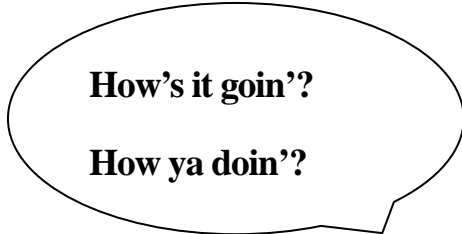


## Conversation Strategies 1

### 1. Openers

Here are some natural ways to open a conversation.



**Pretty good!**  
**Great!**  
**Terrific!**

**OKay**  
**All right**  
**Not bad**

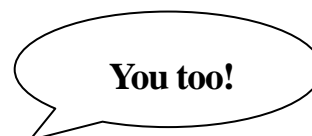
**Not so good!**

\*Let's practice with your partner.

Ask "How ya doin'?" five times. Your partner will use five different answers.

### 2. Closing

We need a way to end our conversations.



\*Let's practice with your partner.

Practice Openers again. This time, finish with "Nice talking with you!" "You too!"

### 3. Let Your Friend Talk

You can ask your partner the same question they asked you. Just say "How 'bout you?"

**How 'bout you?**

Example:

A: Hi! My name is Keiko Takahashi. I live in Motosu city.  
I like tap-dancing, trekking and traveling.

**How 'bout you?**

B: My name is .....

\*Let's practice with your partner.

## Conversation Strategies 2

### 1. Shadowing

Shadowing is repeating the important words that someone says. It's easy to do, and it will help you to speak more English quickly!

#### Complete Shadowing

Example:

- A: My name is Aya Yamada.  
B: **Your name is Aya Yamada.**  
A: I live in Gifu.  
B: **You live in Gifu.**  
A: I like dancing and traveling.  
B: **You like dancing and traveling.**

#### Partial Shadowing

Example:

- A: My name is Aya Yamada  
B: **Aya Yamada.**  
A: I live in Gifu.  
B: **Gifu.**  
A: I like dancing and traveling.  
B: **Dancing and traveling.**

#### Mixture of complete and partial shadowing

Example:

- A: My name is Aya Yamada  
B: **Your name is Aya Yamada.** (Complete shadowing)  
A: I live in Gifu.  
B: **Gifu.** (Partial shadowing)  
A: I like dancing and traveling.  
B: **You like dancing and traveling.**

<Let's practice with your partner>

- A: My name is .....
- B: \_\_\_\_\_ (shadowing)
- A: I live in .....
- B: \_\_\_\_\_ (shadowing)
- A: I like .....
- B: \_\_\_\_\_ (shadowing)

## Conversation Strategies 3

### 1. Ask to hear it again

**Pardon me?**

**Excuse me?**

Example:

A: Hi! My name is Aya. I'm from Gifu.

I like listening to music and XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

B: **Pardon me?**

A: I like listening to music and seeing movies.

\*Let's practice with your partner.

Put your hand over your mouth so that your partner can't hear you. Your partner will say "Pardon me?" Then speak again clearly.

### 2. Asking follow-up questions

**Why's that?**

**How come?**

**Who's that?**

Example:

A: My favorite sport is marathon.

B: **Why's that?**

A: Marathon is challenging.

A: I'm interested in football. My favorite player is Figo.

B: **Who's that?**

A: He is a famous player in Portugal. He's good at dribbling.

\* Let's practice with your partner.

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below and say it to your partner. Your partner will ask follow-up questions.

1. I want to try .....

[ sumo, golfing, bungee-jumping, skateboarding, snowboarding, scuba-diving, others ]

2. My favorite sports is .....

3. My favorite player is .....

My favorite singer is .....

## Conversation Strategies 4

### 1. AGREEING

(POSITIVE)  
**Me too!**

(NEGATIVE)  
**Me neither!**

Example: A: I like cookies and ice cream.  
B: Me too!

A: I don't like pork!  
B: Me neither!

\* Let's practice with your partner.

Fill in the blank to each of the sentences below. Then tell each sentence to your partner and practice your new Conversation Strategies.

1. I like \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I like \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I don't like \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I don't like \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. Showing Interest

You can say these words to react to what your partner says. These two phrases will make your conversation sound more natural.

**Oh, really?**

**Oh, yeah?**

**I see.**

Example:

A: I play badminton almost every day.  
B: **Oh, really?**

\* Let's practice with your partner.

Fill in the blank to each of the sentences below. Then tell each sentence to your partner and practice your new Conversation Strategies.

1. My favorite sport to watch is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In summer, I enjoy \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I (played / did / practiced) \_\_\_\_\_ when I was in junior high school.

