

Data Analytics and Business Intelligence English Dialogue Lab

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

Audience: data analysts, BI developers, analytics engineers, data scientists, reporting teams, business analysts, and data-driven managers

Focus: A data analytics and BI English curriculum for metric definitions, dashboards, data quality, stakeholder requests, causation, experimentation, governance, and insight presentation.

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. Metric Definitions and Business Questions

Setting

Two teams use different definitions of active customer.

Speaker	Line
Analytics lead	Pick one quickly for the dashboard.
Revenue leader	Business definition, source table, filter logic, and owner need agreement.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm metric, business definition, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Analytics 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 metric definition 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: metric, business definition.
- 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. Data Quality and Trust

Setting

A dashboard shows a sudden drop after a pipeline change.

Speaker	Line
BI developer	Tell users the data are wrong.
Business stakeholder	Freshness, completeness, transformation logic, and upstream changes must be checked.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm data quality, freshness, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
BI developer	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 data-quality incident 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: data quality, freshness.
- 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. Dashboards and Executive Reporting

Setting

Executives ask for a dashboard with every possible metric.

Speaker	Line
Executive	Add all requested charts.
BI analyst	Audience, decision, refresh cadence, and alert thresholds need focus.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm dashboard, KPI, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Executive	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 dashboard requirements 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: dashboard, KPI.
- 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. Causation, Correlation, and Caveats

Setting

Sales increased after a campaign and marketing claims causality.

Speaker	Line
Marketing manager	Say the campaign caused the increase.
Data analyst	Seasonality, selection bias, control groups, and other factors need analysis.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm correlation, causation, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Marketing 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 causality caveat paragraph. 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: correlation, causation.
- 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. SQL, Models, and Transformation Logic

Setting

A finance report differs from the warehouse model.

Speaker	Line
Analytics engineer	Fix the number silently.
Finance analyst	Join logic, grain, filters, and reconciliation need transparent review.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm SQL, data model, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Analytics engineer	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 reconciliation explanation. 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: SQL, data model.
- 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. Experiment Readouts and Statistical Thinking

Setting

A test shows a small lift with uncertain confidence.

Speaker	Line
Data scientist	Recommend full rollout.
Product manager	Sample size, effect size, confidence, guardrails, and cost should guide decisions.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm sample size, effect size, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Data scientist	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 experiment readout slide. 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: sample size, effect size.
- 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. Data Governance and Privacy

Setting

A team requests customer-level data for broad exploration.

Speaker	Line
Data governance lead	Send the extract.

Speaker	Line
Business analyst	Purpose limitation, access control, retention, and privacy rules need confirmation.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm data governance, privacy, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Data governance 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 data access 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: data governance, privacy.
- 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. Insight Storytelling and Recommendations

Setting

A stakeholder wants a simple recommendation from messy data.

Speaker	Line
Analytics manager	Hide limitations to make the story clear.
Operations leader	Uncertainty, tradeoffs, assumptions, and next tests need visible framing.
ESL learner	I understand the goal, but we need to separate urgency from control. For this decision, I need to confirm insight, recommendation, the owner, and the evidence standard before we commit.
Analytics 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 insight recommendation 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: insight, recommendation.
- 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?