

LIFE SKILLS COMMUNICATION

HAVING A GOOD CONVERSATION



LIFE SKILLS

To have good conversation, you should remember that:

- when only one person talks and the other listens, it is not a conversation!
- some people are quiet, some people like talking more.
- a good conversation includes everyone.

Good conversations

Imagine you have to spend an hour with a student you don't know from another class. Maybe you're going to take a test, or you're waiting to see the head teacher. For some people, it's a difficult situation because you don't know the person very well. For other people, it's easy to start a conversation and say, for example, *How are you?* or *Are you nervous?*

Talking to an older person can be even more difficult. For example, your parents' friends or aunts, uncles or grandparents. Sometimes they ask all the questions and you only answer! The best way to manage this is to think of questions to ask the other person. People like to talk about their experiences and to give an opinion about things.

Group conversations are also difficult to manage sometimes, but there are some easy ways to make sure everyone speaks, including yourself! If you are a person who can talk easily, then think about the others in the group. If you notice one person is not speaking, then ask them a question. A simple *And you?* or *Why?* Or show interest – *Really?*

When you are in a group and everyone is talking at the same time, it is sometimes hard to interrupt, especially if you think this is not a polite thing to do. When you want to give your own opinion politely, you can use *Excuse me, can I say something?* Then other people know you have something to say.

We can all learn to have good conversations.



- 1** Are these statements true (T) or false (F) for you? In pairs, compare your ideas.

I talk more than I listen.

I'm quiet, so I don't want to talk.

I prefer to talk in pairs than in groups.

I like to hear different opinions.



- 2** Listen to the conversations and answer the questions.

Conversation 1 Does the conversation include everyone?

Conversation 2 Is the girl, Poppy, polite?

Conversation 3 How does the boy stop his grandmother's questions?

- 3** Read the text above and tick (✓) the best sentence.

The text explains how to ...

- a speak more clearly.
- b improve your conversation skills.
- c ask questions.
- d make more friends.



4 Read the text again and match the two halves of the sentences.

- 1 To start a conversation with someone you don't know well
 - 2 To have a good conversation with someone
 - 3 To help quiet people to speak
 - 4 To give your opinion when other people are talking
- a you should ask him/her questions as well as answer.
b you should interrupt politely.
c you can ask how they feel.
d you can ask them a question.

5 Complete the sentences with a verb from the box. Find the verb in the text to check your answers.

answer ask give
make show speak

- 1 You should always _____ in English in the class.
- 2 I couldn't _____ a question in the test because it was very difficult.
- 3 I wanted to _____ interest in his life, so I asked him about his hometown.
- 4 Please _____ sure you bring a calculator to class tomorrow.
- 5 Can I _____ a question? What time does the bus leave?
- 6 At the end of the video, you should _____ your opinion.

6 Do you prefer to listen or to speak? Tell your partner about a time when you preferred to listen and a time when you wanted to speak.

- 7** In Newton school, the students are working on a time capsule project. Each group has to choose a country and an object from that country to include in the capsule. Listen to the conversation. Which country and which object does the group choose?



8 Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 Which country is good at football?
- 2 Why isn't a football a good object to choose?
- 3 What did the children study about Russia last term?
- 4 What object do they think about for Italy?
- 5 How many other dolls are there in Laura's Russian doll?

9 Listen again and tick the expressions you hear.



USEFUL LANGUAGE

Helping others to speak	Interrupting politely
Do we all agree?	Excuse me
What about you?	Can I say something?
Come on!	Pardon?
Why?	

10 Complete the conversation with some of the phrases from the Useful language box.

- Ali:** I think we should choose a small country.
(1) _____, Jamie?
- Jamie:** I'm not sure. Maybe a big country is better.
- Ali:** (2) _____?
- Jamie:** Because people in the future will know more about a big country.
- Lily:** (3) _____? I think it's better to choose a country with interesting history.
- Ali:** Sorry, Lily. We didn't ask your opinion.
- Lily:** Thanks, Ali. Then we can choose an object from its history.
- Jamie:** Good idea.

PROJECT

A time capsule

You are going to make a time capsule that you will open in two years' time.

- Work in small groups.
- In your group discuss these questions:
 - What will you make the time capsule with: a box, a bag, a tin?
 - How will you decorate it? Will you write anything on it?
 - Where will you keep it? Remember, in two years you are going to open it.
 - What will you put in it?

Draw your time capsule and present it to the rest of the class.