

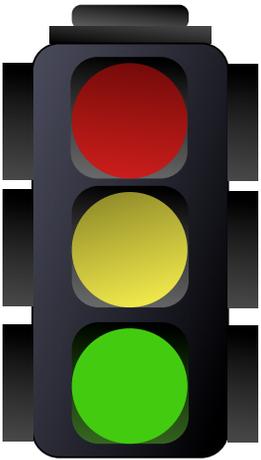
Starting and Stopping Conversations

Comment or Complain

- It's beautiful today.
- This rain is terrible.
- I see the Yankees won again.
- This train is moving *sooo* slowly!
- Have you been to the beach recently?

Compliment or Question

- I like your shoes, where did you get them?
- What's that you're eating? It smells great.
- Your hair looks great. Who does it?
- That's a nice blouse. Is it new?
- You're in great shape. Do you work out?



Practice: What could you say in these situations to start a conversation?

- You see someone with a cute dog. _____
- You see someone with a great shirt. _____
- You see someone with a large book. _____
- You are waiting for a bus. _____
- It's raining really hard. _____

Excuse yourself.

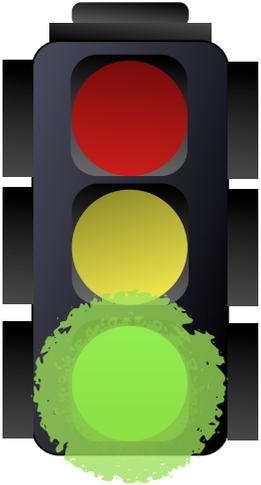
- Well, I'm sorry to go, but . . .
- I'm sorry to end this, but . . .
- It's getting late . . .
- Excuse me . . .
- I need to go now . . .

Give a reason.

- I have to meet some coworkers.
- I have to get back to work.
- I need to go now.
- my movie is starting soon.
- I want to continue reading.



Starting and Stopping Conversations



A: This rain is terrible, right?
B: Yeah. I'll be glad when it's done.
A: Do you know when it's going to stop?
B: No. But I hope it's soon. I want to go to the beach.
A: Me too! Do you know a good spot?
B: Yeah. Actually I go surfing a lot. I know a few good places.
A: Surfing? That's cool. I really want to try surfing.
B: Well why don't you come with us?
A: Really? Thanks! That sounds great!

A: Have you gone out recently?
B: Not really. I want to go out next Saturday.
A: That sounds great. I'm going to go to a BBQ next weekend.
B: Nice. I love barbecues. They're so much fun.
A: Yeah. Let's go together some time.
B: Okay. Well, excuse me but I have to go. My show is starting soon.
A: Alright. What are you going to watch?
B: It's a news show. Sorry, I've got to go. I don't want to be late.
A: See you!

A: One of my coworkers is always late. What do you think I should do?
B: Is it a serious problem?
A: Yeah. One of his customers complained.
B: Hmm. Maybe you should say something to your boss.
A: That sounds like a good idea.
B: Well, I'm sorry to end this but I have to get back to work.
A: No problem. Thanks for your time.
B: Of course. Have a great day.
A: You too.



Starting and Stopping Conversations

Starting conversations is easy *in the classroom*. Just give your students a topic and, they should be able to start a conversation based on their language usage level with phrases like:

What are you going to do this weekend?

What did you do yesterday?

Have you ever been to Hawaii?

But starting conversations outside the classroom or without the teacher there to help can be a little trickier for some students. This sheet offers some examples of statements used to start and end conversations.

How to use the worksheet.

I mostly use this sheet as a review sheet for after class. In class, I do the following.

1. Set up a few situations and elicit phrases from the students with correction where needed. Add your own phrases where needed.
2. Drill the phrases.
3. In small groups, have the students practice by starting conversations while offering correction. **(3-5 minutes.)**
4. When the time is nearly up, give a signal and have the students end their conversations.
5. Have the students switch to different groups and repeat.
6. Review the phrases before the class is done.