SMALL TALK Real-life audio transcripts

1 New contacts

Celia:	Hi, I don't think we've been introduced um my name is Celia Wigley.
Liz:	Hi Celia. My name is Elizabeth Whittenham, pleasure to meet you.
Celia:	I'm sorry but I didn't catch your name. Did you say Elizabeth Whitaker?
Liz:	No – no problem. It's Elizabeth Whittenham but you can call me Liz.
Celia:	Oh great. It's nice to meet you Liz.

2 Old contacts

Celia:	Oh hi it's Nikki [Hi.] isn't it? Um I'm Celia.
Nikki:	Yes, I – I recognize your face. Where – hi – yeah it's nice to see you. Where – where
	did we meet before? Remind me?
Celia:	Oh oh we met at the marketing conference last April in London. [Uh.] Do you
	remember?
Nikki:	Uh I do remember yeah we were – we went out for dinner one evening I think
	didn't we? And had a good chat. [That's right.] Yeah, [Yeah.] lovely to see you again.
Celia:	Great to see you too.
Nikki:	Yeah.

3 Start networking

Freddy:	Excuse me, is that seat taken?
Matt:	No, no, please feel free.
Freddy:	Oh, thanks. It's uh it's really nice this year here, isn't it?
Matt:	It is yeah – there's uh really nice weather and great food as well, so
Freddy:	Yeah yeah, yeah – no, it's uh it's uh a really good venue.
Matt:	They make the most of what they've got, I think.
Freddy:	Yeah and they've got a

4 Introducing the business

Eva:	Hi there, I see you're wearing a HarperCollins badge um so do you work for
	them too?
John:	Yes, yeah, I'm in the London office.
Eva:	Oh that's cool, that's nice to meet you. Um by any chance – do you know – do
	you know a John in the sales office?
John:	I don't know him personally, no, no but I um I – I know of him – do um
	how long have you been with the company?
Eva:	Uh just uh a couple of months now but I'm based in the US office

5 On to Business

Matt:	So do you travel much for work?
Freddy:	Uh yeah I'm going to um Barcelona at the end of this month, actually.
Matt:	Oh really? That's interesting. We've uh just opened a new office in Barcelona,
	actually.
Freddy:	Oh right, have you? Where – where abouts?
Matt:	Uh Las Ramblas.
Freddy:	Oh yeah, no – I – I like it there, that's the street with uh all the best bars on it –
	you'll – you'll find me there most evenings.
Matt:	Oh really? Uh what type of business are you in?
Freddy:	Uh well um

6 Great guests, perfect hosts

Nikki:	Hello, you made it. Nice to see you.
Celia:	Oh it's great to see you again.
Nikki:	Welcome! [Thanks for meeting me.] No worries, welcome to our Glasgow office. Have
	you been here before?
Celia:	Um no, this is my first time, it's really nice uh great views.
Nikki:	Yeah, the views are lovely – rea – yeah, the views really are nice [Yeah.] – okay um
	let me take your bag for you [Oh, that's really kind of you.] and then we'll head upstairs.
Celia:	Great, that's really kind of you.
Nikki:	How was your journey?
Celia:	Oh well not too bad um no delays, so that was great uh the fog cleared,
	you know what Heathrow's like [Yeah.] – yeah, so it was good [Yeah, yeah especially in
	winter.] yes, it's not – it's – not good at all.
Nikki:	Yeah, okay, we're going to [What floor are we on?] the sec – second floor we're going
	to.
Celia:	Okay great. Yeah
Nikki:	Yeah! And how was the weather where you came from?
Celia:	Oh well so, really foggy first thing and I live really near Heathrow so I woke up and
	looked out the window and I was really nervous about the fog but um yes it lifted
	so we were able [Yeah.] to leave at the right time.
Nikki:	It's nicer up here, it's not too bad up here.
Celia:	Yeah, it's gorgeous, isn't it?
Nikki:	Ok right um we're just – while we're passing the café – can I get you a coffee or
	anything? [Oh.] You must be tired [Oh yeah, that would be great, yeah.] you were up
	so early. Yeah?
Celia:	Thank you, that would be great.
Nikki:	Ok, excellent!

