

Creating an Semi-Structured Interview

Instructions: Brief, semi-structured interviews created by the teacher can be another source of authentic language in the classroom. They are easy to create and they can be very fun to use in class. Follow these steps to create your own interview.

1. **Topic:** Choose a topic for the interview that is connected to the upcoming themes of your course or a general topic of interest to your students.
2. **Plan:** Think of two or three aspects of that topic you would like to explore and formulate your questions.
3. **Introduce:** Begin recording and introduce the topic of the interview. Ask your interviewee to introduce him/herself and give some basic personal information.
4. **Explore:** Ask your first question and respond to the interviewee by acknowledging or reacting to what they say, or asking for clarification or more information. Then guide them through the next questions.
5. **Wrap Up:** Thank the interviewee and conclude the recording.

Tips: Here are some tips for creating your interviews.

- Have a loose/flexible plan but be ready to improvise a little as it goes.
- Record it in one take. Do NOT aim for perfection! If you make a mistake, correct yourself and keep going. That is natural language use.
- Keep it brief. The longer the audio is, the harder it will be to use. One to two minutes of conversation is more than enough!
- Guide the conversation through verbal cues.
- If you hear the interviewee use a term or concept that students won't know, ask for clarification or you can clarify it yourself through paraphrasing.

Topic	...
Planning	Question/Aspect to Explore 1: ...
	Question/Aspect to Explore 2: ...
	Question/Aspect to Explore 3: ...

Task Cycle

1. Readiness Questions Questions to get students in the right frame of mind for what they will hear.	2. Experiential Activities Questions or tasks that students will complete as they listen to the audio to help process the information they hear.
• ... • ...	• ... • ...
3. Personal Response Questions Questions to get students to share their thoughts and feelings about what they just heard (not comprehension questions).	4: Extension Activities Production activities students do that are inspired by what they heard. This could be a discussion, a debate, a role-play, a writing prompt, etc.
• ... • ...	• ... • ...
5. Language Focus Activities Activities that have students examine sample language from the audio to help them make discoveries about the language.	
• ... • ...	

Note: This task cycle is a modified version of Tomlinson's Text-Driven Approach.