



## Thrive Language Café Guidelines

1. Enjoy the conversation and other people.
2. Be patient and encouraging with each other. It is great to make the effort to learn another language.
3. Don't correct someone's language unless they ask. Just help each other share their ideas. Mistakes are part of the learning process. Mistakes are OK.
4. If needed, it's ok to use a translation app, pictures on your phone, a picture dictionary, etc.
5. If someone wants, you can share a grammar tidbit. However, focus on conversation. The Language Cafe isn't a formal language lesson, just people talking together.
6. Whether at the Language Café or elsewhere, it is not a safe idea to share your address with someone you just meet. If you want to get together outside of the Language Café, first plan to meet at a public place like a café, restaurant, or library and consider bringing a friend. Also, if you will meet someone new, make sure a friend or relative knows where you are and when you'll be back. If you are a high school student and think about meeting someone new, be sure to talk to your parents about it first.
7. This is a welcoming space. It is interesting to talk about our different backgrounds, but don't ask about anyone's immigration legal status directly or indirectly. Don't answer about your own immigration legal status. It is OK to say, "I see we aren't supposed to talk about that" and change the subject. If you would rather not answer a question about any topic, it is also OK to say, "I'd rather not talk about that" and change the subject.
8. The purpose of the Language Café is to provide opportunities for friendly conversation across cultures and increasing language ability. Don't come to push a different agenda or organization. Do not disseminate literature for other organizations or collect participant names, addresses, phone numbers, emails, etc.
9. Keep it positive and respectful. Try to understand other cultures and ideas.
10. If you have a suggestion/concern or notice someone violating the guidelines, please let the facilitator know.

*We propose that foreign language education prepares students for two related callings: to be a blessing as strangers in a foreign land, & to be hospitable to strangers in their own homeland."*

*~Smith & Carvill, 2000*

