**Starting and Finishing Conversations – Showing interest: UNIT 2**

**BOOK: Mark Fletcher *with* Roger Hargreaves, *The New Making Polite Noises: Social and Functional English for communication*! English Experience: Kent (1994)**

**Expressions (pp. 6,7):**

***Sorry to interrupt but is that a … ;***

***Excuse me, didn’t we meet in … ?***

***aren’t you …..?***

***I hear you’re a ……***

***Really? Do they? Is she? Mmmmmmmm……….***

***‘How are you getting on with the …….?’***

***What was the ……… like?***

***What did you think of the ………?***

***How interesting, but how …….?***

***Tell me about the ………………***

***Will you excuse me, I’m afraid I must go and see if …………..***

***I must say hello to …………***

***I must get on with ………….***

***It’s been very interesting talking to you.***

***I’ve enjoyed hearing about …..***

***I’d better go and …………***

***See you again soon, I hope.***

**Dialogue 1**

**A:** Fascinating! I didn’t know it could be done like that.

**B:** Oh, yes. And I’ve got more photos upstairs ……..

**A:** Really? But I’m afraid we really must be going now. Thank you for a lovely evening.

**B:** We’ve enjoyed it too. We’re very glad you could come.

**Dialogue 2**

**A:** I’ve been looking at your brooch. It’s very unusual. Where did you get it?

**B:** **I got it in Malaysia.**

**A:** Oh, did you? How long were you there? By the way I’m John Gooch.

**B: I’m Sylvia Martin. I was there for three years actually.**

**A:** Really? That must’ve been a wonderful experience. What did you enjoy most?

***…A few minutes later …***

**A:** How fascinating. Well, it’s been very interesting talking to you, Sylvia. I must go and have a word with some people over by the door, so will you excuse me a moment? See you later, I hope.

**SITUATIONS**

1. **You are sitting in a café. A friend arrives with two companions and introduces you. After a short time you have to leave. What do you say?**
2. **You are in a colleague’s office. She wants to tell you about her weekend but you are in rather a hurry. What do you say?**
3. **A friend has started to build a garage in his garden. Show interest.**
4. **A friend tells you he went to a good film on Saturday. Show interest.**
5. **Your friend has been talking about the film for the last twenty minutes. How do you get away?**

**Asking for information: UNIT 3**

**Expressions (pp. 8,9):**

***Excuse me.***

***Could you tell me ….?***

***Could you tell me how ….?***

***Do you know?***

***What happens if ….?***

***Is it necessary to …..?***

***Where/When? How do I …..?***

**Dialogue 1**

**A:** Excuse me, could you tell me where Buckingham Palace is, please?

**B:** Certainly madam. Go round Trafalgar Square. Second left and up The Mall. It’s at the end.

**A:** Do you know how far it is?

**B:** Oh, about a mile.

**Dialogue 2**

**A:** Can you tell me how much a sightseeing tour costs please?

**B:** **Certainly, the half-day trip is ten pounds.**

**A:** And when does the boat leave?

**B: There are departures at 10a.m. and 2 p.m. every day.**

**A:** Is it necessary to book in advance?

**B:** Well, the boats are always very popular on fine days.

**A:** What happens if the weather’s bad?

**B:** Well, if it’s really rough, of course, we cancel the trip.

**A:** What’s the weather going to be like next Saturday?

**B:** I’m afraid I really don’t know – why not take a chance!

**SITUATIONS**

1. **You have to send a parcel to your home town urgently.**

**Ask the way to the Post Office.**

1. **Now you are in the Post Office. Ask the clerk what you must do, how much it will cost, how long it will take.**
2. **Now you are at the Theatre Booking Office. Find out all the information you need about ‘Spring Storms’ – this evening’s performance.**