



4 Opening a Conversation

The aim of this lesson is to make the students use the key vocabulary and target expressions in a more natural manner.

Language Point

Actually, hold on a second...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actually, just a second/ minute/ moment... - Actually, one second/ minute/ moment... - Actually, wait a second/ minute/ moment... 	 
I'm in!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sure! - Why not? - Absolutely! 	
Thanks for coming down.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I appreciate your coming. 	
I might take you up on that.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I might just do that. - That would be great, - I'd love to. 	

Key vocabulary

icebreaker	venue	in action	great city
get to	just might	call over	miss

Part 1

I. INTRODUCTION

Opening a conversation can be difficult. It is necessary to know how to **break the ice** to **get the conversation off to a good start**. Once it gets going, all else will follow.



II. PRESENTATION

A. Expressions

	Questions:
Thanks for coming down.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ In your opinion, when is it appropriate for a stranger to approach you and strike up a conversation?
I might take you up on that.	

- | | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What would make you accept an offer from a stranger? |
|--|--|

B. Dialogue

Practice the dialogue with your teacher.

Kazu: Excuse me, are you Jack? Jerry Abrahams told me to come out and see you in action. I'm Kazu.

Jack: Hey Kazu! Nice to meet you. Thanks for coming down.

Kazu: You play guitar really well.

Jack: That's nice of you to say. I appreciate that. Is it your first time to the club?

Kazu: Yes, it is. I just moved to New York a few weeks ago.

Jack: Welcome! Are you from China?

Kazu: No, I'm Japanese, from Tokyo.

Jack: Cool. I always wanted to go to Tokyo. I hear it's a great city.

Kazu: Yes, it's quite big and there are a lot of music venues as well. If you ever get to Tokyo, let me know and I'll give you a list of places you must see.

Jack: That's fantastic! I just might take you up on that. Actually, hold on a second, there's a friend I want you to meet. (Jack calls over Shane) Shane, meet Kazu. He just moved to New York from Tokyo. Didn't you live in Tokyo for a while?

Shane: Yes, I did, from 2014 to 2017. Nice to meet you, Kazu. I used to live in Meguro.

Kazu: Wow! Meguro! I'm from Shirokane. It's quite close.

Shane: That's cool! I miss Japan so much. Jack, how about a trip to Japan next year?

Jack: I'm in!

Q & A!



- Why is it difficult for some people to initiate a conversation? Why is it easy for others?
- What are some questions that one can ask when starting a conversation?
- Give some examples of effective ice breakers.

Part 2

III. PRACTICE

Use the newly learned vocabulary and expressions in the following practice exercises.

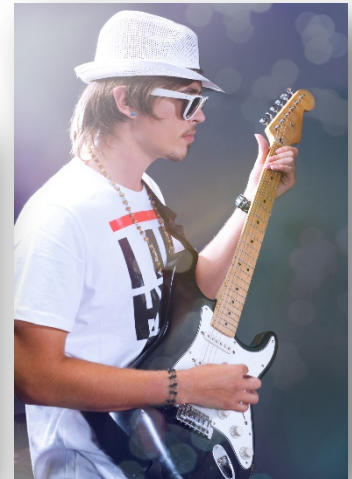
A. How would you strike up a conversation with these people?



Sally



John



Luke



George



Paulette



Kelly

B. Let's Talk!

Directions: Break the ice!

Discuss with your teacher how you break the ice with someone you do not know.

A. When can you use these topics of conversation to break the ice with someone?

- a. marital status
- a. politics
- b. the weather
- c. how much you hate parties like this
- d. your work
- e. how bad the food here is



B. You are invited by your boss to attend his 55th birthday. You arrive in a large hall with about 100 people in attendance. They all seem to be talking to each other in groups. You don't recognize anyone. What do you do?

- a. Go up to the smallest group, introduce yourself and ask if you can join them.
- b. Join the biggest group and just listen to the conversation. Maybe you can join in later.
- c. Find where the food is being served and strike up a conversation with someone in the queue.
- d. Walk around and pretend to be looking for someone.
- e. Go home.



Role-Play



You work as a creative photographer and you notice that your model is quite tense and uneasy. Talk to her and make her feel comfortable.

Use the vocabulary and expressions you have learned.