

Teacher Talk Examples – High School

Choose, Pick, Decide

After taking this course, I went back to school on Monday with a new attitude about teaching. It was five minutes into the first period when one of my students raised his hand and asked what had happened to me over the weekend. He said I was talking funny; he thought that maybe I had hit my head! When I told him that I was taking a class, he kindly asked me not to take any more classes.

To be honest with you, I always thought I was using this language in my classes. However, when the student mentioned that I was talking differently, I realized that I had not been using the words decide, choose, and pick enough.

Then I started to notice my students using these words in their conversation. It was very interesting to see how they picked up on the new language.

Freedom Phrases

You would think that by high school students would not have to ask permission for simple things. Wrong! They are constantly asking, “May I sharpen my pencil?” or “May I use the restroom?”

I have already been using Teacher Talk, but I didn’t know what to call it. Now that I have a name for it, I use it more consciously.

I love adding the condition. I now say, “If you can sharpen your pencil without distracting your classmates, you choose” or “If you can get some paper without interrupting my lesson, it’s up to you.” I can actually see them stop and start to think when I give the question back to them. It’s fun for me to give the responsibility back and watch them handle it.