

Two neighbors are chatting at a barbecue.

A: Oh, here comes Don. He's got his poodle with him.

B: It looks like that poodle has gotten groomed pretty recently.

A: Didn't Don just enter him in a dog show?

B: Yeah, he won a prize. Don's been doing well now that he's retired.

Two friends are staying at a beach cabin in the summer.

A: Do you want to go fishing this morning?

B: The conditions out there aren't good for fishing right now.

A: Is the wind too high?

B: No...the tide is too high.

Two college students are walking back to their dorm.

B: We should get back soon, so we don't miss our course enrollment time.

A: Are you worried about getting a math section with a bad TA?

B: If we choose one, we'll be fine. I looked through the course reviews.

A doctor is helping a patient who is having trouble breathing at night.

A: I always wake up feeling short of breath. Do you have any suggestions?

B: Try using this breathing strip for a week first. It should help keep your sinuses open, and relieve congestion while you're sleeping.

A: I'll give it a try—do I put it on my sinuses?

B: Place it on your nose. There's an adhesive that will help it stick.

Two friends are talking about a football game that B went to with their mutual friend, Tim.

A: How was the football game yesterday? I heard Tim got really drunk and started a fight!

B: It was great—we won in double overtime!

A: How could he get angry about winning?

B: Well...I think Tim just had too much booze.

Two camp directors are planning for the summer.

B: Russell said that there was a bear last year that had been getting close to the cabins. But he talked to the park rangers, and they think they've scared it off for good.

A: Were they able to find the bear's den?

B: Yeah...once they tracked it there.

A park ranger is giving a presentation on how they deal with injured animals.

B: Right now, we're caring for a dog and a wild cat that were injured by non-native predators. We're hoping that the cat will be well enough to be released back into the area soon.

A: Are you going to release the dog too?

B: No, just the lynx. We'll see if the dog can be put up for adoption.

Two students are talking about a mutual friend.

A: Jay just told me that he's going out tonight. But this morning, he said he'd be up all night finishing the final paper for his class.

B: He doesn't have a great work ethic. It's something he really lacks.

A: Well, I'm sure he'll get his paper done eventually. He always manages to pull it off.

A museum director is talking to an artist.

A: Do you need any more stone to finish the sculpture?

B: I need some more quartz.

A: Sure, we'll order some right away.

A is talking to a vet about his dog's behavior issues.

B: If you're having trouble with your dog obeying commands, you need to be firm.

A: How should I reward him? Should I give him a treat for obeying?

B: You should give him praise. You can give him a treat sometimes, but you shouldn't do it very often.

A: Okay, I'll remember that.

Two neighbors are talking about volunteering with their city government.

B: The planning committee released their meeting schedule this week. They're not discussing my proposal for the new library exhibit until January.

A: I'm sorry to hear that. Are you still excited about volunteering at the meetings?

B: No... now I think I'll just be bored at the meetings.

Two political analysts are watching a candidate give a speech on TV.

B: I don't think Allan is going to win the election. He has a good record, but he doesn't relate well to the voters.

A: Do you think it's his body language?

B: No, it's all the sighs. He doesn't seem excited.

Two tennis players are talking about the match they just watched.

B: Becca fumbled her first serve attempt, so the other player got to serve first.

A: She's been having trouble with her wrist. Is that still bothering her? Maybe that's the reason she fumbled.

B: No, I think she's fine. She just missed out there.

A: That's too bad.

A naval historian is giving a lecture about Caribbean piracy.

B: The pirates would go from island to island, robbing townships and abducting young men.

A: Did they mostly just force people into serving on their ships?

B: Yes...that's how they found their crews.

Two congressional representatives are talking about a vote last month.

B: The majority leader wasn't happy that I didn't vote for her bill last month, but I think she understands why. She knows that it would have hurt me in my district's next election, and her bill ended up getting approved anyway, even without my vote.

A: So do you think that she's forgiven you for it?

B: Yeah...it's in the past.

A tour group is being shown around a municipal court room.

B: The next room is where the judge formally presents the charges to people accused of a crime.

A: Does the judge listen to their cases?

B: He listens to pleas.

A: Then what?

B: If someone pleads innocent, their case is assigned to another judge.

A is out on some errands, and is calling B on the phone.

A: Hi, I forgot to take the lasagna out of the oven. Could you check on it for me?

B: Sure, I'll go take a look.

A: Does it look okay? Did it burn around the sides of the pan?

B: Hm... it looks like it's charred. It's fine in the middle, though.

Two construction workers are working on a new house.

B: Two more pallets of lumber just arrived. Could you get the forklift and take one of them to Sheila? She's putting up a frame for the shed in the back.

A: Sure, I'll go do that now.

B: Just be careful when you load them up.

A: Why? They look pretty sturdy.

B: We can't let them flex. If they're bent, we can't use them.

Two poets are talking about their friend, Gordon.

A: Gordon's really excited about the open-mic night next week.

B: I know. He said he just finished writing something to present.
Now he's busy practicing his performance.

A: Did he write a poem for it?

B: Yeah...he wrote an ode for it.

Two neighbors are chatting about their friend, Ed.

A: Did you hear that Ed broke his leg on his skydiving trip last month? He was really upset! He was even planning to sue the tour company.

B: Yeah, he told me about it. He said that they ended up paying him six hundred dollars to waive his rights to a lawsuit. But then his lawyer told him he could have won a lot more in court if he hadn't signed the waiver.

A: Is that a decision Ed regrets?

B: It's a decision Ed rues. He's been dwelling on it too much.

A has just arrived at a housewarming party. Most of the guests have been there for a little while.

