**SKILL BUILDING & SKILL USING ACTIVITY PLANNER**

**Real World Task Assessment:** *Start, participate in, and close a small talk conversation with your teacher.*

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| **CRITERIA 1: Icebreakers / Start**  Skill-Building Ideas:   * Listen to examples and identify how they start the conversation (questions, transcripts, etc.) * Sort a list of icebreakers into polite/rude topics (appropriate/inappropriate), go over appropriate topics in Canada   Skill-Using Ideas:   * Cut up icebreakers/topics into strips, one for each student and start a conversation with a partner * Switch topics/partners multiple times (start timing, change faster and faster as they get better) * Pick a “rude” topic for fun and to see how they handle a topic they don’t like/discuss strategies | **CRITERIA 2: Respond**  Skill-Building Ideas:   * Match appropriate responses to some icebreakers (worksheet) * Read short dialogues and find or choose the most appropriate response * Brainstorm good and bad responses to common icebreakers   Skill-Using Ideas:   * Half the class gets an icebreaker (strip/card), the other half has to come up with a response (no paper!), switch after everyone has tried with everyone else * Challenge students to come up with new icebreakers, or try a conversation with a partner without an assigned icebreaker |
| **CRITERIA 3:**  Skill-Building Ideas:   * Introduce the kinds of common questions get asked in small talk – listen to or read examples to pick out questions – go back to previous examples from Day 2 * Simple question formation grammar instruction/exercise (try to keep in the context of small talk), or list of common questions (and answers!) to practice * Intonation practice with common questions   Skill-Using Ideas:   * “Find someone who...” activity with the common questions * Write a short dialogue (about 5 turns) to include everything, including a question and response, practice and perform in front of the class | **CRITERIA 4: End politely**  Skill-Building Ideas:   * In groups, make a list of different ways you already know how to end a conversation (hopefully this criteria is mostly review) * Discuss/review appropriate Canadian culture for politeness, don’t just walk away, use an expression like “I have to go now”, “have a nice day” or “see you later”   Skill-Using Ideas:   * Timed practice of a small talk conversation, when the timer goes off (or teacher rings a bell, etc.), end the conversation immediately and politely * Practice a small talk conversation with one partner, from beginning to end |