Basic English Conversation

ı – Introductions

Conversation 1

Minami and David (an American) are at a party for new university students. Their university, Blue Sky University, is in Shizuoka. David decides to introduce himself to Minami.

David: Hello. Minami: Hello.

David: It's a nice party, isn't it?

Minami: Yes, it is.

David: <u>May I introduce myself?</u>

Minami: Sure.

David: My name is David. David Smith.

Minami: My name is Minami. Minami Sato. <u>It's nice to meet you.</u>

David: <u>It's nice to meet you, too.</u>
Minami: <u>Where are you from?</u>

David: <u>I'm from America</u>. <u>My hometown is Atlanta</u>.

Minami: Ato--? Could you say that again?

David: At – lan – ta.

Minami: How do you spell that?

David: A-T-L-A-N-T-A. Atlanta. And you? Where are you from?

Minami: I'm from Shizuoka. My hometown is Yaizu. How do you like Blue Sky

University?

David: I like it very much. Everyone is very friendly, and the teachers are very kind. The

campus is beautiful, and so are the mountains.

Minami: <u>I'm sorry, could you speak more slowly?</u>

David: Oh, sure. I'm sorry. I like this university very much. Everyone is very friendly,

and the teachers are very kind. I'm so happy to be able to see Mt. Fuji. What is

your major?

Minami: My major is business. And yours?

David: My major is art.

Minami: Really. That sounds wonderful. I can't draw at all.

David: Oh, sure you can. Everyone can. What do you like to do in your free time?

Minami: I like listening to music and watching videos on YouTube.

*****continues****

Basic English Conversation

Conversation 2

Minami and David are at a party for new university students. Their university, Blue Sky University, is in Shizuoka. David decides to introduce himself to Minami.

David: Hello. Minami: Hello.

David: It's a nice party, isn't it?

Minami: Yes, it is.

David: May I introduce myself?

Minami: Sure.

David: My name is David. David Smith.

Minami: My name is Minami. Minami Sato. It's nice to meet you.

David: It's nice to meet you, too.

Minami: Where are you from?

David: I'm from America. My hometown is Atlanta. And you? Where are you from?

Minami: I'm from Shizuoka. My hometown is Yaizu. How do you like Blue Sky

University?

David: I like it very much. Everyone is very friendly, and the teachers are very kind. The

campus is beautiful, and so are the mountains. What is your major?

Minami: My major is business. And yours? What is your major?

David: My major is art. What do you like to do in your free time?

Minami: I like listening to music and watching videos on YouTube.

*****continues****

Basic English Conversation

2 - Daily Greetings

In the below conversations, David and Minami pass by each other walking on campus. They just have time for a quick hello.

Conversation 1

David: Hi, Minami, how's it going?

Minami: Good. And you?

David: Can't complain.

Minami: See you around.

*****How's it going? = How is everything in your everyday life? = How are you?

Conversation 2

David: Hi, Minami, how you doing?
Minami: Pretty good. How about you?

David: Not bad. Can't complain. Take it easy.

Minami: Yeah, see you around.

*****How you doing? = How are you doing? = How are you?

Conversation 3

David: Hi, Minami, what's up?

Minami: Not much. What's up with you?

David: Nothing special. Have a good day.

Minami: Yeah, you, too. See you around.

*****What's up? = What things are happening in your life now?

*****The expression "What's up?" is used in America more than in other places.

Basic English Conversation

3 - Do you like ~?

Jennifer, a woman from England, knows that her friend David doesn't have a girlfriend. She's thinking about introducing him to her friend Alice.

Jennifer: Are you interested in meeting my friend Alice?

David: I don't know. What is she like?

Jennifer: She's a really sweet person. And very cheerful.

David: She sounds nice. What does she like to do in her free time?

Jennifer: Well, she's crazy about music.

David: What type of music does she like?

Jennifer: She likes different kinds of music, but she's crazy about hip hop. Do you like

hip hop?

David: No, I don't. I like country music.

Jennifer: Well, she told me she doesn't like country music very much.

