

**Access English Centre**  
**Immigrant Centre Manitoba**  
**Conversation Skills #3 - How to give opinions and how to express**  
**hesitation in conversations**  
*Work-out Activity - Intermediate Level*  
**60 minutes**

**Facilitator Note:** This activity requires the participants to work together to learn some communication skills such as how to listen to each other and how to give and share opinions, and how to express hesitation in conversations to avoid silence and misunderstanding.

**Work-Out:**

Materials: Participants need: *Question cards, gambit cards*  
Optional-pens/pencils/paper  
Facilitator needs: Whiteboard and whiteboard markers

**10 min.**

**Procedure: Introduction**

*Before you begin: On the whiteboard write: "Communication Skills – how to give opinions, and how to express hesitation in Conversations"*

*For example:*

*Wesley: What do you think we should do to improve our communication skills?*

*May: In my opinion, we should speak English as much as we can in our life such as at home, on the bus, in the store, and even in our dreams. What do you think, Shan?*

*Shan: Well, um. Let me think. (See gambit cards for giving opinions & hesitation)*

1. **Explain and model the activity with three volunteers learners:**

**Facilitator:** Halima, where do you think is a good place for shopping in Winnipeg is?

**Halima:** I believe Super Store is a good place for grocery shopping.

**Facilitator:** What do you think, Louise?

**Louise:** Well, um, I am not so sure. I am new to Winnipeg.

2. **Divide the whole group into smaller groups with 3 members each. Instruct the participants to work as a group.** The first participant asks one question from the question cards to the second participant for opinions. The second one offers his/her opinions, and then asks the third person's opinion. The third one expresses hesitation to express his/her ideas by using one of the gambits of hesitation.
3. **The group members take turns** to be the initiator, the person who gives opinion, and the one who expresses hesitation.

**20 min.**

**Additional Exercises: Show and Tell - whole group activity:** After each group finishes the exercises, ask each group to come to the front to share (present) one of the questions from the question cards to the whole group.

# Conversation Cards

## How to give personal opinions and how to express hesitation

Cut up the cards and give one set to each group to work on giving opinions, and expressing hesitation.

<b>What is your opinion on buying a house or renting a house in Winnipeg?</b>	<b>The best way to improve your speaking skills is to speak English everyday at home. What do you think?</b>	<b>What is your point of view on drinking alcohol in the park?</b>
<b>What are the most important things that Canadian government needs to do right now?</b>	<b>What are the top three things at work that new immigrants need to know about?</b>	<b>What is the most important information that you would like to share with new immigrants in Winnipeg?</b>
<b>Can you spank kids in your home country? Do you think it is legal to spank kids in Canada?</b>	<b>Do you think drinking and smoking should be banned in Canada, and why?</b>	<b>What is your personal opinion on ...?</b>

## Gambit Cards for giving personal opinions

<i>In my mind, ...</i>	<i>I think ...</i>	<i>I think it ...</i>
<i>As far as I am concerned...</i>	<i>I believe ...</i>	<i>Personally, I think ...</i>
<i>Yes. I agree. I think ...</i>	<i>In my humble opinion,</i>	<i>It seems to me that...</i>

## Gambit Cards for expressing hesitation

<i>Um, I'm not so sure ...</i>	<i>Well, um I really don't know what to say</i>	<i>Well, let me think about it and I'll get back to you later...</i>
<i>I don't know how should I put it...</i>	<i>I will have to think about it....</i>	<i>Well, that is a difficult question to answer....</i>
<i>Um, a tough question for me ....</i>	<i>Well, um I am not sure how to describe it ...</i>	<i>I have nothing to comment on it.</i>

