

A warm up

1. Ask a partner the following questions

- 1. Do you enjoy meeting and talking to new people? Why or why not?
- 2. What is the most difficult thing about meeting new people?
- 3. What do you think "small talk" means?
- 4. What are some good small talk topics?
- 5. Are there any topics you should avoid when using small talk?

2. Which of the following casual expressions are used as a greeting? Which are used to say "good-bye"?

Howdy.

How's it going?

See you.

Take it easy.

Hey.

What's up?

Catch you later.

B Vocabulary

1. Match the words with their definitions.

a)	approachable	to breathe very quickly and deeply (and feel dizzy)
b)	opportunities	to say something again
c)	controversial	point of view
d)	hyperventilate	to not know a solution to a problem
e)	perspective	easy to talk to
f)	restate	chances
g)	stumped	to produce or provide
h)	vield	causing much discussion, disagreement, or argument

C Sentences

1. Match the sentence halves. There may be more than one correct answer.

a)	Take into consideration	have in common
b)	Social interactions	these tips to become more conversational.
c)	This puts everyone	the special attention.
d)	People appreciate	prompting them to respond.
e)	Find something that you	at ease.
f)	Some people	boost problem solving skills.
g)	Asking a question and	other people's minds.
h)	This forces you to read	don't know how to handle compliments.

What is small talk?

Small talk is conversation, but without any important information being exchanged. The main purpose of small talk is social interaction. It usually begins with a greeting "Hi.", moves to two-way conversation on simple topics like the weather or weekend plans, and ends with a "See you later".

D Check Your Understanding

- 1. Answer the following questions about the video.
- 1. According to the video, what brings most opportunities?
- 2. What kind of skill does social interaction improve?
- 3. What three words does the acronym A.R.E. stand for?
- 4. Is politics a good topic for small talk? Why or why not?
- 5. Why should you use a person's name in a conversation?
- 2. Use vocabulary from exercise B to complete the video transcript on the next page.

E Try it!

Try starting some small talk with the questions below. Keep your conversations going as long as possible

- 1. Do you have a part time job?
- 2. What kind of movies do you like?
- 3. How many people work in your department?
- 4. Where did you last go on a trip?
- 5. Have you ever been to America?
- 6. How is school going at the moment?
- 7. What do you do when you're not at school?
- 8. What are you going to do at the weekend?

Small Talk



Have you ever been in an elevator only to realize you have nothing to say when your boss walks steps in?

Before you	even
thinking about it, take	
these tips to become	more
conversational.	
N.A I	
Most	
conversation. It's a fre	
You'll be recognized for	•
to chat with that person	on.
And a study from the	I Iniversity of
Michigan showed that	-
boost problem-solving	
you to read people's r	
their	
	·
First, look for someon	е
	Start with a smile
and an introduction. T	his puts everyone
at ease.	

Communications expert Carol Fleming says to remember the acronym **A.R.E.**:

Anchor: Find something you have in common. This can be something you've experienced, or something that you are both experiencing in that moment.

Reveal: Say something about yourself that relates to your anchor topic, creating trust and providing something for them to respond to.

Encourage: This is your time to ask a question, prompting them to respond. Keep your questions open ended. This allows for a more in-depth conversation
If you are for a topic, stick to easy ones like their job, hobbies and family. But remember, stay away from topics like politics.

A compliment works well too, just be sure to transition the conversation afterwards. Some people don't know how to handle them.

Using the person's name in conversation				
will also	good			
results. People appreciate the special				
attention. And remember to listen.				
People love to talk about themselves.				
	what you hear to			
show you are listenir	ng.			

Now is not the time to be shy. Get in that elevator, smile, and make... small talk.