

CHANGING THE SUBJECT

A2-B1 | Functional language for introducing a new topic politely

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases to introduce a new topic smoothly and politely.

Anyway, ...

Anyway, how was your trip?

So, ...

So, what are you doing this weekend?

By the way, ...

By the way, did you see Anna today?

Talking of ...

Talking of movies, have you seen the new one?

That reminds me, ...

That reminds me, I need to call my sister.

Before I forget, ...

Before I forget, can I ask you something?

On another subject, ...

On another subject, do you like this music?

Let's talk about something else.

Let's talk about something else. What shall we cook?

2 Respond to the situations

Write one natural phrase to introduce the new topic in each situation.

1. Your friend is talking for a long time about a difficult exam. You want to ask about their holiday.

2. You are discussing the weather. You want to ask your classmate about their plans for the weekend.

3. A colleague tells you about a film. You remember that you need to ask about tomorrow's meeting.

4. You have finished talking about work. You want to ask a friend if they have seen a new restaurant.

5. Someone is discussing a problem with their computer. You want to ask if they know your new neighbour.

6. Your friend mentions music at a sports match. Ask what music they usually listen to.

7. A classmate is talking about a boring television programme. You want to ask about their family.

8. You need to end a conversation about a disappointing shopping trip and ask about dinner instead.

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A2-B1 | Suggested answers

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Possible answers

These are examples only. Other accurate and suitable responses are also correct.

Encourage students to choose a phrase that suits the relationship and situation.

1. Anyway, how was your holiday?

2. So, what are you doing this weekend?

3. That reminds me, can I ask about tomorrow's meeting?

4. By the way, have you seen the new restaurant near the station?

5. On another subject, do you know my new neighbour?

6. Talking of music, what do you usually listen to?

7. Let's talk about something else. How is your family?

8. Before I forget, what are you having for dinner tonight?
