

*Making Connections  
&  
Sharing Personal Information*

*In this lesson:*

- Discourse markers  
*\*they make you sound relaxed & natural*
- Pointing out things in common
- “Used to” to talk about your past
- American conversation style

*Key Language:*  
*Discourse Markers*

*Key Language:*  
*Discourse Markers*

- Actually...
- Well,...
- True.
- You're right.
- That's funny.
- You're kidding!
- I hear you.
- Sorry to hear that.

1.2

Making Connections

*Key Language:*  
*Discourse Markers*

**“Actually,...”**

1. Modifies or contradicts a previous statement

**Ex.** “Do you visit Paris often?”

“Actually, no, because it’s far from here.”

Successful  *Small Talk*

1.2

Making Connections

*Key Language:*  
*Discourse Markers*

**“Actually,...”**

1. Confirms or adds more precise information

**Ex.** “Did you work with Jane last year?”  
“I did, actually! Say hey to her for me!”

Successful  *Small Talk*

1.2

Making Connections

*Key Language:*  
*Discourse Markers*

**“Well,...”**

1. Gives you time to find your words

**Ex.** “What do you think of the new director?”

“Well...he’s not too bad, I guess.”

Successful  *Small Talk*

1.2

Making Connections

*Key Language:*  
*Discourse Markers*

**“Well,...”**

1. Makes a disagreement more polite

**Ex.** “Your brother’s a policeman? That sounds like an exciting job!”

“Well...it’s more stressful than exciting.”

Successful  *Small Talk*



1.2

Making Connections

*Key Language:*  
*Discourse Markers*

**“True.” & “You’re right.”**

- Simple: Shows you agree!

**Ex.** “Working with technology is less emotional than with humans.”

“True. At least with technology you can control what happens.”

Successful  *Small Talk*

1.2

Making Connections

*Key Language:*  
*Discourse Markers*

**“That’s funny!”**

- After a coincidence, or something funny

**Ex.** “I went to Madrid last year for a conference.”

“That’s funny. Me too! Which one did you go to?”

Successful  *Small Talk*

1.2

Making Connections

*Key Language:*  
*Discourse Markers*

**“You’re kidding!”**

- After a coincidence, or something surprising

**Ex.** “My daughter went to Montpellier to study French.”

“You’re kidding! So did my son!...But to study engineering.”

Successful  *Small Talk*

*Key Language:*  
*Discourse Markers*

**“I hear you!”**

- = I understand your point of view; I sympathize with you.

**Ex.** “That was one long meeting! 4 hours?!”

“I hear you! Time for a coffee break!”

*Key Language:*  
*Discourse Markers*

**“Sorry to hear that.”**

- For reacting to bad news

**Ex.** “We had to stop because we just didn’t have the funds.”

“Oh, sorry to hear that. So what are you working on now?”

*Conversation Strategy:  
Pointing Out  
Things In Common*

1.2

Making Connections

## *Conversation Strategy: Things In Common*

Creates trust, rapport,  
and shows  
connections

We LIKE working with  
people like us!

- Me too.
- So do I.
- Me neither.
- Neither do I.

Successful  Small Talk

1.2

Making Connections

*Conversation Strategy:  
Things In Common*

**Me too!**

**So do I!**

= used with positive statements

**Ex.** “I went to this nice Italian restaurant last night. I love Italian food!”

“Me too! Where did you go?”

Successful  *Small Talk*



*Conversation Strategy:  
Things In Common*

**Me neither!                      Neither do I!**

= used with negative statements

**Ex.** “I don’t think the weather’ll be very good this weekend.”

“Me neither. I saw the weather forecast...”

1.2

Making Connections

*Conversation Strategy:  
Things In Common*

A more advanced technique :)

Listen for something you have in common (ANYTHING!) and create a “bridge” in the conversation.

Successful  Small Talk

*Conversation Strategy:*  
*Things In Common*

“We went to Aspen, in the Rockies, for vacation last year and tried cross-country skiing for the first time. Hard stuff!”

TRAVEL: “Was it fun? I visited the Rockies 10 years ago, during a trip to the US. The landscape was beautiful!”

*Conversation Strategy:*  
*Things In Common*

“We went to Aspen, in the Rockies, for vacation last year and tried cross-country skiing for the first time. Hard stuff!”

SKIING: “Yeah, but it’s good for you. With my wife, we go cross-country skiing in the Alps during winter vacation.”

*Conversation Strategy:*  
*Things In Common*

“We went to Aspen, in the Rockies, for vacation last year and tried cross-country skiing for the first time. Hard stuff!”

WINTER SPORTS: “But you can enjoy the landscapes. I like snowshoeing because you have time to enjoy it.”

# *Zoom On: "Used To"*

*Zoom On:*  
*"Used To"*

For situations or regular activities in the past

- "I used to work at RoyTech." (*but now I'm at SimDrone*)
- "I used to live in Marseille." (*but now I live in Lyon*)
- I used to play guitar. (*but I don't have time now*)

1.2

Making Connections

*Zoom On:*  
*"Used To"*

**CAREFUL!**

**I used to travel** for work =  
*Avant je voyageais*

**I'm used to traveling** for work =  
*J'ai l'habitude de voyager*

Successful  *Small Talk*



1.2

Making Connections

*Zoom On:*  
*"Used To"*

**TRY IT!**

Pause the video and think of 3 things you can say about yourself with "I used to..."

Say them out loud! (*à haute voix*)

Successful  *Small Talk*

*Cultural Insights:  
Looking For  
Consensus*

*Cultural insights:*

- FRANCE = conversation is lively; friendly argument makes good conversation
- USA = connections, similarities, consensus (perhaps POLITE disagreement)

*That's all  
for module 1.2!*