

HOW TO...

When you have a work - related social function, or even find yourself in an informal online group meeting, how do you engage conversationally with others in English?

What topics are suitable?

Here are some phrases for different situations:



MAKE 'SMALL TALK' IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS

Talking about your job/interests and other people's jobs/interests:

- **I've been working for/with** X (state company/colleague's name) **for** X years/months/length of time.
- **How long have you been working for/with** X?
- **I enjoy/love doing/playing/going to** X **when I have time/in my spare time. How about you?**
- **I've been doing/playing** X **for** (+ length of time) (but I'm still not great at it) (and I'm still improving!)
- **How often do you do/play/go to** X?
- **I'm missing doing/playing** X **at the moment. What do you miss?**

Talking about the local weather/your surroundings:

- **The weather has been** beautiful//awful//very warm//cold **here today/this week/recently. How is it there/where you are?**
- **Have you managed to get out in this** good//bad//sunny//rainy weather?
- **This part of the city/town/countryside is well-known for** X
- **What is your city/town/countryside famous for?**

Talking about current affairs:

- **Did you hear about** X **on the news? What do you think about it?**
- **I read/heard about/watched** X **on the news recently. I think it's** terrible//good news//very interesting//quite worrying//unbelievable!