

This lesson is to help you to practise English by talking to people.

What are the typical topics we talk about? Put a tick () beside them.

Is it any different in your country?

Sport () politics () religion () weather ()

Holidays () crime () music ()

House () prices () food prices () health ()

Exercise One

General listening

We are going to hear three conversations. What are they talking about? Where are they taking place?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Exercise Two

Listen to dialogue 1 and answer these questions.

1. What is the weather like?
2. What is the weather going to be like at the weekend?
3. What is the name of the person who tells us about the weather?

These are all words we use when we talk about the weather.

Which words are about rain?

Put a circle around them. The first one is done for you.

Lashing close heavy **light** soft dry pouring
Freezing snow drizzle warm flooding

Can you say something you are looking forward to?

Exercise three

Listening Two

Listen again and answer the questions.

1. How long has the lady been waiting?
2. Why has she been waiting so long?
3. How does she describe this/
4. What does this mean? I'm on cloud nine
 - I'm very happy.
 - I'm dreaming
 - I feel ill.
5. What does this mean? It's raining cats and dogs
 - It's heavy rain
 - There's a rainbow
 - I feel ill.
6. What does this mean? Put something on the long finger
 - To get married
 - To not do something for a long time/put it off
 - To work hard

Which questions do you think are ok to ask a stranger (someone you don't know)?

- a. How old is your daughter?
- b. What's wrong with your daughter?
- c. Are you married?
- d. How much do you earn?
- e. Do you have children?
- f. Do you like shopping in Galway or Castlebar?
- g. Do you like pop music?

Exercise Five

Match these answers with these questions

- 1. How old is your daughter?
 - 2. It's awful warm today
 - 3. Bread is getting so expensive
 - 4. A lot of people are out of work, unemployment is high.
 - 5. Her boyfriend buys her flowers every Saturday
 - 6. The baby's asleep
 - 7. Did you hear that Jackie Chan is coming to Castlebar
 - 8. My teenage daughter had her tongue pierced.
-
- a. She's nearly two.
 - b. Really! I can't wait to see him.
 - c. Yuk. That sounds painful.
 - d. I know. I saw the news last night. It's terrible.
 - e. Yes, nearly two euros a loaf.
 - f. How romantic.
 - g. Thank goodness for that.
 - h. True, but it's better than the rain.

Exercise Six

Listening Three

1. What question does the barman ask?
 - a. What would you like?
 - b. What can I get you?
 - c. How can I help you?
2. What does the customer order?
 - a. a pint of Bulmer's, a glass of Guinness and a vodka and coke
 - b. a pint of Guinness, a pint of beer and a lemonade
 - c. a pint of Bulmer's, a pint of Guinness and a vodka and tonic
3. What snacks does the customer eat?
 - a. crisps
 - b. peanuts
 - c. nothing
 - d. crisps and peanuts
4. How much does it cost altogether?
 - a. €9.75
 - b. €10
 - c. €7.95
 - d. 25 cent

What do you think are the top 10 best selling drinks in Ireland? Listen to Mick – a barman in Byrnes, Castlebar who will tell you the correct answer. Write them down.

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

Exercise Seven

Grammar

In the doctors the woman asks

Question: How long have you been waiting?

Answer: I've been waiting for two hours

Do you know the name of this tense?

1. P _____ P _____ C _____

We use this to talk about things which began in the past and are still continuing or have only just finished.

We are going to look at some questions which ask how long?

Think of some possible answers to these questions.

2. How long have you been learning English

3. I've been _____ for

4. How long have you been living in Ireland.

5. I've been _____

6. How long have you been working in Tesco's

7. How long have you been waiting for a taxi?

8. How long have you been looking for a job?

9. How long has it been raining?

Exercise Eight

Changing your mind

Read this dialogue:

Waiter: What would you like?

Customer; I'd like a coffee.

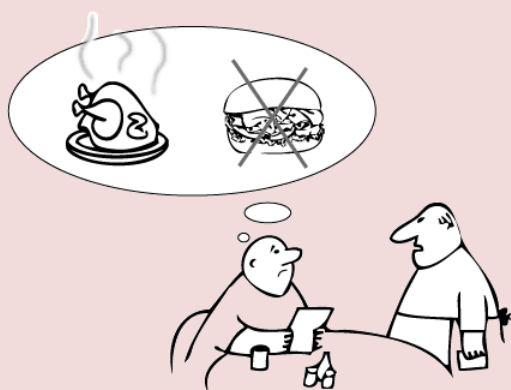
Waiter: Certainly. A coffee.

Customer: Oh. Sorry. I've changed my mind. I'd like a tea.

Waiter: No problem. A tea, Is that everything?

Customer: Yes. Thank you.

Make a dialogue using this picture.



Begin

Waiter Can I help you

Customer: Yes. I'd like.....

Waiter: Certainly. (*Repeat order*)

Customer: Oh, sorry.....

Waiter: No problem. (*Repeat order*) Is that everything?

Customer: Yes.....