

Beginning and continuing conversations

- 1 (3.11) Read and listen to the dialogue. What are Dave and Simon planning to do together?

Dave Hi. I'm Dave. My friend Glen said I could join the match tonight.
Simon Oh, sure, I know Glen. He's not here yet. Anyway, welcome. My name's Simon.
Dave Nice to meet you.
Simon Nice to meet you, too.
Dave How long have you been playing rugby here?
Simon The Wednesday afternoon games? About the same amount of time as Glen. About three years.
Dave That's good. Do you follow international rugby?
Simon Yeah, I love it. Did you watch the match on TV last night?
Dave No, I missed it. But I heard it was brilliant.
Simon It really was.
Dave I really like that new team captain – Gregg. How about you?
Simon Actually, I was sorry to see Arnoldson go. I thought he was pretty good.
Dave Well, I guess he had his admirers.
Simon Brrrr. It's cold tonight, isn't it?
Dave Yeah. Should we get everyone together and start playing?
Simon Great idea!

- 2 Read the dialogue again. Answer the questions.

- What does Dave say to open the conversation?
- After introducing himself, what question does Dave ask to get the conversation going?
- What three additional questions are asked to keep the conversation going?
- What topic do Dave and Simon disagree about?
- What question does Simon ask to change the subject?

- 3 Match each description of a conversational question with the correct phrase or sentence.

- Make an observation using a tag question.
 - Ask if the person has seen something recently.
 - Ask about the amount of time that someone has been interested in something.
 - Suggest doing something.
 - Ask if the person is interested in something.
 - Express an opinion and ask for agreement or disagreement.
- a How long have you been ... ?
b Do you follow ... ?
c Did you watch ... ?
d I really like How about you?
e It's ... , isn't it?
f Should we ... ?

- 4 (3.12) Listen and repeat the questions.

- Did you see the news this morning about the man who found a lot of money?
- How long have you been learning to ride a motorcycle?
- It's really hot today, isn't it?
- Do you follow Formula One?
- What do you think about the new computer lab?
- Should we phone Glen and ask if he's coming?

- 5 (3.13) Listen to the dialogue. What are Claire and Ella about to do together?

- 6 (3.13) Write questions beginning with these words. Listen again to the dialogue and compare your questions with those in the dialogue.

- How long ... ?
- Do you listen ... ?
- Did you go ... ?
- I really like How ... ?
- It's pretty crowded ... ?

- 7 Work in pairs. Prepare a dialogue between two people who have just met at a club or sporting activity. Student A is new to the club or activity. Use expressions for starting and continuing conversations from the *Speaking tip* box.

Speaking tip

When you want to start a conversation with someone, you can introduce topics with these sentences:
How long have you been ... ?
Do you follow ... ?
Did you watch ... ?
I really like How about you?
It's ... , isn't it?
Should we ... ?

A

Introduce yourself

Ask B a question.

Answer the question.

Agree or disagree.

Suggest doing something.

B

Introduce yourself

Answer the question. Then ask A a question.

Express an opinion. Ask for agreement or disagreement.

Change the topic or make a comment about the weather or situation.

Agree.

- 8 Act out your dialogue to the class.