

Unit 1:

First Encounters



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.
See you.
Hey.
Catch you later.

How’s it going?
Take it easy.
What’s up?

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

HOW TO MAKE 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 into consideration these tips to become more conversational.

Most _____ spark from conversation. It's a free investment - You'll be recognized for taking the time to chat with that person.

And a study from the University of Michigan showed that social interactions boost problem-solving skills by forcing you to read people's minds and take their _____.

First, look for someone _____. Start with a smile and an introduction. This 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 listening.

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