



### Course Overview

This course is part of a series of short courses from the Understanding Language Initiative at Stanford University that facilitates the analysis and improvement of the communicative features of activities in English language development (ELD) lessons.

Communicativeness means that rather than focusing on memorizing grammar rules and word meanings to give the appearance of language learning and use, activities actually require and foster communication--they motivate and support students in using language to get interesting and meaningful things done.

Each course in the series highlights strategies to incorporate communication into a different skill, such as listening, speaking, reading, writing, and conversation. The first course focuses on designing activities that develop students' conversation skills across disciplines. We hope this series will benefit educators looking for engaging ways to enhance both content and language learning for students, especially English Language Learners.

**Goals & Purpose:** This course is focused on helping educators understand the key elements of and skills for effective paired student conversations, designing activities that develop students' conversation skills across disciplines, and formatively assessing students' conversations in order to provide feedback.

### ***Session 1 – Welcome to Communication-Focused Conversation***

This session serves as an introduction to the course.

### ***Session 2 – Developing Constructive Conversation Skills***

This session features a video describing two main modes of conversations and core skills for supporting them.

### ***Session 3 – Classroom Videos***

This session contains two video clips of real-life classroom examples.

### ***Session 4 – Using the Communicativeness Design and Observation Tool***

This session describes the Communicativeness Design and Observation Tool and how to use it.

### ***Session 5 – Readings and Resources***

This section provides resources that offer background and complementary information to deepen your understanding of the course content.

### ***Session 6 – Assignment***

This session contains the assignment of the course. The assignment asks teachers to choose and adapt a communicative conversation task and then reflect on how communicative it is when used with real students.

### ***Session 7 – Course Wrap-Up and Certificate***

This session is a conclusion to the course.

Throughout the course, opportunities are provided for you to connect your learning across sessions and to explicitly consider the implications of your learning for your classroom practice. You will also be able to revisit your work and reflections by viewing your individual Course Portfolios.