

# BASIC CONVERSATION

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# Objectifs

## Learning Objectives

At the end of the lesson, you will be able to:

- Distinguish formal from informal dialogues/conversations;
- Do introductions and ask information about someone else.

Use present simple and Wh-questions in your daily speech.

Learning Activities: Dialogues, Listening and Grammar.

# Formal and Informal Conversation



## 1. Formal conversation. (In a formal context ; Professor/Students)

JAMES : Good morning Professor Austin, how are you doing ?

PROFESSOR AUSTIN : Good morning James. I am doing well. And you ?

JAMES : I'm great, thank you. This is my friend Emma. She is thinking about applying to this college. She has a few questions. Would you mind telling us about the process, please ?

PROFESSOR AUSTIN : Hello, Emma ! It's a pleasure to meet you.

Please stop by my office next week.

EMMA : It's a pleasure to meet you, professor. Thank you

so much for helping us.

PROFESSOR AUSTIN : Don't mention it. Hopefully, I will be able to answer your questions !

### NOTES AND RULES

Good morning :

Good afternoon :

Good evening

- The greetings : good morning/good afternoon/good evening are used at different moments of the day to greet people. Good morning (From 5 a.m until/till 11.59 am), Good afternoon (From 12 p.m until/till 4. 59 p.m), Good evening is generally used when the sun has set (From 5.00 p.m until/till 4.59 a.m).What does 'a.m' mean ? The abbreviation a.m is associated with the morning. It is derived from the Latin phrase ante meridiem, meaning "before midday". P.m means after midday. Remember that we use "too" (also) when the one to speak first has already given some information about himself/herself. eg Student A : I am fine and you ? Student B : I am fine too/Fine too.

- "Good night" is not a greeting. It is used when leaving a place or group of people. Thank you and good night /Good night and see you tomorrow

.

- "Don't mention it" is another way of saying " You are welcome." The phrase " You are welcome" is more formal. However, responses such as Don't mention it. / No problem/ Happy to help. are informal ways of responding to a thank you.

- Phrases such as I, we would like to know, ask...
  - / Would you,
  - please, like to
  - could you, please,... ?
  - are formal ways of making requests.
  - Eg : Could you please tell me where the teacher is ? In formal structures, we use all the components of well-constructed sentences : Subject+ Verb+ Object.
  - In a formal dialogue, use "Goodbye" when leaving each other or one another. Likewise, "You are welcome" to reply to "Thank you." You should never say : I am good, but I am well or I feel well. Only adverb such as well can qualify a verb.
  - "How do you do ?", in a formal context, equals to the french word "enchanté" when you meet someone for the first time. You reply "How do you do." "Nice to meet you" is another phrase that is used in both ; formal and informal context. We reply : "Nice to meet you too."
- A formal conversation ( greetings) is held in a formal context ; between authorities, between a boss/head and an employee ; between professors and students ; at hospital, at bank, between two unknown or unfamiliar individuals etc.

## 2. Informal Conversation

JANE : Hi, Helen ! How's it going ?

HELEN : Fine, thanks – and you ?

JANE : Just fine. Where are you off to ?

HELEN : To the library. I've got a history exam next week and need to start studying. Ugh.

JANE : Oh, no. Well, I'll see you later then. Good luck !

HELEN : Thanks. See you later.

NOTES :

- "Hi" is an informal way of saying "Hello." We also use "Hey".
- "How's it going ?" is an informal way of saying " How are you ?"
- "Where are you off to" is an informal way of saying "Where are you going.
- "Oh, no" is a way of saying "I sympathize with you" or "I understand you are not happy"
- "See you later" is an informal way of saying "goodbye."

—— Informal conversation (greetings) is usually held between two friends or two persons familiar to each other.

## 3. Exercice : conversation

Choose the correct element to fill in the gaps according to formal or informal greetings

Student : Good afternoon Professor JOHN !

Professor JOHN:  Yao.

.Student : How are you doing ?

Professor JOHN :  . And you ?

Student : I am wel. Thank you Professor for your courses.

Professor JOHN:  . Goodbye !

Student : Goodbye, Professor !

Exercise 2 : Here is a conversation between two friends, Aya and Ali. Fill in the gaps provided.

Aya : Hi, Ali !

Ali :

Aya : How's it going ?

Ali :  , and you ?

Aya :  . Thank you for your help !

