

33 Making conversation



2.16 The best way to continue a conversation is to ask questions.

Keiko Ishida has just been introduced to Natalie Trudeau from WorldWide Entertainment.

Conversation A

Keiko: WorldWide Entertainment? Do you know Paul Steinway from your New York office?

Natalie: I don't know him personally, but I've spoken to him on the phone. I work in our Paris office.

Keiko: I met Paul last year.

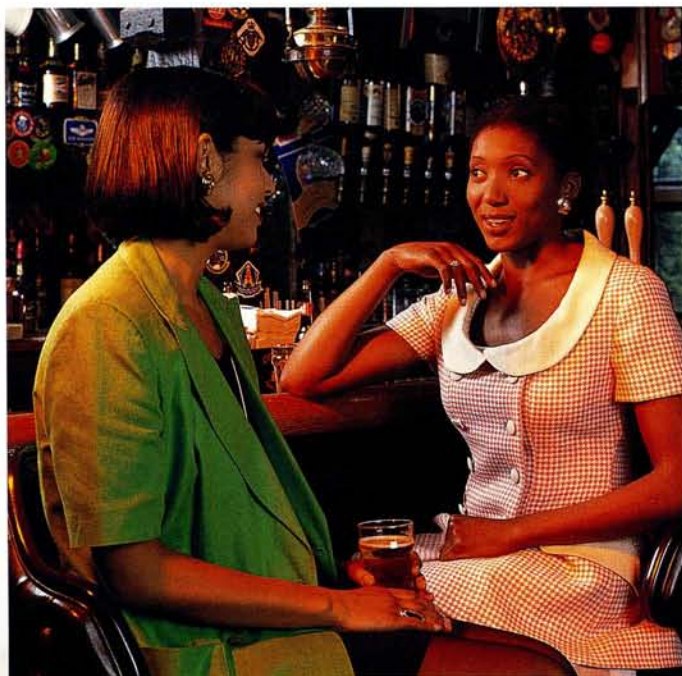
Natalie: Oh, really, where was that?

Keiko: At the film festival in Osaka. He was with a bearded man - I can't remember his name.

Natalie: A tall guy with a beard and glasses?

Keiko: That's right.

Natalie: Oh! That was Ryan Thomas. He works here in L.A.



1 Listen to Conversation A and answer these questions:

- Which office does Paul Steinway work in?
- Where does Natalie work?
- What does Ryan Thomas look like?
- Where did Keiko meet Ryan and Paul?

2 In Conversation B highlight:

- a greeting
- a question about the family
- an invitation
- an acceptance

2.17 If you've met someone's family, it's polite to ask about them.

Consuela Rodriguez has just arrived at WorldWide Entertainment's Los Angeles office.

Conversation B

Ryan Thomas: Consuela! Come in. It's great to see you again.

Consuela: It's good to see you, too. How's Marguerite?

Ryan Thomas: She's fine.

Consuela: And how are the kids?

Ryan Thomas: They're fine. Laura's just started First Grade.

Consuela: Really? How does she like it?

Ryan Thomas: She loves it ... so far. How's Enrique?

Consuela: Working too hard ... as usual! He sends his regards.

Ryan Thomas: Thank you. Marguerite says that while you're here, you must come over and visit us.

Consuela: I'd love to.

Ryan Thomas: Great. Is tomorrow evening OK?

Consuela: That's fine.



3 Discuss:

In your country, do you ...
exchange business cards?
ask about business acquaintances' families?
ask about their colleagues?
invite business contacts to your home?

Why? / Why not?

Culture File **33** Describing people 1