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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/10/15

Forget apps, try speaking to someone. It's called conversation!

Today, we are going to talk about speaking. Do you remember how to speak? Sorry, am I interrupting a message you have just received on your mobile? Oh! You'd better look at it. It obviously takes priority over this speaking exercise!

Honestly – we need to reclaim the art of conversation. I mean, look around you. Half the people in the café, pub or bus are on their mobile phones sending messages to people they've probably never met. Why? Because it's easier to use an app on their mobile rather than talk to that *real* person sitting opposite them.

Put bluntly we are all in our own little world whilst using our mobiles. If you think about it, and please do, it's quite pathetic that people have forgotten the art of conversation. It's simply not trendy to talk anymore, but it is okay to send a message! I mean, gone are the days of spending hours on the blower, with your parents nagging you to 'get off the phone' (landline phone), as the telephone bill would be horrendous for them!

These days one has to keep up with rapid changes in technology and communication. Now it's all about apps, texting, emails, and Facebook; plus a host more other such apps.

Skype has helped transform how we talk to people. It makes it cheap and easier to chat, and you can now have video conversations with anyone around the world. It brings everyone so much closer together.

After this lesson though try to speak to someone and try not let your mobile interrupt your conversation. You might just rediscover the lost art of conversation that many of us these days have sadly consigned to the history bin.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

What is conversation? Think of three short face to face conversations you had recently. With whom did you have them? Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What is 'a message'?
- 2) What is an app?
- 3) What is a landline?
- 4) What does 'blower' mean?
- 5) What was horrendous and for who?

Student B questions

- 1) What is Facebook?
- 2) What is conversation?
- 3) What does 'a host of' mean?
- 4) What brings everyone 'so much closer together'?
- 5) What does 'obviously' and 'priority' mean?

Category: Lifestyle / Mobile Phones / Conversation
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can about **'Conversation'**. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Think of three ways you talk to someone by phone. Write them below. Which is easier? Why? Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Talk to your partner about anything. You have two minutes. Is this communicating time too long for you? Try not to use a mobile phone in between! **The class** can listen in to hear some no doubt hilarious results!

SPEAKING – FAST CONVERSATION 1

In pairs discuss from the following... *Change partners after one minute! 3 minutes.*

The weather / Your holiday / Autumn / Going to the seaside / Your favourite sport / What you did last weekend.

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) When did you last talk to your mother? How?
- 2) If you are at the dinner table having dinner and you get a message what do you do?
- 3) Do you use a mobile to send chat messages in the pub/café/bus?
- 4) Do you send many messages to your friends? Why?
- 5) Do you use Facebook? Why?
- 6) Have you met all these 'friends' on your Facebook page personally? Explain!
- 7) What makes a good conversation?
- 8) Why is the art of conversation dying?
- 9) How long do you spend on the blower?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Forget apps, try speaking to someone. It's called conversation.*

- 1) A student at school.
- 2) A teacher.
- 3) A boss in an office.
- 4) A broadcaster.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - *Student A* is a reporter. *Student B* is someone sending a message on their mobile when the reporter asks them about the art of lost conversation. *3 mins. The class can listen in!*

SPEAKING – FAST CONVERSATION 2

In pairs discuss from the following... *Change partners after one minute! 3 minutes.*

The last movie you saw / What you ate for lunch / What you saw on TV last night / What you saw on the way to school/work / A subject of your choice...

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

As a class. 5 mins.

Ten different ways to talk to someone

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Who pays your telephone bill?
- 2) Is it easier or cheaper to talk to your friends by app? Explain.
- 3) Why do you talk to strangers by app yet don't meet them in real life? Explain!
- 4) When did you last write a letter by hand?
- 5) Do you send sweet nothings on your mobile?
- 6) How long do you spend on Facebook each day?
- 7) Do you remember phone calls when you used to speak into a phone rather than just send messages?
- 8) Is the phone vital in your job? Explain!
- 9) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

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Today, we are going to talk about speaking. Do you remember how to speak? Sorry, am I interrupting a message you have just received on your mobile? Oh! You'd better look at it. It (1)___ takes (2)___ over this speaking exercise!

Honestly – we need to reclaim the art of conversation. I mean, look around you. Half the people in the café, pub or bus are on their mobile phones sending messages to people they've (3)___ never met. Why? Because it's easier to use an (4)___ on their (5)___ rather than talk to that *real* person sitting opposite them.

