

Discourse Strategies

(Unit 1, page 11)

Showing interest and surprise

A. Use these expressions to show interest and surprise at what your partner is saying. Showing interest and surprise will keep the conversation going. Practice saying each.

<u>Showing interest (rising intonation)</u>			<u>Showing surprise (falling intonation)</u>		
Oh?	Oh yeah?	Really?	No!	Wow!	Amazing!
Oh really?	Is that right?		Unbelievable!	Get out of here!	

B. **Pair Work.** Student A reads the first conversation below, and Student B shows interest or surprise. Change roles for the second conversation.

Conversation 1

A: I went to Fiji on vacation last year. It really changed my perspective on life.

B: (Show interest.)

A: Yeah, most of the native Fijians live together in small villages.

B: (Show interest.)

A: Yeah, and most of them don't work. Instead, they just sit around and talk most of the day.

B: (Show interest or surprise.)

A: It's true. They get fruit and vegetables from the village garden, and they get fish from the sea. They say they don't really need anything else.

B: (Show interest.)

A: So I decided to quit my job and move to Fiji.

B: (Show interest or surprise.)

A: But then I changed my mind.

B: (Show interest.)

A: Yeah, I decided I would miss my favorite TV shows too much.

B: (Show surprise.)

Conversation 2

B: There was a very strong earthquake a few years ago when I was living abroad.

A: (Show interest.)

B: Yeah, it happened in the middle of the night. I thought I was going to die.

A: (Show surprise.)

B: Yeah! The whole building shook and everything fell off the walls.

A: (Show interest or surprise.)

B: Yeah, it was pretty scary. All my furniture got knocked over, and everything fell out of the kitchen cabinets.

A: (Show interest or surprise.)

B: And I had an aquarium on the floor, and the water and fish hit the ceiling and came down on the other side of the room.

A: (Show surprise.)

B: I thought the building would break apart. You could actually hear the concrete and steel screaming as the building shook.

A: (Show surprise.)

B: Yeah. But then it was over. I'll never take mother nature for granted again.

C. Now practice showing interest and surprise as you do the Discussion Builder activities on page 11.