English Self-Directed Learning Activities Language Learning Center 77-1005, Passport Rewards

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EC04. Talking with Strangers

EC04: Talki	ng with Strangers	
Student Name:	Student ID Number:	
Instructor:	Level: Date:	
	C ESL Tutoring website for Upper Level SDLAs. Find	 d
	ed from "Step Up 1: Listening, Speaking, and Critical Thinking s, Margaret Teske and Peggy Marcy.	g" with
Section	1: Introduction	
In the United States, some questions are considere questions should be avoided. If questions are not personal questions balance between too personal if you want to keep speaking to the person. Organize the questions as: A Too personal,	ersonal enough, the conversation will end quickly.	. Semi-
B Semi-Personal or C Not Personal Enough.		
Part 1: Type A, B or C next to each question 1. Are you married?	8. How much money do you make?	
2. It's really raining hard, isn't it?	9. Do you have a job? How's your job	going?
3. How much do you weigh?	10. What's your next class?	
4. Have you seen any good movies lately?	11. How old are you?	
5. How was your vacation?	12. How do you feel about the Preside	ent?
6. Are you mixed race?	13. What do you think of that basebal	I team?
7. What time is it?	14. Do you have any suggestions?	
Part 2: Compare the answers in Part 1 to your nat	ve language/home country. Which of the "too pe	ersonal"

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questions are okay to ask anyone in your native language/home country? What are some examples of questions you would only ask close friends or family in your native language/home country? Write your



answers in the space below.



Section 2: Ways to Keep Conversations Going

Talking to strangers can be scary. But with a little hard work, you will be prepared. You need to show the other person that you are friendly and interested in talking. There are good ways to do this and bad ways. One key is to ask questions so the conversation lasts longer.

Good Ways

- A. Ask semi-personal questions.
- B. Ask for the other person's opinion.
- C. Ask for an agreement. (For example, "What do you think?")
- D. Answer questions AND add more information.

Bad Ways/Conversation Killers

- E. Complain or make negative comments.
- F. If you don't show interest in the other person.
- G. Don't ask questions of the other person.
- H. Talk only about yourself (even if this is easy or comfortable).
- I. Give short or one-word answers to questions.

Reply with Agreement

Another way to extend a conversation is to respond with agreement. This helps you find "common ground" with each other. It is easier to keep talking when you have something in common. Here are some short expressions to show that you agree.

- J. I know (what you mean).
- K. I can see that.
- L. I agree with you (there or on that point).
- M. Exactly! You get it.
- N. That's really true.

- O. I guess so.
- P. I'm afraid you're right.
- Q. Yeah, I heard the same thing.
- R. I hope you're right.
- S. You hit the nail on the head.

<u>Listen to the conversation</u> for Section 2. Listen as many times as necessary. **First,** mark whether each conversation includes/ends with a good way or bad way to keep a conversation going. Think about how you feel when you hear the conversations. Would you want to keep talking to that person? **Then,** next to each conversation, write a letter from the lists above. If you think there are multiple bad ways or multiple good ways, write all the letters you think are involved. You will discuss these with your tutor. (Hints: Four conversations are "bad.").

	Good	Bad	Letter/Reason from Lists
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

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Language Learning Center 77-1005, Passport Rewards EC04. Talking with Strangers Section 3: Practice Extending Conversations Your goal is to make these conversations longer in good ways. Add at least an agreement and a question to keep each conversation going. You may use ideas from Sections 1 & 2. Or you may create your original ideas. Do not copy answers from Section 2 listening conversations. **Conversation 1** Person A: Hey, is that the book for this class? Person B: Yeah. It's really heavy and expensive. I think we'll have to work very hard, don't you think? Person A: **Conversation 2** Person A: Do you know anything about this professor? Person B: I heard that she is pretty hard. Person A: ______ **Conversation 3** Person A: Haven't I seen you at the Valley View Apartments? Do you live there? Person B: Yeah. I just moved in before this semester. Do you live there, too? Person A: ______ Person B: _____ **Conversation 4** Person A: Hi, haven't I seen you in another class today? Person B: ______

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Conversation 5

Person A: What's the name of the book for this class?
Person B:
Person A:
Person B:
Person A:

Section 4: What Did I Learn?

Complete this table BEFORE meeting with a tutor.

Communication Skill	I can't do	I can do this WITH help.	I can do this WITHOUT help.	I can TEACH this to a classmate.
I can identify questions that are "too personal" in the USA as compared to my language/country.				
I can ask a stranger a good question.				
I can keep a conversation going.				

Here are some words/phrases I need to practice.			

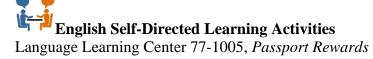
Good Job!

Now make an appointment

with a tutor on the LLC ESL Tutoring Website

(www.mtsac.edu/llc/passportrewards/llctutoring).





Section 5: Practice with a Tutor!

Meet with a tutor. Give this paper to the tutor. The tutor will review your work and talk with you.

Grading Rubric

Possible Points	Need Practice	Good Job	Excellent Work
	•••	•••	
	(0-1 Point)	(2-3 Points)	(4-5 Points)
Content	Not enough information	Provides most important	Provides all necessary
	provided in responses and	information in responses	information in responses
	often does not use correct	and some of the time uses	and most of the time uses
	vocabulary.	correct vocabulary.	correct vocabulary.
Skill: Speaking	More than 6 mistakes	Not more than 5 mistakes	Not more than 2 mistakes
	saying words; needs	saying words; needs	saying words; needs no
	guessing more than 3 times.	guessing on 1-2 words or sentences.	guess about meaning.
Oral Fluency	Speaks mostly in phrases,	Sometimes speaks in	Speaks in complete
•	individual words; many	complete sentences; several	sentences; a couple pauses
	pauses.	pauses.	okay.
Students must re	Leceive at least 10 points to move	∣ ve on	Possible Points:/ 1

^{*}Students must receive at least 10 points to move on

Tutor Comments:	
Congratulations! Keep going. You have successfully completed this SDLA and are ready to continue to the next.	☐ Work on this more. You have not yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that you complete it again.
Tutor Signature:	Date: