

# CLB 5/6



# Learn English Livestream Making Small Talk

Ian Shepherd

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# Outline

## Making Small Talk

- What is small talk? When do we use it? Why is it important?
- Good and bad topics for small talk
- Small talk tips
- Grammar point: Asking open-ended questions
- Expressions: Conversation starters
- Small talk demonstration



# What Is Small Talk?

**Small talk is light, easy conversation, usually about things that are not important.**

# When Do We Use It?

- With family and friends
- At work or a job interview
- Networking
- Social events
- School
- In the community
- On the phone





# Why Is It Important?

**Small talk is important for creating new relationships, and making relationships stronger.**



**“Big Relationships Are Built on Small Talk.”**

# Good Topics for Small Talk

Be Careful What You Say

- The weather
- Food
- Weekend/Evening Plans
- Travel/Vacation
- Family
- Work
- Entertainment
- Hobbies
- Interesting News
- Traffic

# Bad Topics for Small Talk

## Be Careful What You Say

- Complaining too much
- Talking only about ourselves
- Politics
- Religion
- Gossip
- Offensive jokes or statements
- Something that people can't relate to
- Death or illness
- Money or Personal finances
- Someone's appearance



# Small Talk Tips

- Ask open ended questions.
- Actively listen to the other person.
- Put away your phone.
- Show excitement.
- Make the other person comfortable.
- Open up... a little.
- Don't ask for something right away.



# Grammar Point: Asking Open Ended Questions

Open-ended questions are questions that don't have yes/no answers.

Question Word + (Helping Verb) + Subject + (Verb)

*Where were you born?*

*What did you do last night?*

*Who is she?*

# Conversation Starters

## Get The Ball Rolling

- How's it going?
- What have you been up to?
- What's it doing out there?
- What are you watching these days?
- What are you up to this weekend?
- How's work going?
- Where are you going on vacation this year?

A stylized house icon with a triangular roof and a rectangular base, rendered in a light blue color. Above the house, there are several horizontal lines of varying lengths, suggesting rays of light or a sun. The entire graphic is centered on a solid blue background.

# Small Talk Demonstration

# Review

## Putting It All Together

- What is small talk and why is it important?
- What are the good and bad topics?
- What are some small talk tips?
- How do we ask open-ended questions?
- What are some conversation starters?



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