

B1

SMALL TALK & NETWORKING

MONOLOG · 3 MIN.

Joining a Group Conversation at a Company Event · Podcast

Three people are chatting by the buffet — how to join the conversation politely in English without intruding.

Listen to the episode +
comprehension test:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/joining-a-group-conversation-at-a-company-event>

NAME

DATE

BRICK 1 · LEARN THE KEY PHRASES



Read the eight phrases with meaning and example. You will hear all of them in the episode.

ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	EXAMPLE
Mind if I join you?	Darf ich mich dazustellen/dazusetzen?	<i>Mind if I join you? I heard you talking about the new terminal.</i>
by the way	übrigens	<i>I'm Anna, by the way — we emailed last week.</i>
to look after	betreuen, zuständig sein für	<i>I look after our key accounts in northern Germany.</i>
That sounds familiar	Das kommt mir bekannt vor	<i>Delayed trains? That sounds familiar.</i>
eye contact	Blickkontakt	<i>Make eye contact before you speak to the group.</i>
to keep the conversation going	das Gespräch am Laufen halten	<i>Open questions keep the conversation going.</i>
to move on	weiterziehen, weitergehen	<i>After ten minutes it is fine to move on to another group.</i>
See you around	Man sieht sich / Bis später	<i>I need to catch my train — see you around!</i>



BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS



Complete the missing word from the conversation.

See you

We see us

We see

You see us

way

side

hand

path

01 It was really nice talking to you. _____ later!

02 I'm Thomas, by the _____ — I look after logistics for the Hamburg region.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?



Tick one. T = true, F = false.

01 Thomas advises waiting for a natural pause before speaking to the group.

T ☐ F ☐

02 'We see us' is a correct way to say goodbye in English.

T ☐ F ☐

BRICK 4 · ORDER



Number the steps of the conversation (1–5).

01 ☐ Leave politely with 'See you later'

02 ☐ Ask: 'Mind if I join you?'

03 ☐ Connect to the topic the group is discussing

04 ☐ Approach the group and wait for a natural pause

05 ☐ Introduce yourself briefly

BRICK 5 · YOUR VERSION



Write two sentences of your own using phrases from Brick 1.

.....

.....

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MINI-CHECK – CAN I DO THIS YET?

- ☐ I can announce a delay politely.
- ☐ I can propose an alternative.
- ☐ I can promise written confirmation.

Listened twice and ticked everything? Then you are ready for the real conversation.

Cut-out flashcards

✕ Cut out, fold on the line – English in front, German on the back. Or practise digitally:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/joining-a-group-conversation-at-a-company-event>

Mind if I join you?

Mind if I join you? I heard you talking about the new terminal.

Darf ich mich dazustellen/dazusetzen?

by the way

I'm Anna, by the way — we emailed last week.

übrigens

to look after

I look after our key accounts in northern Germany.

betreuen, zuständig sein für

That sounds familiar

Delayed trains? That sounds familiar.

Das kommt mir bekannt vor

eye contact

Make eye contact before you speak to the group.

Blickkontakt

to keep the conversation going

Open questions keep the conversation going.

das Gespräch am Laufen halten

to move on

After ten minutes it is fine to move on to another group.

weiterziehen, weitergehen

See you around

I need to catch my train — see you around!

Man sieht sich / Bis später

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why**.

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS

01 **See you**

The goodbye is "See you later". "We see us" is the classic German word-for-word mistake.

02 **way**

"By the way" is the fixed phrase for adding your name casually.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?

01 **True**

True — approach, make eye contact, smile, and wait for a natural pause.

02 **False**

"We see us" is a word-for-word translation of "Wir sehen uns" and does not exist in English. Say "See you later" or "See you around".

BRICK 4 · ORDER

01 **1.** Approach the group and wait for a natural pause

02 **2.** Ask: 'Mind if I join you?'

03 **3.** Introduce yourself briefly

04 **4.** Connect to the topic the group is discussing

05 **5.** Leave politely with 'See you later'

KEEP PRACTISING LIVE

Want to practise these phrases in a real conversation?

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· Online.

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+49 511 95733819