David: I also like classical music. <u>Does she like classical music?</u>

Jennifer: She doesn't like classical music at all. She can't stand it. Do you like jazz?

David: <u>I like it pretty much.</u> Does she like it?

Jennifer: I think she likes it pretty much, too.

David: What type of food does she like?

Jennifer: She's a vegetarian. She likes vegetables very much. She doesn't like meat.

David: I like meat very much. I like vegetables okay, but I don't like broccoli at all. Does

she like broccoli?

Jennifer: She loves broccoli. And she's crazy about cabbage. Do you like cabbage?

David: I don't like cabbage very much.

Jennifer: She likes Japanese food very much. She loves sushi. Do you like sushi?

David: I don't know. <u>I've never eaten sushi.</u> Does she like peanut butter? I love peanut

butter. I eat peanut butter almost every day.

Jennifer: She's crazy about peanut butter! She eats peanut butter almost every day, too.

David: Well, maybe I can invite her to go on a picnic. We can listen to jazz—and eat

peanut butter sandwiches.

Jennifer: You should call her today!

Do you like sushi? Yes, I do. No, I don't.

I'm crazy about it. I like it okay.

I love it. I don't like it very much.

I like it very much. I don't like it at all.

I like it pretty much. I can't stand it.

I don't know. I've never eaten sushi.

Basic English Conversation

Do you like ~? Speaking practice

broccoli			
celery sticks			
,			
bananas			
Dananas			
yoghurt			
(a food you love)			
(a food you hate)			
exercising			
singing karaoke			
watching YouTube			
studying			
(,1: , , , ,)			
(something you love to do)			
(something you hate to do)			

Basic English Conversation

4 - Did you have a nice weekend?

It's Monday afternoon. Jennifer and David see each other on the campus of Blue Sky University.

Jennifer: Hi, David, did you have a nice weekend?

David: Yeah, it was pretty good. How about you?

Jennifer: Mine was pretty good, too. I did some studying and cooking. I met my friends

cleaning done.

David: How long did you study?

Jennifer: For about two hours on Saturday, and for about two hours on Sunday.

David: Good for you. That's great. Did you study Japanese?

Jennifer: Yeah, I did. I practiced writing kanji for about an hour. We have a test tomorrow,

right? How about you? What did you do?

David: On Saturday, I played tennis.

Jennifer: Who did you play with?

David: Minami, and her friend, Shingo.

Jennifer: <u>That sounds fun.</u> Where did you play? David: The campus courts. They're really nice.

Jennifer: How about on Sunday?

David: I watched some YouTube videos, and I played some video games.

Jennifer: Who did you play video games with?

David: I played by myself. I like to spend time by myself.

Jennifer: Did you study?

David: <u>I didn't study at all.</u>

Jennifer: You didn't study Japanese at all?

David: Nope.

Jennifer: You better study tonight!

David: Yes, Mom.

Basic English Conversation

Make a list of at least 8 things you did over the weekend. Be ready to explain how long, where, and with whom, you did them.

ı.	
2.	
3.	
4∙	
5.	
b.	
7.	
0	
8.	

Verbs – Past tense review

You can add "-ed" to most verbs to make the past tense. However, many verbs (including many very important verbs) are irregular. Make sure you know the past tenses for the verbs in the chart.

present	past tense	present	past tense	present	past tense
am/is	was	say(s)	said	write(s)	wrote
are	were	know(s)	knew	read(s)	read
do/does	did	take(s)	took	sing(s)	sang
has/have	had	come(s)	came		
meet(s)	met	see(s)	saw	investigate	investigated
make(s)	made	get(s)	got	communicate	communicated
wake(s) up	woke up	give(s)	gave	exercise	exercised
sleep(s)	slept	find(s)	found	cook	cooked
go/goes	went	tells (told)	told	watch	watched
buy(s)	slept	become(s)	became	practice	practiced
think(s)	thought	leave(s)	left	study	studied

Basic English Conversation

5 - Have you ever traveled abroad?

Conversation 1

It's Wednesday. Jennifer and Minami and are enjoying a cup of coffee and chatting.

Jennifer: Minami, have you ever traveled abroad?