7 Opening up

Lisa:	So, do you have any children yourself?
Helen:	Yeah, yeah, I do actually. I have um one son.
Lisa:	Oh, lovely. How old [Yeah.] is he?
Helen:	He's nine years old.
Lisa:	And what's his name?
Helen:	Uh his name is Maani. Um [Maani?] yeah, that's um Iranian name.
Lisa:	Oh lovely! Does it – does it mean anything in particular?
Helen:	Um, it was um an old prophet apparently, from Ir – from Iran, yeah, yeah [Oh okay,
	nice.] So um and – and – what about you? Do you have any children at all?
Lisa:	No I don't have any children myself but um I do have – I have five nephews [Oh my
	goodness.] and two – and two nieces [Wow, that's a lot.] Yeah so – that's quite good
	fun – don't see them all the time – I get to see them um for a short space of time –
	so it's – it's – great – it's great to – it's great [Yeah.] to just spend time with them [Yeah,
	fantastic.] the children.
Helen:	Oh, very nice.

8 Using everyday moments

Lisa: Helen:	Oh, hi Helen, how are you? Oh, I'm really well thank you.
Lisa:	Good, how was your weekend?
Helen:	Oh it was good, thanks, very mu – yeah – it was really good – it was really enjoyable.
Lisa:	What did you do? Did you do anything exciting?
Helen:	Um well I went up to Cam um Camden market – Do you know that?
Lisa:	I do – I do – I haven't been to Camden for years though. What – what – did you – what – what – did you go and look at?
Helen:	I looked at all the stalls, there's lots of different things there but I really liked the – you
	know the market stalls with the food – food things – they [Oh, okay.] have a lot of
	international food.
Lisa:	Oh, really? Lots of international food?
Helen:	Yeah, from all around the world really, there's Chinese, there's Indian [<i>Uh-huh.</i>] um really nice [<i>I absolutely love Japanese food.</i>] mmm, [<i>So maybe I should go there.</i>] oh yeah. They have – they have – I think they have some Japanese food um yeah you should go, it's really nice [<i>Yeah, great! Maybe I'll go this weekend.</i>] um good idea um it's not far from you anyway, is it?
Lisa:	No, not at all, I could just pop on the tube and I'll be there

9 Who's who and what's what

Livia: Oh, that's really good. The food looks delicious.

Valerie:	Oh um there's – there's Patrick here, he's our marketing manager. Have you met
	him before?
Livia:	I don't think I have.
Valerie:	Patrick, come and meet Livia uh she's based in Madrid, she's our agent and um
	Livia this is Patrick, Patrick this is Livia.
Patrick:	Hi Livia, nice to meet you.
Livia:	Hi Patrick, nice to meet you too.

Livia: What a lovely office, you're so lucky to work here.

Valerie:	I agree, honest it's a great place, I can't get tired of the view uh
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Livia: Thank you so much for the tour Valerie.

Valerie: You're welcome Livia.

10 Entertaining

Lily:	Lucy I was just wondering actually, would you like to join me and some other colleagues for dinner after?
Lucy:	Lily that actually sounds great, I'm new to London and um that would be perfect.
Lily:	Oh, great! Cause there's a really nice Italian restaurant actually quite close by. We could go there perhaps.
Lucy:	Okay, just one thing, I'm not allergic to anything but I am a vegetarian, I hope that's okay.
Lily:	No, that's fine actually. I'm a vegetarian too so [<i>Oh, okay</i> .] it's – they've got loads of nice things.
Lucy:	What time are we going to meet?
Lily:	I think we're going to meet about half six – might go for a drink first and then pop over to the restaurant for about seven.
Lucy:	Okay and where should we meet?
Lily:	Uh just downstairs in the lobby.
Lucy:	Okay, perfect.

Lily: Lucy:	How's your main course? Is it nice? It's delicious.
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Lily:	Oh good, mine's lovely as well actually.
Lucy:	Do you think you might go for dessert?
Lily:	Oh, I don't know um I might look at the menu but I think this will probably be enough.
Lucy:	Okay, yeah I think so for me as well but thanks for bringing me here. It's been a wonderful experience!
Lily:	Uh I'm so glad you like it.

11 Tell us a story

Karen: Did I ever tell you about that time I was heading off to Tunisia [*No, I don't think so.*] a while ago. It was quite a while ago. It must have been in the mid 1990's and they had all these strikes at – at Gatwick and we arrived and – and the plane was delayed and I think we ended up getting on our flight about eight hours later [*Oh, nightmare.*] or something around midnight. So, everyone's absolutely grumpy and complaining and we got onto the plane and sat down and Andy suddenly looked at me he said 'I've got a really weird feeling – a really odd feeling about this plane.'

Catherine: You're kidding.

