

Step – A group online speaking lesson

Task

Watch the video and answer these questions.

1. How does Inna exploit each platform feature below? Complete the table.

Answer

Platform feature	How it's exploited
Breakout rooms	Pair work in the lead-in and also when completing the first speaking task (role play).
Chat box	To elicit useful phrases for the speaking task; to set a listening task for students (type in phrases they hear) when half the class are performing the second speaking task (role play); to elicit corrections to errors.
Interactive whiteboard	To get students completing useful phrases they can use in the speaking tasks; to introduce useful phrases.
Tick icon	Students show when they've finished reading the task so that Inna knows when to move on.
Share screen	To share a spreadsheet with the speaking tasks set out. The useful language is also on there and presumably this document will be shared with learners at the end of the lesson.

Task

2. How does Inna's exploitation of platform features ensure that all learners in the class have the opportunity to achieve the lesson objective?

Answer

By using breakout rooms, all students have the opportunity to develop their speaking skills, both in the lead-in and in the first speaking task. Students then perform a second speaking task in two groups. To ensure that the group not speaking aren't bored and have a reason to listen, Inna sets them the task of listening for specific phrases and typing them into the chat box as they hear them. This is a fantastic way of ensuring that all learners are involved in speaking tasks performed in front of the whole class and is particularly useful if your platform doesn't have breakout rooms.

It's also useful to recognise how involved all learners are throughout the lesson. By asking them to type onto the whiteboard and in the chat box, Inna ensures that all learners participate.