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KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

Student Preparation Resource • English in Action

YOUR GOAL
You do not need to memorize a conversation. Learn a few useful moves so you know what to do next when someone speaks to you.

Before Class: 5-Minute Preparation

Do this once before class. Keep it simple.

- Look at the Conversation Road below. Which road do you usually take: Dead End, Keep It Going, or Add & Connect?
- Read the useful expressions on the next page. Choose 2 reactions, 2 questions, and 2 connections that feel natural to you.
- Say your six expressions out loud once or twice. Focus on sounding interested, not perfect.
- Think of one simple real-life topic you could talk about: your weekend, food, work, family, a place you like, or something you want to learn.

IMPORTANT
Do NOT write a speech. Do NOT memorize answers. Do NOT translate every sentence. Come with ideas and useful words—the conversation will happen in class.



Look at the image and ask yourself: What makes a conversation stop? What helps it continue?

The Simple Pattern

REACT → ASK → CONNECT
REACT: Show that you heard the person.
ASK: Give the person something easy to answer.
CONNECT: Add a small piece of your own experience, opinion, or feeling.

1. REACT — Show Interest

USEFUL ENGLISH	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
Really?	shows interest	“I started a new job.” — “Really?”
Oh wow!	shows surprise or interest	“I ran five miles.” — “Oh wow!”
No way!	informal surprise	“I met him yesterday.” — “No way!”
That’s great!	positive reaction	“My sister is visiting.” — “That’s great!”
Oh no!	sympathy / concern	“I lost my phone.” — “Oh no!”
I get that.	shows understanding	“I’m tired after work.” — “I get that.”

2. ASK — Open the Door

USEFUL ENGLISH	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
What happened?	asks for the story	“It was a crazy day.” — “What happened?”
Why?	asks for a reason	“I don’t like flying.” — “Why?”
How was it?	asks about an experience	“I went to New York.” — “How was it?”
What did you do?	asks for details	“I had the day off.” — “What did you do?”

When did you start?	asks about time	“I’m learning French.” — “When did you start?”
What about you?	sends the conversation back	“I love mornings. What about you?”

3. CONNECT — Add a Piece of You

USEFUL ENGLISH	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
Me too!	shares something in common	“I love coffee.” — “Me too!”
That happened to me once.	connects with a similar experience	“I missed my flight.” — “That happened to me once.”
I love that too.	shares a preference	“I love the beach.” — “I love that too.”
I’ve never done that, but…	connects even without same experience	“I went camping.” — “I’ve never done that, but I’d like to.”
It’s similar to my experience.	compares experiences	“My first day was stressful.” — “It’s similar to my experience.”
That reminds me of…	introduces a related story	“We got lost downtown.” — “That reminds me of my trip to Miami.”

Vocabulary You May Hear in Class

USEFUL ENGLISH	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
keep it going	continue something	“Ask a question to keep it going.”
dead end	a point where something cannot continue	“‘Okay’ can create a conversational dead end.”
follow-up question	a question based on what someone just said	“How was it?” is a follow-up question.
connect	relate what someone says to yourself	“I love that too” helps you connect.
react	show a response or feeling	React first: “Oh wow!”
detail	a small piece of information	Add one detail to your answer.
experience	something that happened to you	Share a short experience.
in common	shared by two or more people	“We both love cooking. We have that in common.”
keep a conversation alive	help a conversation continue	Questions keep a conversation alive.
add one more	give one extra detail, reason, example, or question	Don’t stop at “yes”—add one more.

The +1 Habit

DON’T STOP TOO EARLY

Question: “Do you like cooking?”

Too short: “Yes.”

Better: “Yes. I cook with my wife on Sundays.”

Even better: “Yes. I cook with my wife on Sundays. What about you?”

Try It Before Class

You do NOT need to write full answers. Just think of one possible next move.

Someone says: “I had a terrible morning.”
Your REACTION: _____

Someone says: “I’m learning how to cook.”
Your QUESTION: _____

Someone says: “I love going to the beach.”
Your CONNECTION: _____

Someone says: “I want to travel next year.”
Your next move: _____

Natural Conversation Example

NOTICE THE MOVEMENT

A: “I went to Orlando last weekend.”
B: “Really? How was it?”
A: “It was fun, but I was exhausted.”
B: “I get that. I always get tired after a busy weekend. What did you do there?”
A: “I visited my family and we went out to eat.”

Notice: B did not use difficult English. B listened, reacted, asked, and connected.

Your Personal Mini Bank

CHOOSE — DON'T MEMORIZE
Pick expressions that sound like YOU. You only need a few. During class, you can use different ones.

My 2 favorite reactions

1. _____
2. _____

My 2 favorite follow-up questions

1. _____
2. _____

My 2 favorite ways to connect

1. _____
2. _____

One topic I can talk about

_____

Quick Reminder for Class

WHEN YOUR MIND GOES BLANK
You do not need a perfect sentence.

Choose ONE:
- REACT — "Really?"
- ASK — "What happened?"
- CONNECT — "That happened to me too."

Then listen to what comes next.

Small choices. Bigger conversations.

No necesitas aprender más inglés. Necesitas Inglés en Acción.