

Look at the picture.

1. What do you think the women's relationship is?
   • friends • sisters • colleagues
2. Where do you think they are? Why are they together?
3. What do you think they're laughing about? What do you think the woman shows her friend on her phone?

Think about...

1. Who do you like to spend break times with? What do you talk about?
2. What do you show other people on your phone?
   • photos • music • messages • something else

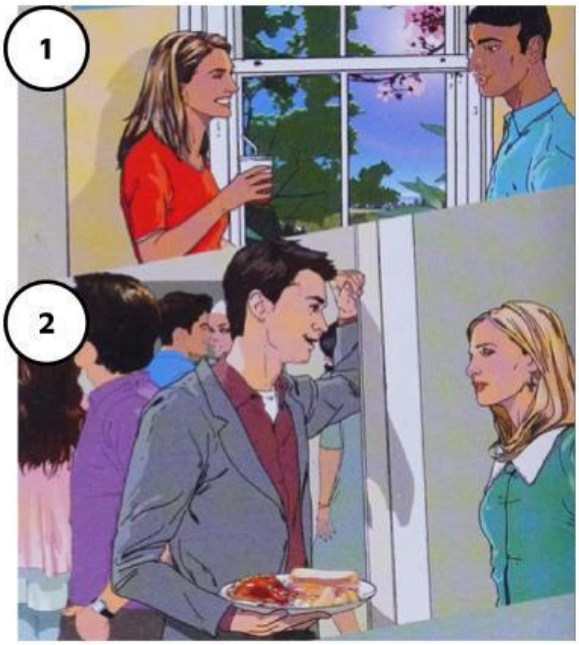
Quick Brainstorm

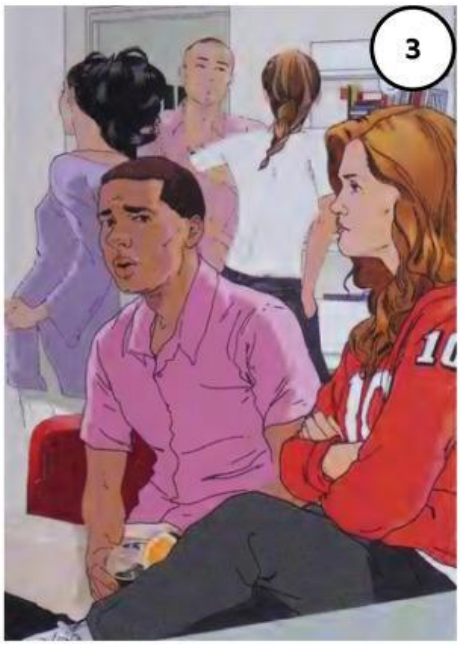


What would you say when you start a conversation with a new person?

Look at the picture.

What event are the people at?





Listen to the conversations. What do they talk about? Write the numbers.

the party	people they know	money	where they live	work	their interests	education

Answer the questions.

1. Do you think each pair are meeting for the first time? Why/why not?
2. Which speakers are not enjoying their conversations? Why?

Complete the sentences with the adjectives the speakers used in the audio.

alright	awful	strange	delicious	perfect	boring

1. It's a _____ day for a birthday party.
2. The pizza is _____.
3. It's _____, but the music is a bit _____.
4. It's an _____ film.
5. It's a really _____ story.

Which of the adjectives are positive? Which adjectives are negative?
Which adjective means 'OK'?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

AMBISIUS INTERNATIONAL

B1

Discussion

1. Where do you usually meet new people?
2. Do you usually start conversations or wait for others to speak?
3. What's the first question you usually ask someone?

Read the following text and answer the questions.

Small Talk

Do you have problems when you meet people for the first time?

Is it difficult to think of what to talk about? Don't worry. You don't need to talk about yourself; ask the right questions and you can make the other person talk.



When you start a conversation with a new person, ask about the situation you're in and the people who are there:

What do you think of the party?

1 _____

2 _____

Say something positive and follow it with a question:

- *This music's brilliant. Do you know what it is?*
- *The match was great last night. Do you watch football?*
- *I really like your shoes. 3* _____ _____

Then, ask personal questions about interests and hobbies to show you are interested:

- *Did you see the film? What was it like?*
- *4* _____ *Which ones?*
- *What was the last album you bought?*
- *What kind of music is that?*





When you feel more relaxed, ask personal questions about relationships and home life:

- *Where did you grow up?*
- *Are you married? Do you have any children?*

5 _____

Holidays are always a good topic if the conversation slows down:

- *Do you have any holiday plans?*
- *Where did you go for your last holiday?*

You can ask about work and studies anytime:

6 _____

or Where do you study?

But be careful – sometimes people don't want to talk about work at a party!

There are also some topics that are never a good idea.

- Money – people usually think talking about money is rude. So unless you know people very well, don't ask:

7 _____

or

8 _____

- Politics and religion – you don't want to start an argument!
- Age – never guess anyone's age. They won't be happy if you get it wrong!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Answer the questions.

1. Who is the article for?
2. What problem does it help with?
3. Do you agree with the advice?

Read the article again. Complete gaps 1–8 with these questions.

How do you know Ana?	Do you live near here?	What do you do?
How much do you earn?	How much rent do you pay?	How's the food?
Do you play any sports?		Where did you buy them?

Read the text again and answer the questions.

1. What is the main idea of the text?

   a. How to give long speeches at social events
   b. How to start and continue conversations with new people
   c. How to ask strangers for personal information
   d. How to avoid talking to people you don't know

2. According to the text, what should you do when you first meet someone?

   a. Talk about yourself
   b. Ask about money or politics
   c. Ask friendly questions about the situation you're in
   d. Wait for them to start talking first

3. Why is it a good idea to ask questions about the situation (like "How's the food?")?

   a. It makes you sound very intelligent
   b. It helps the other person feel comfortable talking
   c. It changes the topic to something personal
   d. It shows you want to end the conversation

4. What kind of comments should you use to keep the conversation going?

   a. Negative comments followed by a question
   b. Positive comments followed by a question
   c. Complaints about people or events
   d. Short answers with no question

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. Which of these topics is good when you already feel more relaxed?

a. Hobbies and home life
b. Politics and religion
c. Money and rent
d. Work and studies

6. What topic is safe to talk about at almost any time?

a. Holidays
b. Sports
c. Work or studies
d. Family life

7. Why should you avoid talking about money?

a. Because people find it rude
b. Because it's not interesting
c. Because it's too complicated
d. Because nobody has money anymore

8. What can happen if you talk about politics or religion?

a People will respect your opinion
b. The conversation will be more exciting
c. It helps people relax
d. It might cause an argument

9. What does the text say about asking someone's age?

a. It's a good way to start a conversation
b. You should guess their age to be friendly
c. It's better not to ask because it can upset them
d. Only ask if you're older than them

10. What is the overall advice from the text?

a. Listen and nod if you don't know what to say
b. Ask polite, positive questions and avoid personal or sensitive topics
c. Focus only on talking about themselves
d. Avoid asking any personal questions

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Write down questions that you would like to ask other people.

home	
relationship	
education	
work	
interests	
people you know	
the weekend	
travel	
_____ (choose your own topic)	

Discussion

Think about the way men or boys talk together and women or girls talk together. Do you think there are any differences? Think about:

- topics
- reasons for talking together
- body language (gestures, eye contact, distance)
- how they speak and how they listen
- vocabulary and expressions