

let's talk

A Book of Conversations

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—No, she's from [Leopoldville].

—Where is your wife now?

—She's still in Leopoldville.

She's living here with me.

2. —What's the name of your home town?

—[Nicosia].

—I'm sorry. I didn't understand. Will you spell it, please?

3. —What's your home town?

—My home town is [Nicosia].

—Where's that?

—It's in [Sicily] near [Catania].

—How far from [Catania]?

—About 25 miles.

About an hour by car.

4. —Where were you born?

—In [Lodz].

—Where's [Lodz]?

—It's in the northern part of Poland.

Here it is on the map.

In conversations five and six, people talk about where they are living.

5. —What section do you live in, [Mr. Smith]?

—I live in [Yorktown].

—What about you, [Mrs. Lee]?

—I live in Brookline.

I live in [Yorktown] too.

An adult is asking another about school.

14. —Do you go to school?
—Yes, I do.
—Do you go in the morning?
—No, I don't.
—When do you go?
—I go in the evening.

Two students are going to class together.

15. —Where are you going?
—To the English class.
—So am I. Let's go together.

art music economics physics chemistry

I am too. I'll walk with you.

Two students are talking about their school subjects.

16. —What subjects are you studying? I'm taking only two this term.
—I'm taking science, English, mathematics, and history.

A student asks another about his assignment.

17. —Did you do your [English] homework?
—Yes. But I didn't finish it./I found it difficult. Did you?

Two young people are talking about their teachers.

18. —How are you doing this semester? I heard that you have a nice English teacher.
—Yes, we all like her very much./I wasn't doing very well at the beginning, but she's been giving me extra help after school./I go three days a week from [1:30] to [2:30]. I'm improving in reading.

2. —I have new red shoes.

black blue white brown

I'd like to see them. May I?

—They're pretty.

3. —I like your suit.

coat hat dress scarf tie jacket sweater

—Thank you. It's new.

4. —Your [dress] is lovely.

—Thank you.

5. —Your [dress] is lovely. [Blue] is a good color for you.

—[Blue] is my favorite color. I'm glad you like it.

6. —[Jane's] [dress] is so pretty.

attractive lovely becoming

—I don't think so. [Black] is such a depressing color.

A friend would like to borrow an article of clothing.

7. —Do you have another handkerchief?

tie shirt jacket coat sweater scarf

—Yes, I do.

A child can't find his clean [underwear].

8. —Mother, where's my clean [underwear]?

—It's in the bottom drawer of the dresser.

top middle second

A person is having difficulty making a telephone call.

6. —Operator, I can't reach [OR 4-0940].

—I'll try it for you.

—Thank you.

— The telephone is out of order.

Here's your party.

Someone enters a store where there is a phone booth.

7 —Where's the phone book, please?

— In the phone booth at the back of the store.

I don't have one. I'm sorry.

A person has a problem getting telephone information.

8 —Would you get the number of [Smith] living on [Fourth Street]?

—There are many [Smiths] on [Fourth Street]. Do you have a first name?

—No, I don't.

— Well, I'm afraid I can't help you.

It's impossible to find it without a first name

Someone is trying to make a long-distance call (a call from one city to another).

9. —Long distance? I'd like to make a person-to-person call to [Thomas Jeffrey] in [Sacramento, California].

—Do you know the number?

—I'm sorry I don't.

— I'll get information. Please hold on.

You'll have to call information. The area code is 916.

—It's [\$9.98]. Do you think it's a good buy?

—I think so.

—I'll take it. I have [\$12.00]./I'll pay for the dress and still have enough for a pair of stockings and the hair spray that I need.

—Fine. Let's go to the cashier's desk./I have to get home early.

—Thanks for coming with me.

A young woman wishes to buy a |scarf| like her friend's. A salesgirl is helping her.

8. —May I help you, |miss|?

—I'd like a |scarf|.

—We have an excellent selection.

—A friend of mine has one which I like very much. She bought it here, I think.

—What does your friend's look like?

—It's |white| silk with a |blue| border.

—How about this one, |miss|?

—Yes, that's it. How much is it?

—|Four| dollars.

