

Basic English Conversations
for
University Students

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Basic English Conversation for University Students

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Introduction

This book is written and designed for the growing adults and the advanced learners of English. As the name implies, its users are especially preferred to be those who want to achieve fluency with functional English and later an advanced level of spoken English. Spoken English, mainly in dialogues and discourse, is now generally said to be the ultimate end to almost every language course. Inevitably, to fulfill this largely adopted theory, a similar practical sense appears in this book as well. In this sense, which is central to independent language learning, which is self-study and less controlled language learning programs, basic conversations should be learnt for immediate use out of the classroom and especially for more complex usages of spoken language. Then, to this end, conversations can be very helpful and diverse for supplementary purposes. This collection, therefore, brings thematic content of conversations under functional titles to avoid misconceptions on the part of the students.

To the students

Even the advanced learners of English have probably noticed that there is a strong relation among the units of oral communication. This feature is rather universal and is not limited to English. However, at times, it becomes difficult for them to follow conversations in English. Students should know that language is mostly metaphorical and non-literal unlike the common written language such as texts given to them for graded readings. There are so many tricks to speaking a language and writing in a language that do not appear in your course books. As for the students, one aim of this book is to familiarize them with a variety of ways to basic conversations needed for early communications. Therefore, it is better for

2 General Functions

them to work the upcoming conversations with a teacher. They are also advised to bide their time, practice with a partner, note down their progress and report it to their English teachers.

To the teachers

Basic English conversations presents a multiplicity of techniques required to manipulate everyday conversations through different levels. It is for the advanced students of English and is designed to improve the communicative skills of students from false beginner and higher intermediate to advanced levels. But it may also be used by others for different oral practices. Any decision on how to use this book, and when to do so, is up to the teacher since its use is essentially, as suggested by the authors, for short periods of class work. Although an attempt has been made to approximate a natural tone, here, as you will see, the conversations may appear less authentic and a little artificial. So it is indeed, while it is perfectly natural, and it intends to create a balance between the level of the learners and the complexity of the input they receive. In the class room, these conversations provide extensive speaking practice with a topical, functional and situational focus. Moreover, it may be useful together with other books as the teacher may find and use other sources as well. The use of this book, however, should be carefully controlled as there might be also need for some adaptation which the teacher knows best. Another point, to be made clear to the teacher, is that the book is hardly more than a complement to the main course. In contrast with what it suggests, this adds to its advantages in that it is possible for the teacher to do multiple adaptations and give his all to the class. Also, the conversation sections are related to and under topics. This is to facilitate the job of teachers in knowing what they want to take from this book. They may review the contents and

extract those conversations that fit in with their course objectives. Finally, for the above-mentioned reasons, no exercise is given in this book to relieve the teacher from the stereotypical process of give and take with the students. However, it is assumed that producing related drills and exercises would be easy considering the class environment. It is hoped that Basic English Conversations will do well as a means of teaching elementary conversations in an EFL context.

Tips for the students:

Welcome to Basic English Conversations. As you use this book, please remember: It is much better for you to use it with other conversation books to get more ideas and topics. When you work with a partner, always remember to take turns as students A and student B. This will help you to make the most out of your conversation practices in the classroom. Sometimes, you may not know the meaning of some words and expressions that you hear in conversations. This happens often and you need not worry. But do not stop using English when you speak to your teacher and classmates. Always remember to ask your English teacher to show you how a word is pronounced. Here are some basic expressions that will be useful to you both in and outside of class.

I'm sorry. I don't understand.

How do you spell that?

Could you repeat?

May I ask a question?

What does ... mean?

Please speak more slowly.

How do you say ... in English?