Suggestions for making a conversation with a native speaker more valuable

1) Ask your conversation partner’s permission to record the conversation

2) Before you speak to your conversation partner, think about:

   a) Which aspect of conversation you want to work on, e.g.
      - keeping a conversation going
      - practising certain vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar
      - making yourself understood
      - understanding the speaker’s accent
      - talking about a particular topic
      - finding out about the culture and customs of your conversation partner
      - requesting help with your homework
      - role playing a particular situation

   b) What you want your partner to do, e.g.
      - indicate each time the target language is used correctly
      - stop you at each mistake
      - write down errors and discuss them later
      - raise a finger when a correction is needed
      - replay and listen to the CD together
      - act in a role play

3) After the conversation, think about:

   a) What you will do to improve your listening or speaking. Replay the recording to check:
      - how often you self-corrected
      - how often the conversation ‘stopped’
      - how often you used the grammar point/vocabulary/ pronunciation correctly
      - how you can use the language function outside the classroom
      - how often your partner had to check for understanding
      - how clear your pronunciation was, i.e. check how often your partner had to ask you to repeat yourself
      - how often you had to ask for a word to be repeated
      - Can you do your homework more easily now?
      - Could you discuss the topic? Do you understand more about it now?
      - Did you discover new information about the life and culture of the speakers of the language you are studying?
b) When and where you will try to correctly repeat the task

c) What you will do in your next conversation session

4) To improve your oral comprehension:

- listen to the recording while you are doing other things, e.g. doing the dishes or having a bath
- look in the dictionary for words you don’t understand
- make a list of words which you think will be useful to learn
- choose one minute of the recording and try to write every word you hear. Replay the recording as many times as is necessary
- play the recording and stop it randomly now and again. Try to work out the word or words which will follow.
- Check your answer by listening to the recording

5) To improve your oral expression:

- find the words or expressions which you want to know how to use. Write them down and learn them
- listen again to the comments and suggestions from the native speaker
- repeat little-by-little what the native speaker said until your pronunciation is as similar as possible