BASIC ENGLISH CONVERSATION

Objectives
The objective of this course is to increase the students’ English communication skills by:

1) improving fluency through regular practice and speaking drills;
2) expanding vocabulary by at least 300 words through assignments and class work and
3) developing a solid of understanding of basic grammar structures - like nouns, verbs and adjectives - through class reading and speaking tasks.

Methodology
Our class will use a variety of learning techniques. These include pair work discussions and individual assignments that use the text book and other materials provided by the teacher. In class, students will work, learn and speak together.

This is not a lecture class where the students sit quietly and listen. You will be active.

Books
Book title: Talk Time 2
Author: Susan Stempleski.
Publisher: Oxford University Press.

Available at the university bookstore.

Exams
There will be two exams and two quizzes. The mid-term exam will be a written test. The final exam will be a speaking test. Each quiz will review the material studied in class and help to prepare you for the exams.

Grading
30% final exam
30% mid-term exam
20% quizzes and homework
10% attendance
10% participation

Other Material
I will post homework on my website. You will need to print this material and bring it to the class. My website is www.eslwriting.org.
Other Comments
Final scores for the class will follow the university’s grade distribution policy.

At the end of the semester, please do not ask me to change your grade because you have a special situation. You need a scholarship? You want to get a job? You want to go to graduate school? These are all good things. If you need a high score in this class, work hard, study hard and come to every class on time ready to learn. Unless I made a calculation error, I will not change your final score.

Every class, you will need 4 things: a writing tool (e.g. a pencil), a notebook, the textbook and a dictionary. Phone dictionaries are okay. Students who do not bring these learning tools to every class may not be satisfied with their final score.

Students who regularly fail to bring all four learning tools to class, or the homework worksheets, may be marked absent.

Attendance is very important for every student’s learning. Please come to every class, and come on time. Students who are frequently late will be penalized: 2 lates = one absence. Students who are absent because of school or work related events will see their participation score negatively impacted.

Contact
If you have any questions about the class work, feel free to email me at robbusan at yahoo.com.

Office hours: International Building, room 203. Mon: 2-4 pm and Wednesday 10-12 am.