UNIT 02. Talk is Cheap (Lesson1)

- Information collocations
- Indirect questions
- Discussion questions
- Review

1. Information collocations

(1) "say a word"

- He didn't **say a word** to me about my new haircut.
- I came to work when everybody had a day off that day. Nobody had **said a word** to me about it.

(2) "strictly speaking"

- **Strictly speaking** a tomato is a fruit, not a vegetable.
- You can only take one hour for your lunch break, **strictly speaking.**

(3) "get the message across"

- His loud voice and his serious tone really **got the message across**.
- We're going to need be creative to get the **message across**.

(4) "conflicting information"

- We're receiving **conflicting information** about who won the race.
- We'll have to make sure we don't get confused with **conflicting information** on this project.

2. Indirect questions

(1) Asking open questions politely

- **'could' or 'would' is added.**
- **Word order changes.**

Q: What time is it?

Q: **Could you tell** me what time it is?

Q: **Would you mind telling** me what time it is?

A: **No not at all.** It's half past 4.

(2) Asking closed questions politely

- 'could' or 'would' is added.
- Word order changes.
- 'If' is added.

Q: Is the train coming?
Q: **Could you tell me if** the train is coming?
Q: **Would you mind telling me if** the train is coming?
A: **Sure thing**. It's on the way.

(3) Practice indirect questions

A: "I'm almost finished with all of my homework!"
B: "Great! **I was wondering if** you will have time to help me do the laundry?"
A: "No way, that was my chore last week."

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A: "**I need to find out if** there was any homework from our last class."
B: "Oh sure. We had to read and respond to the essay on page 32."

3. Discussion questions

Q: When do you start conversations with people you don't know?

I know there's a lot of people who **don't say a word** to people they've never met before, but I might ask people **if** they **could** give me the time or **if** they **would mind** giving me directions.

Q: Why do you think people listen to gossip?

People know that it's not good to gossip, **strictly speaking**, especially since it usually causes **conflicting information** to go around, but other people's lives can really be fascinating to others.

Q: Is it important that employees hire graduates from prestigious universities?

A stranger asked me directly "Give me some money." I tried to politely refuse but they wouldn't listen so finally I had to be rude and simply told them to "Get lost" in order to **get the message across.**

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