



Small Talk

EN2106 – Communication Skills I

Level I - Semester 2

Small Talk

- Is a casual form of conversation
- Breaks the ice or the silence between people
- There are times that small talk is appropriate
- It is sometimes considered rude to say nothing when someone who makes small talk with you
- Ability to conduct small talk is considered a social skill
- People with different relationships make small talk but mostly it's made between people who do not know each other



Conversation Starters

- Talking about weather
 - ✓ It's too hot today, isn't it?
 - ✓ Can you believe all of this rain we've been having?
- Talking about current events
 - ✓ Did you listen to news today?
 - ✓ Did you hear about the hurricane at Trincomalee?
- At the office
 - ✓ Looking forward to the weekend?
 - ✓ What do you think of the new computers?



Conversation Starters...

- At a social event
 - ✓ Hi, I just love your saree! May I ask you where you got it?
 - ✓ Pretty nice place huh?
- Out for a walk
 - ✓ Those roses are so beautiful, aren't they?
 - ✓ Hello, nice day outside isn't it?
- Waiting somewhere
 - ✓ It looks like we are going to be here a while, huh?
 - ✓ How long have you been waiting?



Appropriate Subjects for Small Talk

- Sports
- Hobbies
- Weather
- Family (not private matters)
- Media (films, books, magazines, TV shows, etc.)
- Holidays
- Job (only general questions)
- Celebrities



Inappropriate Subjects for Small Talk

- Salary
- Age
- Politics (not unless you get to know the person better)
- Intimate Relationships
- Religion (tolerance is the key!)
- Death (we all face it but need not talk about it for the first time we meet someone)
- Sales (do not try to sell something to someone you have just met unless s/he is your customer)



The End.