

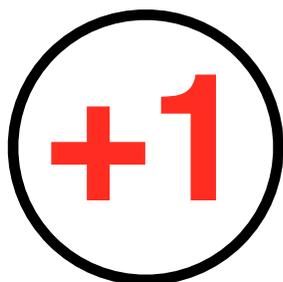
Less is More: Expanding

Compare an ok conversation ...

A: What did you do yesterday?
B: I went to an Indian restaurant.
A: What did you have?
B: I had some butter chicken curry.
A: How was it?
B: It was good.
A: Was it expensive?
B: No, it was cheap.
A: Who did you go with?
B: I went with my roommate.
A: How often do you go out together?
B: We go out together about once a week.

with a better one.

A: What did you do yesterday?
B: I went to an Indian restaurant.
+1
I had some butter chicken curry.
+1
It was good
+1
and it was cheap.
A: Who did you go with?
B: I went with my roommate.
+1
We go out together about once a week.



First practice the full conversation then simplify.

A: What did you do yesterday?
B: I went to an Indian restaurant.
~~**A:** What did you have?~~
B: I had some butter chicken curry.

Simplify these conversations.

A: What are you going to do tomorrow?
B: I'm going to go running.
A: Where are you going to go running?
B: I'm going to go running in the park.
A: What time are you going to leave?
B: I'm going to leave around eleven.
A: How long are you going to run?
B: I'm going to run for about an hour.
A: How far are you going to run?
B: I'll probably run 10K.
A: Sounds good.

A: Do you usually watching sports?
B: No. Not really.
A: Really? Why not?
B: Recently I've been busy with work so I don't have enough time.
A: I see. So what sports are you interested in?
B: I like basketball.
A: Do you have a favorite player?
B: I loved Jordan. He was a legend.
A: Did you ever see him play?
B: No, unfortunately I never saw him play.

Less is More: Expanding

Students need to talk as much as possible in order to improve. The more they speak, the faster they improve. For beginners this can be tough. I usually start people with simple question / answer patterns if they are total beginners. Once they know the basic Q&A structure, I start pushing them towards adding more information by simply taking away one of the questions. (As seen above.)

- 1. Elicit** short conversations based on Q&A.
- 2. Show** the students the removal and drill the conversation again.
- 3. Drill** individual questions and answers with their expansions.
- 4. Give** the students a topic and keep using it.

Have a suggestion, request or idea? Notice a typo or want to suggest a change? Write in!

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