

How To Talk About School Subjects in English



**Everyday English Topics —
Conversation & Fluency**

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Lesson Plan: *How To Talk About School Subjects in English*

Written and developed by **David Buckley** from **ManWrites.com**

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davidbuckley@manwrites.com |



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Lesson Plan

Title: How To Talk About School Subjects in English

Series: Everyday English Topics — Conversation & Fluency

Level: B1–B2 (Intermediate)

Time: 60–90 minutes

Skills: Speaking · Vocabulary · Listening · Writing

Focus: Talking about school subjects, giving opinions, using descriptive and comparative language

Lesson Goals

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Talk confidently about their school experiences and favourite subjects.
- Use key vocabulary for common subjects (STEM & Humanities).
- Express likes, dislikes, and reasons clearly.
- Ask and answer questions about education and learning.
- Discuss how school subjects relate to real life.

Presentation (Teacher-led Input – 15–20 mins)

Aim: Introduce vocabulary, key phrases, and sentence patterns from the article.

1. Warm-Up Discussion

Ask:

- What was your favourite subject at school?
- Which subject did you find difficult?
- Are you more of a STEM person or a Humanities person?

2. Present Key Vocabulary

Write or show on slides two groups:

STEM: science, technology, engineering, maths, experiment, data, logic, design

Humanities: history, language, art, music, literature, culture, communication, ideas

Elicit quick examples of jobs connected to each group.

3. Introduce Useful Sentence Starters

Model and drill pronunciation:

- My favourite subject is...
- I'm not very good at...
- I used to enjoy...
- I think [subject] is important because...
- I always found [subject] difficult, but useful.

Tip: Use short personal examples (e.g., "*I liked history because I love old stories.*") to model natural rhythm and intonation.

Practice (Guided Speaking & Writing – 25–30 mins)

Aim: Students practise the target language in controlled and semi-controlled tasks.

A. Pair Work – “Find Someone Who...”

Give students a list of prompts:

- ...liked science in school.
- ...found maths difficult.
- ...studied a foreign language.
- ...had a fun art project.
- ...enjoyed PE.

Students walk around and ask classmates questions like:

“Did you like science in school?”

“What language did you study?”

(Encourage follow-up questions: *“Why did you like it?”*)

B. Matching & Classification

On the board or worksheet, mix vocabulary from both areas.

Students sort into:

STEM — Humanities

Then, in pairs, they say:

“I prefer humanities because I like reading and writing.”

“STEM is interesting because I like solving problems.”

C. Mini-Writing Task

Prompt:

“Describe your best or worst school subject and explain why.”

Write 4–5 sentences using “because,” “but,” or “so.”

Model first:

“I liked geography because we learnt about different countries, but I didn’t like the exams.”

Perfection (Fluency & Integration – 25–30 mins)

Aim: Integrate speaking and reflection through open discussion and role play.

A. Group Debate – “The Most Useful Subject”

Divide the class into 3–4 groups.

Each group defends one subject (English, Maths, Science, or Art).

Use:

- *“One reason this subject is important is...”*
- *“Another reason is...”*
- *“In real life, we use this when...”*

Encourage short rebuttals and polite disagreement:

- *“That’s true, but...”*
- *“I see your point, however...”*

B. Role Play – Counsellor & Student

One student is a **school counsellor**, the other a **student** choosing elective subjects.

Example:

Student: *"I'm not sure if I should take Art or Computer Science."*

Counsellor: *"What are your goals for the future?"*

Swap roles after 3–4 minutes.

C. Reflection & Wrap-Up

Ask:

- Which subjects are most useful in real life?
- Have your opinions changed since school?
- How can we combine subjects in the real world? (e.g., art + technology = design)

Finish with:

"Everyone learns differently — all subjects have value."

Optional Extension Activities

1. Writing Homework

Write a paragraph: *“How has one school subject helped you in your adult life?”*

2. Group Project

Create your **dream school timetable** with subjects, hours, and reasons.

3. Speaking Challenge

Record a 1-minute talk: *“My favourite school subject and why I liked it.”*

Vocabulary Bank (for Worksheet Appendix)

Subject	Key Words	Useful Phrases
English	essay, novel, grammar	<i>"I enjoy reading stories."</i>
Maths	equation, percentage	<i>"I use maths for budgeting."</i>
Science	experiment, atoms	<i>"Science explains how nature works."</i>
History	revolution, timeline	<i>"History helps us understand the world."</i>
Geography	map, climate	<i>"We studied the world's regions."</i>
PE	stamina, teamwork	<i>"PE taught me about fitness."</i>
Art	sketch, creativity	<i>"Art helps me express myself."</i>
Music	rhythm, melody	<i>"Music makes me feel relaxed."</i>
Languages	pronunciation, accent	<i>"I studied Spanish for three years."</i>
IT	coding, website	<i>"Computer skills are useful in any job."</i>

Teacher's Notes

- Adjust pace depending on level.
- Encourage personal examples to connect emotionally.
- Integrate visuals or short clips for each subject (if teaching online).
- Emphasise communication over accuracy in fluency sections.
- End by inviting students to share *one* thing they learnt about themselves.

Credits

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