

Building Relationships



Language is personal.

Language is Experience.



Lena Boroditsky

Language is Relationship.

Build time into each meeting—before and after active “learning”—for being people.

This time is for:

- practicing everyday conversation (no correction)
- assessing needs and goals
- sharing culture
- engaging in review/practice activities
- adapting to today’s reality
- lowering the affective filter

**When one teaches, two
learn.**

Robert A. Heinlein

Language is Life.

Examples:

- chit-chat (maybe targeted)
- take a walk or ride the bus with flashcards
- model reading aloud to children
- order food or cook together
- play cards (colors, numbers, polite commands) or other games
- people watch (describing)

Breakout room: Brainstorm more activities that reinforce the vocabulary and language structures. Get creative!

**LEARNING IS
EXPERIENCE.
EVERYTHING ELSE IS
JUST INFORMATION.**

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Affective Filter (Stephen Krashen)

The affective filter is a barrier (or a filter) through which content travels to the learner.

Breakout Rooms:

- If you tried learning a new language tonight at your dining table with a new person, what factors would positively or negatively affect your filter?
- What if you were learning online?
- Which factors are internal? External?



Choose one “recorder” to briefly note group ideas into chat. Then copy/paste your chat into the main meeting when we return.

Affective Filter

What could make it better?

- A quiet space
- Organized supplies
- A focus on the learner—communicate with family to cultivate support
- A well-chosen time
- Comprehensible and relevant input
- Varied and engaging exploration
- Adaptation and flexibility
- Realistic expectations
- Encouragement and dignity

What else?

*What we learn with
pleasure
we never forget.*

- ALFRED MERCIER

Language is possible.

Redefine success:

- Not lack of confusion or struggle
- Not language perfection
- Steps toward personal goals
- Language and culture tools
- You and your learner feel capable and confident
- Opportunities to practice in real life

Every learner is different. Every day is different.



**TEACHERS TRYING TO LOWER THE
AFFECTIVE FILTER**

makeameme.org