

Keep Talking in English

Hi, everybody! I'm Georgiana, and this is Speak English Now Podcast.

My mission is to help you speak English fluently.

In this episode, I'm going to show **you how to keep talking in English.**

After that, we'll practice with a mini-story.

Remember, you can download the free transcript from my website.

You'll also find a short vocabulary section to help you review and remember the most important expressions.

Let's get started!

Many English learners have the same problem.

At the beginning, the conversation is fine.

They answer one question.

Maybe two.

And then it stops.

For example:

"Where are you from?"

"Spain."

"Do you live in Madrid?"

"Yes."

And then... silence.

Why does this happen?

Because many students think like this:

“I need more vocabulary.”

“I need better grammar.”

“I need better English.”

But that’s not true.

You do not need advanced English.

You do not need perfect grammar.

You do not need difficult words.

You only need a few simple tools.

Today, I’m going to give you five easy ways to keep talking in English.

1. Show interest

This is very important.

If you want a conversation to continue, **show interest**.

You can say:

“Really?”

“Oh, nice!”

“That’s interesting!”

“No way!”

“That sounds great!”

These expressions are short.

They are simple.

And they work very well.

For example, somebody says:

“I went to Scotland last summer.”

You can say:

“Oh, really? That’s interesting!”

Now the conversation feels alive.

But if you only say, “Aha...”

Well... the conversation may die a quick and painful death.

2. Ask one more question

This is a simple idea.

When the other person says something, ask one more question.

Just one.

For example:

“I have two children.”

“Oh, really? How old are they?”

“I work in a hospital.”

“Really? What do you do there?”

“I love Italian food.”

“Oh, nice! What’s your favorite dish?”

That’s all.

You do not need an amazing question.

You just need a simple question.

One more question keeps the conversation going.

3. Repeat a key word

This is a great trick.

The other person says something.

You repeat one key word.

Like this:

“I’m going to Japan next month.”

“Japan? Really?”

“I started a new job.”

“A new job?”

“I bought an electric bike.”

“An electric bike?”

Very easy.

This gives you time to think.

And it helps the other person continue.

Simple. Natural. Effective.

4. Use follow-up expressions

Some expressions help people talk more.

For example:

“What happened next?”

“How was it?”

“Why?”

“What do you mean?”

“And then?”

“Tell me more.”

Let's say someone says:

“I had a terrible day yesterday.”

You can say:

“Oh no. What happened?”

Or:

“Really? Tell me more.”

And now the conversation continues.

5. Share a little, then ask back

A conversation is like tennis.

One person speaks.

Then the other person speaks.

If you only say one word, the ball drops.

If you speak for ten minutes without stopping, that is not tennis. That is a speech.

So here is a good strategy:

Say something short about yourself.

Then ask back.

For example:

“I love coffee too. I usually drink two cups in the morning.

What about you?”

Or:

“Yes, I’ve been to London once. I loved it. Have you been there many times?”

This makes the conversation feel natural.

And friendly.

So let’s review:

Show interest.

Ask one more question.

Repeat a key word.

Use follow-up expressions.

Share a little, then ask back.

That’s it.

You do not need perfect English.

You just need curiosity.

And a few simple expressions.

Good conversations are not made with difficult words.

They are made with interest.

Okay! Let’s move on to the mini-story.

Mini-Story (Practice your speaking)

I’m going to tell you a story, and I’ll ask you many easy questions.

After each question, answer out loud. Then listen to my answer.

Speak quickly. Don’t worry about mistakes.

Let’s start!

Tom went to a language exchange in the city center.

Did Tom go to a hospital?

No, Tom didn’t go to a hospital. He went to a language exchange in the city center.

Did Tom go to a language exchange?

Yes, Tom went to a language exchange in the city center.

Did Tom go to the city center or to the moon?

Tom went to the city center. He didn't go to the moon.

Who went to a language exchange?

Tom. He went to a language exchange.

Tom wanted to meet people and practice his English.

Did Tom want to practice his Chinese?

No, Tom didn't want to practice his Chinese. He wanted to practice his English.

Did Tom want to meet people?

Yes, Tom wanted to meet people.

What did Tom want to practice?

