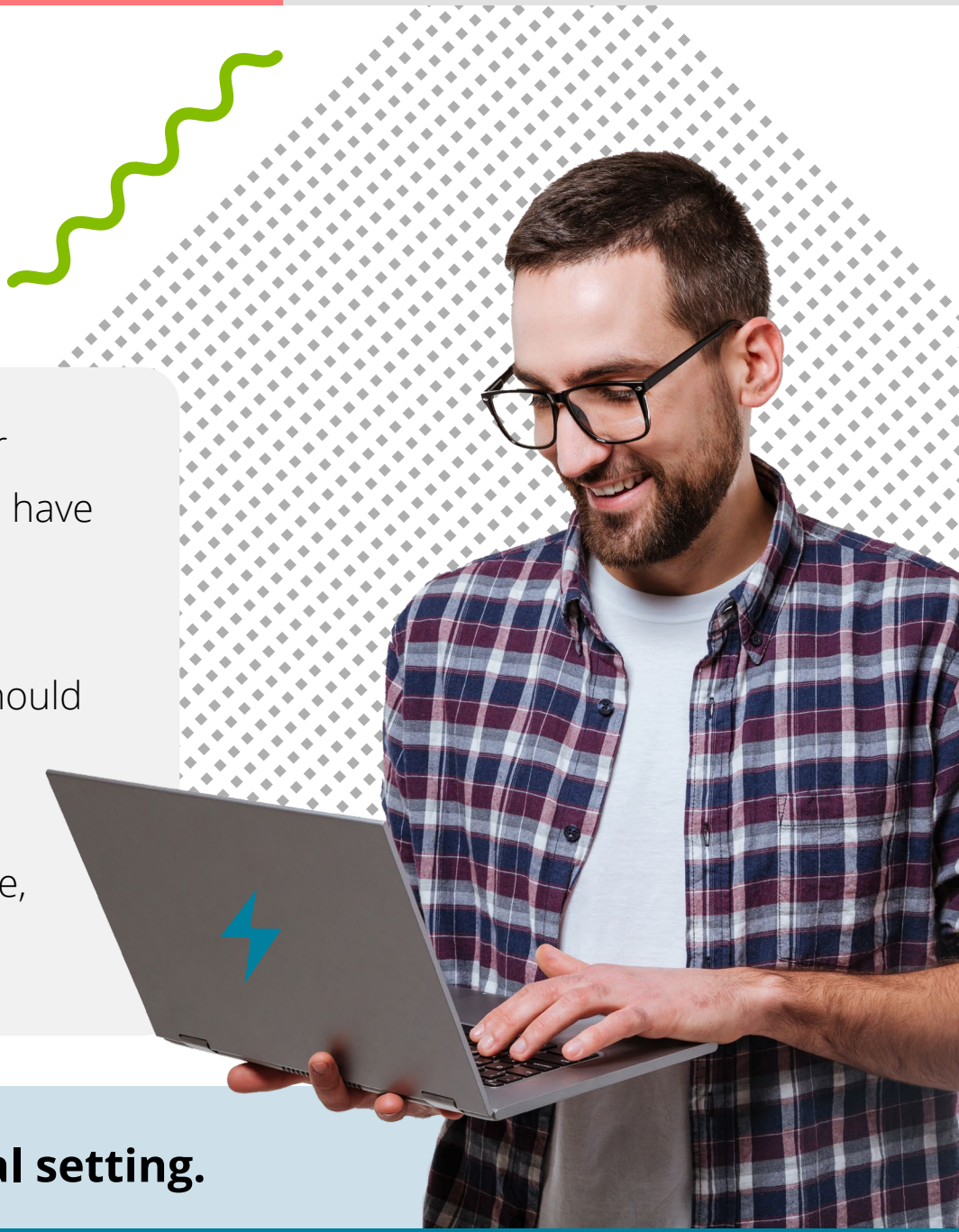


Building Connections, useful activities to help students connect with you and their peers.

Creating a bond with our class can be a very difficult task and even more difficult when our setting does not allow social interaction. Social distancing, virtual learning, and quarantine have found their way into our lives and into our classrooms. Therefore, opportunities to create connections among teachers and students must be provided, focusing on learning outcomes, evaluations, and projects is not everything we should worry about. Having a strong connection with our students strengthens their feeling of belonging, makes students feel in a safe environment, and builds trust, all these creates a wonderful potion for making learning more enjoyable, making you look more approachable, and letting effective and efficient learning happen.



Let's establish a connection using these activities on a life or virtual setting.



Create a check-in routine where students can express their feelings.

- Using images or emojis allows learners and teachers to acknowledge emotions and work on regulating these feelings through reflections or meditation.

Weekly Class Meetings

- Once a week, it might be every Friday, allow your students to gather and talk about their weekly experience. Advise them to say something good and something that could have been better. These can be done through breakout rooms online or in the classroom in small groups.



Party time

- In this activity you and your students share their likes and dislikes. Through your weekly class meetings, you can choose a party theme, everybody could advise a theme for the party, then a theme will be chosen randomly, and you can have this party once a month. For the party, each student and the teacher can tell an anecdote about the theme (example action movies) they can show a picture, or a video related to the anecdote.

Game Time

- All children like playing games, gamify your lessons and add teams to the equation. Set ground rules, explain the game, and have some fun.
- Keep track of all the game results on an interactive whiteboard or using an online board where they can see their achievement.
- This activity can be done every two weeks and you can add the vocabulary and grammar structures from your class, you can also add elements from the story you are reading.



Celebrating Birthdays

- Take some time to celebrate the birthdays of the month.
- Make a class chart with the monthly birthdays or an online board to congratulate students on their birthdays.

PROMOTING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION, SENSE OF BELONGING, AND AT THE SAME TIME FOSTERING LANGUAGE ACQUISITION ARE JUST SOME OF THE BENEFITS YOU WILL FIND WHEN IMPLEMENTING THESE ACTIVITIES IN THE CLASSROOM, STUDENTS WILL OPEN UP AND ENJOY THEMSELVES.