

Adapted from: Business Result, Upper-intermediate.
Student's Book. Duckworth and Turner. Page 14, 2012. OUP

STUDENT'S WORKSHEET

1. Speaking

When you meet someone you don't know, what do you talk about? Tell your partner...

2. Analysis and speaking

When you meet someone for the first time, it's important to make some *small talk*. Here are a few **tips** to help you get it right. Read them with your partner, give some examples and then decide which are the most important:

1. Break the ice with a comment about the weather.
2. Introduce yourself using a tagline.
3. Answer any questions, add more information and if appropriate ask another question.
4. Repeat key expressions/words and use sounds to show you are listening.
5. Use expressions to show your partner you are really interested in what they have to say.
6. Don't dominate the conversation, share it.
7. Don't be too negative or talk about personal issues.
8. Try and repeat the other person's name.
9. Use 'so' to show you are changing direction and 'well' to introduce a comment or a piece of information.
10. When ending a conversation, use expressions that leave a positive impression and have some phrases to help you exit a conversation.

Read the two conversations below and compare them with the **tips** above. In your opinion, are both conversations successful? Tell your partner why or why not...

Conversation 1	Conversation 2
<p>Kirill: The weather's hot today isn't it? Manon: Yes, it's stifling. I can barely breathe! Kirill: By the way, I'm Kirill. Manon: Nice to meet you, I'm Manon. Where are you from? Kirill: I was born in Moscow, but I moved to Paris 5 years ago with my parents. Manon: You live in Paris? That's amazing! I live there too! Kirill: What a coincidence! Were you born there? Manon: Yes, I was, I've lived there my whole life. So, are you enjoying your stay in England? Kirill: Yes, very much, it's a shame I can't stay longer. Have you been anywhere interesting? Manon: As a matter of fact, I went to London yesterday. Kirill: You went to London? Did you go on the London Eye? Manon: Unfortunately, I didn't. Maybe next time. Kirill: Well, it's been lovely talking to you Manon. If you don't mind, I need to go and grab a drink from the shop. I'll catch you later. Manon: Yes, nice to meet you Kirill. Speak to you soon.</p>	<p>Adam: Brrrr! Isn't it bitter today? Veronica: Yes. Adam: I wish I had brought an extra jumper! Oh, I'm Adam. What's your name? Veronica: I'm Veronica from Spain. Adam: Pleased to meet you, Veronica. Are you enjoying your stay here? Veronica: Yes. Adam: That's good to hear. Veronica: But, it's so cold! I'm dreaming of hot weather. The think is Adrian, the cold makes me very depressed. I just can't be bothered to do anything. The problem with cold weather is that it gives me very dry skin on my hands and face. My mother has the same problem... Adam: Oh, I'm sorry about that. Listen Veronica, I must go. Catch you later.</p>

Re-read **Conversation 1** again and underline examples of the ten **tips**. Now role-play the dialogue in **Conversation 1**.

3. Speaking

You and your classmates are meeting each other for the first time. Mingle and stop to make *small talk* with someone.

Before you start! <i>Read the tips again and think about the following...</i>	Before you start! <i>Here are a few phrases to...</i>	
<p>Ice breaker</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Tagline</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Positive impression expression</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Exit phrase</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Show interest</p> <p>Really?</p> <p>I see.</p> <p>No way!</p> <p>That's interesting.</p> <p>What a coincidence!</p> <p>That's amazing</p>	<p>Keep the conversation moving</p> <p>So....</p> <p>Well...</p> <p>In fact...</p> <p>By the way...</p> <p>..... is that true?</p>

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TEACHER'S NOTES

1. Speaking

- Allow students to discuss the question in pairs or small groups.