Put (6)___ we are all in our own little world whilst using our mobiles. If you think about it, and please do, it's quite (7)___ that people have forgotten the art of (8)___ . It's simply not trendy to talk anymore, but it is okay to send a message!

conversation / priority / mobile / pathetic / probably / obviously / bluntly / app

I mean, gone are the days of spending hours on the (1)___, with your parents nagging you to 'get off the phone' ((2)___ phone), as the telephone bill would be (3)___ for them!

These days one has to keep up with rapid changes in technology and (4)___ . Now it's all about apps, (5)___, emails, and Facebook; plus a host more other such apps. Skype has helped transform how we talk to people. It makes it cheap and easier to (6)___, and you can now have video conversations with anyone around the world. It brings everyone so much closer together.

After this lesson though try to speak to someone and try not let your mobile (7)___ your conversation. You might just rediscover the lost art of conversation that many of us these days have sadly consigned to the history (8)___.

bin / horrendous / landline / blower / communication / interrupt / texting / chat

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Forget apps, try speaking to someone. It's called conversation!

Today, we are going to talk about speaking. Do you remember how to speak? Sorry, am I interrupting a message you have (1)___ received on your mobile? Oh! You'd better look at it. It obviously takes priority (2)___ this speaking exercise!

Honestly – we need to reclaim the art of conversation. I mean, look around you. Half the people in the café, pub or bus are on (3)___ mobile phones sending messages to people they've probably never met. Why? (4)___ it's easier to use an app on their mobile (5)___ (6)___ talk to that *real* person sitting opposite them.

Put bluntly we are all in our own little world (7)___ using our mobiles. If you think about it, and please do, it's quite pathetic (8)___ people have forgotten the art of conversation. It's simply not trendy to talk anymore, but it is okay to send a message!

whilst / that / just / because / their / than / over / rather

(1)___ mean, gone are the days of spending hours on the blower, with your parents nagging (2)___ to 'get off the phone' (landline phone), (3)___ the telephone bill would be horrendous (4)___ them!

These days one has to keep up with rapid changes in technology and communication. Now it's all about apps, texting, emails, and Facebook; plus a host more other such apps. Skype has helped transform how (5)___ talk to people. It makes it cheap and easier to chat, and you can now have video conversations with anyone around the world. It brings everyone (6)___ much closer together.

After this lesson though try to speak to someone and try not let your mobile interrupt your conversation. You might just rediscover the lost art (7)___ conversation that many of (8)___ these days have sadly consigned to the history bin.

so / us / of / as / for / you / I / we

Forget apps, try speaking to someone... – 30th October 2015



GAP FILL: LISTENING

Forget apps, try speaking to someone. It's called conversation!

Today, we are going to _____. Do you remember how to speak? Sorry, am I interrupting a message you have just received on your mobile? Oh! You'd better look at it. It obviously takes priority over this speaking exercise!

Honestly – we need to reclaim the _____. I mean, look around you. Half the people in the café, pub, or bus are on their mobile phones sending messages to people they've _____. Why? Because it's easier to use an app on their mobile rather than talk to that *real* person sitting opposite them.

_____ all in our own little world whilst using our mobiles. If you think about it, and please do, it's _____ people have forgotten the art of conversation. It's simply not trendy to talk anymore, but it is okay to send a message! I mean, gone are the days of spending hours on the blower, with your parents nagging you to 'get off the phone' (landline phone), as the telephone bill would be _____!

These days one has to keep up with rapid changes in _____. Now it's all about apps, texting, emails, and Facebook; plus a host more other such apps.

Skype has helped transform how we talk to people. It makes it _____ chat, and you can now have video conversations with anyone around the world. It brings everyone so much closer together.

After this lesson _____ to someone and try not let your mobile interrupt your conversation. You might just rediscover the lost art of conversation that many of us these days have sadly consigned _____.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) In pairs – Choose five different apps you can use to 'talk' to someone with and five you use for chatting by SMS. Which is best? **The teacher** can select some students to hear their findings.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) I speak _____
- 2) Conversation _____
- 3) I chat _____

3) Write down 50 words about: *Forget apps, try speaking to someone. It's called conversation.* Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***Forget apps, try speaking to someone. It's called conversation.*** Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) bluntly
- 2) conversation
- 3) priority
- 4) remember
- 5) just
- 6) obviously
- 7) reclaim
- 8) why
- 9) rather
- 10) whilst

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) blower
- 12) anymore
- 13) simply
- 14) trendy
- 15) nagging
- 16) texting
- 17) communication
- 18) horrendous
- 19) though
- 20) rediscover

Forget apps, try speaking to someone... – 30th October 2015