

## 6.2. Walk'n'Talk English A2 - Course in detail

A special feature of the Walk'n'Talk English course is the combination of walking, talking and learning. The course does not take place in a conventional classroom setting, but outside in fresh air. The suggested scheduling for the Walk'n'Talk English course is as follows:

Topic	Training material	hours
Getting to know each other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher's notes</li> <li>• Worksheet</li> <li>• Activities:</li> </ul>	1.5
Talking about family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher's notes</li> <li>• Worksheet</li> <li>• Activities:</li> </ul>	1.5
Talking about holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher's notes</li> <li>• Worksheet</li> <li>• Activities:</li> </ul>	1.5
Talking about hobbies and interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher's notes</li> <li>• Worksheet</li> <li>• Activities:</li> </ul>	1.5
Talking about Drink & Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher's notes</li> <li>• Worksheet</li> <li>• Activities:</li> </ul>	1.5
Talking about childhood memories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher's notes</li> <li>• Worksheet</li> <li>• Activities:</li> </ul>	1.5
Talking about favourite places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher's notes</li> <li>• Worksheet</li> <li>• Activities:</li> </ul>	1.5
Talking about aging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher's notes</li> <li>• Worksheet</li> <li>• Activities:</li> </ul>	1.5
Telling jokes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher's notes</li> <li>• Worksheet</li> <li>• Activities:</li> </ul>	1.5
Talking about the future and evaluation of the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher's notes</li> <li>• Worksheet</li> <li>• Activities:</li> </ul>	1.5

### Scheduling of the course

The suggestions mentioned below are based on the experience gained during the course's implementation in the testing and piloting phases.

- The Walk'n'Talk English A2 course covers 10 (or 20) lesson units with two lesson units per walk/week (1 lesson unit = 45 minutes)

- Working on educational material (worksheets) to prepare for the walks takes approximately 1 hour per week

The scheduling of the course can be changed, depending on the organisational feasibility as well as the physical health of the participants. If students are too frail to walk for 90 minutes, just do one activity per walk:

Each walk and topic includes two activities which can be divided into two sections and the time limit per walk will decrease to one lesson unit per week, making it a number of 20 walks.

### **Training material:**

**Training material** for each topic consists of

- **teacher's notes**
- **worksheet** including a list of helpful vocabulary, a certain area of grammar and some exercises;
- **activity cards** consisting of various sets of questions to be used during the walks.

The training material can be easily adapted to students' interests and skills: content can be divided, added or omitted;

Most activity cards consist of leading questions or word games that will be used to interview each other, generate conversation, spark discussions and/or tell and retell a personal story.

**Note:** At the end of each walk, hand out the copies of the worksheet for the next walk and topic. Read the teacher's notes to be able to give some further advice, if necessary!

**Tip:** When copying the activity cards use stock card paper, if possible, as it is thicker than the normal printing paper and will make the copies more durable.

### **Group size:**

Due to the experience gained in the testing and piloting phase, 10 – 12 students per group is an ideal group size, making it more comfortable for the instructor to keep the group together, especially in consideration of the different status concerning physical fitness.

As students usually walk in pairs and thus have a considerably increased talking time compared to conventional classroom learning, a higher number of students is acceptable unless the instructor does not feel comfortable with a huge number of students.

### **Methods**

Diversity of methods:

- Find someone who
- Speed dating
- Describing words (Taboo)
- Asking each other questions
- Storytelling
- Quiz
- vocabulary exercises
- grammar exercises

## Course description

28.02.2018

Getting to know each other

Our first meeting took place in the course room of the VHS. The participants were first introduced to the course concept. Then the participants were introduced to the format of a speed dating, which for many was a previously unknown format. The approx. 20-minute speed dating served now as a motivation for the individual participants to introduce themselves to each other. Afterwards the participants received the "CUE-Card". On the basis of these course cards the participants could get to know each other and had a first small talk together. The next course date was then briefly discussed.

07.03.2018

Talking about family

This course date took place on the way to and in a bakery in the centre of Lingen. The participants received cards with keywords about the family, e.g. sister/brother, grandma/grandpa, mother/father or daughter/son. On the basis of these cards the participants have now presented their respective family situation. Since we had already discussed today's topic in the last lesson, some participants had photos of their families with them. Afterwards each participant painted his own family tree and we discussed these in the group. The worksheets for the next course meeting were handed out at the end of the day and the participants were asked for feedback on today's date.

14.03.2018

Talking about holidays

This time we met at the Dortmund-Ems-Kanal (river). After a short introduction to today's topic, the participants talked about holidays. Participant No. 2 spent New Year's Eve in New York and had to speak a lot of English. Participant No. 5 is planning her summer holiday in Wales this year and is looking forward to being able to use the school English she learned in everyday life. Afterwards, the participants talked in pairs about their previous holiday experiences during a beautiful sunny walk along the canal. All participants were themselves to the end in agreement that the time passed like in the flight and one could have spoken still hours further about the experienced vacation time in English. The worksheets for the next lesson were distributed at the end.