Tom wanted to practice his English.

Did Tom want to sit alone and talk to a sandwich?

No, Tom didn't want to sit alone and talk to a sandwich. He wanted to meet people and practice English.

At first, Tom felt nervous. He only said, "Yes," "No," and "Maybe."

Did Tom feel confident at first?

No, Tom didn't feel confident at first. He felt nervous.

Did Tom speak in long, romantic sentences?

No, Tom didn't speak in long, romantic sentences. He only said, "Yes," "No," and "Maybe."

What did Tom say?

Tom said, "Yes," "No," and "Maybe."

Did Tom sound a little like a confused robot?

Yes, Tom sounded a little like a confused robot.

Then a woman named Emma started talking to him.

Did a penguin named Carlos start talking to him?

No, a penguin named Carlos didn't start talking to him. A woman named Emma started talking to him.

Was her name Emma?

Yes, her name was Emma.

Who started talking to Tom?

Emma started talking to Tom.

Did Emma run away after two seconds?

No, Emma didn't run away after two seconds. She started talking to Tom.

Emma said, "I'm from Ireland," and Tom said, "Ireland? Really?"

Did Emma say, "I'm from Italy"?

No, Emma didn't say she was from Italy. She said she was from Ireland.

Did Tom repeat the key word?

Yes, Tom repeated the key word. He said, "Ireland? Really?"

What country did Emma mention?

Emma mentioned Ireland.

Did Tom say, "Potato? Really?"

No, Tom didn't say, "Potato? Really?" He said, "Ireland? Really?"

Emma smiled and talked more about Dublin.

Did Emma get angry?

No, Emma didn't get angry. She smiled and talked more.

What city did Emma talk about?

She talked about Dublin.

Why did Emma talk more?

Emma talked more because Tom showed interest.

Did Emma start talking about her sixteen pet crocodiles?

No, no. She talked about Dublin.

Then Tom asked, "What's your favorite thing about living there?"

Did Tom ask a follow-up question?

Yes, Tom asked a follow-up question.

What did Tom ask?

He asked, "What's your favorite thing about living there?"

Was it a simple question?

Yes, it was a simple question.

Did Tom ask about nuclear physics and banana economics?

No, no. He asked a simple follow-up question.

Emma answered, "The people, the music, and the atmosphere."

Did Emma say, “The people, the music, and the atmosphere”?

Yes, said, “The people, the music, and the atmosphere.”

What did Emma mention?

She mentioned the people, the music, and the atmosphere.

Did she mention bad traffic and angry pigeons?

No, she didn't mention that. She mentioned the people, the music, and the atmosphere.

Did Tom now have more things to talk about?

Yes, Tom had more things to talk about.

Then Tom said, “That sounds great. I love live music too. What kind of music do you like?”

Did Tom share a little about himself?

Yes, Tom shared a little about himself.

Did Tom ask another question?

Yes, Tom asked another question.

Was Tom balancing the conversation?

Yes, Tom was balancing the conversation.

Did Tom suddenly jump onto the table and sing opera?

No, no. He didn't do that. He continued the conversation normally.

Ten minutes later, Tom was speaking more easily. He wasn't so nervous anymore.

Was Tom more relaxed ten minutes later?

Yes, Tom was more relaxed ten minutes later.

Was he speaking more easily?

Yes, he was speaking more easily.

How did Tom feel?

Tom felt better. He felt more comfortable.

At the end of the evening, Tom realized something important: he didn't need perfect English. He just needed curiosity and a few simple expressions.

Did Tom realize he needed perfect English?

No, Tom didn't realize he needed perfect English.

What did Tom really need?

Tom needed curiosity and a few simple expressions.

Did Tom need twenty-seven phrasal verbs, a British accent, and a gold dictionary?

No, Tom didn't need twenty-seven phrasal verbs, a British accent, and a gold dictionary. He needed curiosity and a few simple expressions. That's it!

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Useful expressions and words:

follow-up question = an extra question you ask to continue the conversation

key word = an important word from what someone just said

keep the conversation going = continue talking without letting the conversation stop

language exchange = a meeting where people practice speaking different languages

curiosity = the desire to know more

What do you mean? = a polite way to ask for clarification