Conversational English Skills

ESL Materials: Speaking Skills

Teaching Smartphone Basics

In this lesson, you're going to use English to teach someone how to use a smartphone.

First, let's look at the whole conversation. I've highlighted the key phrases in **bold**.

A: Hi Tomohiro, how's it going?
B: Good, thanks. You?
A: Yeah, not bad. Did you get your new smartphone?
B: Yes, I did, but **I'm not sure how to use it.**
A: No worries, **I can help you with that**. **What do you need help with first?**
B: **I want to learn how to** send a text message.
A: **Okay, let's start with that. First,** open the messaging app. **Do you see the icon that looks like a** speech bubble?
B: Yes, I see it.
A: Great, **tap on that icon**. Now, **do you see a button that says** "New Message" or a plus sign?
B: Yes, I see the plus sign.
A: Tap on that. **Now you can enter** the phone number or the name of the person you want to text.
B: Alright, I've entered the name. What next?
A: Now, **type your message in the text field at the bottom of the screen. Once you're done, tap the send button, which looks like an** arrow or a paper plane.
B: Okay, I've sent the message. That was easy!
A: **Good job! Do you need help with anything else?**
B: Yes, how do I take a photo?
A: **Open the camera app. The icon looks like a** camera. **Do you see it?**
B: Yes, I found it.
A: **Tap on it to** open the camera. **To take a photo, just press the** big circle button at the bottom of the screen.
B: Got it. I took a photo!
A: Nice! **If you want to see the photo, tap on the** preview in the corner of the screen.
B: Oh, there it is. Thanks! This is really helpful.
A: You're welcome. **Anytime you need help, just let me know.**
B: I will. Thanks again. Have a good one!
A: You too. See you later!

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Useful Phrases

Offering Help:

- No worries, I can help you with that.
- What do you need help with?

Giving Instructions:

- First, *[open the app/press the button/etc.]*.
- Do you see the icon that looks like *[description]*?
- Tap on that.
- Now, *[action]*.
- Once you're done, *[next action]*.

Checking for understanding:

- Do you see it?
- Alright, what next?
- Got it? Got it.

Transitioning:

- Do you need help with anything else?
- What else can I help you with?

Reviewing and Offering Further Assistance:

- If you want to *[action]*, *[instruction]*.
- Thanks! This is really helpful.
- You're welcome. Anytime you need help, just let me know.

Prepositions:

- **At** the top / bottom; **On** the left / right; **In** the corner.

Challenge!

Write out and practise a new conversation teaching someone how to do other things on their smartphone. Here are some ideas:

- Changing the wallpaper.
- Using Google Maps.
- Downloading and installing new apps.
- Making and receiving phone calls.
- Managing contacts (adding, editing, and deleting contacts).
- Using social media apps (e.g., Facebook, Instagram).

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