

BSE Episode 13 Small Talk and Small Talk at Work Worksheet

Part A:

Write the collocational words that were synonyms for small talk:

- 1) Casual _____ 2) _____ chit chat
3) _____ talk 4) _____ pleasantries

Part B:

Match the definitions on the right with the lexis on the left:

1. To break the ice	A) The act of giving praise to someone, often insincere because you want something from them (noun)
2. Eyebrow raising	B) To cause something that divides people into two opposing groups on an opinion (verb)
3. To polarize	C) To make people feel more relaxed with each other (expression)
4. Wallflower	D) An expression of disapproval, surprise or disbelief (adjective)
5. To open doors	E) To give someone opportunities (expression)
6. To fixate	F) To be obsessive about something (verb)
7. Flattery	G) A person who is introverted and anti-social (noun)

Part C:

Listen to the video from time marker 1:12 again and fill in the gaps:

Being able to do this a) _____ is what can help you feel confident in your language skills. First b) _____ is how we can c) _____. Second, it's a ticket to opportunities unknown. How well you can do d) _____ with people and make them feel comfortable creates better working relationships and a willingness in others to share with you and eventually trust you. So don't discount the e) _____ because you never know when that person you just had some brief f) _____ with might be your way to a promotion.

Part D:

Using the words in Part B, transform them:

1) to break the ice	NOUN:
2) Eyebrow raising	VERB:
3) to polarize	NOUN:
4) to fixate	NOUN:
5) flattery	VERB:

Part E:

Fill in the gaps with the appropriate forms of the lexis from Part D:

- 1) The boss has a _____ on increasing sales and has no concern for ethics.
- 2) This issue created such a _____ in the office that they had to bring in a company mediator to help reunite the team.
- 3) Doing a game like "Find a person in the room who..." is a typical _____ at company functions.
- 4) Everyone at the meeting _____ when someone made a sexist joke.
- 5) If they _____ you, it means they want to do business so make sure you get a good deal from them.

Answer key: Part A-1) banter 2) idle 3) water cooler 4) exchange

Part B- 1) C, 2) D, 3) B, 4) G, 5) E, 6) F, 7) A

Part C- a) casual banter, b) exchanging pleasantries, c) break the ice, d) idle chit chat, e) chatter, f) water cooler talk

Part D: 1) ice breaker, 2) to raise an eyebrow, 3) polarization, 4) fixation, 5) to flatter

Part E: 1) fixation, 2) polarization, 3) ice breaker, 4) raised an eyebrow, 5) flatter