Working With a Beginner ENGin Student

If your student has trouble carrying on a conversation in English, we recommend using our beginner plans in your sessions.

Here's what you need to know about ENGin's session plans for beginners:
- Like our standard session plans, they're **conversation-based** and cover real-world topics.
- Unlike our standard plans, they start with **very basic grammar and vocabulary** and gradually get more challenging.
- Each plan is accompanied by a **slide deck** that provides visual cues for students to enhance comprehension and remind them of key words or phrases.

As with all our materials, feel free to adapt these session plans as needed to fit your and your buddy's needs.

Important Tips for Working with Beginners

- **Keep sessions short**: When working with beginners, we highly recommend scheduling two shorter weekly sessions (25-30 minutes each) rather than one longer session. An hour long session may be too overwhelming for most beginner students.
- **Use targeted questions**: Try to avoid very open-ended questions ("Tell me about your friend"). Instead, ask a series of specific questions ("Do you have a best friend? What is her name? How old is she? Where did you meet her? What do you like to do together?"
- **Provide needed vocabulary**: Make sure they have the vocabulary they need to answer your questions (we try to do this in the slides, but if you deviate from the session plans, you may need to create your own vocab lists).
- **Correct errors judiciously**: Beginners might make a lot of errors - don't correct every single one, but rather look for patterns (the same error over and over). Check out our language feedback video for specific correction techniques. Then, give your student the chance to practice the correct grammar/pronunciation/etc.
- **Use Google Translate if absolutely necessary**: We don't want to over-rely on Google Translate, but in case of a total communication breakdown, feel free to share your screen and translate whatever you're trying to say to Ukrainian.