



Tandem@UCB

First meeting: What do you expect from the tandem

This list of questions is intended to help you realise what your exact goals are during your first tandem meeting and to support you in reaching these goals. This guide is just a suggestion; feel free to adapt it to your needs and change it whenever you realise that a different approach suits you better.

It is useful to clarify these questions so both participants can optimally benefit from the tandem.

The easiest way to clarify these questions is to use one language both participants are relatively proficient in. In case none of you has enough knowledge in either of your target languages it might be useful to discuss questions in a third language (e.g English).

Questions for the first tandem meeting	Partner's answers
I can practice ... with you (native language and/or language at which level?)	
Which language do you want to practice?	
At which level do you speak the language?	
What is your motivation/intention for the tandem?	
For which context would you like to improve your language skills? (University, holidays, work, friends, family, etc.)	
Do you only want to practice your oral skills or do you also want to practice your writing skills? (you can also exchange e-mails or letters and correct them for your next meeting in order to discuss mistakes)	
How do we communicate? (E-mail, Mattermost, etc.)	
How often can we meet? (e.g once a week)	
At what time?	
For how long?	
Where? (On-campus, BigBlueButton, etc.)	



How do we organize the available time? Do we divide it in two or is another division more effective? (If one participant has a significantly lower language level in the target language, it might be better not to divide the time equally but to use another division, as talking in another language is exhausting and there will not be enough vocabulary to use)	
How do we decide the topic for our meetings? Do we decide spontaneously? Do we just start talking? Do we decide the topic for our next meeting at the end of our last one in order to be more prepared? Do we pick the topics alternately?	
How would you like me to deal with mistakes you make? Should I only ask if I don't understand something? Do you want me to correct minor mistakes? Do you want me to correct all mistakes? Do you want me to correct you straight away or would you like me to write down your mistakes and let you finish your story before I correct you?	
Should we start a shared vocabulary list? (Seafile, etc.)	
Which topics are you interested in most / would you like to talk about in the target language? (you can also have a look at our topic and activity proposals on the tandem website for further suggestions to start your tandem)	
Do you have further questions/suggestions for our tandem programme?	

Once you have answered all these questions, your first tandem meeting can start – now it's time to practice!

So, ready, set, go!

Where are you from? What are your hobbies? What do you like most?
What's your course of studies? What do you want to do after finishing university?
Are you working at the moment or did you work? What is your favorite food?
Tell me something about your family. What kind of music do you like?
What are you passionate about?