# Lesson 1C

**HOW TO ...** | start and end a conversation; keep a conversation going
**VOCABULARY** | conversation topics
**PRONUNCIATION** | rhythm and intonation

## VOCABULARY

### conversation topics

**1 A Complete the tips for talking to strangers with the topics in the box. You do not need two of the topics.**

clothes and fashion  food and eating out
hobbies and free time activities  holiday experiences
the news  politics  sport or music event
the weather  work or studies

## Making small talk

Talking to people we've only just met can be enjoyable, but it can also be difficult. One thing that we all have in common is [1] _____, so an easy way to start a conversation is to say what a lovely, warm or cold day it is. Of course, this only works if you live in a country where there are seasons. If not, try talking about something that's happened recently. It could be a national [2] _____ like a football match or a festival. You might want to avoid talking about [3] _____ because the stories we read and see every day can often be sad. It's also best not to discuss [4] _____ with someone you've just met. People have different ideas on how to run the country and it might start an argument. You could ask if the person can recommend any good restaurants. This can lead to a discussion about [5] _____. I'm sure you'll both have lots to say about that. You could also say you like what someone's wearing, to bring in [6] _____, but that's a topic you should take care with, too. People don't always want to focus on how they look. Perhaps a safer option is to ask what a person does. Then you can chat about your [7] _____. Most of us have a lot to say about that.

**B Complete the conversation using words from the box.**

clothes  eating  event  experiences  hobbies
news  studies  weather

A: What did you talk to Dave about?
B: He told me about his university [1] _____ in business, a music [2] _____ he went to, his recent holiday [3] _____ abroad, his thoughts about the sports [4] _____ stories today, and why the [5] _____ is so wet at the moment.
A: More listening than talking, then!

## How to ...

### start and end a conversation; keep a conversation going

**2 A 1.05 | Listen to three conversations. Match the conversations (1–3) with the situations (a–c).**

**a** someone wants a new job
**b** someone wants to watch a presentation
**c** the speakers know each other

**B 1.06 | Match the sentence halves. Then listen to conversation 1 again and check.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1** Excuse me, do you mind | **a** at all. |
| **2** No, not | **b** meet you. |
| **3** Is it your first | **c** to go. |
| **4** Help | **d** if I sit here? |
| **5** I'm sorry, but I've got | **e** yourself. |
| **6** Nice to | **f** time here? |

## PRONUNCIATION

**3 1.07 | rhythm and intonation | Listen and underline the syllable that has the main stress in each sentence.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1** See you later. | **4** Be my guest. |
| **2** Go ahead. | **5** I've got to go. |
| **3** Enjoy your weekend. | **6** No problem. |

## SPEAKING

**4 A Complete the conversation with one word in each gap.**

A: Excuse me, is [1] _____ sitting here?
B: No, go [2] _____.
A: It's a lovely morning, [3] _____ it?
B: Beautiful!
A: Are you here for the interview?
B: Yes. How [4] _____ you?
A: I'm here for the interview too. What time's yours?
B: Ten thirty. I'm early. [5] _____ about yours?
A: Mine's at eleven. I'm Matt, by the [6] _____.
B: I'm Carrie. Nice to [7] _____ you.
A: Oh ... the person on reception just called your name.
B: Oh yes, thanks. I've [8] _____ to go.
A: Good luck!

**B 1.08 | Listen and check.**

**C 1.09 | You are B in the conversation in Ex 4A. Listen and speak after the beep. Record the conversation if you can.**

**D Listen to your recording and compare it to the model in Ex 4B.**



Speak anywhere Go to the interactive speaking practice
LIVEWORKSHEETS