

“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.