

Small Talk 1

Introduction

This worksheet practices making small talk for intermediate students.

Before the Lesson

Print (A4 size) the three-page worksheet as many times as you need for the amount of students you have.

In the Lesson

Provide each student with a copy of the three-page worksheet.

In Exercise 1, students will match small talk questions with their corresponding responses, while in Exercise 2, they will categorize topics according to the appropriate situation.

For Exercise 3, students will use their own ideas to complete the dialogues, with some responses being more predictable in nature.

In Exercise 4, students will pair up to practice small talk in specific scenarios. Prior to this activity, consider writing a few key phrases or ideas on the board to guide responses for each situation.

In Exercise 5, students will simply select the correct response for each numbered item.

Exercise 1 answer key

1. b 4. f
2. c 5. e
3. d 6. a

Exercise 2 answer key

<u>Small Talk:</u>	<u>Business:</u>
weekend plans	sales reports
sports results	company profits
hobbies	project deadlines
travel experiences	marketing strategies
lunch recommendations	team performance

Exercise 3 + 4 - student answers

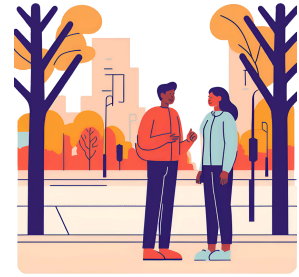
Exercise 5 answer key

1. b
2. a
3. a
4. c
5. b

Focus	Aim	Level	Time
Small Talk	Engage in diverse exercises to practice the art of Small Talk.	B1-B2	35-45 minutes

'SMALL TALK'

We engage in small talk to ease discomfort in certain situations, especially in business settings before diving into the main topics.



- 1** Pair each small talk question in the box with the appropriate response.
Write the corresponding number on the line next to each response.

1. How was your weekend? 2. Did you watch the game last night?
3. Do you have any travel plans coming up? 4. It's a beautiful day today, isn't it?
5. Have you tried that new café downtown? 6. Do you like this hot weather?

- ___a. Not really, I actually prefer winter.
___b. It was great! I went hiking with some friends.
___c. Oh yes! It was such an exciting match.
___d. Not yet, but I'd love to visit Spain soon.
___e. Yes, I did. The coffee there is amazing!
___f. Absolutely! The sun is shining, and the sky is clear.

- 2** Classify the following topics based on their suitability for small talk or business discussions.

weekend plans, sales reports, company profits, project deadlines,
sports results, marketing strategies, hobbies, team performance,
lunch recommendations, travel experiences

Small Talk	Business

3 Complete the small talk discussions by adding your own thoughts and ideas. Write them on the lines.

1. A: Hey, how's your day going?

B: Pretty _____. I have a lot of meetings.



2. A: Have you seen any good movies lately?

B: Yes! I watched a great action movie last night. I highly _____ it.



3. A: What are you doing this weekend?

B: I'm _____ forward to a relaxing day at the beach.



4. A: The weather is so _____ today!

B: I know! It's not ideal for a walk in the park.



5. A: I think I'll try that new Italian restaurant.

B: That _____ like a great idea! Let me know how it is.



6. A: Do you like working in this company?

B: It's good! The people are _____, and the job is interesting.
And, I just got promoted!

4 Collaborate with a partner. Take turns role-playing various small talk scenarios. Use the prompts provided below and aim to maintain the conversation for a minimum of four exchanges.

1. You meet a coworker at the coffee machine. Ask how their day is going.

2. You run into a neighbor at the grocery store. Talk about the weather.

3. You are at a party and meet someone new. Ask about their hobbies.

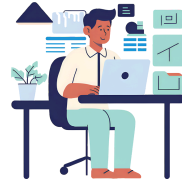
4. You see a friend at the gym. Ask about their workout routine.

5. You are waiting in line at a café and start a conversation with someone next to you.

5 Choose the best response for each small talk situation.

1: "How's work been for you lately?"

- a) Work is a place.
- b) It's been really busy, but I enjoy the challenges.
- c) I don't like talking about work.



2: "What do you usually do on weekends?"

- a) I like to go hiking or watch movies. How about you?
- b) The weekend is two days long.
- c) I don't have any weekends.



3: "Did you hear about the new shopping mall opening?"

- a) Yes, I'm excited to check it out!
- b) Malls are made of buildings.
- c) I don't go shopping.



4: "It's so hot today!"

- a) Yes, I love cold weather.
- b) Hot things are hot.
- c) Yeah, it's definitely a great day for ice cream!



5: "Have you been to any good restaurants recently?"

- a) Food is necessary.
- b) Yes! I tried a new sushi place, and it was amazing.
- c) No, I don't go anywhere.