Minami: Yes, I have. When I was an elementary school student, my family and I went to

Europe. We visited France and Italy. How about you?

Jennifer: Well, obviously I've traveled to Japan. And I've traveled to Australia, New

Zealand, and Indonesia, too. Have you visited a lot of different places in Japan?

Minami: <u>I haven't visited many places</u>, but I've been to Hokkaido once, and I've been to

Kyoto twice. When I was six years old, I went to Kyoto with my family. When I was a junior high school student, I went to Kyoto on a school trip. Have you been

to Kyoto?

Jennifer: No, I haven't, but I'd like to.

Conversation 2

It's Thursday. David and Minami and are enjoying a cup of coffee and chatting.

Minami: Dreams are so interesting.

David: I think so, too.

Minami: May I ask you some questions about your dreams?

David: Sure.

Minami: <u>Have you ever</u> dream<u>ed</u> that you could fly?

David: Yes, I have. Have you?

Minami; Yes, I have, too. Have you ever dreamed you were at school—and weren't

wearing any clothes?

David: Yes, I have! When I was an elementary school student, I dreamed I went to

school naked many times.

Minami: Have you ever dreamed that you were an animal?

David: No, I haven't. Have you?

Minami: Yes, I have. When I was maybe 7 or 8 years old, I dreamed I was a bear. And

when I was a junior high school student, I dreamed I was a duck.

David: A duck! Wow, I want to hear more about that.

Basic English Conversation

Activity 1

Be ready to ask and answer the following questions about dreams. You need your own ideas for finishing questions #4 and #5.

1.	Have you ever dreamed that you could fly?	
2.	Have you ever dreamed that an animal was chasing you?	
3.	Have you ever dreamed that you couldn't find something?	
4.	Have you ever dreamed that	?
5.	Have you ever dreamed that	?

Activity 2

Write "Have you ever" questions using the phrases below. Be ready to ask and answer them with your classmates. You need your own idea for writing #7.

	tell a lie to your parents	see a ghost	find money
have a pet		climb Mt. Fuji	lose something important
	1,		
	2		_
	3		
	4		
	5		
	6		

If your answer to any of the above questions is yes, think about how you can explain.

Example: A: Have you ever lost something important?.

B: Yes, I have. When I was eight years old, I lost my house key. I had to sit outside for two hours.

Basic English Conversation

6 - What are you going to do this summer?

Conversation 1

Summer vacation is coming soon. Jennifer and Minami are chatting.

Jennifer: What are you going to do this summer?

Minami: In August, I'm going to visit my hometown, for about a week. After that, I'm

going to go to driving school. How about you?

Jennifer: I'm going to go back to England in August, for two weeks. After that, I'm going

to visit my friends in Paris. I'll be in Paris for about three days. Then I'm thinking

about going to Amsterdam.

Minami: When are you going to come back to Japan?

Jennifer: I'm planning on coming back to Japan in late August. After I come back, I'm

going to visit my friend in Hokkaido . . . and I'm going to study.

Conversation 2

A mother and a son are on an airplane. The plane runs into turbulence.

Son: We're going to crash!!!!!!

Mother: Sit down!

Conversation 3

Two workers are working in a factory.

Worker 1: Will you help me carry this box?

Worker 2: Sure.

Activity 1

Using the information below, practice speaking "I'm going to . . ." sentences.

	<u> </u>	1 0	0 0	
	what	when	with whom	how long
1.	go to the beach	this Saturday	friends	
2.	visit my parents	August		a few days
3.	watch TV	tonight	brother	a few hours
4.	study	tomorrow		a few hours
5.	go to the zoo	this weekend	classmates	
6.	go hiking	Sunday	myself	about five hours
7.	play tennis	tomorrow morning	friend	

Basic English Conversation

Activity 2

Fil	l in the blanks to make yes/no questions to ask ye	our classmates.
1.	Are you going to	this summer?
2.	Are you going to	this summer?
3.	Are you going to	this summer?
4.	Are you going to	this summer?
5.	Are you going to	this summer?
6.	Are you going to	this summer?
7.	Are you going to	this summer?
Ma	tivity 3 ake a list of the things you are going to do this sur conversations about what you are going to do du	1, 1
2.		-
3.		
4.		-
5.		-
6.		_

Basic English Conversation

7 – What is your dream?

