

## Conversational Phrases

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- Interrupting politely.  
*I'm sorry, I have a question.*  
*Could I ask a question?*
- Giving opinions.  
*I think, ...*  
*In my opinion, ..*
- Talking about likes and dislikes. Expressing preferences  
*to prefer X to Y*  
*I would rather ... than ... .*  
*(to be) not one's cup of tea*
- Complimenting and showing appreciation  
*(good, great, wonderful, awesome; fantastic; terrific)*  
*Good idea. / Good point.*  
*You have a good sense of humor.*  
*He's got a great personality.*  
*You gave an excellent speech.*  
*Your car is nice.*  
*You have a beautiful home.*  
e.g.
  - *Ann, your English is improving. I'm pleased with your work.*
  - *Thank you. I've learned a lot.*
  - *I can see that. Keep up the good job!*
  - *I'll try. You are a good teacher. You've helped me a lot.*
- Showing that you understand (or don't understand).  
*Oh, sure.*  
*No problem.*  
*All right.*  
*I understand. / Got it. / I see. / Clear.*  
*I don't understand. / I have no idea/clue.*  
*Well... I'm not sure.*  
*Could you talk more slowly?*  
*Could you say that again?*
- Telephone English  
*Hello, this is ... . May I speak to ...?*  
*I'd like to make an appointment to see Mr. ... .*  
*I'm calling about ... .*  
*He/She is not in right now. / He/She is out.*  
*Could I leave a message?*  
*Could you call me back?*  
*Does she/he have your number?*  
*I'll try to call back.*
- Opinions  
*What do you think?*  
*What's your opinion?*  
*What are your ideas?*  
*Do you have any thoughts on that?*  
*How do you feel about that?*
- Explaining  
*Can you explain . . .*  
*Can you tell me why . . .*  
*Why . . . ?*

▪ Requesting

Informal

Please ...

Can I have some water, please?

Would you ... ?

Could you ... ?

Would you please ... ?

Could you possibly ... ?

Would you mind (opening the window, please) ?

Could you do me a favor?

Formal

Could I ask you to ... ?

Would you mind if I asked you to... ?

Would you be so kind as to...?

▪ Offers

Let me help you.

Would you like me to... (do it/ help you)?

May I...? / Can I ...? / Could I ...?

Why don't we...?

- Would you like some tea?

➤ No, thank you.

- How about a glass of water?

➤ Yes, please.

- Can I get you something?

- No. Thanks anyway.

▪ Invitations

Definite

Can you come to my house for dinner Saturday night?

Would you like to go out to dinner and the movies?

Are you free to come over Saturday morning?

Indefinite

Let's get together sometime.

We really should have lunch soon.

Why don't we get together one of these days?

Accepting Invitations

Yes, I'd really like that/to come. Thanks for inviting me.

That sounds nice.

Sure. I can come. **(informal)**

Great. I'll be there. **(very informal)**

Declining invitations

No, I'm sorry. I'm busy that day. / No, I'm not free the. Sorry.

Thanks. I already have plans.

I can't make it.

Delaying an answer

I'm not sure about that day yet.

Let me check my calendar. I'll let you know as soon as I can.

▪ Good and bad news:

- I just got a promotion.

- Oh really? **That's great!**

I was fired yesterday.

-Oh really? **That's too bad.**

- Asking for more information/details
  - Yes, but... / I understand this, but could you explain... .*
  - Yes, and... .*
  - Can you give me an example of this?*
  - Can you explain... ? / Can you tell me why...?*
  - What do you mean by that? / What do you mean by...?*
  - In other words, ....*
  - Do you have any questions?*
  - I wonder... VS. I was wondering...*
  
- Closing the conversation:
  - It's been great talking to you.*
  - I really enjoyed meeting you.*
  - I'm sorry, but I have to go now.*
  - I'm afraid I have to leave now.*
  - How do I get in touch with you?*
  - How can I reach/contact you?*
  - I'll give you a call.*
  - I'll send you an email.*
  - I look forward to seeing you again.*
  - See you next week.*
  - Let's keep in touch by email.*

*See also:*

<https://www.allearsenglish.com/aee-100-top-100-used-phrases-english-conversation/>

<http://www.ihbristol.com/useful-english-expressions>

<http://www.eslgold.com/speaking/phrases.html>

<https://www.englishclub.com/>

<http://www.elllo.org/>