

# Unit 2 - Starting conversations

## Language focus 1



We often start a conversation by asking a question. There are several kinds of question we can ask.

### Start up



Look at the pictures on the DVD and answer your teacher's questions.

### Tune in

#### Video 1 - At a party



Watch Video 1 on the DVD and answer the following questions.

1. What kind of party is it? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What kind of food can you see? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long has Sarah been with the company? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you think Dan enjoys his job? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What does Dan want to drink? \_\_\_\_\_

### Check the script



Practice this part of the conversation.

- Dan: (1) *Can I join you?*  
Sarah: Sure.  
Dan: Are you (2) *enjoying the party?*  
Sarah: Yes, I am. (3) *The food is great.*  
Dan: Yeah. (4) *The food's always good at these parties.*  
Sarah: Oh, really? This is my first (5) *office party.*  
Dan: I see.

### Act 1

#### Putting it into practice



Use the conversation in the 'Check the script' section to practice these conversations with your partner.

#### Before a seminar

1. Is this seat free?
2. looking forward to the seminar?
3. It seems to be popular.
4. This teacher is very good.
5. seminar with her.

#### On a bus in Kyoto

1. May I sit here?
2. enjoying the tour?
3. It's a very beautiful city.
4. It's always beautiful in May.  
I've been five times.
5. trip to Japan.

#### At an airport coffee shop

1. Is it okay if I sit here?
2. delayed as well?
3. My flight is 4 hours late!
4. Mine, too. The flights are often late here.
5. flight from this airport.

Are you enjoying the game? (At a sports game)

Is the food good? (At a party)

Are you going to Osaka? (On a *shinkansen*)

#### A specific question

This kind of question is good for starting conversations with people you know. They are often about something you know about the other person.

How was the movie last night?

Are you going to Mark's party tomorrow?

Did you finish your English homework?

#### A news question

This kind of question can be used with anyone.

Did you feel the earthquake this morning?

Did you see on the news that there's a typhoon coming?

Did you hear about the tornado in Florida yesterday?



1. Now practice starting conversations using the questions in 'Language Focus 1'.

2. Look at the questions below and write their numbers in the correct boxes. Some questions may go in more than one box.

1. How was the party last night?	2. Did you see the news this morning?	3. Is the food good?	4. What time did you get home yesterday?
5. Are you going to take the TOEIC test tomorrow?	6. Are you studying English, too?	7. Did you hear about the murder in Osaka?	8. What are you reading?
9. Did you finish your homework?	10. Is that today's newspaper?	11. Is this your first time in Japan?	12. Is your flight delayed, too?

General	Specific	News

### Sort it out

### Video 2 - How was the test?



Watch Video 2 on the DVD and decide if the following statements are **true** or **false**.

- |   |      |       |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. Saki thinks she did well on the exam.        | True | False |
| 2. Caryn had enough time to finish the exam.    | True | False |
| 3. Saki had enough time to finish the exam.     | True | False |
| 4. Caryn thought the exam was really difficult. | True | False |
| 5. Saki studied hard before the exam.           | True | False |

### Rehearsal 1



Look at the full conversation on page 80 and ask your teacher about any language you don't understand. Then practice this alternative conversation.

- A: How was the concert last night?  
 B: It was great.  
 A: Really?  
 B: Yeah, I really enjoyed it.  
 A: Oh, I heard it was boring.  
 B: You're kidding!  
 A: No, that's what Akiko told me.  
 B: Well, I thought it was great.  
 A: I might go tonight, then.

## Act 2



Part 1. Use the role cards to start a conversation with Student B. Use the questions around the role card to help you. Student B, look at the role card on page 100.

Where \_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_ ?

Was he / she \_\_\_\_ ?

Did you \_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_ time?

Your friend (Student B) went on a first date last night. Start a conversation by asking, "How was *your date* last night?" You should ask extra questions to find out more information. Use the questions around the box to help you.

What \_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_ ?

What \_\_\_\_ you think \_\_\_\_ him/her?

Will you meet \_\_\_\_ again?

Part 2. How would you start conversations in these situations? Write a suitable question for each one.

- You are at a club and see a girl/boy you really want to talk to.  
Q.
- You are sitting next to a foreign person in a busy noodle shop.  
Q.
- Your teacher looks very worried and stressed this morning.  
Q.
- You are standing next to someone at a bus stop.  
Q.
- You are sitting next to some tourists in the park.  
Q.
- Your friend has suddenly dyed his/her hair bright pink.  
Q.
- You are at a wedding. The person sitting next to you looks unhappy.  
Q.
- A foreign person sits next to you on the train. You want to talk a little in English.  
Q.
- Your best friend just walked past you without speaking.  
Q.
- You are at your friend Akiko's party. You are sitting next to a stranger.  
Q.

### Intermission



Look at 'Intermission' in the Extras section on the DVD.

## Tune in

### Video 3 - Talking to a stranger



Watch Video 3 on the DVD and answer the following questions.

1. Are they at a temple or a shrine? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How do you know where they are? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does Caryn think of this place? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which person has never been here before? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Is this a formal or informal conversation? \_\_\_\_\_

## Check the script



Practice this part of the conversation.

David: (1) *Can I sit down?*

Caryn: Sure.

David: (2) *It's nice and quiet, isn't it?*

Caryn: Yeah, (3) *it's great to escape from the crowds and the noise.*

David: I know. I (4) *often come here when I'm not busy.*

## Act 3



Use the conversation in the 'Check the script' section to practice these conversations with your partner.

### In English class

1. Can I sit here?
2. I love this class.
3. it's very interesting. Speaking in English is fun.
4. think it's very useful, too.

