

Ideas to Freshen Up Your Zoom English Club Meeting

White Board

During a Zoom meeting using the whiteboard can bring a dose of playful fun!

How Do I Get to It?

While you are in your meeting,

- Click on Share Screen
- Click on the Whiteboard (and then click on share)
- If you want to be able to type text, click on T text
- Likely you want to draw, so click on Draw
 - Clicking on the wavy line is what you likely will use the most to free-hand draw
- Choose “stamp” if you want to use one of these shapes.
- Spotlight is available if you are the host. It gives you a more visible cursor as the “spotlight.” the arrow will put your name on whatever you just drew so others will know it is yours.
- Eraser (shockingly) erases
- Format helps you change color or make adjustments to the font or width of a line
- Undo undoes what you just did
- Save allows you to save the whiteboard. You can then send it to the group members if you needed to.

What Do I Do With it?

Well, that is limited only by your creativity! There is something so simply fun about all drawing together on the whiteboard. It is a great way to re-engage people if they seem to be zoning out. This might be fun to play around with as a team at a planning meeting so you get comfortable with it before you have the internationals in the mix.

- Example--OK. Our topic has been cooking tonight. Each person draw something that has to do with cooking and we will all try to guess what it is. Have each person put the arrow by what they drew that will put their name by it (in spotlight). Everyone tries to guess what the item is. Have them use (T text) to spell the name of the item right after everyone has guessed. The person briefly explains what the item is they drew.
- Play hangman and the host draws the hangman on the whiteboard

Use Polls

I'm not sure why, but people really love it when a host uses polls. It has this magic ability to really engage people. I would suggest you play around with this during a planning meeting so you can get comfortable with how this works.

How Do I Find Polls? Where Is It?!

As with any of this, Google it and you will probably find a helpful YouTube video explaining it. Sometimes Zoom changes stuff and moves it around.

- Make sure that you have it enabled in your account settings (My Account—Settings)
- Go to the Meetings (My Account—Meetings) and find the meeting that you will use for your English Club. At the very bottom there should be a rectangle that says “you have not created any poll yet.” Next to it, it says “Add.” Click on “Add.”
- This is where you will create the poll. Give it a title that will be meaningful to you during your English Club. Then choose what kind of question and put your question in. One is great, probably not more than three. If you want several, perhaps scatter them (one at a time) throughout the meeting.
- During your English Club click on the poll at the bottom of the screen and launch it. It is fun to see the graph of answers coming in live. You can share that with them.

Ice Breaker

Create a general question about your topic (as many as 3 questions) to use at the beginning. Launch the poll after you have all chit-chatted some at the beginning and you are ready to get started. It is a great way to gauge how much everyone knows about your topic already.

Ask a Question in the Middle

You can check to see if people are understanding your main topic idea.

Ask for Opinions

This could truly be anything. “Do you like using polls during our Zoom call?” “Have you ever had Red Velvet Cake?” “How often do you cook dinner each week?”

Games

Google “zoom games advanced ESL” or whatever seems appropriate for your group. You should come up with a bunch of YouTube videos. Hopefully something will get you inspired! If you find something that works especially well (no matter how simple it is) share the wealth! Email Kathleen Byrd about it (kathleen.byrd@welcomersinternational.org) and tell her about it so we can all benefit.