

10 Small talk

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- 1 Categorise the phrases and expressions a–w according to the following functions. Three have already been done for you.

Opening a conversation	Directing a conversation	Showing interest	Closing a conversation
b	c		a

a Is that the time?

b Hello again.

c That reminds me ...

d Really?

e It was nice talking to you.

f Excuse me, ...

g I see.

h We haven't met. I'm ...

i Will you excuse me?

j Uh huh.

k I must just ...

l Long time no see.

m I'm afraid I'll have to be going.

n I couldn't help noticing ...

o While we're on the subject of ...

p I understand you ...

q By the way, ...

r You're ... , aren't you?

s Right.

t Talking of ...

u Funny you should say that because ...

v You must be ...

w [name] asked me to give you her regards.

- 2 Imagine you are at a conference reception. Walk round the classroom and improvise a brief conversation with as many people as you can. Use the phrases and expressions in 1.