

Discussing a Contract with a Contractor

CEFR B2 Roleplay



1. Warm-up Discussion:

1. Have you ever hired a contractor for a home renovation or other project? How was the experience?
2. What are some important factors to consider before signing a contract with a contractor?
3. What details should be included in a contract with a contractor (e.g., timeline, payment terms)?
4. How would you handle a disagreement over contract terms or project details?
5. Why is it important to clarify expectations with a contractor before the work begins?
6. What are the possible consequences of not having a well-written contract in place?

2. Example Conversation: Discussing a Contract with a Contractor

Client (Student A):Hi, thanks for coming in today. I wanted to go over a few details in the contract before we move forward with the renovation project.

Contractor (Student B):Of course, I'm happy to discuss it. What would you like to clarify?

Client:First, I noticed that the timeline for completion is listed as three months. Is that realistic, considering the scope of the work?

Contractor:Three months is achievable, but that's assuming there are no delays. If any unexpected issues come up, we might need an additional two weeks.

Client:I understand. Could we include a clause that gives a specific extension if there are delays?

Contractor:Sure, we can add that to the contract. I'll specify a two-week extension in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Client:Great. Next, I wanted to talk about the payment terms. I see that 30% is due upfront, but what are the other payment milestones?

Contractor:Typically, we ask for 30% upfront, 30% halfway through the project, and the final 40% upon completion.

Client:That sounds fair, but could we adjust it slightly? I'd prefer to pay 20% halfway through and 50% upon completion.

Contractor:That works for me. I'll update the contract with those new terms.

Client:Thank you. One more thing—what happens if I'm not satisfied with the quality of the work? Is there any guarantee in the contract?

Contractor:Yes, we offer a one-year warranty on all work. If there are any problems, we'll fix them at no extra cost during that time.

Client:That's good to know. Can we add a specific clause that outlines the warranty in more detail?

Contractor:Absolutely. I'll make sure the warranty section is clear in the final contract.

Client:Perfect. I think those are all my concerns. When can we sign the updated contract?

Contractor:I'll have the revised contract ready for you by tomorrow. We can sign then.

Client:Great, I look forward to it. Thanks for your flexibility!

Contractor: No problem at all. I'm glad we could work everything out.

3. Background:

The roleplay involves a client who is discussing the terms of a contract with a contractor before signing it. The client has concerns about the timeline, payment terms, and the quality of the work. The contractor's role is to address these concerns and make any necessary adjustments to the contract. Both parties aim to come to an agreement that is fair and clear before moving forward with the project.

4. Instructions:

- **Instructions for Student A (the client):**

You are about to sign a contract with a contractor for a renovation project, but you have a few concerns about the timeline, payment terms, and guarantees for the quality of work. Your task is to ask the contractor about these points and request adjustments to the contract if necessary.

- **Instructions for Student B (the contractor):**

You are a contractor who is meeting with a client to finalize a contract for a renovation project. Your task is to address the client's concerns about the timeline, payment terms, and guarantees. You should offer reasonable solutions and make any necessary changes to the contract to ensure both parties are satisfied.

5. Vocabulary List:

Timeline, milestone, payment terms, upfront, warranty, unforeseen circumstances, clause, guarantee, contract, completion.