

Keeping the conversation going

Point out that effective conversation needs the participants to be active, for example by

- ▶ asking questions
- ▶ commenting on what the other person says
- ▶ making suggestions
- ▶ checking that the other person understands
- ▶ asking the other person to explain something more clearly

Emphasise the importance of doing all of this. Some students may feel uncomfortable about asking an older person questions, but point out that this is normal in English-speaking cultures, and is essential in the GESE and ISE exams.

This worksheet will help you with:

- ▶ conversation in all situations
- ▶ GESE Grade 7, interactive and conversation phases
- ▶ ISE I, conversation task

Activity 1

Complete these exchanges by choosing a sentence from the box to match each function (shown in brackets).

Write the sentences on the lines. Exchanges 1-3 are spoken by person A, and 4-10 by person B.

- A I was really impressed by the film – it was so exciting. (*Ask the other person to comment on what you've said.*)
What did you think of it?
.....
B I wasn't so keen on it.
- A Maybe we should wait another five minutes for Stephen. (*Ask the other person to comment on your suggestion.*)
What do you think of it?
.....
B We might be late for the train. I think we should go now.
- A I've just come back from a week in Paris. (*Ask the other person a question.*)
Have you been there?
.....
B No, but I'd love to go.
- A There's a two-hour limit on parking here.
B (*Check you've understood.*)
Does that mean we won't have enough time for everything we want to do?
.....
- A Could you help me carry these boxes, please?
B (*Ask the other person to repeat something.*)
Sorry? I didn't quite catch that.
.....
- A We're going to have problems completing all this work on time.
B (*Ask the other person to explain what they've said.*)
What exactly do you mean?
.....

- 7 A You'll need to get a bus into the town centre.
 B (Ask the other person a question that they may not be able to answer.)
 Do you happen to know how often they run?

- 8 A You can ask at the tourist information office about guided walks round the town.
 B OK. (Change the subject to some extent.)
 By the way, I'll only be here until Thursday.

- 9 A I saw the first James Bond film on TV last night. I really enjoyed it.
 B (Comment on what the other person said.)
 I thought it was great, too.

- 10 A We can't do what we'd planned, so we'll have to go back to my original suggestion.
 B (Ask the other person to explain what they mean.)
 Sorry, I'm not sure I follow you.

Sentences
Sorry? I didn't quite catch that.
Do you happen to know how often they run?
What did you think of it?
I thought it was great, too.
Sorry, I'm not sure I follow you.
Does that mean we won't have enough time for everything we want to do?
By the way, I'll only be here until Thursday.
What do you think?
Have you been there?
What exactly do you mean?

Have put box at the end, as I think the answers are more relevant for the teacher version – can either put the box as it is in the students worksheet for reference or get rid of it entirely *****



Star test-taker activity



Here are four sentences about speaking in conversation.
 At the beginning of each sentence, write 'True' or 'False'.

-True.....Everyone in a conversation is responsible for its success.
 In English-speaking countries, it's normally OK to ask the other person questions, even if
True.....they're much older than you.
-True.....If you start 'By the way,' it shows you want to change the subject.
-False.....You should never give your opinion of what the other person has said.