

Lesson One

Part One: Introduction - Getting to know one another

You and your teacher will introduce yourselves. Here are some questions your teacher may ask:

- Tell me about your family.
- What is your occupation? Do you enjoy it or wish you could do something else?
- What do you like to do for fun? Do you have any hobbies?
- Where/how have you studied English in the past?
- What do you hope to gain from this English course?
- What is your motivation for learning English?

Part Two: Conversation Tip - Making "Small Talk"

Small talk - light or casual conversation; "chit-chat"

Small talk is important in English-speaking countries. It can be used with strangers or acquaintances as a polite greeting, a conversation starter, or a way to start to get to know someone. Small talk is used in many situations such as in a job interview, at a party, in an elevator, while waiting in line, while getting a haircut, or talking on the phone.

A good way to make small talk is to ask questions (like we did in Part One of this lesson).

Some common small talk topics are:

- Weather
- Weekend plans
- Work or school

- Hobbies
- Family
- Sports
- Restaurants

Here are some common phrases to end a conversation:

- "It was nice to meet you."
- "It was great talking to you!"
- "Good to see you again."
- "Take care."
- "Have a nice day!"
- "Talk to you later."
- "See you soon!"

Part Three: Discussion Time

Your teacher may ask some of these questions:

- Travel - What countries have you visited? Where would you like to travel?
- Home - What kind of home do you live in now? What was your home like when you were a child? What is your dream home?
- Holidays - What special holidays do you celebrate? Does your country celebrate Thanksgiving? Independence Day? What is it like?
- Culture - Describe the culture of your country. What do you like about it? What don't you like about it? What are some similarities and differences from other cultures?

Homework (to be completed after this lesson): Write five sentences about yourself, five questions that could be used to make "small talk," and five sentences about your time with the teacher during today's lesson. Send this to your teacher before the next lesson.