

22 Starting and Ending a Conversation



Key Words and Phrases

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Excuse me, I like your _____.
 Are you a friend of _____?
 Could I ask you something?
 Could/Can I ask _____?
 How long have you _____.

CONVERSATION ENDERS

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.
 See you later.

Directions: Use words from the boxes below. Make letters capital if necessary.

Conversation Starters

could

teacher

do you think

In a classroom before class starts

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

how about you

how long have you

a friend of Jim's

At a party at Jim's apartment

4. A: Hi. Are you _____ ?

B: Yeah, I am. Jim and I work together. _____ ?

5. A: I just moved into the next apartment. _____ known Jim?

B: About 5 years.

sure

can I ask

I like your

In a waiting room

6. A: Hi. _____ backpack.

B: Thanks.

7. A: _____ where you got it?

B: _____. I got it at the camping store downtown.

Conversation Enders

nice talking

get a chance

it was

I'd better

In a classroom

8. A: I think the teacher is ready to start. It's been _____ to you.

B: Yeah. I enjoyed it too.

At a party at Jim's apartment

9. A: I should go and say hello to Tom. Would you excuse me?

B: Sure.

10. A: _____ nice to meet you. See you later.

In a waiting room

11. A: Well, I won't take up any more of your time. _____ be going.

B: I hope we _____ to talk again sometime.

Conversation Practice: Student A

Step 1: Read the first situation to Student B. Then, Student B will begin a conversation with you. Next, have a one-minute conversation with B. After one minute, B will end the conversation. Then, read the next situation to B and have conversations about each topic.

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 Brad's house. I go to your school. 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."

Step 2: Listen to Student B. Then, start a conversation with B based on the information below. Talk for one minute. After one minute, end the conversation. Then, continue with items 2-5.

1. You are a professional athlete.
2. You are a new student from Asia.
3. You are a famous musician.
4. You are a foreign student at the beginning level of English.
5. You are a housewife with eight children.

Step 3: Choose a question and ask your partner. Then, have a conversation. Give reactions and ask follow-up questions. Take turns.

- In your culture, is it OK to start a conversation with a stranger in places such as a classroom, a doctor's office, or a party?
- Is it easy for you to meet new people at this school?
- In the future, do you think you will use some of these conversation starters?

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Conversation Practice: Student B

Step 1: Listen to Student A. Then, start a conversation with B based on the information below. Talk for one minute. After one minute, end the conversation. Then, continue with items 2-5.

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 who is about 16 years old.
4. You are a man who is about 25 years old. Your wife is sitting on the other side of you.
5. You are a foreign student. You have been at this college for three years.

Step 2: Read the first situation to Student A. Then, Student A will begin a conversation with you. Next, have a one-minute conversation with A. After one minute, A will end the conversation. Then, read the next situation to A and have conversations about each topic.

1. Tell Student A, "We're at a party at your best friend Marie's house. I'm a beautiful woman. We're standing near each other."
2. 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."
3. 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."
4. Tell Student A, "We live in the same apartment building. We're waiting for the elevator. I'm an English teacher."
5. Tell Student A, "We're in the waiting room of a dentist's office. I'm just sitting here. I look bored. I have a tattoo on my arm."

Step 3: Choose a question and ask your partner. Then, have a conversation. Give reactions and ask follow-up questions. Take turns.

- In your culture, do you use these types of starting and ending conversation expressions?
- What famous person would you like to talk to?
- When you are walking on a sidewalk and someone is walking toward you, do you look at them, smile at them, or try not to look at them?

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