2. Analysis and speaking

- Demonstrate. Giving examples for the ten **tips** may be conceptually difficult:

1. Break the ice with a comment about the weather. **"It's chilly today, isn't it?"**
2. Introduce yourself using a tagline. **"Hi, my name's"**
3. Answer any questions, add more information and if appropriate ask another question. **"Yes, I like watching football and ... is my favourite team. Do you like watching sport?"**
4. Repeat key expressions/words and use sounds to show you are listening. **"In London?", "At 9pm?", "uh-huh", "ahhh".**
5. Use expressions to show your partner you are really interested in what they have to say. **"Really?", "That's amazing!"**
6. Don't dominate the conversation, share it.
7. Don't be too negative or talk about personal issues. **"I feel ill", "I hate the food here".**
8. Try and repeat the other person's name.
9. Use 'so' to show you are changing direction and 'well' to introduce a comment or a piece of information. **"So, do you want to grab a coffee?", "Well, I won't be going outside in this weather".**
10. When ending a conversation, use expressions that leave a positive impression and have some phrases to help you exit a conversation. **"Well, it's been very nice talking to you", "Catch you later".**

- The numbers below refer to the **tips** above.

Conversation 1	Conversation 2
<p>Kirill: <u>The weather's hot today isn't it?</u> (1)</p> <p>Manon: <u>Yes, it's stifling. I can barely breathe!</u> (1) (3)</p> <p>Kirill: <u>By the way, I'm Kirill.</u> (2)</p> <p>Manon: <u>Nice to meet you, I'm Manon.</u> (2) <u>Where are you from?</u></p> <p>Kirill: <u>I was born in Moscow, but I moved to Paris 5 years ago with my parents.</u> (3)</p> <p>Manon: <u>You live in Paris?</u> (4) <u>That's amazing!</u> (5) <u>I live there too!</u></p> <p>Kirill: <u>What a coincidence!</u> (5) <u>Were you born there?</u></p> <p>Manon: <u>Yes, I was, I've lived there my whole life. So</u> (9), <u>are you enjoying your stay in England?</u> (3)</p> <p>Kirill: <u>Yes, very much, it's a shame I can't stay longer. Have you been anywhere interesting?</u> (3)</p> <p>Manon: <u>As a matter of fact, I went to London yesterday.</u> (3)</p> <p>Kirill: <u>You went to London?</u> (4) <u>Did you go on the London Eye?</u></p> <p>Manon: <u>Unfortunately, I didn't. Maybe next time.</u> (3)</p> <p>Kirill: <u>Well</u> (9), <u>it's been lovely talking to you</u> (10) <u>Manon.</u> (8) <u>If you don't mind, I need to go and grab a drink from the shop.</u> (10) <u>I'll catch you later.</u> (10)</p> <p>Manon: <u>Yes, nice to meet you Kirill.</u> (8) <u>Speak to you soon.</u> (10)</p>	<p>Adam: <u>Brrrr! Isn't it bitter today?</u> (1)</p> <p>Veronica: <u>Yes.</u> (3 – question has been answered but there is no development).</p> <p>Adam: <u>I wish I had brought an extra jumper! Oh, I'm Adam.</u> (2)</p> <p>Veronica: <u>What's your name?</u> (3)</p> <p>Veronica: <u>I'm Veronica from Spain.</u> (2)</p> <p>Adam: <u>Pleased to meet you, Veronica. Are you enjoying your stay here?</u> (3)</p> <p>Veronica: <u>Yes.</u> (3 – question has been answered but there is no development).</p> <p>Adam: <u>That's good to hear.</u></p> <p>Veronica: <u>But, it's so cold! I'm dreaming of hot weather. The think is Adrian</u> (8 – but she has got his name wrong!), <u>the cold makes me very depressed. I just can't be bothered to do anything. The problem with cold weather is that it gives me very dry skin on my hands and face. My mother has the same problem...</u> (6) (7)</p> <p>Adam: <u>Oh, I'm sorry about that. Listen Veronica, I must go. Catch you later.</u> (10)</p>

3. Speaking

- Students can use their own ideas, as well as phrases from the dialogue.

Before you start! <i>Read the tips again and think about the following...</i>	Before you start! <i>Here are a few phrases to...</i>	
<p>Ice breaker Example: ... It's a bit nippy today ...</p> <p>Tagline Example: ... I'm John Smith ...</p> <p>Positive impression expression Example: ... It's been lovely talking to you ...</p> <p>Exit phrase Example: ... Catch you later ...</p>	<p>Show interest Really? I see. No way! That's interesting. What a coincidence! That's amazing</p>	<p>Keep the conversation moving So.... Well... In fact... By the way... is that true?</p>

- During the speaking activity, make notes and give your learners some feedback.