04.04.2018

Talking about hobbies and interests

The fourth meeting took place in the Emsauenpark. This new recreation park with a lot of green space in the heart of the city was the next course location that the participants had wished for at the last meeting. Many participants are hobby gardeners and were inspired by the many flower meadows for their own gardens. Participant 2 reported that she likes to sit in the Emsauenpark near the small lake and read a good book there. 2 participants play together in a card club, which was met with great interest from 2 other ladies. Everyone agreed that watching television plays a subordinate role in the everyday life due to the many leisure

activities of the participants. The TV is switched on in the evening only for the news; the further program is rather uninteresting. Their life partners are of other opinion, so the united opinion of all, which caused fast laughter among the participants. Many partners follow other hobbies, be it the local soccer club or the men's cycling round. The next course date was briefly discussed at the end.

18.04.2018

Talking about Drink&Food

This meeting took place in the Café Extrablatt on the market square of Lingen. The participants talked about the regional cuisine and the possibilities to eat "good and traditional". The Lingen gastronomy offers something for every taste, so that the participants showed all different favourite restaurants. One gave one another leads and in such a way one or other participant wants to try a new restaurant soon. Participant 3 reports from a holiday in Sweden, on which she had tried the traditional Swedish "Stinkfish" Surströmming. Even if the vacation is already over 20 years ago, this taste and the smell, she will not forget her whole life. It quickly turned out that the participant's favourite drink was a good glass of wine and beer would be something for the men. However, participant 3 disagreed, she likes to drink a bottle of beer in the evening. None of the participants regularly watches a cooking show, that would be too much talk for everyone. With participant 7 the man is the cook in the house, she likes to be spoiled culinarily by him. The other participants agreed to let the next meeting on the topic of food take place at participant 7. The remaining time was used for planning the next meeting.

25.04.2018

Talking about childhood memories

For this lesson the participants first met in the cafe of the St. Bonifatius Hospital. Using the CUE-cards at hand, the participants presented their 2 favourite playground equipment in the kindergarten in short partner exercises. Most of the participants loved to rock, participant 2 remembered the climbing wall very well and that a child broke his arm once. After the partner exercise, the group went for a little walk towards the kindergarten, which is located close to the hospital. Many memories came back to the participants when they saw the outdoor area, but also new, so far unknown playground equipment was discovered. It was not easy for many of the participants to find the English terms for this, but in a small group exercise they quickly found what they were looking for.

02.05.2018

Talking about favourite places

This meeting took place at the request of a participant on the university square in Lingen. This place in the heart of the city of Lingen with its big shady trees was very popular with the participants. The Kreuzkirche of the Evangelical Lutheran parish is also located directly on the square. Participant 4 reports that she married here more than 30 years ago. The participants used the opportunity and looked at the church from the inside. Participant 2 reported that she regularly attends courses at the art school, which is also located on the university square. The next part of the course was used to guess where each participant's favourite place was in a small question and answer session. The short descriptions were

worked out by the participants at home before the course. At the end the next lesson was discussed.

16.05.2018

Talking about aging

This meeting took place in the cafe of the Mehrgenerationenhaus in Lingen. The ancestors (grandma and grandpa) were introduced to the other participant and how they lived until the end of their lives by means of the already created family trees from the second teaching unit. Many of the ancestors of the participants also lived in nursing homes in the end. In a following group discussion the advantages and disadvantages of a nursing home were discussed and to the end each participant should indicate on a piece of paper (secretly) whether he could imagine a life in the nursing home. During the evaluation of the results it quickly became clear that most participants would like to live as long as possible independently at home, but if it does not go any more sometime also are glad to be able to get assistance in a nursing home. At the end, the coming teaching unit was briefly discussed.

30.05.2018

Telling jokes

This course unit took place in the "Café Am Markt" on the market place in Lingen. In preparation for this lesson, the participants wrote down their favourite joke at home in English and now presented it to the group, which brought a lot of laughter. In the subsequent partner work it was the task to write down a joke in the most simple English language as possible and to tell it to other visitors of the Café in English as well. The reactions of the visitors were different, some simply did not understand it, others did not stop laughing. The participants were of the opinion that it would be good for the citizen of Lingen to refresh their English. The last thing to do was to plan the last course meeting.

06.06.2018

Talking about the future and evaluation of the course

At the request of the participants, our last course meeting started first in the course room of the VHS. At the last meeting the participants had decided about ending the course with a common English breakfast. Each participant had the task to bring something typical English for breakfast. Also each participant had prepared a card with a symbol which he connects with his own personal future. Participant 2 had a ship on her card, she is planning a trip on Aida in summer. Participant 4 had a car on her card, because she is planning to buy a new car. Strengthened by breakfast and after processing the evaluation forms, the group sets off for a short walk together in the direction of the Dortmund-Ems Canal. In their discussions, the group agreed that the concept "Walk'n'Talk" had really been successful and that they would like to attend another such course.