### In a park

1. Is it okay to sit here?
2. It's a beautiful day.
3. but they said on the TV this morning that it's going to rain.
4. saw it, too.

### At a western style pub

1. Can I sit down?
2. Did you hear that the manager is leaving?
3. he's opening a bar in Spain.
4. heard last night.

### On a bus

1. May I sit next to you?
2. Did you hear that the bus fares are going up again?
3. they're going up by six percent.
4. think it's too much.

## Screen test



Complete the quiz below to find out how sociable you are. Check the answer key on page 118.

# How sociable are you?

1. What would you do if a foreign person started talking to you on the train?  
A) Get off at the next stop. B) Talk for a short while then pretend to sleep.  
C) Try your best to have a conversation.
2. How many of the students in this class have you talked to?  
A) 1 - 25%. B) 26 - 50%. C) More than 50%.
3. Do you prefer to be...  
A) by yourself? B) with one or two best friends? C) with a group of people?
4. How often do you start conversations with strangers?  
A) Never. B) Sometimes. C) Often.
5. If you saw your English teacher in the town would you...  
A) run away and hide? B) say a quick hello and leave?  
C) say hi and have a chat?
6. If you were sitting next to someone on a long train journey, would you...  
A) say nothing at all? B) say good morning? C) say good morning and try to start a conversation?
7. If you go to a party, do you...  
A) talk only with your friends? B) try to talk to a couple of new people?  
C) try to talk to a lot of new people?
8. How many students in this class do you know the names of?  
A) 1 - 25%. B) 26 - 50%. C) More than 50%.
9. Do you remember this class's teacher's full name and where he/she is from?  
A) No. B) Maybe. C) Yes.
10. If there were foreign exchange students in your school would you...  
A) ignore them? B) just say hello when you saw them?  
C) try to get to know them?



## Language focus 2



Sometimes we start a conversation with a **statement**. There are several kinds of statements:

### General. A statement about something general (small talk)

This kind of statement is good for starting conversations with people you don't know. These statements are not personal. They are about a general topic.

It's so hot today. (Anywhere)  
It's a great game. (Watching a sports game)  
The food here is delicious. (At a restaurant)

### Personal. A statement about yourself or the other person

This kind of statement is good for starting conversations with friends and people you know. These statements are personal and usually about you, or something you know about the other person.

You look nice today.  
I had a great weekend.  
I think there's a test today.

### Gossip. A statement about something interesting, unusual, funny, etc., that has happened or will happen soon

This kind of statement is usually used to start conversations with people you know.

You won't believe who I saw yesterday.  
I have to tell you what I heard this morning.  
I just found out that our teacher has a new girlfriend.



Now practice starting conversations with your classmates using the expressions in 'Language focus 2'.

## Sort it out

### Video 4 - *ChocoLuck* - and you're out of luck!



Watch Video 4 on the DVD and write the missing words.

Yin Min: That's not *ChocoLuck*, \_\_\_\_\_?

Junko: Yes, it is. It's really good. Have \_\_\_\_\_, yet?

Yin Min: No, and I'm not going to. Didn't you \_\_\_\_\_ this morning?

Junko: No. What \_\_\_\_\_?

Yin Min: They were talking about *ChocoLuck*. It's \_\_\_\_\_. Don't eat that!

## Rehearsal 2



Look at the full conversation on page 81 and ask your teacher about any language you don't understand. Then practice this alternative conversation.

A: Hey, did you hear the news about David Bookem?

B: No, what happened? Did he get a new haircut?

A: No, not that. Munchester Rovers have sold him to Outer Milan, in Italy.

B: Really? You're joking! When did you hear that?

A: It was on the news this morning. Didn't you hear about it?

B: No, I didn't. What was the transfer fee? About thirty million Euros?

A: You won't believe it. It was just one Euro.

B: What? That's crazy! One Euro!

A: It's because Outer Milan also gave Beerbelli and Spendapenni to Munchester in exchange.

B: Well, I know Bookem wasn't playing well, but I'm surprised that they sold him.

A: Maybe it's because the manager really didn't like his new haircut!

## Act 4

### Putting it into practice



Student A, look at the article on this page. Student B, turn to page 101. Read the newspaper article about aliens and remember the story. Then tell your partner the story and discuss the differences in the articles.

**The Saitama Sentinel**  
Issue 10357 - 1 April 2007

**It's true - Aliens exist! Spaceships land in Saitama**

**Dentist charged with stealing teeth**  
A dentist in Urawa has been arrested on suspicion of stealing teeth and selling them on to a jewelry store in Omiya called Chatterbox, it was revealed today. The dentist, Haha Saito, has been arrested under the little-known Teeth and Hair Public Safety Law enacted in 1641.

We are not alone! At 3.30 a.m. this morning, at least 12 residents of Urawa, Saitama, claim that they saw seven large, red UFOs land on a rice farm outside Urawa. Many people say that they saw short, green creatures leaving one of the spaceships.

Local resident, Tony Smith, claimed to have spoken with the aliens. Smith said that he

was drinking with his friend David Jones when the aliens knocked on the door to ask where they were. He says they are friendly and can speak English very well, because they use *The English Course* on their planet.

Apparently the aliens' first words were, 'Which planet are we on?' Smith said he replied, 'We're on this planet. I think?'

## Finale

Look at the 'Finale' multi-media clip in the Extras section on the DVD and do the tasks.

## Take it away



Go to the student area on the web site and do the activities for Unit 2. (<http://www.theenglishcourse.com/students.shtml>)