



♦ Starting and Stopping ♦ a Conversation

Conversation Starters

Excuse me, I like your _____.
Are you a friend of _____?
Could I ask you something?
Could/can I ask _____?

See the teacher's introduction on page 137.

Introductory Exercise

Fill in the blanks with the words or phrases in bold type.

something

Could

teacher

Do you think

In a classroom before class starts:

1. A: Excuse me, _____ I ask you _____?
Do you know the _____ for this class?
2. B: Yeah.
3. A: _____ she's a good teacher?
4. B: Yes, I do. My friends all say that she's helpful.

**How about you Jim a long time a friend of Jim's I
like your Can I ask**

At a party at Jim's apartment:

5. A: Hi. Are you _____?
6. B: Yeah, I am. Jim and I work together. _____?
7. A: I just moved into the next apartment. Have you known _____
_____?
8. B: About 5 years.

In a waiting room:

9. A: Hi. _____ shirt.
10. B: Thanks.
11. A: _____ where you got it?
12. B: Sure. I got it at the mall downtown.

Conversation Stoppers

Would you excuse me?

Well, I'd better be going/ I should be going.

(It's been) nice talking to you

I hope we get a chance to talk again sometime.

Fill in the blanks with the words or phrases in bold type.

**see you nice talking you excuse get a chance
It's been I'd better**

In a classroom:

1. A: I think the teacher is ready to start. It's been _____
to you.
2. B: Yeah. I enjoyed it too.
3. A: I should go and say hello to Tom. Would _____ me?
4. B: Sure.
5. A: _____ nice talking to you; _____ later.

In a waiting room:

6. B: Well, I won't take up any more of your time. _____
be going.
7. A: I hope we _____ to talk again sometime.
8. B: Me too.

Student A

Step 1. Read the situations to Student B. Student B will begin a conversation with you. Then have a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -minute conversation with B. After $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, **end the conversation.** (Then the teacher will tell you to talk to a different Student B.)

1. Tell Student B, “We’re sitting next to each other on an airplane. I’m a businessperson.”
2. Tell Student B, “We’re in math class. I’m a female student.”
3. Tell Student B, “We’re at a party at your uncle’s house. I’m an older man. We’re standing near each other.”
4. Tell Student B, “We’re at a park. I’m a child sitting next to you on a park bench.”
5. Tell Student B, “We’re at a meeting for new foreign students. Before the meeting starts, you see me standing alone. I look lonely.”
6. Tell Student B, “We’re in the waiting room of a doctor’s office. I’m just sitting here. I look worried.”

Step 2. Listen to B. Then **start a conversation** with B and talk for $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes. After $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, end the conversation.

7. You are a professional athlete.
8. You are a new student from California.
9. You are a famous musician.
10. You are a foreign student at the beginning level of English.
11. You are a housewife with eight children.

Student B

Step 1. Listen to Student A. **Start a conversation** with A and talk for $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes. After $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, **end the conversation**. (Then, the teacher will tell you to talk to a different Student A.)

1. You are traveling to Europe for a vacation.
2. You are a male student. You are worried about passing this class.
3. You are a female, about 16 years old.
4. You are a man, about 25 years old.
5. You are a foreign student. You have been at this college for three years.
6. You are a pregnant woman.

Step 2. Read the situations to Student A. Student A will begin a conversation with you. Then have a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -minute conversation with A. After $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, **end the conversation**.

7. Tell Student A, "We're at a party at your best friend's house. I'm a beautiful woman. We're standing near each other."
8. Tell Student A, "We're the only two people in a classroom on the first day of school. We have to wait for about 15 minutes for class to begin. You think that perhaps I'm the teacher."
9. Tell Student A, "We're at a concert. We have to wait for about 10 minutes for the concert to begin. We're the same age."
10. Tell Student A, "We live in the same apartment building. We're waiting for a bus in front of the building. I'm an English teacher."
11. Tell Student A, "We're in the waiting room of a dentist's office. I'm just sitting here. I look bored."