—And that one?

—|Four-fifty|.

—I didn't want to spend that much. Do you have something for less?

—Oh yes. This one costs |three-fifty|.

- Very dramatic and [she] was in excellent voice.
—Did you have any trouble getting tickets?
—The house was sold out [two] weeks ago, but I'm an Opera Club member.

dances and parties

Brief Conversational Exchanges

Most people like going to parties and giving parties. In conversations one through five, people talk about them.

1. —What did you do last night?
—I went dancing with [Jane].
2. —What time does the dance start tonight?
—At eight o'clock.

eight-thirty	nine	nine-thirty	ten
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3. —Sally went to a party yesterday.
—I hope she had a good time.

enjoyed herself	looked	pretty	got home early
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4. —Did you like the party?
—Yes, I enjoyed myself very much.
5. —I'm sorry you weren't able to come to the party.
—I'm sorry too, but I was ill on [Saturday].

Someone asks another if he plans to visit a fair.

3. —Are you going to the fair?

—Yes, I hope so.

—Could we go together?

A person is revisiting a place he had not seen for many years.

4. —Have you ever been here before?

—Yes, many, many years ago.

—Did you live here?

—Yes, for three years when I was a child.

Sustained Dialogues

A friend is telling another about a trip he plans to take.

1. —I'm going on a trip next week.

—That's nice. How long will you be away?

—About five days.

—Where are you going?

—To the capital.

the canyon the falls the riviera the mountains

Someone recommends the cathedral to a visitor from out of town.

2. —Have you visited the cathedral?

—No, not yet.

—You should go. The stained glass windows are beautiful.

—I know. Everyone says so. I hope to get there soon.

A friend invites a student to drive with him to another city.

3. —I'm driving up to [Buffalo] next weekend. Would you like to come with me?
—I'd rather go with you on your [Washington] trip.
—That's not until next [month]
—It's a date. Next weekend I have to [study for finals].
—Good luck on [the exams].
—Enjoy [Buffalo] and call me when you get back.

Two people are talking about a castle they are going to visit.

4. —The castle was built in [1425] and was the scene of many battles between the kings of [France] and [England].
—It was probably an excellent fortress, being on that steep hill.
—Yes, that's right. And when we go inside you'll see an unusual display of weapons.

coins furniture arms tapestries

Someone visits his home town with a friend.

5. —There's the town in the distance, and, if you look carefully, you can see the river and the valleys to the left of it.
—Is that where you were born?
—Yes. My father's farm is [three] miles from the town on the slopes of the valley.
—The landscape is beautiful here.
—Yes. I always like to come back./I used to come back every year.

2. —I like your Thanksgiving holiday.
—Why?
—Because you eat turkey and cranberry sauce and sweet potatoes.
3. —Today is a national holiday in my country.
—How do you celebrate it?
—Everyone dances in the street at night.
4. —What are you going to do during the Christmas vacation?
—I'm going to spend my time in the library. I have to write some essays.
5. —[Christmas] vacation is only [two] weeks away.
—I'm happy. I need a vacation. I feel quite tired.
6. —What are you doing?
—I'm making out my Christmas list.
—But Christmas isn't until December.
—I know but I want to start early so that I don't forget anyone.
—Aren't you going to write out your list?
—Yes, I guess I'd better.
7. —How do you celebrate the New Year?
—We eat special foods and exchange gifts.
8. —Have you ever been to a [Mardi Gras] festival?
—No. We don't celebrate [Mardi Gras].

- No, I don't.
—Why don't you like it?
—It's sad.
—Why is it sad?
—Because the dog dies.

Spiral Dialogues

1. —Is this your dog?
—Yes, it is.

—Is this your dog? She's very pretty.
—Do you like her?

—Is this really your dog? I like her. She's very pretty.
—Yes, I think she's pretty too. I'm happy you like her.

—Your dog is pretty. She looks friendly too. How old is she?
—She's [two years] old. She's very friendly. I think she's pretty, too.

—I think your dog is pretty. She's very friendly. Where did you get her?
—We bought her in a pet shop last week. She's only [two years] old. Do you want to [walk] with her?