UNIT 10. The Art of Conversation (Lesson1)

- Collocations about Conversation
- Showing that you're listening
- Discussion questions
- Review

1. Collocations about conversation

(1) Strike up conversation

- I have a lot of difficulty **striking up conversations** with strangers.
- **Striking up conversations** with strangers is fun especially when you're in a new place.

(2) Talk up

- I think he spent a lot of time **talking up** the program to make himself sound better.
- I often encourage my students by **talking** them **up** when I am proud of what they have achieved.

(3) Talk over / Talk through

- The boss wanted to **talk over** the details of the next project.
- They resolved their feelings by **talking** it **through** together which really helped their relationship.

(4) Take forever

- This bus ride is **taking forever!** At this speed, we won't be there until next year.
- It **takes ages** to fly to the U.S., I'd rather travel to somewhere closer.

(5) Conversation piece

- I love my new bag. It makes a great **conversation piece** whenever I go out.
- His new hair cut was quite unusual for him that it had become a **conversation piece** with his family and friends.

2. Showing that you're listening

(1) Intonation - Attention

- Showing that your listening.
- "I'm planning a trip overseas…"

-Right -Uh-huh
-Okay -Gotchya'

(2) Intonation - Surprise

- Showing that you're surprised.
- "I'm planning a trip overseas…"
  - You're planning a trip overseas?
  - Really?
  - I can't believe it!
  - You're kidding!

(3) Intonation - Interest

- Showing that you're mildly surprised or interested.
- "I'm planning a trip overseas…"
  - You're planning a trip overseas?
  - Really?
  - Oh yeah?
  - Is that right?

(4) Intonation - Sympathy

- Showing that you're sympathetic or disappointed.
- "I'm planning a trip overseas…"
  - You're planning a trip overseas?
  - That's too bad.
  - I'm sorry to hear that.
  - Oh dear.

(5) Intonation - Practice

- What is the right intonation to use?
- "I broke my finger playing football."
  - Surprise. - "You broke your finger?!"
  - Sympathy. - "Oh dear, that sucks."

- What is the right intonation to use?
- "I hate this kind of rainy weather."
  - Attention. - "Uh-huh."
  - Interest. - "Oh you don't like the rain?"

3. Discussion questions

Q: What do you own that makes a good conversation piece?

I have a little red handkerchief that I keep in my front pocket. It usually makes a good little **conversation piece** when I meet someone new. They sometimes immediately comment on the red pocket square. The accessory itself doesn't matter but it has been a reason for some people to **strike up a conversation** with me.

Q: Do you ever have conversations with people sitting next to you on the bus or the airplane?

Sometimes I **strike up a conversation** with people next to me on the airplane. But if they're not talkative and if it quickly becomes uncomfortable then the plane ride can feel like it **takes forever.**

Q: Would you consider yourself a talkative person?

I would consider myself to be a talkative person actually. I always like to **talk** things **over** with my colleagues, I love supporting the people around me by **talking** them **up** and improving their confidence. And of course if I have some kind of argument with someone I like to **talk** it **through** with them to resolve the issue.