



Подкаст «Small talk»

В этом выпуске подкаста преподаватель английского языка Роберт и основатель школы Windsor Юлия обсудят, что такое Small talk и как его вести.

Small talk – это короткий разговор о незначительных темах, который свойственен для западных людей.

В России диалог с незнакомым человеком зачастую касается вопроса, как пройти куда-либо:

- Excuse me, how to get to the red line?
- From here just go up the street two blocks, at the traffic light turn left, cross the street and the metro will be right in front of you.
- Thank you!
- You are welcome!

Как подобный диалог может выглядеть в Америке:

- Excuse me, how to get to the red line?
- The red line? No problem. From here just go up the street two blocks, at the traffic light turn left, cross the street and the metro will be right in front of you. Is this your first time in Moscow?
- Yes, it is.
- Are you here on holiday or business?
- I'm here for pleasure.
- Great, I hope you really enjoy your stay. Have a good time!
- Thank you very much.

В подобном диалоге важно вежливо и дружелюбно поинтересоваться, как человек попал сюда, и поговорить на другие незначительные темы.

Основные темы Small talk – спорт, погода, отдых, путешествия, искусство, хобби, новый сериал по ТВ, фильм, покупки, вкусная еда, пробки на дорогах или любые положительные новости.

Существует два подхода, как начать Small talk: задать ненавязчиво вопрос, узнать мнение о чем либо, также можно просто рассказать о своем мнении о спортивном матче или о погоде.

- The weather is really beautiful today!
- Absolutely beautiful!
- I can't wait to get outside.
- Me too.

Обмен любезностями, комплименты неотъемлемая часть Small talk.

- That's a really lovely scarf you have on. Where did you get it?
- My husband gave it to me for my birthday.
- So then you wouldn't know which shop he bought it in?
- No, but I'll ask him and if I run into you again I'll let you know.
- Thank you. That would be very nice. Thanks! Have a nice day!
- You too.

В Small talk важно соблюдать границу приличия. Недопустима следующая ситуация:

- That's a lovely scarf you have on. Wherever did you get it?
- My husband gave it to me for my birthday.
- So you wouldn't know where he bought it by any chance?
- No, sorry, but I'll ask him and if I run into you again I let you know.
- That would be great, but I could give you my phone number and you could call me later and let me know.

Обмениваться телефонными номерами с незнакомым человеком неприято и неприлично, так ты переходишь границу small talk.

Small talk можно также вести с друзьями и коллегами. Обычно это разговоры на общие темы: как провели уикенд, отпуск, как поживают ваши родители, как дела на работе и учебе.

- Julia hi! How are you? How was your holiday? Remind me where did you go?
- I've been to Italy.
- Oh, that's sounds wonderful. Whereabout? Did you go to Florence or..?
- No, I went to Rome.
- Oh Rome.. How was it?
- Well Rome is Rome. Beautiful as always
- That's sounds so great.
- Absolutely. And how is your mother doing?
- Oh, mum she is fine, you know. She had another birthday. We had a small gathering; she enjoyed her gifts. She says hello to you by the way.
- Thank you. Please say hello to her too.
- I will. All right.

Такое общение с коллегами естественно в международной компании, где могут работать представители разных культур.

Однако есть темы, которые не принято обсуждать. Это, в первую очередь, тема политики и религии. Таких тем, которые вызывают эмоциональные реакции и могут испортить настроение, вызвать спор, лучше избегать во время small talk.

Лексика на тему small talk:

Make small talk – вести small talk

Give compliments - говорить комплименты

Discuss the weather - обсуждать погоду

Discuss a football game - обсуждать футбольный матч

Discuss a new series or a new tv show – обсуждать новый сериал или шоу

Ask your opinion about something - узнать мнение

Small talk about the weather

How much snow has piled up! I want to make a snowman and throw snowballs, and you?

Buds on trees and flowers bloom. Spring is the best time of the year, isn't it?

In the evening, they promised a thunderstorm. Did you bring an umbrella?

This is real summer heat. Is the temperature okay for you?

Oh, and it's hot! I'm dreaming of a cool mountain lake, and you?

So many yellow-red leaves on the sidewalk. Do you like autumn?

It's a lovely day, isn't it?

Do you like this weather?

According to the forecasts, clear (rainy, hot, cold) days are expected...

What time of year do you prefer?

Small talk about travel

We went to St. Petersburg for the weekend – an amazing experience, have you ever been there?

It's hard to decide where to spend your summer vacation. What will you choose?

In winter, I like to relax by the sea for a week. What destinations have you chosen?

Do you prefer a family vacation or traveling with a large company?

What is more attractive – relaxation on the beach or hiking trails?

Imagine: there is an opportunity to go on any journey you wish, what would you choose?

What was the most amazing trip/journey/holiday/vacation of your life?

Small talk about food

I don't know what to take to work other than sandwiches... Who has any ideas?

The most original snack – small boiled cucumbers, I had a chance to try in Tunisia. What was the most unusual thing you have tasted?

Which country's cuisine do you like the most?

Are there any products that you categorically reject?

What kind of food do you prefer?

Small talk for office

It's been a busy week, hasn't it?

Who would have thought that there would be an urgent job on Friday afternoon?

Today is particularly noisy and fussy. Don't you think so?

Are you happy with the new powerful service computers?

Office cacti do not bloom. Do you know if plants really like tea leaves? A cup of coffee would be very useful, don't you think?

Where did you decide to spend the weekend (celebrate the New Year, celebrate Christmas...)? Did

you get a job in your specialty right after graduation?

If you were to go back in time, which line of work would you prefer?

What do you particularly like about your work?

What is the best advice regarding career advancement you have received?

How is the report progressing?

Small talk about hobbies

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm a book-lover, so I always read something when I get some free time

What kind of music do you like?

I am learning to play the guitar.

I dedicate all my spare time to self-education

I'm a photographer and when I have free time I hone my skills

I do like cycling, weather permitting

Are you into movies?

Are you keen on sports?

I'm interested in football. So am I

Have you seen the latest episode of Game of Thrones? What did you think about it?

Every weekend I play paintball with my friends

I can't imagine my life without horse riding

I'm really into winter sports. I can't wait to go skiing

I'm not a fan of computer games, but there's one I'm hooked on.

How long have you played the violin?