

HOW TO MAKE SMALL TALK

Answers on page 77

Think about it When was the last time you went to a party? Whose party was it? Who did you talk to there? What did you talk about? Did you meet anyone new? What did you talk to them about? What did you eat or drink there?



In order to generate conversation, use question words such as *who, why, what, when* and *where*. And avoid asking too many *yes/no* questions (such as, *Do you live here?* / *Did you like it?* etc.) as they only required a one-word answer.

1 Pre-listening

Imagine you're at a party and you've just met someone. What can you talk about with them? Add at least three more items to the list.

the host, the food or drinks, the other guests, how you know the host, the weather, the house or flat where the party is, any mutual friends, the music...

2 Listening I

You're going to listen to a conversation between two people who have just met at a party. Listen once. Do they talk about any of the things you thought of for the Pre-listening activity?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, choose the correct answers.

- Who is Ellie's flatmate?
 - Steve
 - Jenny
- What is Jenny wearing?
 - a blue dress
 - a pair of red trousers
- Which company does Ellie work in?
 - Earnest Shapely
 - Brooks Productions
- What is Steve's profession? He's a/an...
 - accountant
 - teacher
- What does Steve do in his free time?
 - a bit of acting
 - a lot of cycling
- Where did Steve live once? In...
 - Hong Kong
 - Chicago



4 Useful language – making small talk

Complete the sentences with the correct words.

- You're Ellie, _____ you?
- How's it _____ ?
- You're a _____ of Sarah's, aren't you?
- I don't think I've _____ Jenny.
- So, do you two _____ together?
- She _____ jobs, so we aren't in the same company any more.
- So, which company _____ that?
- Do you get to _____ any famous people?
- So, what about you? What do you _____ ?
- Interesting. My aunt _____ there for a few years.
- It must have _____ amazing.
- I had to _____ the ferry to work.