

Small talk

Task 1: Read one definition of *small talk*. Do you agree with it?

" *'Small talk' is an unimportant conversation about unimportant things, usually with people you don't know very well.*

Task 2: Video – Rules of making small talk

Watch the video and make notes about the rules of making small talk. What are they?

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____



Task 3: Discuss the questions

1. What is small talk for you?
2. In what situations can it be useful for you?
3. Look at the box below. Would you talk about these topics with a person who you don't know very well?
4. What other topics can you add?

Topics:

work	family	music	politics
travel	health	sports	religion
hobbies	home town	money	the weather

Sentence starters:

- *I would talk about because*
- *I wouldn't talk about because*

Task 4: Watch Video A

Answer the questions about the video:

1. Which small talk topics do Orla and Azra talk about?
2. Where is Azra from originally? Where does she live now?
3. What do we learn about:
 - a) Shaun's typical journey home?
 - b) Shaun's trips to Los Angeles and Bangkok?
4. Decide which sentence best describes how Shaun speaks.
 - a) He asks Jasmine a variety of questions and listens carefully to her answers.
 - b) He doesn't really listen to Jasmine, but prefers to talk about himself.

Task 5: Watch Video B

What do you learn about:

- Jasmine?
- Thiago?
- Azra?
- Alex?

Watch the video again and answer the question:

Which of these things do the speakers do?

- Answer the question;
- Add new information;
- Ask back a question;
- Show interest (lean forward (mazliet noliecās uz priekšu), use eye contact, smile).

Task 6: Watch the video. What is the AAA model?

Task 7: Watch the video again and complete the text:

Let me give you some advice when making small talk:

1. Choose your topic carefully and don't be too . Don't talk about personal finances, politics or religion, or more personal topics.
2. Be prepared to listen and remember to show in the other person and their opinions. Showing interest is simple. If you're sitting down, move your body forward a little, use eye contact and, of course, as you speak.
3. Watch the other person's body language and, if they start to bored, change the subject. Most importantly, don't dominate the conversation.
4. Follow the AAA model that Azra used earlier in the video. AAA is a simple formula: the speaker's question, new information and then him or her another question. The conversation will run smoothly if you follow this model. Try it and see."

Task 8: Practice the AAA Model

Make 5-7 questions that you could ask during the small talk. Work in pairs and have a small talk using the AAA model.

Example:

Question: Where do you live?

Answer: I live in Riga.

Add: But I was born in Valmiera.

Ask: And you? And what about you? How about you?

Feel free to ask more than one extra question; it's your chance to practice speaking!

Do you have a lot in common?

Question Words

Jautājot par personu	Who is he talking about? Who do you work for? (person or company) Who is your favourite actor?
Jautājot par lietām	What did you do yesterday? Which days do you work from home?
Izmanto What , ja ir daudz iespējamo variantu	What are you going to have for lunch?
Izmanto Which , kad piedāvā izvēli, variantus	Which is your favourite day of the week?
Jautājot par tipu/ stilu/ žanru	What kind/ sort/ type of music do you like?
Kombinē What vai Which + lietvārds	What date is the next conference? (jo ir daudz variantu) Which platform does the train leave from? (jo ir ierobežots variantu skaits)
Var kombinēt Which + one, ja jautā par zināmu lietu	Which one do you like, the green or the red?
Jautājot par iemeslu	Why was he late?
Jautājot par vietu	Where is your office?
Jautājot par laiku	When is your birthday? What time does the meeting start?
Jautājot par veidu, manieri (kā)	How do you usually get to work? How are you?
Izmanto How much + neskaitāmais lietvārds (bez daudzskaitļa galotnes)	How much time does it take to do one task? How much coffee do you drink?
Jautājot par cenu	How much does it cost?
Izmanto How many + skaitāmais lietvārds (dauzskaitļa formā) Jautājot par skaitu	How many participants are there in your group? How many times have you been there? (reizes)
Jautājot, cik bieži	How often do you check your phone?
Jautājot par attālumu	How far is your office from here?
Jautājot "Cik ilgi?"	How long does it take you to get here? How much time does it take to do one task?
Kombinē How + īpašības vārds	How old is your car? How tall are you?

How long vs. How much time

How long sounds more natural for English speakers:

- How long will you be at the meeting?
- How long have you lived in Riga?

You can use **how much time** if you are asking about shorter, more exact time:

- How much time does it take to cook rice?
- How much time will it take you to write the report?

~~How long time~~ – INCORRECT!