

### 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.  
As I was saying . . .  
What I'm really saying is that . . .  
By the way . . .  
I'd better run. Good seeing you.

In other words,  
Sorry I have to rush off. See you later.  
To get back to what we were saying . . .  
I mean . . .

##### CONVERSATION STRATEGIES

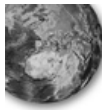
| Redirecting a conversation | Giving clarification | Ending a conversation |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
|                            |                      |                       |

**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.**