## Conversation Strategies 5

### 1. Summarizing Comments

You can say “Sounds ...” after your friend finishes talking about something. It shows that you really understand and you’re interested.

**Sounds nice!**

**Sounds great!**

**Sounds fun!**

**Sounds exciting / interesting / healthy / cool / good / dangerous / peaceful / tiring / boring**

Example:

A: I enjoyed *bon* dancing all night in Gujo.

B: **Sounds fun!**

\*Let’s practice with your partner.

Tell the sentences below to your partner. Use “Sounds ....” when you hear your partner’s sentences.

1. How about going to Kyoto? There are many old temples.
2. How about going to Tokyo Disney Land?
3. How about trying skydiving in Arizona?
4. I’m going to Okinawa for the school trip.
5. I’m going snowboarding in “Ibi Kogen” tomorrow.

### 2. Having Time to Think When You Begin Talking

**Hmm....Let me see ....**

**Hmm... Let me think....**

Example:

A: What is the biggest festival in your town?

B: **Hmm ... Let me see....** Hakata Dontaku is held in early spring. It’s the biggest festival.

\*Let’s practice with your partner.

When your partner asks you questions below, use “Let me see” or ”Let me think” before you answer to have time to think before you answer.

1. What is the biggest festival in your town?
2. What kind of Japanese food do you like?

## Conversation Strategies 6

### 1. ASKING FOR AN EXPLANATION

#### What does that mean?

Example:

A: Spinach.

B: Spinach? What does that mean?

A: It's a green vegetable. Popeye eats it.

### 2. SEEING IF YOUR PARTNER UNDERSTANDS

#### Do you know what I mean?

### 3. SHOWING YOU UNDERSTAND

#### I know what you mean. / I see.

Example:

A: Spinach.

B: Spinach? What does that mean?

A: It's a green vegetable. Popeye eats it. Do you know what I mean?

B: I know what you mean. / I see.

#### **\*Let's practice with your partner**

Look at the words below. Practice explaining the meaning for each word. You can use gestures or examples, but use English only!!

rainbow

pregnant

thunder

sophomore

jet lag

aquarium

fireworks

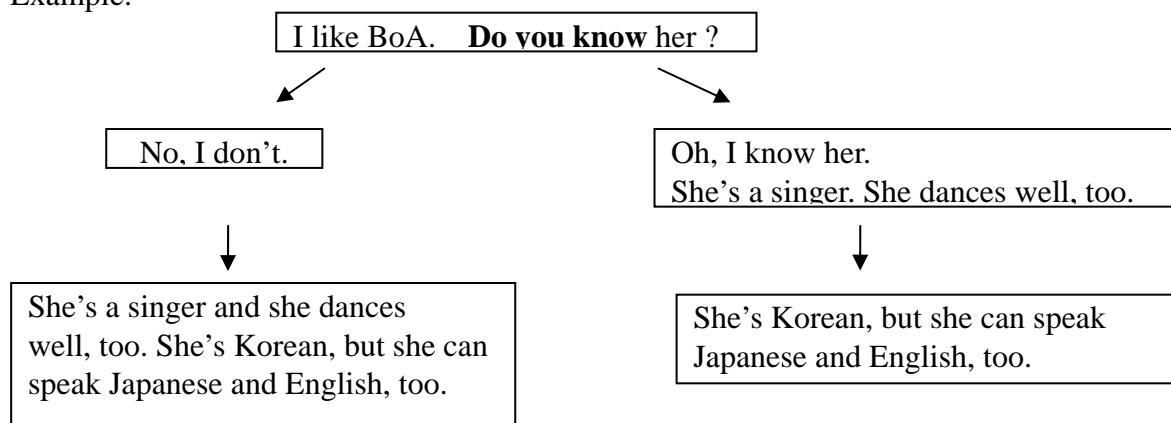
museum

## Conversation Strategies 7

### 1. Checking what your partner knows

#### Do you know.....?

Example:



\*Let's practice with your partner.

1. I like \_\_\_\_\_. Do you know him/ her/ it?
2. I don't like \_\_\_\_\_. Do you know him / her / it?

### 2. Asking follow-up questions

#### Who's that?

#### Why's that?

Example:

A: I like Yamato.

B: Oh, really? **Who's that?**

A: He is a member of "Orange range." I like his voice.

A: I really admire Yuta Tabuse.

B: **Why's that?**

A: He is only 173 centimeters tall, but he plays basketball very well.

< follow-up questions >

**what**

**who**

**why**

**where**

**when**

**how**

**What** does he/she do?

**What** is his/her nationality?

**What** do you like about him/her?

\*Let's make two follow-up questions with your partner. Then have a conversation.

1

2