



## LESSON 6:

# NETWORKING

Agreeing and disagreeing. Talking about fashion.



Version without a key

Networking – lesson number 6



## WARM UP

THINK and ANSWER

Is the statement below **TRUE** or **FALSE**?

*There are no differences between small talk between women and this of men.*

Read the extract from Wikipedia and try to fill in the gaps using the words from the grid.

putdowns	patterns	enable
common	insults	disclosure

### Gender differences

Speech \_\_\_\_\_ between women tend to be more collaborative than those of men, and tend to support each other's involvement in the conversation. Topics for small talk are more likely to include compliments about some aspect of personal appearance. For example, "*That dress really suits you.*" Small talk between women who are friends may also involve a greater degree of self \_\_\_\_\_. Topics may cover more personal aspects of their life, their troubles, and their secrets. This self-disclosure both generates a closer relationship between them and is also a signal of that closeness.

By contrast, men's small talk tends to be more competitive. It may feature verbal sparring matches, playful insults, and \_\_\_\_\_. However, in a way these are also both creators and signals of solidarity; the men are signalling that they are comfortable enough with each other's company to be able to say these things without them being taken as \_\_\_\_\_.

### Cultural differences

Small talk rules and topics can differ widely between cultures. Weather is a common topic in regions where the climate has great variation and can be unpredictable. Questions about the family are usual in some Asian and Arab countries. In cultures or contexts that are status-oriented, such as China and Japan, small talk between new acquaintances may feature questions that \_\_\_\_\_ social categorization of each other. In many European cultures it is \_\_\_\_\_ to discuss the weather, politics or the economy, although in some countries personal finance issues such as salary are considered taboo.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Small\\_talk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Small_talk)

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## EXTENDING YOUR VOCABULARY

### ☑ Exercise 1:

Match the definitions with the words from the text.

pattern	→		1. to make someone able to do something
disclosure	→		2. an offensive remark or action
putdown	→		3. a particular way in which something is done, is organized, or happens:
common	→		4. the act of making something known or the fact that is made known
insult	→		5. the same in a lot of places or for a lot of people:
enable	→		6. a negative statement about someone; an insult

### ☑ Exercise 2

Complete the sentences with the words from the previous exercise. Some of the words have to be put in a correct grammar form.

enable	put-down	insults
common	pattern	disclosures

1. She made several \_\_\_\_\_ about my appearance.
2. Saving enough money now will \_\_\_\_\_ you to retire comfortably.
3. It's quite \_\_\_\_\_ to see couples who dress alike.
4. Calling American workers lazy was a mean-spirited \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of family life has been changing over recent years.
6. Some of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the final report were very surprising.



## SPEAKING

Understanding the text.

**Exercise 1: practice the new vocabulary in speaking.**

Answer the questions using the words from previous exercises and from the text.

1. What do the speech patterns between women tend to be?

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2. What can small talk between women who are friends involve?

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3. What does men's small talk tend to be?

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4. What do men usually talk about in their small talk?

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5. What do men try to show when using in their small talks insults and put-downs?

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6. Are there any differences between small talks in different cultures?

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**Exercise 2**

Look at expressions below. Using your own words, paraphrase them and explain what they mean.

speech patterns tend to be more collaborative	
(small talk) involve a greater degree of self disclosure.	
(insults and put-downs) are also both creators and signals of solidarity	



## PART TWO

### ➔ AGREEING AND DISAGREEING. TALKING ABOUT FASHION.

#### Exercise 1 - agreeing and disagreeing – useful phrases.

Look at the words in the box. Use them to build 10 phrases that express agreement.

I have to	I'm afraid	That's exactly	I agree with Jon	how I feel
side with him on this one	No doubt	I suppose	with you more	I guess
about it	so	a point here	so	100 percent
I was just going	You have	to say that	I couldn't agree	I agree with you

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	





→ **SPEAKING - TALKING ABOUT FASHION**  
**SPEAKING EXERCISES – SMALL TALKING ABOUT FASHION.**

**Exercise 1**

Check the meanings of the words you don't know, from the previous exercise and build sentences with them.

**Exercise 2**

What questions about fashion would ask when starting a small talk conversation?

**SUGGESTED ANSWERS:**

Are you interested in fashion?

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Are you a fashionista?

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What is your style?

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Do you follow the fashion trends?

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What kind of clothes do you buy?

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Who is your favourite fashion designer?

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What are your favourite brands?

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What high street brands do you like?

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Do you like second hand or thrift shop clothes?

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Do you make your own clothes?

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Do you mix-and-match styles?

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How do you think will be the trend for 2014?

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**Exercise 3**

Answer the questions from suggested answers.

**Exercise 4**

Now look at the statements below and say whether you agree with them or not. Justify your opinion by explaining why. Use the expressions from exercises about agreeing and disagreeing.

<b>FASHION IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.</b>	
<b>FAHION IS MORE THAN JUST CLOTHING.</b>	
<b>FASHION IS A WASTE OF MONEY.</b>	
<b>FASHION INDUSTRY MAKES TOO MUCH MONEY.</b>	
<b>MODELS SHOULDN'T EARN A LOT OF MONEY.</b>	
<b>GIRLS UNDER 18 SHOULDN'T GO INTO FASHION INDUSTRY.</b>	

**Exercise 5**

**Match the titles of the articles with the pictures.**

1. Logo tees and shouty slogans are hitting the mainstream.
2. The athletic trend comes brimming with old-school attitude.
3. Embellishment still holds us in its thrall.
4. Black and white gets a fresh modern makeover.
5. An explosion of florals burst forth from the catwalks.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.