Keeping the conversation going

This worksheet will help you with:
- conversation in all situations
- GESE 7 and 8, interactive and conversation phases
- ISE II, conversation task

Activity 1

Naomi is asking Jack about the summer job he has just started. For each gap, choose the phrase that fits best, and put a line through the two that are either wrong or don’t fit well.

Naomi: Hi, Jack. How are you doing?
Jack: I started my new summer job yesterday.
Naomi: (1) ....
Jack: Well, I’m helping out in a builder’s merchants.
Naomi: (2) ....
Jack: It’s a firm that supplies stuff like bricks, cement and wood. Most of their customers are construction companies, so they might come in and buy supplies when they’re building a house or a garage, for instance. Though the general public also go in and buy materials. (3) ....
Naomi: Sure. So what are you doing?
Jack: So far I’ve been in the office, getting to know the systems for taking orders, selling over the counter, ordering new supplies, and so on.
Naomi: (4) ....
Jack: Next week they’re going to put me in the yard, and I’ll have to move stuff around – not the heavy materials, luckily, as they’re transported by – (5) .... – fork-lift trucks, and I haven’t been trained to operate those.
Naomi: And are you enjoying it?
Jack: Oh, at the moment there’s so much to learn, my head’s spinning. I’m sure I’ll enjoy it when I get more familiar with the place. (6) .... What are you doing for the summer?

1 A I hope you don’t mind me asking, but what is it?
   B Do you happen to know what it is?
   C Tell me about it.

2 A What?
   B What’s that, exactly?
   C I’m starting work in a bakery next week.

3 A Do you get the idea?
   B Do you understand?
   C Am I making myself clear?

4 A Well.
   B Uuhh.
   C Really.
5 A [thinks in silence]
   B oh, what’re they called? Fork something – oh yes
   C do you know what I mean?

6 A That’s all I can say.
   B Well, I’ll have to be going.
   C But enough of me.

Activity 2

Read this conversation. It contains a number of phrases and sentences which are unsuitable. In pairs, write an improved version of the conversation.

Olivia: Oh look, Jason! There’s an eagle.
Jason: Don’t be ridiculous. It’s much too small. Oh, it’s started to rain. By the way, I’m getting wet. Pass me my waterproof from the backpack.
Olivia: Here you are.
Jason: OK.
Olivia: Is that a new waterproof?
Jason: Of course. Incidentally, it’s my sister’s wedding at the end of next month. Do you want to come to the reception with me?
Olivia: Why not?

Star test-taker activity

Complete each space with one word to show what a star test-taker would do.

- takes an ___________ part in conversation.
- makes sure they fully ___________ what they are required to do.
- asks for further ___________ before making suggestions.
- considers how the other person ___________.
- shows they are ___________ in what the other person is saying.
- says if they are trying to think of a particular ___________.

This resource was developed using insights gained from analysis of findings from the Trinity Lancaster Spoken Learner Corpus, a research collaboration project between Trinity College London and the Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science (CASS) at Lancaster University.