

The Great Weekend Debate

Planning and Negotiating

PART 01 Warm-Up Activity

- When you are nervous or thinking of what to say next in English, what words do you usually use?
- Do you think it is better to stay silent or use "filler" words like *well* or *actually*? Why?

PART 02 The Scenario

You and your partner have won a free weekend trip, but you can only choose ONE destination: a high-energy city break with constant sightseeing, or a quiet cabin in the woods with no internet. You have very different ideas about what makes a "good" vacation.

THE TASK & GOAL

Negotiate with your partner and reach a final compromise on how to spend the weekend.

1. Share your personal preferences for the trip using fillers to sound more natural.
2. Use tag questions to check if your partner agrees with your suggestions.
3. Listen actively to your partner's ideas and show interest using specific reactions.
4. Create a final 3-step plan that makes both people happy.

ROLES & PERSPECTIVES

A: THE SIGHTSEER

You want to see every museum, go to a late-night concert, and eat at busy restaurants. You hate being bored or sitting still.

B: THE RELAXER

You are exhausted from work. You want to sleep in, read books, and avoid crowds. You think "sightseeing" is stressful and expensive.

REFERENCE Useful Language

STARTING & THINKING	IN THE MIDDLE / SOFTENING	SHOWING INTEREST
Right, let's look at...	It's kind of expensive...	Really? / Uh huh...
Well, to be honest...	It's, like, too far away.	Sounds fab! / Wow!
So, what do you think?	...you know?	Right... / Oh no!

PLANNING & NOTES

Plan your dialogue here

PART 03 Reflection

1. Which filler words did you use the most to give yourself time to think?
2. Did using tag questions (e.g., "...isn't it?") help you reach a compromise faster?

The Great Weekend Debate

Target language practice.

⌚ TIME

30 MINS

📌 OBJECTIVE

To practice using conversation fillers and tag questions to maintain fluency during a negotiation.

🏠 GRAMMAR FOCUS

TAG QUESTIONS & SENTENCE FILLERS

- He's really upset, isn't he?
- You haven't seen my keys, have you?
- George plays the guitar, doesn't he?

📁 KEY VOCABULARY

ACTUALLY

TO BE HONEST

KIND OF

YOU KNOW

I GUESS

Procedure —

1. **Warmer (5 mins):** Ask the warm-up questions. Write "Um" and "Uh" on the board and ask if they know the "natural" English equivalents (Well, So, Like).
2. **The Task (15 mins):** Pair students. Assign Roles A and B. Monitor for the use of fillers. If students are speaking too "perfectly" (like a textbook), encourage them to use *well*, *actually*, and *to be honest* to sound more natural.
3. **Feedback (10 mins):** Ask a few pairs which compromise they reached. Highlight good uses of tag questions heard during the activity. Correct any tag question errors (e.g., "You like pizza, aren't you?" -> "don't you?").