate A	Okay, I'll ask them to choose a comedy. We'll use headphones if we want music afterwards.
Flatmate B	Thanks. That sounds fair. I'll study in my room until eight.

Key phrases: Could we / What if we / How about / That sounds fair.

Conversation: Dividing a presentation

Nora	I can make the slides, but I don't want to do all the speaking as well.
Finn	I don't mind speaking. I can present the results if you can explain how we did the survey.
Nora	All right, but that would leave you with the introduction and the ending, too.
Finn	True. Would you be happy to introduce the topic? It's only about a minute.
Nora	Yes, as long as we practise it together. I get nervous starting in front of everyone.
Finn	Of course. Maybe we can rehearse after lunch tomorrow, before we show the slides to the teacher.
Nora	Good. I'll do the introduction and the survey, and you'll do the results and the ending.
Finn	Agreed. I'll write my notes tonight so we can check that the parts fit together.

Key phrases: I can / if you can / Would you be happy to / Maybe we can

Create your own conversation

Choose one prompt. Use at least two key phrases and include a natural response and follow-up.

Prompt 1: Negotiate an evening plan when one person needs quiet and the other wants visitors. Set specific limits.

Prompt 2: Divide a group presentation fairly. Discuss preferences and agree on both speaking roles and preparation.