

**Topic: Talking to people in the community**

**Let's get started...**

Who did you talk to today? Where did you talk to them? What did you talk about?

**Background:**

Everyday, people talk with many different kinds of people. You talk to people at home, people at work, people on the phone, and people at the store. You talk to customers, children, bus drivers, police officers, co-workers, and family. Talking with people is important for getting information and building a community.



**In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:**

Who do you talk to:

- At home
- At the store
- At work
- At school
- On the bus
- On the phone



**Share your partner's answers with the group.**

**Discussion Questions:**

Who do you talk to in the community? Who do you talk to the most?

How often do you talk to new people?

Do you ever get lost when you are in the community? What would you do if you get lost?

How do you feel when you talk to someone new?

How do you feel when you ask for help at a store?

Who do you want to be able to talk to better? Why?

Who is the most difficult person to talk to in the community? (For example, employees, the bus driver, your boss)

Have you ever had a bad experience talking with a stranger? What happened?

In your native country, do people often talk to strangers? (For example, saying “hi” when walking down the street)

Where do you most often talk to strangers?

What do you do if you don’t understand someone when they are speaking? What can you say to them?

In your native country, do you use different language to talk with strangers than you do with friends and family?

When you first meet someone, what do you talk about?

What are some good things to ask someone when you first meet them? What are some things you should not ask someone when you first meet them?

What is never appropriate to ask someone in America? (For example, how old are you?)

Are some topics appropriate to talk about in your country, but not in America?

What are good “small talk” topics?

Where are some good places to meet new people?

What do you think about first impressions? Are first impressions important in your native country?

How long do you think it takes before you can become good friends with someone? (For example, one day, one month, one year, or ten years?)

**New words and Idioms:**

Stranger, first impressions, small talk, appropriate, inappropriate,