

Everyday Conversations

Hétköznapi beszédhelyzetek

UNIT 1 - Small Talk

Hogyan kezdeményezzünk beszélgetést?



Small Talk

Small talk is the kind of light, friendly conversation people use to connect with others in everyday situations. In this lesson, you will learn how to start a conversation, keep it going, and respond naturally in common social settings. You will practise useful expressions, typical topics, and polite ways to show interest. By the end of the lesson, you will feel more confident speaking with new people in English.



Mit is jelent a “small talk” kifejezés? A “small talk” kifejezéssel olyan rövid kis udvarias(kodó) beszélgetéseket illetünk, amelyek többnyire hétköznapi, lényegtelen témákról szólnak, többnyire olyan helyzetekben, amikor kínos a csönd, vagy meg akarunk ismerkedni valakivel, várakozunk valahol, a sulis/cég kávézójában, büféjében, stb. Nagyon sokszor az ilyen kis “lényegtelen” beszélgetéseket a legnehezebb elkezdeni, viszont ha nem vágysz bele, akkor nem fogsz soha gyakorolni, és folyamatosan beszélni!



Common small talk topics



Weather: a universal, low-risk way to start a conversation

Work or studies: general questions about someone's job or daily routine

Travel: recent trips, future plans, or experiences in different places

Hobbies and free time: sports, reading, cooking, or other interests

Current events (non-controversial): local events, cultural programs, exhibitions

Family and friends (lightly): general questions, not too personal

Food and restaurants: favourite dishes, new places to try

Entertainment: movies, series, music, books

Daily life: how the day is going, weekend plans

Surroundings: comments about the place you're both in (a conference, a café, a queue)



How's your day going so far?

It's such a nice day today, isn't it?

Have you been to this place before? I'm always impressed by the view here.

Do you come here often? What do you like most about this city?

I'm curious, what do you do for work or study?

Have you seen any good movies lately?

Do you have a favorite book you could recommend? What's your favorite way to relax on the weekend?

I love trying new foods. Do you have a favorite restaurant around here?

Are you into any sports or hobbies?

I heard about a concert coming up soon. Do you enjoy live music?

What's the last place you traveled to? Did you enjoy it?

Do you have any pets? I find animals very interesting.

How do you usually celebrate your birthday?

If you could learn any skill instantly, what would it be?

Are you more of a morning person or a night owl?

What's your favorite season and why?

Do you enjoy cooking or baking?

What's your go-to dish?

Do you like watching TV shows? Which one are you currently into?

Talking about the weather



Alison: Hi Ben, how are things?

Ben: Hi, I'm ok, just suffering from the heat.

Alison: It is stifling. I can't remember the last time we've had such a hot summer.

Ben: You're right. We couldn't survive without air conditioning.

Alison: So you have had it installed at home?

Ben: Yes, we live on the top floor so the heat was unbearable.

Alison: Glad to hear you're comfortable now.

Ben: Yes, it's much better now, but I am looking forward to going on holiday next week.

Alison: Where are you going?

Ben: To France.

Alison: Lucky you, have fun! Let's meet up for a coffee when you're back.

Ben: Good idea. See you around then.

to suffer from – szenvedni valamitől

stifling – fojtogató, fullasztó

to survive – túlélni valamit

to install – beszerezni valamit

unbearable – elviselhetetlen

to be glad – örülni valaminek

to look forward to – alig várni valamit

Lucky you! – De jó neked!

Talking about the weather



Tom: Wow, it's really coming down out there. Did you see how dark the sky got?

Lisa: Yeah, I thought we were gonna get a little rain, but this is crazy!

Tom: Right? It looked like it was just gonna sprinkle. Guess I should've brought an umbrella.

Lisa: Same here! I didn't expect this at all. I hope it clears up soon.

Tom: Me too! I've got plans to grill tonight. Can't do that in this weather!

Lisa: Oh no! What are you gonna do now?

Tom: Probably just move everything inside. Hopefully, it'll let up before dinner time.

Lisa: Fingers crossed! You need sunny skies for grilling. Plus, it's nice to eat outside.

Tom: Definitely! I love those summer evenings when it's warm and clear.

Lisa: Me too! Let's just hope for some good weather over the weekend.

Tom: Agreed! Going anywhere fun if it does stay nice?

Lisa: I'm thinking about hitting the beach with some friends. How about you?

Tom: If it's good, maybe a picnic in the park. Nothing beats that!

Lisa: Sounds perfect. Let's keep our eyes on that forecast then!

Talking about work



Mike: Hey there! How's it going?

Samantha: Not too bad, thanks. Just getting through another workday. What about you?

Mike: Same here. I just started at this new company last month. It's been quite a change.

Samantha: Oh really? What's the new job like?

Mike: It's pretty good so far. The people are nice, and the projects are interesting. I was worried at first, but everyone's been really welcoming.

Samantha: That's great to hear! I remember starting my current job. I felt so out of place until I got to know everyone.

Mike: Yeah, that awkward feeling is tough. So what do you do?

Samantha: I'm in sales. It can be challenging sometimes, but I enjoy the competition. What about you?

Mike: I'm in IT. A lot more behind the scenes stuff, but I like solving problems.

Samantha: Sounds like you've got a critical role. Do you get to work on any cool projects?

Mike: Some of them are pretty neat. Right now, we're working on improving our security systems. Keeps me busy for sure!

Samantha: Wow, that sounds important. I bet you learn a lot every day.

Mike: Definitely. There's always something new to tackle. And how about you? Any big sales goals coming up?

Samantha: Yeah, actually. We're hoping to hit a record this quarter. It'll take some teamwork, but I think we can pull it off.

Mike: Good luck with that! Teamwork makes all the difference.

Samantha: Thanks! And good luck with your projects too!

Mike: Appreciate it!

At a conference



Mark: Hi, I just wanted to tell you I found your presentation very interesting.

Georgina: Thank you. I'm glad you liked it.

Mark: I was wondering if I could have a copy of the table on cost-cutting in the Human Resource Department. I'm planning to introduce something similar in our company and it would be a great starting point. No problem, here you are. Which company do you work for?

Georgina: Sunshine Malt Factory. My name is Georgina Smith, by the way.

Mark: Nice to meet you, Georgina. So you are planning to modernize HR?

Georgina: Yes, and I really liked your practical advice on how to introduce these changes.

Mark: Why don't we discuss this in more detail over a coffee in a couple of minutes? I'll just pack up here.

Georgina: Great. Shall I get you an espresso or a cappuccino?

Mark: Espresso, please. Thank you.

to be glad – örülni valaminek

I was wondering – azon tűnődtem

cost-cutting – költségcsökkentés

to introduce – bevezetni

in more detail – részletesebben

At a conference



Maria: Do you mind if I borrow your newspaper? I had no time to buy one this morning.

Sam: There you are. I'm almost finished with it. I'll keep the sports pages if that's ok.

Maria: I was quite disappointed with the finals last night. Did you see the match?

Sam: Yes, what a shame. No wonder the referee has called it off.

Maria: When will they replay the match?

Sam: I'm not sure. Let's see if it's in the paper. Looks like it hasn't been decided yet.

Maria: They must play somewhere safe. Which stadium do you think would be suitable?

Sam: I'm not sure. Maybe somewhere in Scotland.

Maria: Yeah, too far for most supporters to go and make trouble.

Sam: Got to get off now. Nice talking to you. You can keep the paper.

Maria: Thanks. Have a nice day.

to borrow – kölcsönkérni

disappointed – csalódott

shame – szégyen

no wonder – nem csoda

referee – bíró

to call off something – lefújni valamit

supporter – szurkoló