

## Developing a conversation

This worksheet will help you with:

- ▶ conversation in all situations
- ▶ GESE Grade 7 and 8, interactive and conversation phases
- ▶ ISE II, conversation task

### Activity 1

Lucy and Tom are in an art gallery. Choose the correct sentence from the box for each gap.

Letter	Sentence
A	Why not?
B	We could always come back one afternoon.
C	Why not buy a guidebook?
D	That sounds great, doesn't it?
E	Why don't you do that?
F	Shall I come with you?

- 1 **Lucy:** Shall we go and look at the portraits, Tom?  
**Tom:** .... I'm not so interested in them, and I can go and see the statues outside while it isn't too hot.
- 2 **Lucy:** Tom, shall we go and see the sci-fi paintings? A friend of mine told me they were really worth seeing.  
**Tom:** .... Sci-fi has always intrigued me.
- 3 **Lucy:** I know we said we'd spend all day here, but I really feel I've had enough for now.  
**Tom:** .... There's too much to take in in one visit.
- 4 **Lucy:** I'm feeling very thirsty. I could go to the café and buy a couple of drinks.  
**Tom:** .... We won't be allowed to drink them in here, anyway.
- 5 **Lucy:** I don't know how I'm going to remember all the amazing paintings we've seen!  
**Tom:** .... Then you'll have a permanent record of them.
- 6 **Lucy:** I really wouldn't want that painting on my wall at home!  
**Tom:** .... I think it suggests so many different things, it's quite exciting.

### Activity 2

Compare these two ways of continuing the conversation between Lucy and Tom.

- 1 **Lucy:** That's a beautiful painting, isn't it?  
**Tom:** No, it isn't.
- 2 **Lucy:** That's a beautiful painting, isn't it?  
**Tom:** .... I'm not sure I think so. I'm not very keen on landscapes unless they suggest something about the lives of the local people, and this one doesn't give any indication that anyone actually lives there. What do you particularly like about it, Lucy?

**Tom's second answer is better because**

- ▶ it disagrees with Lucy more gently (his first answer could make her feel that her opinion is of no value)
- ▶ it explains his opinion (his first answer doesn't tell her why he disagrees with Lucy)
- ▶ it gives Lucy something to comment on and explore further
- ▶ it ends by encouraging Lucy to explain her opinion.

1 **Lucy:** I think that painting's amazing, with all those jagged lines and brilliant colours. I don't suppose you'd agree with me, though.

**Tom:** .....

2 **Lucy:** That painting's by someone called Bridget Riley. Do you know anything about her?

**Tom:** .....

3 **Lucy:** That sculpture reminds me of one we saw last year in a TV programme about modern South American art. Do you remember?

**Tom:** .....

4 **Lucy:** I'm getting hungry. I hope there isn't a queue in the café.

**Tom:** .....

5 **Lucy:** I like that painting by Kandinsky. Didn't he paint one called 'The Blue Rider'?

**Tom:** .....

6 **Lucy:** I'm really disappointed there are so few people here. It's such a great exhibition, lots of people ought to see it.

**Tom:** .....

7 **Lucy:** I really can't make up my mind about those bronze figures. What do you make of them, Tom?

**Tom:** .....

8 **Lucy:** Shall we go on to the next gallery now, or have lunch first?



**Tom:** .....

9 **Lucy:** I'd like to sit down for ten minutes, but you don't have to, if you don't want to.

**Tom:** .....

10 **Lucy:** Do you think we should try and find out if this exhibition is permanent or temporary?

**Tom:** .....

 **Star test-taker activity** 

Decide which three of the following a star test-taker is most likely to do in the various phases of a test.

Draw a star for 'Yes' or draw a line through the sentence for 'No'.

- .... Encourage the other person to expand on their opinion.
- .... Remember that in the best conversations, one person speaks all the time.
- .... Explain why you agree or disagree with the other person.
- .... Begin what you say by linking it with what the other person has said.
- .... Discourage the other person from disagreeing with you.
- .... End what you say by encouraging the other person to speak.
- .... Remember that conversation consists mostly of giving information.