"I only go out to get me a fresh appetite for being alone."

Lord Byron (1788 – 1824), English peer and poet

1. Socialising Discussion

1. In your country, is it common for people who work together to socialise outside of work?
2. Do you socialise with your colleagues out of work time? How often? What do you do?
3. What are the benefits of socialising with your colleagues? Are there any disadvantages?
4. Does your work organise parties or other special events? If so, how are they? Do you have any funny stories to tell? How do you celebrate birthdays in the office?
5. How important is it to have fun at work? How do you have fun with your colleagues? What are some good activities that workmates can do together to have fun?
6. Are there people you work with who never socialise with others? If so, why do you think that is?
7. Should your colleagues also be your friends? Why or why not? Are any of your very close friends also your colleagues?
8. How does socialising at work affect productivity?

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2. Socialising Vocabulary

- **extrovert** (noun), **extroverted/outgoing** (adjective) – *a socially confident person.*
- **introvert** (noun), **introverted/shy** (adjective) – *a person who is quiet or feels uncomfortable socialising with others.*
- **(to) chat** (verb, noun) – *to talk in a friendly way; an informal conversation.*
- **(to) gossip** (verb, noun) – *to talk about other people, especially if that information is speculative or unconfirmed.*
- **to get to know** (verb) – *to begin the process of finding out more about someone or something.*
- **to put one's foot in one's mouth / to put one's foot in it** (idiom) – *to say the wrong thing unintentionally, especially something embarrassing, offensive or insensitive.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. Helen and Rob are always _____ about other people in the office. They must lead very boring lives!
2. I had a nice _____ with my boss yesterday. He gave me some really good advice about where my career might take me.
3. I really _____ with Deborah. I asked her when she was expecting her baby, but she told me she wasn't pregnant.
4. Sheila is very _____. She seems to know everyone and has so many different groups of friends.
5. The best way to _____ your new colleagues is to ask them genuine questions and really listen when they answer.
6. Tom is a little _____. He rarely speaks when the team goes out for drinks.

Socialising vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Who is the most outgoing person you know?
2. How could you help an introverted person feel part of the team at work?
3. Who do you like to chat with? What do you chat about?
4. Is there much office gossip where you work? Why do people like to gossip at work?
5. How would you get to know a new member of the team?
6. Have you ever put your foot in your mouth? What happened?

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3. Video: Social Intelligence

You are going to watch a TEDx Talk by Bill von Hippel called "The neuroscience of social intelligence."

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/business-english-conversation-lesson-plan-socialising/

Watch the video and after, discuss the following questions:

1. How can you win friends and influence people?
2. What are social skills? How good do you think your social skills are?
3. What are the social norms and rules of your culture? How is it different around the world? What would be considered socially inappropriate in your country?
4. Have you ever been embarrassed in a social situation? What happened?
5. Are older people more socially inappropriate than younger people? If so, how do you explain this?
6. Are some cultures more sociable than others? Which do you think are very sociable? Which are not so sociable?

4. Socialising Conversation Questions

1. Do you prefer to keep your work life and personal life separate? Why or why not? Would you rather socialise with your workmates at the weekend or spend time with your family? Why?
2. When you socialise with your workmates out of work, do you like to talk about work? If not, do you end up talking about work anyway? Why is that?
3. How could socialising with your workmates actually lead to a breakdown in the relationship?
4. Is it a good idea for bosses to socialise with their staff? Why or why not? Do people forget who the boss is when they are socialising? Should the boss be treated like any other member of staff, or should they still be treated like the boss in a social context?
5. Should you ever socialise with customers or clients outside of a work context? Why or why not?
6. How can you ensure you are aware and sensitive of others when socialising?
7. Are women or men better at socialising? Why?
8. Is there too much pressure to socialise at work? Why or why not?

5. Socialising Writing Task

You have been put in charge of organising the company's Christmas party and have come up with three options for the team to choose from. Write an email to the team explaining these three options and ask them to choose the one they like the most. Whichever option gets the most votes will be the company's Christmas party.