Ali :

## 4. Phrases for Formal and Informal Conversations

Formal or informal	Greetings	Responses
Informal	Hi	Hello/hi
Formal	How are you doing ?	I'm doing well/Alright. How about you=and you ?)
Formal	How do you do ?	How do you do ?
Informal	What's up ?	Nothing much
Informal	Hello	Hi/hello
Formal	How are you ?	Very well, thank you. And you ?
Formal	Good Morning Afternoon/ Evening	Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening
Informal	Good to see you	Good to see you too.
Both (Formal and informal)	Nice to meet you	Nice to meet you too

# LISTENING COMPREHENSION

II

## 1. Exercice

Exercise: Among the following adverbs (related to present simple\_Story N°3), select/tick off/ the adverbs that do not sound in the video.

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Seldom
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Frequently
- ☐ Once
- ☐ Often
- ☐ generally

## 2. Exercice

Watch the video and select the wrong answer.(Yes or no questions).

1) Does the speaker's father build house ?

2) Does the speaker's mother teach Mathematics ?

3) Is the speaker a student?

4) Is present simple the major tense of the video ?

# LANGUAGE FUNCTION

III

## 1. Present Simple

Alex **drives** a taxi (He is a taxi driver)

Drive(s)/work(s)/do(es) is the **present simple**

I/we/you/they drive/work/do etc
---------------------------------

He/she/it drives/does etc.
----------------------------

**NOTE** : Verbs finished with ch, sh, x,s, o take (e) before (s) at third person in order to make easier the end pronunciation. He washes ; He goes. However, verbs end in (y) preceded by a consonant take (ies) at third person : He studies

**Sounds at the end of third person** : /s/, /z/, /iz/

/s/ : He takes, He eats, etc.

/z/ : He goes ; He continues ; He does, etc.

/iz/ : He catches ; He catches, He fixes, etc.

### Interrogative Forms

Do	I/we/we/you/They	work ?
Does	He/She/It	drive ?
		do ?

—Examine these structures (Questions and answers)

Do you work= Yes, I do

(Auxiliary (do/does)+ Subject+Verb= Yes+Subject+Auxiliary) : For short questions.

Do you go to hospital ?= No, I don't

(Auxiliary(do)+ Subject+Verb= No+Subject+Auxiliary (do)+not

### Negative Forms

I/we/you/They	do not (don't)	Work
He/She/It	does not (doesn't)	drive
		do



### The Use of Present Simple

- We use the present simple to talk about things in general. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something is true in general.

Eg : Nurses look after patients in hospitals.

Eg : The earth goes round the sun.

- We use the present simple to say how often we do things.

Eg : I get up at 8 o'clock every morning.

Eg : How often do you go to the cinema ?

—The following adverbs : **always, usually (or normally), sometimes, often, rarely,, never, generally** etc. are generally associated with Present simple.

## 2. Interrogative words

Interrogative words: (**What, Where, When, Which, Whose, How, How far, How often, How much** etc...)

Have a glance at the dialogue between Alicia and Nadia and read:

Where are you from?

What are you studying?

Interrogative words are parts of daily communication in English. They are both, determiners and pronouns. As determiners, they always come before nouns in interrogative sentences. On the contrary, they precede verbs, precisely auxiliary verbs namely be, have, do, can, will... as pronouns. Who and whom are always pronouns; they come before verbs in interrogative sentences.

— *We generally resort to the following structures when it comes to phrase questions :*

Interrogative words (used as <b>determiners</b> )	Interrogative words (used as <b>pronouns</b> )
Interrogative word + Noun+Auxiliary verb /Verb+Subject+the Remaining part of the sentence.	Interrogative word+Auxiliary verb /Verb+Subject+the remaining part of the sentence.

### Determiners

What films have you seen?

What films are on at the Rex?

### Pronouns

Where are you from?

Who(m) did you see?

### Expressing selection, belonging and quantification

#### Selection

Which doctor did you see? Which do you like better?

#### Belonging

Whose book is it? Whose is it?

### Quantification

How many children have they got? How many do you know?

How much money did you spend? How much did you spend?

*Some other question words* : How far... ?= distance ; How long.. ?= duration ; Why.. ?= cause ;

Where.. ?= location etc.

## 3. Exercice

EXERCISE: Match each interrogative word with the answer it relates to. Take into account the words or phrases **in bold** in the sentences

1) How long ?	a) He has got <b>two horses</b>
2) How many ?	b) My father lives <b>in Paris</b>
3) How ?	c) He stays in Abidjan <b>for two days</b>
4) Where ?	d) I usually go to school <b>on foot</b>
5) How much ?	e) It costs <b>2000 Fca</b>
6) Which ?	f) The book is <b>mine</b>
7) What ?	g) I prefer <b>the red hat, not the blue one</b>
8) Whose ?	h) He usually offers <b>cars</b>

Matching

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)