

CHAPTER 6 · KEEPING IT FLOWING

FINDING *common ground*

People relax when they find something you share. It's usually there if you listen for it.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Interactive version: attenglish.com/talk/6

PHRASE BOX SAY IT

ME TOO

Oh, me too!
Same here.
Really? So do I.

CLOSE, BUT DIFFERENT

I've never been, but I'd love to.
I'm more of a cat person, but...
Not quite, but my sister does.

FIND OUT MORE

Whereabouts?
How long have you been doing that?
What got you into it?

SPOT THE CLUE SPOT

People drop clues about themselves all the time. Pick the best clue to follow. Circle your answer.

- "Sorry I'm late, the traffic from Bristol was terrible this morning." Which clue gives you the most to talk about?
a) The traffic b) Bristol c) Being late
- Your colleague has a mug that says "World's okayest runner".
a) Ask about the mug's colour b) Ask if they run c) Say nothing
- "I can't stay late tonight, it's my daughter's swimming gala."
a) Ask about swimming or her daughter b) Ask why they can't stay c) Talk about your evening
- At a party someone says, "I only moved here in March."
a) Ask where they moved from b) Ask what month it is c) Tell them about your flat

"ME TOO" REPLIES MATCH

Match each comment with a natural reply that builds common ground. Write the letter in the middle column.

They say	Letter	You reply
1. I'm from the north of England.		A. Same here. Have you done any walks in the Lake District?
2. I'm learning Spanish at the moment.		B. Me neither, but it's top of my list.
3. I love hiking at the weekend.		C. So am I. Have you tried the new place on the high street?
4. I've never been to Italy.		D. Oh, whereabouts? I've got friends in Leeds.
5. I'm a big coffee person.		E. Me too! How long have you been learning?

FIND THE CONNECTION PLAY

You're at a friend's barbecue talking to someone new. Find something you share. Write what you would say at each turn.

Sam: "Hi, I'm Sam. I work with Laura at the hospital. Sorry, I'm a bit tired, I was up early for a run."

Sam: "Most mornings, yes. I'm training for a half marathon in Cardiff."

Sam: "That's brilliant! Five K is a great start. Have you found any good routes round here?"

YOUR COMMON-GROUND LINE WRITE

Think of a hobby, place or interest you'd love to share with someone. Write a "me too" line you can use.

Something about you that others could share (a hobby, place or interest)

A clue that might come up in conversation

Your "me too" line (agree, add a detail, ask a question)

SAY IT ALOUD SAY IT

Practise your common-ground line so it comes out naturally when the moment arrives. Tick a box each time you say it aloud.

Line	Said it
Oh, me too! I've just started running. Have you got any tips?	☐ ☐ ☐
Whereabouts? I've got friends in Leeds.	☐ ☐ ☐
My own line:	☐ ☐ ☐

Focus: Sound pleased. Finding something in common is a happy moment.

BEFORE YOU MOVE ON REFLECT

What clues about you could other people notice (a bag, a mug, an accent)?

Who do you need to find common ground with this week?

What's an unusual thing you've had in common with someone?

WHAT TO REMEMBER

- ☐ Listen for clues: places, hobbies, family, food.
- ☐ Notice what people wear, carry or keep on their desk.
- ☐ “Me too” plus a detail plus a question.
- ☐ Close is good enough: “I've never been, but I'd love to.”
- ☐ Small shared things build real connections.