ESL Brains

Chatting with co-workers

1. **Complete the sentence with your own ideas. Give some details.**
   - When we're not working, my colleagues and I talk about...

2. **Watch a video [https://youtu.be/XSDdkaVuzio] and tick what the people talk about.**

   A. clothes
   B. work meetings
   C. transport
   D. physical activity

3. **Watch part of the video again (to 00:50) and choose the words you hear. Then, role-play the dialogues.**

   A. a: **So/And/But**... uh... Do you ride to work?
      b: **Yeah, I do./Yeah, yeah./Sure.**
      a: Where do you live?
      b: Uh, I just live north of the city. Yeah.
      a: **Great./Cool./Really?**

   B. a: How long does that take you?
      b: Uh, **about/some/like**, twenty minutes. Yeah.
      a: Twenty? Oh, **really/wow/sure**.

   C. a: I catch the train.
      b: **Oh./Wow./Cool.**

   D. a: What do you do when it's raining?
      b: **Right/Well/Uh**, I usually drive or take the train.

4. **Discuss the questions.**
   - What did you think of the video?
   - Is a boring or uncomfortable conversation better than silence? Why?
   - Which of these topics do people talk about with their colleagues most often?
     - weather
     - clothes
     - free time
     - food
     - films
     - weekend
   - Can you think of one question for each topic above to ask a colleague?

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5. **Watch a second video [https://youtu.be/MM8UN7U1mlk] and choose the best summary of what the speakers in the video think.**

   A. The speakers like weekends because it is when they don't have to think about work. They usually do a lot of things on Sundays. They also like their jobs so they are happy to start again on Monday.

   B. The speakers can't relax at weekends because they think about work. It's also hard for them to get up on Mondays. They think it would be nice to have longer weekends.

6. **Complete the gaps with the words in the boxes. Then, watch part of the video again (to 00:42) and check your answers.**

know	know	like	mean

   A. a: They're never long enough.

      b: Yeah, yeah, I _____ .

   B. Yeah, _____ , I... I enjoy Sunday. Love it. Love a Sunday.

   C. You know, I _____ ... Who invented the five-day working week? I just... I find it weird, you _____ ? Weird.

> ***weird:***
>
> strange

7. **Decide where to put the word or phrase in the sentence. Make small changes to the sentence if necessary.**

   A. a: What time do you usually start work? (so)

      b: I normally start at 9. (like)

   B. a: It's sometimes hard to get up on Monday morning and be at work on time. (you know)

      b: Sure, Mondays are the worst. (I mean)

   C. a: And what do you do when it's raining? (uh)

      b: I take my umbrella. (well)

> **LANGUAGE TIP**
>
> Use words and phrases like *so...*, *like...* and *you know...* in informal conversations if you need time to think about what to say next.

8. **Your teacher will give you a list of questions. Ask your partner the questions and they will answer using the words and phrases in the box (to have time to think). Then, swap roles. Try to use each word or phrase at least once.**

I mean...	like...
so...	uh...
well...	you know...

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9. Choose the best reaction.

A. It's so hard to focus on work on Fridays.
   1. I know.
   2. Wow.

B. I hate it when it's raining.
   1. Yeah.
   2. Cool.

C. I'm going on a business trip next week.
   1. Cool. I hope you enjoy it.
   2. Yeah, sure.

D. I want to become a manager.
   1. Oh, I'm sorry.
   2. Wow. I didn't know that.

LANGUAGE TIP

Use words and phrases like *Yeah, Wow,* and *I know...* in informal conversations to show people that you are listening to them.

E. I always walk to work.
   1. Oh, is it far?
   2. I know, it's really far.

F. I worked until eight last night and I usually finish before six.
   1. Really?
   2. Great.

10. You and your partner are colleagues. Choose a comment from the list below and read it to your partner. Then, have a conversation using the words and phrases in the boxes. The conversation should be as long as possible! If you don't know what to say, choose another comment on the list and continue.

EXAMPLE:

a: *It's really hot today.*

b: ***Yeah. So...*** *Are you going to the beach after work?*

a: ***Uh...*** *I don't know,* ***I mean...*** *I have a lot of work to do today.*

b: ***Oh.*** *I think I'll finish at,* ***like,*** *four today. I'm going to visit a friend.*

a: ***Cool.*** *Enjoy your afternoon.*

- I'm really glad it's Friday!
- I love the weather today.
- This coffee is delicious.
- I think I'll have lunch now.
- I have so much work to do today!
- I'm a bit tired.

When you need time to think:
I mean...
like...
so...
uh...
well...
you know...

When you want to show you are listening:
Cool.
I know.
Oh.
Really?
Wow.
Yeah.

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