

English Conversation Group

Would you like to be involved in setting up a new group in your local library?

We would like to set up 'English Conversation' groups in our libraries. We seek motivated volunteers who are interested in helping us to set up and facilitate these. We have a successful model which we run at Leicester Central Library and prospective volunteers will have the opportunity to attend this group to get a feel for how it works.

We need volunteers who are able to facilitate an informal conversation in English that group members can join in with. Volunteers will not need to correct mistakes or explain grammatical rules but should be able and willing to speak in clear and correct English on a variety of subjects.

This 20 minute video explains some of the principles of language learning that we hope our groups will make available to people <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0yGdNEWdn0>

When we received expressions of interest from prospective volunteers, we will approach the local library about setting up a group. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee that this opportunity will be available to everyone who expresses an interest.

What we can do:

- Provide a space for the group to meet
- Provide books/materials to provide a stimulus for conversation
- Provide materials for group members to take away, including written material and audio books
- Provide information about more formal English learning opportunities such as ESOL (English as a Second or Other Language) courses
- Advertise the group with posters and flyers in the library, on our website and using social media (Facebook and Twitter)

What we need from you:

- Enthusiasm
- A regular commitment of 1 to 1 ½ hours a week
- The ability to facilitate a group
- A willingness to talk, in English, about a variety of subjects

English Conversation Group Facilitator – Role description

Organisation Name:	Leicester City Council Libraries
Address:	Libraries, Town Hall, Room 2.23 Leicester, LE1 9BG
Contact Person(s):	Matthew Vaughan/Balwinder Dhaliwal
Email:	library-volunteers@leicester.gov.uk

The main objectives of our organisation are:

Access for all to a comprehensive range of library services including;

- the provision of books and other reading materials
- free access to information
- computers with printing and internet
- Free WiFi

To encourage, in the broadest sense, increased enthusiasm for reading, literature and language in children and adults.

The Role:

- To facilitate a new English Conversation group in your local library
- To support people in the development of English language skills through holding informal conversation
- To help people to access library resources to improve their English language skills
- Signpost people to ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses where applicable
- The role is suitable for people interested in Library & Information Services and facilitating learning

Skills and experience:

- Good listening and speaking skills in the English language
- A welcoming, approachable, positive, patient person
- Enjoys meeting and talking to people of different nationalities, cultures and languages
- Enjoys talking about different subjects
- The ability to communicate with people of mixed language abilities

You will gain:

- A reference from Leicester Libraries
- Chance to use existing skills
- Chance to share your skills with others
- Gain new skills and knowledge
- Improve confidence
- Meet new people

Method of application:

- Expression of Interest Form
- Informal Discussion