

“What to Do When Students Won’t STOP Talking” tips from Thom Gibson

1. Relax

★ Remember it isn't personal.

★ Take a deep breath and stay calm.

Teaching Tip: Model the composure you want students to show.

2. Assess the Current Lesson

★ Is the lesson too easy?

★ Too difficult?

★ Too boring?

Teaching Tip: Adjust pacing, add challenge, or increase engagement structures.

3. Build in Time to Talk

★ Discuss what's wrong with an answer.

★ Use Turn and Talk.

★ Ask: “What did you two talk about?”

Teaching Tip: Plan intentional talking opportunities in each lesson.

4. Attention Signal

★ Class, class!

★ Clap, clap!

★ Give me five!

Teaching Tip: Practice consistently to cement routine. Goal is 5 perfect rehearsals.

5. Stop and Wait

★ Don't talk over students.

★ Use neutral prompts like “Still waiting on three people.”

Teaching Tip: Stay calm and pause until the class follows.

6. Noise Expectations

★ Use visuals like NOISE letters.

★ Erase letters as volume rises.

★ Be consistent—try again tomorrow.

Teaching Tip: Use a visual cue and reset routine consistently.

7. Rethink Seating

★ Do seats promote visiting?

★ Move individuals or rearrange desks.

Teaching Tip: Make changes intentionally and revisit as needed.