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Real Easy English

Socialising



This is a transcript of a spoken conversation and is not a word-for-word script.

Neil

Hello and welcome to Real Easy English, the podcast where we have real conversations in easy English to help you learn. I'm Neil.

Georgie

And I'm Georgie. You can now watch this podcast and find a worksheet to help you learn on our website, bbclearningenglish.com.

Neil

So, Georgie, how are you?

Georgie

I'm very tired, actually. I've had a lot of social plans lately. How about you?

Neil

Yeah. I'm fine. Social plans. That's interesting, because we're talking about friends today.

Georgie

Yes, we're talking about **socialising**, which means spending time with people for fun. So, Neil, do you like spending time with friends?

Neil

Yeah, I love spending time with my friends. If I don't see my friends very often, I feel a bit sad and lonely. So yeah, I really like seeing my friends, but I don't get to see them very often because, you know, we're grown ups and we have responsibilities.

Georgie

You have kids, you have lots of things going on. I also like spending time with my friends. I have lots of friends. As I said, I've had a lot of social plans lately. Pretty much every day I've been **socialising**.

Neil

Wow, so you like **socialising**, but do you like things like parties or do you prefer smaller social events?

Georgie

I do really like big parties, because I like meeting new people. I like dancing as well. So, at big parties, usually there's some music. But I do have a shy side of my personality, so usually a smaller event is better for me, so I can have kind of deeper conversations with fewer people. How about you?

Neil

Yeah. I don't really like, that situation where you're at a party and don't know lots of people. So a small group of people that I mainly know, and there's one or two people who I don't know so well, that's fine. But a bigger group with lots of people I don't know, I really don't like that.

Georgie

And why is that? Is that because you don't like **small talk**?

Neil

Yeah. I don't really like **small talk**. It feels a bit empty.

Georgie

Small talk is conversations about things that aren't important like the weather, usually with people that you don't know very well.

Neil

Yeah.

Georgie

And you don't like that?

Neil

No. I find it **awkward**.

So, Georgie, you like meeting new people? Do you feel **embarrassed** at all, or are you completely fine with that?

Georgie

I think it depends. I think if you find a topic quite quickly that you have **in common**, that avoids embarrassment. But it's when you meet someone new, you don't

know them very well, obviously, because they're new and you don't know what they like or don't like or what they think is rude or not rude. But if you can figure that out quite quickly, it's, yeah, it's usually OK. Do you usually feel quite **embarrassed** then?

Neil

Sometimes, like you said, it depends if you find something that you have **in common** and you can talk about that. But sometimes you don't find something **in common**, and then it's really I don't know, embarrassing, I suppose. I feel strange just thinking about it.

You, obviously you like parties, you like **socialising**. But do you like spending time alone?

Georgie

I get more energy from spending time alone and relaxing and not talking to anyone. I often get what I call social burnout, which means you just get exhausted from spending too much time with others. How about you?

Neil

Well, yeah. Spending time alone is also important, and I like to do that, but not so much. Not as much as maybe spending time with people. Because, like I said before, if I'm alone for too long, I get a bit lonely and feel a bit, I don't know, just lacking energy.

Let's recap the vocabulary we heard in this podcast, starting with **socialise**, which means to spend time with friends or other people to enjoy yourself.

Georgie

We had **small talk**, which is conversation about things which aren't important, such as the weather or the traffic. We use small talk a lot in the UK.

Neil

We heard some adjectives to describe how you might feel about meeting new people. So we had **embarrassed**, which means feeling ashamed or shy. And we also heard **awkward**, which means feeling uncomfortable when you're meeting new people.

Georgie

We also heard **in common**, so if you have something **in common** with someone, it means you share the same likes, dislikes, or interests with someone.

Neil

That's it for this episode of Real Easy English. Test what you've learned by downloading the free worksheet on our website, bbclearningenglish.com.

Georgie

Next time we'll be talking about brothers and sisters. See you then.

Neil

Bye.