Socialising and networking

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each socialising word.

Word | Personality | Activity | Event | Skill

1 outgoing [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 rapport [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 RSVP [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 networking [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 reserved [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 icebreaker [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 reunion [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 approachable [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 She is very outgoing person. _____
2 We built a good rapport together each other. _____
3 Please RSVP until Friday. _____
4 He is good in networking events. _____
5 She seems quite reserved of new people. _____
6 That joke was a great icebreaker for. _____
7 We had a class reunion of last month. _____
8 He is very approachable person. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For someone who enjoys meeting new people: outgoing / withdrawn.
2 For a strong, comfortable connection with someone: rapport / friction.
3 For a shy, quiet person: reserved / gregarious.
4 For a comment or activity that eases initial awkwardness: icebreaker / obstacle.
5 For an event bringing former classmates together: reunion / farewell.
6 For someone easy to talk to: approachable / intimidating.

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4 Complete the profiles with words from the box.

approachable | gregarious | icebreaker | networking | outgoing | rapport | reserved | reunion

Profile A: Marco is naturally 1 _____ and 2 _____, always the first to start a conversation at parties.
Profile B: Lena is more 3 _____ in large groups, but she quickly builds 4 _____ with people once she feels comfortable.
Profile C: At the conference, she used a light joke as an 5 _____ before diving into serious 6 _____ conversations.
Profile D: Everyone found the professor surprisingly 7 _____, and the class 8 _____ ten years later was full of warm memories.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The skill of small talk

Small talk is often dismissed as trivial, yet researchers argue it plays an important social function, helping strangers establish rapport before moving to more meaningful conversation. Skilled networkers use small talk deliberately, asking open questions and showing genuine curiosity rather than simply waiting for their turn to speak. For more reserved individuals, having a few reliable icebreakers prepared in advance can reduce anxiety at social events. Ultimately, the goal of small talk is not the content itself but the sense of ease and connection it can create between people who have just met.

1 How is small talk often dismissed? _____

2 What important social function does it play, according to researchers? _____

3 What do skilled networkers do deliberately? _____

4 What can help reduce anxiety for reserved individuals? _____

5 What is the goal of small talk, according to the text? _____

6 Is the content of small talk the most important part? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 She enjoys meeting new people. OUTGOING _____

2 They quickly felt comfortable together. RAPPORT _____

3 He is easy to approach and talk to. APPROACHABLE _____

4 The joke helped ease the initial awkwardness. ICEBREAKER _____

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account describing how you (or someone you know) approach networking or meeting new people. Include specific strategies.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Personality 2 Skill 3 Skill 4 Activity 5 Personality 6 Skill 7 Event 8 Personality

2 Corrections

1 a very outgoing person 2 built a good rapport with each other 3 RSVP by Friday
4 good at networking events 5 reserved with new people 6 a great icebreaker
7 a class reunion last month 8 a very approachable person

3 Suitable descriptions

1 outgoing 2 rapport 3 reserved 4 icebreaker 5 reunion 6 approachable

4 Profiles

1 outgoing 2 gregarious 3 reserved 4 rapport 5 icebreaker 6 networking 7 approachable 8 reunion

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 As trivial.
2 It helps strangers establish rapport before moving to more meaningful conversation.
3 Ask open questions and show genuine curiosity.
4 Having a few reliable icebreakers prepared in advance.
5 The sense of ease and connection it creates between people who have just met.
6 No.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 She is outgoing. 2 They quickly built a rapport. 3 He is approachable. 4 The joke was a good icebreaker.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.