Conversation 1

Summer vacation is coming soon. David and Minami and are chatting.

David: Minami, when you were a little girl, what was your dream?

Minami: When I was in elementary school, <u>I wanted to have a cake shop.</u>
David: Really, that sounds fun. Do you still want to have a cake shop?

Minami: No, now my dream is to be a policewoman. I want to catch bad guys. How about

you?

David: When I was six or seven years old, my dream was to be an elephant.

Minami: An elephant?! Did your parents know that?

David: Yes, they did. They encouraged me. My mother just told me that I should

become a good elephant. But look, I didn't become an elephant.

Minami: What's your dream now?

David: <u>I want to be a reporter.</u>

Minami: Why do you want to be a reporter?

David: I like to write. And I like to look for new information.

Conversation 2

Summer vacation is coming soon. David and Jennifer are chatting.

David: What's your dream for the future?

Minami: I don't really have a special dream. I guess I just want to have a happy family.

And maybe find a job I like. How about you? Do you know what you want to do

in the future?

David: I want to be a reporter.

Make sure you understand all the English words needed to talk about the "dreams" listed in the box and can make sentences with them beginning with "I want to . . ." and "He wants to . . ." and "She wants to . . ."

• have a happy family

make lots of money

be a teacher

• live in Europe

have my own store

• become a successful novelist

own my own business

• make the world a peaceful place

 climb the one hundred famous mountains in Japan

• talk to Doraemon

• win a Gold medal in the Olympics

• become a public employee

 meet a wonderful person that I can marry

• be able to play the piano

Basic English Conversation

Fill in the chart with your own information.

Dreams when you were a child				
	DREAM	EXPLANATION		
Dream 1				
Dream 2				
		Current dreams		
	DREAM	EXPLANATION		
Dream				
Dream 2				
Dream 3				

Key expressions to talk about your dreams

- When I was ..., my dream was to ...
- When I was ..., I wanted to ...
- Now my dream is to ...
- Now I want to ...

Basic English Conversation

8 - Being a reporter

When reporters interview someone, they usually have a prepared list of questions about a particular topic. They ask questions beginning with **who**, **what**, **where**, **when**, **why**, **how many**, **how often**, and **how**. They also ask **yes/no questions**. And of course, depending on the flow of the interview, they need to be ready to *adjust* their questions, and to ask *follow-up* questions.

Imagine you are a reporter writing for your school newspaper. You decide to interview some of your classmates about their shopping habits. Here is a list of questions you might ask.

- 1. **Do** you like shopping?
- 2. **How often** do you go shopping? (once a week, twice a week, almost every day)
- 3. How much money do you spend every week?
- 4. **Where** do you shop? (follow-up question: if someone answers, "7-11," you can ask, "**What** do you buy at 7-11? or **Why** do you shop at 7-11?")
- 5. **How many times** a week do you shop for groceries?"
- 6. When do you shop for groceries?
- 7. **How often** do you shop for clothes?
- 8. How do you get money for shopping?

Activity

Think of a topic. The topic should be one that you think will be interesting to most of your classmates. Make a list of at least seven questions to ask. Make sure there is a variety of questions. Be prepared to use your questions to interview your classmates. Try to imagine what follow-up questions might be necessary.

Basic English Conversation

9 - Can you stand on your hands?

Conversation 1

Minami and David are talking.

David: <u>Can most Japanese people speak English?</u>

Minami: Well, many Japanese people can speak English a little. And some can speak

English pretty well. And a few can speak very well. How about people in

England? Can people in America speak foreign languages?

David: In some places, almost no one can speak a foreign language. In some places, like

southern California, many people can speak English and Spanish.

Minami: Can Americans study foreign languages in junior high school and high school?

David: <u>I think</u> they can in most high schools. But maybe not in most junior high

schools. I'm not sure.

Minami: What languages can they study?

David: In my high school, we <u>could</u> study Spanish, German, or French. And Latin!

