

Activation

Prior to your interaction take some time to prepare some notes - what vocabulary do you need for this topic? What information do you need to know in order to make decisions? Think about questions you need to ask and how you would answer those questions or state your preferences.

Vocabulary and Structures

Activities: go to dinner, go to the movies, see a movie, eat

Additional verbs / expressions: (not) want to, (not) feel like, (not) be into, (not) like

Scheduling: days of the week, telling time, at X o'clock

Questions: What time do you...?
Where do you...? What do you feel like...?

Interaction

Discuss with your partner the questions you have identified in the Activation stage. Take notes on the conversation. Don't forget to follow up on statements that you would like clarified or expanded. Identify areas of similarity and difference. Probe a bit to determine where your partner's ideas come from. What decisions did you make, and why? Take notes!

We both decided on a double date with our spouses. We decided to throw a dinner party because both Kelly's husband and Dan have specific dietary restrictions. We decided to continue talking. Kelly talked about Rochester and Dan talked about Tampa / St. Petersburg. We also talked about our pets – Kelly has a cat and Dan has two dogs. We then talked about our jobs and some of the challenges we face. Kelly's challenges included maintaining interaction and trying to take the learners' focus off their grades and put it on learning. Dan talked about how his learners are motivated, but under stress due to their jobs.

Reflection

Take some time to write down your thoughts about the exchange. What struck you about the conversation? What stands out in terms of similarities and differences? Did your partner provide some ideas that were new to you? Was there anything in your partner's preferences that caused you to change what you thought you might decide to do? Also think about new words you may have learned, words that neither of you knew, but you figured out how to get the idea across. What worked well and what do you need to work on?

Our dominant language is English, so we didn't learn any new linguistic expressions per se, but we did learn quite a bit about each other, and that's what worked well. We got along great - but that was something that could be distracting as well. We went off on a few tangents (about her town, about Florida, about Florida's public schools, about pets). I would characterize this as helpful though, because if the goal is to have a chat, that's exactly what we did. Overall, it was a fun activity.