

### Unit 15 Small talk

#### Conversation strategies

##### Learn the expressions

**1 In this unit, we studied small talk: ways of having casual conversations about simple social topics. Let's now look at some common phrases and sentences that people use to start a conversation, give clarification, or end a conversation. Look at the sentences. Write them under the correct conversation strategies in the chart.**

Well, it's late. It was nice meeting you.

In other words,

As I was saying . . .

Sorry I have to rush off. See you later.

What I'm really saying is that . . .

To get back to what we were saying . . .

By the way . . .

I mean . . .

I'd better run. Good seeing you.

##### CONVERSATION STRATEGIES

Redirecting a conversation	Giving clarification	Ending a conversation

##### Answer Key

Redirecting a conversation:

As I was saying . . .

By the way . . .

To get back to what we were saying

Giving clarification:

In other words . . .

What I'm really saying is . . .

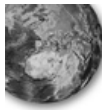
I mean . . .

Ending a conversation:

I'd better run. Good seeing you.

Sorry I have to rush off. See you later.

Well, it's late. It was nice meeting you.



### Use the expressions

**2 Complete the conversations with the phrases and sentences in the box. More than one answer is possible in some cases, but you should use each expression once.**

Well, it's late. It was nice meeting you.	In other words,	As I was saying . . .
Sorry I have to rush off. See you later.	What I'm really saying is that . . .	
To get back to what we were saying . . .	By the way . . .	
I'd better run. Good seeing you.	I mean . . .	

- A: I think we should start a marketing campaign in Brazil as soon as possible.  
 B: Brazil! I went there for my honeymoon. Beautiful, isn't it?  
 A: Yes, it sure is. \_\_\_\_\_, we should call our office in Brazil and see what they think.
- A: Dan said that Margaret is going to be really busy on Tuesday and it might not be a good idea for you to call her. \_\_\_\_\_, it's better to call her after Tuesday.  
 A: OK. Thanks for telling me.
- A: \_\_\_\_\_  
 B: I have to go, too. See you soon.
- A: I'm confused. Are you saying that we won't be hiring a new manager?  
 B: Not exactly. \_\_\_\_\_ that we can't hire anyone now. We have to wait until January.
- A: So what else is new with you?  
 B: Not much. \_\_\_\_\_  
 A: Bye.
- A: I've found a couple of cool music Websites today.  
 B: \_\_\_\_\_, did you read my email about those books I need to borrow from you?  
 A: Yes. Not a problem. I'll bring them tomorrow.
- A: \_\_\_\_\_.  
 B: Same here. Take care.
- A: Tommy, I'm not very happy about your report card, especially the D in math.  
 B: So, am I in trouble? Are you going to punish me?  
 A: \_\_\_\_\_ you must be responsible and work harder.
- A: We should paint the living room this weekend. We've been putting it off for too long.  
 B: You won't believe this, but Michael called me this morning. And guess what? He's getting married in June!  
 A: Wow, that's a surprise! But anyway, \_\_\_\_\_, what do you think about painting the living room this Saturday?

### Make the expressions your own

**3 Role play: create a conversation in which you use one of each of the conversation strategies you have just practiced: redirect a conversation, give clarification, and end a conversation.**