Minami: Latin? Really? We can't study Latin in high school in Japan. Can American high

school students study Japanese?

David: They <u>couldn't</u> in my high school. Maybe <u>only a few</u> high schools have Japanese

classes.

Minami: How about in American universities? Can students study Japanese in

universities?

David: I'm not sure. Maybe they can't in many universities, but <u>I know</u> they can in some.

Minami: After Americans study French in high school, can they really speak French?

David: That's a hard question to answer. Maybe many students can hardly speak French

at all. Maybe some can speak French a little. Maybe some can speak reasonably

well. Maybe a few can speak well.

Conversation 2

Minami and David are watching some students ride skateboards.

David: Minami, can you ride a skateboard?

Minami: No, I can't.

David: <u>Have you ever tried?</u>

Minami: No, I haven't.

David: Then how do you know you can't? You never know until you try.

Minami: What else can you do?

David: I can walk on my hands. Can you?

Minami: No, I c—. Oops. I don't know if I can. I've never tried to walk on my hands.

Basic English Conversation

Key words

everyone / all people / almost everyone / almost all people / most people / many people/ some people / a few people / almost no people / almost no one / almost nobody / no one / nobody

I can speak English very well.
I can speak English pretty well.
I cannot speak English very well.
I cannot speak English very well.

Activity 1

Ask your classmates the questions below.

- 1. Can Japanese people speak English?
- 2. Can you walk on your hands?
- 3. Do Japanese people like bread?
- 4. Can you play a musical instrument?
- 5. Do Japanese people like to travel?
- 6. Can Japanese people afford to go to university?
- 7. Did Japanese people like Trump?

- 8. Do Japanese men cook?
- 9. Do Japanese people enjoy reading?
- 10. Do Japanese students play video games?
- 11. Can you ride a skateboard?
- 12. Can you speak English?
- 13. Do Japanese university students study hard?

Activity 2

Use the chart below to ask your classmates "can" questions. Before you begin, think of three original questions.

	very	pretty	ok	not very	not at	never
	well	well		well	all	tried
speak English (can)						
play a musical instrument (can)						
cook (can)						
communicate with your parents (can)						
enjoy your part-time job (do)						
do math (can)						
dance (can)						
Original 1:						
Original 2:						
Original 3:						

Basic English Conversation

10 - Can you give me some advice?

Conversation 1

Minami and Jennifer are talking.

Minami: <u>Can you give me some advice?</u>

Jennifer: About what?

Minami: About my weight.

Jennifer: Your weight? You look great!

Minami: I've gained three kilos in the last month.

Jennifer: Well, I think you look great, but if you want to lose a little weight . . . Are you

exercising?

Minami: No, not at all.

Jennifer: Exercising is a good idea. You don't have to exercise really hard. You can go for a

walk, or you can ride a bicycle. And you should eat lots of vegetables. And you

shouldn't eat too much bread or rice. And you shouldn't eat sweets.

Minami: But I love sweets!

Jennifer: I see. I'm guessing that's the problem. If you love sweets, well, you don't have to

stop eating sweets completely, but you have to cut down on sweets. Maybe you

should only have sweets once a week.

Minami: Once a week?

Jennifer: You want to lose weight, don't you?

Minami: Thank you for your advice.

Common expressions for giving advice

You don't have to stop eating sweets completely.

You have to cut down on sweets.

You can stop eating sweets.

You should stop eating sweets.

You shouldn't eat late at night.

You might think about exercising more.

You might try exercising more.

Exercising more might be a good idea.

Don't eat late at night.

Basic English Conversation

Conversation 2

Taiga, Ryuta, and Haruto are talking. Taiga has almost no experience talking with girls.

Taiga: <u>Can you guys give me some advice?</u>

Ryuta: About what?

Taiga: About . . . about Reina.

Haruto: Reina Hashimoto! You like Reina Hashimoto?!

Taiga: Don't talk so loud.

Ryuta: Have you ever talked with her?

Taiga: No.

Ryuta: Does she even know who you are?

Taiga: I don't think so. Should I buy her flowers? Or some other present?

