

◆ Unit 10 ◆

Starting and Ending a Conversation

Part One ◆ Focus on the Conversation Strategy

Exercise 1:

Read the “Conversation Starters” below. Fill in the blanks (below) with the “Starting Techniques” in the box.

<i>Starting Techniques</i>		
• weather	• compliment	• weekend

Conversation Starters

- | | |
|-------|--|
| _____ | 1. What are you planning to do this weekend? |
| _____ | 2. I like your jacket. |
| _____ | 3. Isn't this a nice day? |

Exercise 2:

Read the “Conversation Starters” below. Fill in the blanks (below) with the “Starting Techniques” in the box.

<i>Starting Techniques</i>		
• question	• positive comment	• observation

Conversation Starters

- | | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | 1. Do you like to shop here? |
| _____ | 2. I like our classroom. It has nice windows. |
| _____ | 3. You look tired. |
| _____ | 4. This is a great place to hike. |
| _____ | 5. Our teacher looks busy. |
| _____ | 6. Can I ask you a question? |

Starting Techniques

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------|---------------|
| • weather | • compliment | • weekend |
| • question | • positive comment | • observation |

Exercise 3:



1) Listen and fill in the blanks. (See Script at the end of this handout.)

2) Choose the “Starting Techniques” in the box above and fill in the techniques that Person A uses.

3) With a partner, read the dialogs.

Dialog 1

A: (conversation starter) I like your new _____.

B: _____. I just bought it last week.

A: Great!

Starting technique _____

Dialog 2

A: (conversation starter) Guess _____ I saw at the bank yesterday.

B: I don't _____. Who?

A: Our third grade _____!

B: You're _____!

Starting technique: observation

Dialog 3

A: (conversation starter) What have _____ been doing lately?

B: I've been _____ a lot.

A: I _____.

Starting technique: _____

Dialog 4

A: (conversation starter) This is a great _____ for a walk.

B: Yes, _____ is.

Starting technique: _____

Dialog 5

A: (conversation starter) You _____ excited.

B: I am. I'm planning to go to a concert tonight.

Starting technique: _____

Dialog 6

A: (conversation starter) Can I _____ you?

B: Sure. _____ a seat.

Starting technique: _____

Dialog 7

A: (conversation starter) Do you have _____ for tonight?

B: No, I'll probably stay _____. How _____ you?

Starting technique: _____

Dialog 8

A: (conversation starter) This is very _____ cake.

B: _____, it is.

Starting technique: _____

Dialog 9

A: (conversation starter) I _____ your handwriting.

B: _____? I think it is sometimes hard to read.

Starting technique: _____

Dialog 10

A: (conversation starter) Can I ask you a _____?

B: Sure.

A: Do you like _____?

B: Yes, I like to _____.

A: Me too.

Starting technique: _____

(Exercises 4 & 5 are not included in this sample handout.)

Part Two ♦ *Practicing the Conversation Strategy*

Exercise 6:

Student A

Step 1:

- ¹⁾ Look at the chart below.
- ²⁾ Look at the information for Conversation 1. Use the “Starting Technique” and “Topic” to start a conversation with Student B. Have a conversation for about 30 seconds.
- ³⁾ Change partners. Look at the information for Conversation 2. Use the “Starting Technique” and “Topic” to start a conversation with a new Student B. Have a conversation for about 30 seconds. Then change partners again and do Conversation 3, etc.

	Starting technique	Topic
Conversation 1	compliment	pencil
Conversation 2	positive comment	weather
Conversation 3	question	after school today
Conversation 4	observation	happy
Conversation 5	question	lunch

Step 2:

- ¹⁾ Student B will start a conversation. Try to continue the conversation for about 30 seconds.
- ²⁾ Change partners. Your new Student B partner will start a conversation with you. Try to continue the conversation for about 30 seconds, etc.

Exercise 6 *continued:*

Student B

Step 1:

- 1) Student A will start a conversation. Try to continue the conversation for about 30 seconds.
- 2) Change partners. Your new Student A partner will start a conversation with you. Try to continue the conversation for about 30 seconds, etc.

Step 2:

- 1) Look at the chart below.
- 2) Look at the information for Conversation 6. Use the “Starting Technique” and “Topic” to start a conversation with Student A. Have a conversation for about 30 seconds.
- 3) Change partners. Look at the information for Conversation 7. Use the “Starting Technique” and “Topic” to start a conversation with a new Student A. Have a conversation for about 30 seconds. Then change partners again and do Conversation 8, etc.

	Starting technique	Topic
Conversation 6	question	last night
Conversation 7	observation	busy
Conversation 8	compliment	haircut
Conversation 9	weather	snow
Conversation 10	question	classmate

(Exercises 7-13 are not included in this sample handout.)

Unit 10 Script

Unit 10 Exercise 3.

Dialog 1

A: I like your new car.

B: Thanks. I just bought it last week.

A: Great!

Dialog 2

A: Guess who I saw at the bank yesterday.

B: I don't know. Who?

A: Our third grade teacher!

B: You're kidding!

Dialog 3

A: What have you been doing lately?

B: I've been studying a lot.

A: I see.

Dialog 4

A: This is a great day for a walk.

B: Yes, it is.

Dialog 5

A: You look excited.

B: I am. I'm planning to go to a concert tonight.

Dialog 6

A: Can I join you?

B: Sure. Have a seat.

Dialog 7

A: Do you have plans for tonight?

B: No, I'll probably stay home. How about you?

Dialog 8

A: This is very good cake.

B: Yes, it is.

Dialog 9

A: I like your handwriting.

B: Really? I think it is sometimes hard to read.

Dialog 10

A: Can I ask you a question?

B: Sure.

A: Do you like sports?

B: Yes, I like to run.

A: Me too.