B: If you're thirsty, Anderson brought all of this beer. He went to that fancy beer place he's always talking about.

A: Oh, I think he spends too much money there.

B: Yeah, but he got these good brews.

Two athletes just finished a morning workout.

B: I'm exhausted. Let's take it easy this afternoon. My calves are going to be sore.

A: Did we spend too much time on the track?

B: Yeah...it was all the laps. I'll bounce back tomorrow.

Two friends are talking.

A: I like your aquarium! Does your cat bother the fish when she's climbing up on the mantle?

B: She paws at them sometimes.

A: Be careful. My friend lost a goldfish that way.

Two bicycle store employees are talking.

A: Do you have a minute to help me unload the delivery truck?

B: I want to keep an eye on those three customers. I think they're with the ring of bike thieves that's been trying to sell us parts.

A: Are you sure they're part of that group? I don't recognize them.

B: They got different guys, but they all work together.

A: How do you know?

B: I saw their van out in the parking lot.

Two neighbors are chatting.

A: That was some storm yesterday! The weather channel said the wind speed got up to fifty miles per hour.

B: Wow! I guess we got pretty lucky. I was watching the willow tree in our yard get blown around for a couple hours.

A: Did your tree end up losing any branches in the wind?

B: It definitely swayed in the wind...but it's fine, thankfully.

A: That's good to hear.

Two housemates are wrapping up a surprise birthday party that they put on for a friend.

B: It looks like most people are leaving now. I guess I'm going to start cleaning up a little bit.

A: There's so much cake leftover. I don't want it to go bad.

B: If we freeze it, it should be fine.

A journalist is talking to a co-worker about a political convention in New York City.

B: Every morning, we went to two or three fundraising meetings, then we listened to some of the candidates' speeches during lunch, then we had a five-hour press conference with the candidates immediately afterwards.

A: So it sounds like you were pretty busy! Did you get to go out at night, once all the events were over?

B: Once we'd gotten through the days, we just wanted to go to sleep. We were so exhausted.

Two friends on a baseball team are talking about the last pitch.

B: The pitcher threw a wild fastball. Grace almost got hit!

A: Did you see what happened? Did she swing in time?

B: No...but Grace ducked in time.

A: At least she's okay.

Two neighbors are talking about a community garden.

A: I left some things out yesterday when I was watering the plants.
Did you put anything away?

B: Yeah, I put the hose away, back in the shed.

A: Thanks—sorry for leaving a mess everywhere.

Two coworkers are chatting.

B: I just had my performance review yesterday. Did I tell you about that?

A: No! How did it go? Did you get a good evaluation?

B: Yeah...it went pretty well. I got a good raise.

A: That's great! I scheduled mine next week, so I'm crossing my fingers.

Two runners are talking about a trail race that goes through a state park next month.

B: Sam said he's been training to run the trail race with Amy next month. Amy's run it every year for the past five years, but Sam said he's pretty nervous about all the hills.

A: Did he say he'd run through the course together with her?

B: He said they'd paced it together. He hasn't run through it with Amy yet.

A: I'm sure he'll do fine. Amy's a great trainer.

Two TSA officers have identified a suspicious package in the concourse.

A: That piece of luggage doesn't belong to any passengers on this plane. Should we confiscate it now?

B: If we seize it, there might be a big scene. Let's just tell the baggage handlers.

A: That's a good idea. Let's do that instead.

Two high school students are talking about their college applications.

A: Are you still upset about your SAT scores?

B: A little bit. I'm really worrying about my chances. My grades haven't been so great this year either.

A: Oh, I'm sorry. You've been stressing about this a lot. Do you want to talk about it?

B: I just brood sometimes. Thanks anyway, though.

Two college-age friends are chatting.

A: How did Sarah's blind date with Franklin go?

B: She said it didn't go very well. She thought he was really irritating.

A: What about him annoyed her?

B: His pride annoyed Sarah. He would never admit he was wrong.

A is running for city mayor.

A: How do you think that speech went?

B: It went really well! You had great delivery, and you covered all the key issues.

A: Thanks—did it seem like the audience was paying careful attention?

B: They were paying rapt attention.

Two coffee shop customers are waiting at a table for their order to be ready.

A: I don't know why we keep coming back here.

B: I know.... we've been here for twenty minutes and our order still isn't up!

A: Can you see what's on the counter? Are there two coffees there for us?

B: It looks like two teas there. That must be another customer's order.

A: Let's go somewhere else next time. This place takes forever.

Two parents are talking about a backpacking excursion that their teenage sons had been planning.

A: It looks like it's going to rain pretty heavily this weekend. Are Peter and Kevin really still going on a trip to the mountains?

B: Yeah, they made a pact for their trip. They've been planning it for months, and they agreed not to put it off.

A: Well, tell them to bring the snow chains. There might be snow up there.

B: I will. I put the chains in the back of the car already.

Two farmers are talking about their shared pasture, near a busy highway.

B: I'm worried about my sheep. I think the highway construction is scaring them.

A: Why do you say that?

B: They went back to the barn right away this morning. They usually graze first.

Two roommates are talking about a cat that they just adopted.

B: The cat has been scratching the sofa a lot.

A: Should we get another scratching post?

B: Well, we don't have a lot of space in that room.

A: So how should we deal with the cat instead?

B: Let's try trimming his claws.

A is helping B pick up supplies for a new garden shed that B is building.

B: Thanks for helping me get all this stuff home.

A: No problem. Should we carry the bags of cement first, or the roofing material?

B: Let's start with the sacks.

A: Sure. These are heavy!