



Making conversation Short answers

1  2.4 Nick has foreign students staying in his house in Bath. Listen and complete his conversation with Denisa and Miguel. Which of them sounds more friendly and polite? In what way?

- Denisa** Hi, Nick! _____ you been shopping?
- Nick** Yes, I have. I _____ going to cook fish pie for you two tonight. _____ you have a good day at college?
- Miguel** No.
- Denisa** Well, I _____. We _____ practising giving presentations.
- Nick** Oh, sounds interesting. _____ that not useful for you, Miguel?
- Miguel** No.
- Nick** Why? _____ you never have to give presentations at work?
- Miguel** No.
- Denisa** I _____. That's why I need to improve my English.
- Nick** Well, it's definitely improving!
- Miguel** _____ you noticed my English is better?
- Nick** Er, yes, I _____. And it'll get better the longer you're here.
- Denisa** No, it _____ because he speaks Spanish with the other Spanish students all day!
- Miguel** No!
- Denisa** Yes, you _____! You're always together. Are you going on the trip to Wales on Saturday?
- Miguel** Yes.
- Denisa** I'm going too, and Keiko and Roberto _____, so spend the day speaking English with us.
- Miguel** OK.

2  2.5 How could Miguel's replies sound friendlier and more polite? Listen and compare the conversations.

3 Work in groups of three and act out the conversation in exercise 1 again. Take it in turns to be Miguel, and make his replies friendlier and more polite.

SPOKEN ENGLISH Sounding polite

- In English conversation, it doesn't sound polite or friendly if you reply with just *yes* or *no*. Try to give short answers using auxiliaries.
'Did you have a good day?' >
'Yes, I did.' / 'No, I didn't.'
- It also helps the conversation if you add some more information.
'Are you enjoying college?' >
'Yes, I am. I really like the teacher, and I've made a lot of friends.'
- Reply to these questions. Use short answers and add some information.
 - Did you walk to class?
 - Do you like pizza?
 - Have you travelled abroad much?
 - Are you going straight home after class?