Ryuta/Haruto: NO!!!!!!!!!

Taiga: What should I do?

Ryuta: First, you have to learn to smile. Then you should change your hairstyle.

Haruto: And you should be more careful about your clothes.

Ryuta: Then you should wait until you see her in a group of people, and you should try

to join that group. That's the first step.

Taiga: Then just try to have some casual conversation with the group—so she'll see

you're a nice guy.

Taiga: And then I should buy her a present and tell her I love her?

Activity 1

With a partner, practice the two short conversations below.

Short conversation 1

A: Can you give me some advice?

B: Sure.

A: I want to lose weight.

B: Are you exercising? Exercising is a good idea. And you shouldn't eat late at night.

A: Do I have to stop eating sweets?

B: You don't have to stop eating sweets, but you should eat less.

A: Thank you. That's good advice.

Basic English Conversation

Short conversation 2

- A: Can you give me some advice?
- B: Sure.
- A: I can't stop falling asleep in class.
- B: What time do you go to bed?
- A: One or two in the morning.
- B: That's too late! You have to go to bed much earlier. You should sleep at least seven hours every night. Do you prepare well for class?
- A: Not usually.
- B: You have to prepare for class. If you don't prepare, it won't be interesting.
- A: Sometimes I can't fall asleep.
- B: You shouldn't use social media before bed. And you can try reading a book. Reading might make you sleepy.
- A: Thank you for the advice.

Brainstorming activity

- What topics do university students often need to ask for advice about. Brainstorm three
 topics.
- 2. If someone asked you for advice on one of the topics, what questions might you ask. Make a list of questions.
- 3. Brainstorm ideas for advice for each topic.

Advice topics	Questions to ask someone who needs advice	Examples of advice

Basic English Conversation

11 - Asking for favors / Asking for permission

Conversation 1

In a restaurant, Mr. Big sits down at a table next to Haruto.

<u>Ex. 1</u>

Mr. Big: Hey, do you mind if I smoke? Haruto: I'm sorry, but please don't.

Ex. 2

Mr. Big: Hey, do you mind if I smoke?

Haruto: No, go ahead.

<u>Ex. 3</u>

Mr. Big: Hey, is it okay if I smoke?

Haruto: Sure, go ahead.

Ex. 4

Mr. Big: Hey, is it okay if I smoke?

Haruto: <u>I'm sorry, but I prefer you didn't.</u>

Conversation 2

David wants to ask Jennifer for a favor.

Ex. 1

David: <u>Can I ask you a favor?</u> (<u>Can you do me a favor?</u>)

Jennifer: What is it?

David: Can you lend me one hundred yen? (Can I borrow one hundred yen?)

Jennifer: Sure. Here you are.

Ex. 1

David: <u>Could</u> I ask you a favor? (Could you do me a favor?)

Jennifer: What is it?

David: Could you lend me ten thousand yen? (Could I borrow ten thousand yen?)

Jennifer: Ten thousand yen! What do you need ten thousand yen for?

David: My computer is broken. I need to repair it.

Jennifer: Oh, no. Sure, I can lend you some money.

Basic English Conversation

Activity

Think about the situations below and imagine short conversations you might have with a friend or parent. Write down the question you might ask to start the conversation.

1.	It's hot. You want to open a window.
Qu	estion:
2. Qu	It's hot. You want your friend to open a window. estion:
3.	You want to play tennis on Saturday, but you don't have a tennis racket. Your friend has one.
Qu	estion:
4. Qu	Your Spanish class is difficult for you. You want to ask your friend for help.
5.	You want to play tennis on Saturday, but you don't have a tennis racket. Your friend has one.
Qu	estion:
6.	You're walking to a museum, but you are not sure which way to go. You want to ask someone to tell you which way to go.
Qu	estion:
7.	You're doing a survey for your sociology class. You want to ask your friend to answer some questions about using social media.
Qu	estion:
8.	Your friend makes excellent chocolate chip cookies. You want to learn how to make them.
Qu	estion:
9.	You don't have confidence writing English sentences. You want your American friend to check what you wrote.
O11	estion: