

Arches Language School

Conversation Workshop 1

Language Level: B1⁺

Language Focus: Personal Stories & Life Events

Speaking Activity 1: Familiarization

Directions: In this speaking activity, you'll hear your language teacher briefly introduce him/herself. Then, you'll introduce yourself to the class and share any personal and professional background you wish with your classmates. The following questions may serve you as a basis, but feel free to add any information you consider relevant to your presentation.

- What's your name and where are you from?
- Which college/school did you attend? What was your major?
- What special memories do you have from your college/school years?
- What do you do for work now? Do you like your job?
- What are your career goals? (if any)
- Do you have any hobbies or special interests? What are you into? Fitness, arts, scientific research?



Speaking Activity 2: A Worldwide Pandemic

Directions: In this speaking activity, you'll hear your teacher talk about how the Covid-19 pandemic affected his/her life and community. Then, you'll talk about how the same sanitary crisis influenced your personal life. The following questions may serve as a basis, but feel free to add any information you consider relevant to your presentation.

- How did the Coronavirus pandemic affect your life, exactly?
- Do you live in a high-risk area? How did Covid-19 hit your community, specifically?
- How did it affect your job, if applicable?
- How did you handle the quarantine and social isolation? Psychologically speaking, did it have any direct consequences on you? If so, share them with your classmates.
- Do you know anyone who tested positive for Covid-19? Or any healthcare worker in charge of Covid-19 patients? If you wish so, share his/her personal story with your classmates.
- What's your life gonna be like after this worldwide crisis? What aspects of your life are you going to reconsider, if applicable?
- Overall, how do you think the world will change after the Covid-19 crisis?



Speaking Activity 3: Life Far from Hometown

Directions: In this speaking activity, your teacher will read out loud someone’s opinion about living far from home town. Then, you’ll share your own views on the same topic with the class. The questions below may serve as a basis for your presentation, but feel free to add any information you consider relevant.



Shreya Agrawal, former Intern at The Indian Express (2019)

Answered April 21, 2018



Living away from home town is a mix of all kinds of feelings.

Initial stage is definitely the most difficult phase. It's as if you were under some protective bower in a small city and suddenly, you are let free in a large hustle- bustle of a metropolitan. You struggle to live away from the family you've seen day and night for more than 18 years.

For me, there was a constant worry of how I am going to manage everything on my own.

As time passes, the reality starts sinking in. You eventually realize that this is how it is suppose to work and you get used to living alone. The grim room becomes your second home.

Eventually, things become a lot better. You start realizing that you are becoming a lot independent. From smallest to the biggest chores, you find yourself doing everything on your own at ease.

- Do you agree or disagree with Shreya Agrawal?
- How challenging can life be for “a foreigner”?
- In your opinion, what is the far-from-hometown experience like when you know (or don’t know) the first language at the new place?
- Ultimately, what are the advantages of being in contact with a different culture?
- Do you have any personal experience you’d like to share about life in another region/country?