- Karen: No. I looked at him and I I think I was quite disdainful. I just laughed and said oh, don't be ridiculous just relax and you know how can there be anything wrong with the plane? And he said 'No, I've got I feel really, really uneasy, something's not right with this plane' and the engine wasn't even on, so I don't know how he would have that ...
- **Catherine:** Is he like that normally?
- Karen: No, not not really. I mean, occasionally he has been but no not not not really. Anyway they ... again we were delayed about another hour and they eventually pulled off and we taxied out to the runway [Yeah.] and all seemed fine and he said 'Nope still not happy about this plane.'But I just ignored him and ... um ... we got to the runway and ... they roared up the engines and we started to to to ... um ... roar down the the runway and sure enough about ... uh ... 20 seconds into that there was a very loud bang.
- **Catherine:** You're joking!
- Karen: No, I'm not joking. It was appalling and ... uh ... the the pilot came on in that very low key pilot way they do and he said 'Ladies and gentlemen, you may have heard, there's been a slight technical problem with the plane [Sure.] the engine has in fact exploded, and we ... ' [No!] Yes [He didn't he said exploded?] he said 'the engine has in fact exploded and we will be returning to the terminal where we [Oh.] will be taking the plane that's due to go to Ibiza in the morning.'

Catherine: You must have been terrified.

Karen:So it was horrendous, people were just screaming [Yeah.] and freaking out it was awful
but yeah – so, we did get eventually get to Tunisia but it was about fifteen hours late
but on a different plane. No one was going back on that plane I can tell you [And you
found out your husband's got a sixth sense!] I know he looked at me and he just gave
me this really smug nod [I bet, I bet.] and ... uh ... said 'you'll listen to me next time.'

12 Sensitive Topics

- Patric: Hey, how are you doing?
- Stuart: I'm alright thanks. You?
- **Patric:** I'm I'm okay. Uh ... hey I heard you got a promotion. How much more money are you getting?
- **Stuart:** Sorry it's company policy not to talk about salaries.
- **Patric:** Oh, I'm I'm sorry. I I didn't know that. I won't ask about it.
- **Stuart:** It doesn't matter. It's a common mistake.

13 Goodbye – for now!

John:	Um, well that was very useful, thank you for your time. I need to be going to my next meeting now.
Eva:	Thanks very much to you too, it was really nice to meet you uh so maybe we can catch up next time you're here.
John:	Absolutely, that sounds great uh thank you for your hospitality and I'll see you soon.
Eva:	See you soon! Bye for now.
John:	Bye.

14 Phone, video and online meetings

Lisa:	Hello; Lisa Sutherland.
Catherine:	Hi Lisa, it's Catherine in London.
Lisa:	Hello, hi Catherine.
Catherine:	How are you?
Lisa:	I'm alright, thank you. How are you?
Catherine:	Great. I'm fine thanks. I'm here with Lucy and Karen uh Celia's actually running a bit
	late. I think she's late back from lunch with a client but I'm sure she'll be here any
	minute.
Lisa:	Oh okay, hi everyone!
Karen:	Hi Lisa, how are you?
Lucy:	Hello.
Lisa:	Fine thanks. How are you?
Karen:	Yeah, it's sunny, it's nice down here, it's pretty good.
Lisa:	Good that's nice for you [What's it like?] it –
Celia:	Sorry I'm late.
Lisa:	What's it like up here? [I was] It's a bit overcast actually, really overcast and yesterday
	absolutely bucketed down with rain but Sat um Saturday was absolutely gorgeous
	so can't really complain too much.
Catherine:	Good uh just to say Celia's joined us now.
Celia:	Hi Lisa [Oh, okay.] sorry about that um I was with a distributer and they served our
	lunch really slowly so it overran, sorry about that.

Lisa: Oh that's okay no – no worries.

Catherine: Okay, so we're all here now ... uh ... Lisa's ... uh ... up in Glasgow today so ... uh ... we can get going.

Catherine:	Okay, so is there anything else anyone wants to bring up in the meeting?
Celia:	No, I think [Not for me, no.] that's it.
Catherine:	Okay, so we covered everything. Alright Lisa, well, thanks for joining us by phone.
Lisa:	Okay, thanks.
Catherine:	Alright, we'll see you when you're down uh on Wednesday.
Lisa:	Yeah see you all then.
Celia:	Thanks Lisa, good to talk to you.
Lucy:	Bye Lisa.
Catherine:	Okay.
Karen:	Bye Lisa, see you soon!
Lisa:	Bye.
Celia:	Bye.