

Biotechnology English Dialogue Lab

Realistic field-specific dialogues, role-play variations, and observer checklists

Audience: biotech scientists, translational researchers, assay-development teams, platform teams, program managers, alliance managers, business-development staff, and biotech executives

Focus: A high-level biotechnology English curriculum for platform science, assay design, translational evidence, biomarkers, IP, partnerships, investor updates, regulatory-adjacent planning, and scientific-business dialogue.

Designed for advanced ESL learners who already use professional English and need industry-specific terminology, realistic meetings, role-play pressure, careful pushback, and polished workplace outputs.

Teaching stance: this is language and workplace-communication training, not legal, medical, financial, safety, or regulatory advice. Instructors should connect every scenario to the learner's current company policies, local rules, and approved procedures.

Dialogue Practice Method

Read each exchange once for meaning, once for tone, and once for decision structure. Then replace the ESL learner line with a version from the learner's own workplace.

1. Platform Technology and Scientific Thesis

Setting

A founder wants to describe the platform as broadly validated.

Speaker	Line
Founder	Use the strongest possible investor language.
Scientific lead	The evidence supports specific models and indications, not every future use case.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm platform, modality, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Founder	What would let us move forward without slowing everything down?
ESL learner	Let's document the assumption, define the risk trigger, and create a short platform evidence statement. Then we can decide whether to proceed, escalate, or revise the plan.

Language notes

- The learner names the field-specific control point instead of giving a vague no: platform, modality.
- The response preserves the business goal while adding evidence, owner, and next-step discipline.

Role-play variation

Observer checklist

- Did the learner name the decision and the risk?
- Did the learner use at least two industry terms accurately?
- Did the learner give a concrete next step without overpromising?

2. Assay Development and Reproducibility

Setting

A partner asks whether a biomarker assay is ready for decision-making.

Speaker	Line
Alliance manager	Say the assay works because the pilot was positive.
Assay scientist	Precision, sensitivity, specificity, controls, and reproducibility need review.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm assay, sensitivity, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Alliance manager	What would let us move forward without slowing everything down?

Speaker	Line
ESL learner	Let's document the assumption, define the risk trigger, and create a short assay readiness note. Then we can decide whether to proceed, escalate, or revise the plan.

Language notes

- The learner names the field-specific control point instead of giving a vague no: assay, sensitivity.
- The response preserves the business goal while adding evidence, owner, and next-step discipline.

Role-play variation

Observer checklist

- Did the learner name the decision and the risk?
- Did the learner use at least two industry terms accurately?
- Did the learner give a concrete next step without overpromising?

3. Biomarkers and Translational Strategy

Setting

A team wants to use a biomarker as the main development rationale.

Speaker	Line
Translational lead	Make the biomarker the centerpiece of the clinical story.
Clinical advisor	Biological plausibility, patient relevance, and validation status are different.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm biomarker, patient stratification, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Translational lead	What would let us move forward without slowing everything down?
ESL learner	Let's document the assumption, define the risk trigger, and create a short biomarker caveat memo. Then we can decide whether to proceed, escalate, or revise the plan.

Language notes

- The learner names the field-specific control point instead of giving a vague no: biomarker, patient stratification.
- The response preserves the business goal while adding evidence, owner, and next-step discipline.

Role-play variation

Observer checklist

- Did the learner name the decision and the risk?
- Did the learner use at least two industry terms accurately?
- Did the learner give a concrete next step without overpromising?

4. Preclinical Data Packages

Setting

A board member asks whether animal data prove human efficacy.

Speaker	Line
Board member	Say the model predicts human response.
Preclinical scientist	Model relevance, dose, exposure, safety margin, and limitations must be named.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm in vitro, in vivo, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Board member	What would let us move forward without slowing everything down?
ESL learner	Let's document the assumption, define the risk trigger, and create a short preclinical evidence summary. Then we can decide whether to proceed, escalate, or revise the plan.

Language notes

- The learner names the field-specific control point instead of giving a vague no: in vitro, in vivo.
- The response preserves the business goal while adding evidence, owner, and next-step discipline.

Role-play variation

Observer checklist

- Did the learner name the decision and the risk?
- Did the learner use at least two industry terms accurately?
- Did the learner give a concrete next step without overpromising?

5. CMC and Scale-Up in Biotech

Setting

A program lead wants to promise rapid scale-up after financing.

Speaker	Line
Program lead	Assure investors that scale-up will be simple.
Process development lead	Yield, process control, comparability, and supply-chain risk are unresolved.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm CMC, yield, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Program lead	What would let us move forward without slowing everything down?
ESL learner	Let's document the assumption, define the risk trigger, and create a short scale-up risk update. Then we can decide whether to proceed, escalate, or revise the plan.

Language notes

- The learner names the field-specific control point instead of giving a vague no: CMC, yield.
- The response preserves the business goal while adding evidence, owner, and next-step discipline.

Role-play variation

Observer checklist

- Did the learner name the decision and the risk?
- Did the learner use at least two industry terms accurately?
- Did the learner give a concrete next step without overpromising?

6. IP, Freedom to Operate, and Collaboration

Setting

A collaborator requests broad access to unpublished methods.

Speaker	Line
Alliance manager	Share the materials to keep the relationship warm.
External scientist	Confidentiality, background IP, publication rights, and freedom to operate matter.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm IP, freedom to operate, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Alliance manager	What would let us move forward without slowing everything down?
ESL learner	Let's document the assumption, define the risk trigger, and create a short collaboration boundary response. Then we can decide whether to proceed, escalate, or revise the plan.

Language notes

- The learner names the field-specific control point instead of giving a vague no: IP, freedom to operate.
- The response preserves the business goal while adding evidence, owner, and next-step discipline.

Role-play variation

Observer checklist

- Did the learner name the decision and the risk?
- Did the learner use at least two industry terms accurately?
- Did the learner give a concrete next step without overpromising?

7. Investor and Board Updates

Setting

The board wants a clean milestone story before a financing round.

Speaker	Line
CEO	Remove uncertainties from the update.

Speaker	Line
Program manager	Credibility requires clear milestones, risks, assumptions, and mitigation.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm milestone, runway, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
CEO	What would let us move forward without slowing everything down?
ESL learner	Let's document the assumption, define the risk trigger, and create a short investor-ready milestone update. Then we can decide whether to proceed, escalate, or revise the plan.

Language notes

- The learner names the field-specific control point instead of giving a vague no: milestone, runway.
- The response preserves the business goal while adding evidence, owner, and next-step discipline.

Role-play variation

Observer checklist

- Did the learner name the decision and the risk?
- Did the learner use at least two industry terms accurately?
- Did the learner give a concrete next step without overpromising?

8. Partnering and Business Development

Setting

A potential partner wants exclusive rights after limited data review.

Speaker	Line
Business-development lead	Agree quickly before they lose interest.
Scientific founder	Diligence, territory, field, economics, governance, and data rights need definition.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm term sheet, option, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Business-development lead	What would let us move forward without slowing everything down?
ESL learner	Let's document the assumption, define the risk trigger, and create a short partnering negotiation brief. Then we can decide whether to proceed, escalate, or revise the plan.

Language notes

- The learner names the field-specific control point instead of giving a vague no: term sheet, option.
- The response preserves the business goal while adding evidence, owner, and next-step discipline.

Role-play variation

Observer checklist

- Did the learner name the decision and the risk?
- Did the learner use at least two industry terms accurately?
- Did the learner give a concrete next step without overpromising?