

Keeping a conversation going

In this video, Noelia and Bob talk about Spain. Listen to the language they use for keeping a conversation going and practise saying the useful phrases.

Before watching

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the words to make phrases.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. What's | a. going? |
| 2. Let me | b. much. |
| 3. Nothing | c. new? |
| 4. How about | d. think. |
| 5. How's it | e. to ask you ... |
| 6. By the | f. you? |
| 7. I wanted | g. way, |
| 8. I know | h. what you mean. |

Tasks

Task 1

Write a number (1–6) to put the conversation topics in order.

- _____ Bob says he used to have a bar in Spain.
- _____ Noelia says that she misses living by the sea.
- _____ Bob asks Noelia where she's from in Spain.
- _____ Noelia asks Bob if he speaks Spanish.
- _____ Bob says it was his dog's birthday.
- _____ Noelia says that everything is fine with her.

Task 2

Match the replies (a–f) with the sentences (1–6).

Sentences

1. What's new?
2. How about you? How's it going?
3. Your dog's getting old then?
4. Where in Spain are you from?
5. I used to live in Spain.
6. Do you speak Spanish then?

Replies

- a. Great actually. All good.
- b. I guess so, but not as old as his owner!
- c. I'm from Santander.
- d. Let me think ... nothing much.
- e. No, not much.
- f. Really? I didn't know that!

Task 3

Choose the best reply.

1. So, what's new?
 - a. All good.
 - b. Not much!
 - c. Really?
2. What about you? How's it going?
 - a. Anyway ...
 - b. Great, thanks.
 - c. I'm going to Spain next month.
3. By the way, where in Peru are you from?
 - a. I'm from Cusco.
 - b. I didn't know that!
 - c. Yes, I am.
4. I miss the mountains.
 - a. I know what you mean.
 - b. Oh lovely.
 - c. Oh, nothing much.
5. I used to live in Peru.
 - a. I know what you mean.
 - b. Really? I didn't know that!
 - c. Yes, I did.
6. Do you speak Spanish?
 - a. Nothing much.
 - b. Wow!
 - c. Yes, I do.

Discussion

When was the last time you did someone a favour?

Transcript

Ana: Hi! I'm Ana. Welcome to *What to Say!*

Do you know what to say when you want to keep a conversation going? Listen out for useful language for keeping a conversation going. Then, we'll practise saying the new phrases – after this.

Noelia: Hi, Bob!

Bob: Oh, morning, Noelia.

Noelia: So, what's new?

Bob: New, hmm, let me think. Hmm ... Nothing much. Oh, hang on. My dog Bertie had his 14th birthday on Monday!

Noelia: Oh, he's getting old then?

Bob: I guess so ... but not as old as his owner.

Noelia: Haha ... er, anyway ...

Bob: How about you, Noelia? How's it going?

Noelia: Great, actually. Yeah ... all good.

Bob: By the way, I wanted to ask you, where in Spain are you from?

Noelia: I'm from Santander.

Bob: Oh, lovely. Wonderful to grow up near the sea.

Noelia: Yeah, it was perfect. Ah, I miss the sea.

Bob: I know what you mean. I used to live in Spain and I absolutely loved it.

Noelia: Really? I didn't know that, Bob!

Bob: Yeah, I had a little bar on the Costa Brava.

Noelia: Wow! So do you speak Spanish then?

Bob: Oh, not much. Ah, those were the days! Excuse me. *Perdona, Noelia. Tengo que irme. Me necesitan en el segundo piso. ¡Hasta pronto!* [Excuse me, Noelia. I've got to go. They need me on the second floor. See you soon!]

Noelia: Wow!

Ana: Hello again! Wow! Bob is full of surprises. So, did you notice the useful phrases used for keeping a conversation going? Listen to me and then repeat.

So, what's new?

Let me think ...

Nothing much.

Anyway ...

How about you, Noelia?

How's it going?

By the way, I wanted to ask you ...

I know what you mean.

Really? I didn't know that!

Ana: Try and use some of these phrases the next time you want to keep a conversation going in English. Bye for now!

Answers

Preparation task

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. f
5. a
6. g
7. e
8. h

Task 1

- 5 Bob says he used to have a bar in Spain.
- 4 Noelia says that she misses living by the sea.
- 3 Bob asks Noelia where she's from in Spain.
- 6 Noelia asks Bob if he speaks Spanish.
- 1 Bob says it was his dog's birthday.
- 2 Noelia says that everything is fine with her.

Task 2

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c
5. f
6. e

Task 3

1. b
2. b
3. a
4. a
5. b
6. c