

Showing interest

- 1 (3.13) Read and listen to the dialogue. Why did Beth talk to the head teacher? Do you agree with Beth's opinion?



- Beth** Did I tell you about my meeting with the head teacher?
- May** No. Why did you see him?
- Beth** To protest against the plan to extend the staff car park. As far as we know, they're going to use some of the playing field area to make more space for the teachers to park their cars.
- May** Well, teachers need to park somewhere, don't they?
- Beth** Yes, but they shouldn't use the playing fields. Those facilities are important for students. It's just not acceptable to build on them. And that's what I told the head teacher.
- May** You didn't!
- Beth** Oh yes, I did. And he went on to say that if teachers couldn't get to work, then there wouldn't be any lessons for the students. And he asked me which I thought was more important – sports or lessons.
- May** So, what did you say to that?
- Beth** I said that obviously lessons were more important, but that he could do more to encourage teachers to come to school by bicycle.
- May** Well, you've got a point there, I suppose. If more teachers came to school by bicycle, it would set a good example for students.
- Beth** Exactly!

- 2 Read the dialogue again. How did Beth's original conversation with the head teacher go? Complete the conversation and practise with a partner.

Beth I'd like to discuss the issue of extending the car park with you.

Head Teacher Yes, what do you want to say?

Beth Well, in my opinion, Sir, you shouldn't use the playing field area ...

Head teacher 1 _____

Beth 2 _____

- 3 (3.14) Read the *Speaking tip*. Then listen and repeat the expressions used to show interest. Try to express interest in your voice by copying the intonation.

Speaking tip

During a conversation, it's important for the listener to show interest by using questions, or by empathizing with expressions like; *You didn't! Really? Exactly! That's amazing!*

- 4 (3.15) Listen to the three dialogues. Who or what are the speakers talking about in each dialogue?

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

- 5 (3.15) Listen to the dialogues again. In which of the dialogues 1–3 do these expressions appear? They may appear in more than one dialogue.

a You're kidding! _____

b You didn't! _____

c Really! _____

d Well, I'm not surprised. _____

e Oh, dear. That's terrible! _____

f Exactly! _____

- 6 Work in pairs. Prepare two mini anecdotes from the list of options below. Use expressions from exercise 3 to tell the anecdotes and to show interest. Take it in turns to be the main story teller.

a You met a famous singer in a café. What did he or she talk about?

b Your friend Annie won a lot of money in a competition and spent it all in a week. How did she do it?

c You have decided to study art history at university instead of engineering. What did your parents say?

d Your computer has crashed and you have lost all your school files and music. What are you going to do?

e You have had a conversation with your head teacher to ask permission to start a chess club after school. What did he think of the idea?

- 7 Act out your anecdotes to the class.