



Access English Centre  
Immigrant Centre Manitoba  
Multi-level: Warm-up Activity  
*Let's Talk About It*  
15 minutes



**Objective/Goal:**

This warm-up activity gives participants the opportunity to express themselves freely and brainstorm possible solutions to their "problems".

**Materials:**

Participants need:

- none

Facilitator needs:

- whiteboard
- whiteboard markers
- timer

**Procedure: (Warm-up)**  
**15 minutes**

- 1) Write: "Problems/Concerns" on the whiteboard.
  - 2) Gather the participants together.
  - 3) Ask the participants what are some problems or concerns in their lives **that they are willing to share** or think of.  
Brainstorm together.  
Ex. job/work  
    money  
    children, teenagers  
    school,  
    family, etc.
- (Optional:-the findings can be written on the whiteboard)
- 4) Demonstrate.
  - 5) Inform the participants that they will take turns talking about their problems while the other person first listens, then retells/recounts the problem and gives any advice.
  - 6)Format- 3 minutes to:  
    Person A-talk about his/her problem  
        with each other  
    Person B-listen (don't talk)  
        - retell the problem  
        -give possible solutions



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- 7) Set the timer for 3 minutes.
- 8) Ask a volunteer to share his/ her "problem" with the whole group.
- 9) Retell the problem to the whole group.
- 10) Ask the whole group for possible solutions.
- 11) Go over the directions, again.
- 12) Pair up the participants.
- 13) Set the timer.
- 14) After 3 minutes, it is the other partner's turn.
- 15) Have the pairs switch partners, try again but with new partners.
- 16) Set the timer, again.
- 17) Whole Group Discussion:. Pose questions to the whole group:

**Example Questions:**

- I) How did you feel about the activity? or Did you enjoy/like the activity?
- II) Were you able to just listen first to your partner then comment, afterwards or Did you listen, first?
- III) Were you able to retell the problem? or What was your partner's problem/ dilemma?

\* **For beginner levels**, you can have them discuss how was their day instead of "problems". Change brainstorming activity to activities that they did that day.

The facilitator can model:

Ex. "I had a good day. I went to school. then later I went to work. I work at McDonald's. We were very busy. Later, I came here. " –same procedure

\*\***For high beginners levels**, again they can talk about their day or what they did on the weekend, etc.-same procedure

\*\*\***For intermediate and advanced level**, they can identify and share any problems or experiences they may be having. Can they use more descriptive words or give more details.

- 1) Did the participants feel better after sharing with their peers **Explain** to the participants that they will work in pairs.