



PINES ACADEMY
INTERNATIONAL



Let's Talk 3



English as a
Foreign
Language



Preface



Let's Talk 3 is a conversation and discussion book intended for Level 3 students who are taking up English as a Foreign Language (EFL). Discussion is an activity that demands high-level thinking skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, deduction, inference, putting ideas in a logical sequence, and summarization. In addition, students need to express their ideas and opinions simply and clearly, using persuasion, cooperation, suggestion, agreement, disagreement, and negotiation. These are important skills in the mother language, as well as in a second language.

This book is, therefore, not just about getting students to talk. It also offers them training in the techniques needed for expressing one's ideas and opinions to other people. Because of this, the users of this book are treated not only as language learners, but also as thinking human beings, capable of talking about things that are important to them.

There are nineteen (19) units in this book. Each unit follows a set structure designed to develop meaningful vocabulary, expressions, conversation strategies, and discussion skills:

- a) Topic Reading. This part presents a reading passage about the main topic, along with useful expressions and vocabulary.
- b) Discussion. This part presents discussion questions to invite students to discuss the issues of the passage.
- c) Conversation strategies. This part presents practical tools of discussion. These are the cement for the building blocks of fact and opinion. However knowledgeable we are, we need to know how to present our ideas and how to link them.

Unit 1

Friendship



"What is friendship?" At first sight, this seems a strange question. After all, we all have friends, and we know what friendship means to us. When we look deeper, however, we find that friendship has many meanings. In the most frequently used meaning, two or more people share knowledge and affection. They like being together and want whatever is best for each other. Furthermore, their tastes (food, clothes, music, etc.) are usually similar, and they like doing the same activities. Friends are

sympathetic, honest, and understanding to each other. Most of all, a good friend will give unpleasant advice if necessary, and will share hard times as well as good times. As the saying goes, 'A friend in need is a friend indeed.'

Friendship goes back to the dawn of history. The earliest written story*, from India, is about the friendship between a king and his companion. The Greeks also told of the friendship of Orestes and Pylades, who sailed through life together as though in one boat. Finally, the philosophers, Aristotle and Plato, both talked about friendship as an important characteristic of human beings.

It might be difficult to put one's finger on the exact meaning, but we can see that friendship is a basic quality of being a person.



*The Epic of Gilgamesh

DISCUSSION (group)

- Talk about the questions below.
- Use the **Conversation Strategies** at the bottom of the page.

1. **What do you look for in a friend? What makes a good friend?**
 ➤ Support your opinion.

2. **Are you a good friend?**
 ➤ Why or why not? Explain.

3. **What will you do for your friends?**
 ➤ Will you lend money?
 ➤ Will you help your friends in hard times?
 ➤ Why or why not? Support your opinion.



4. **Is friendship more important than honesty?**
 ➤ Would you do your friend's homework?
 ➤ Would you tell a lie for your friend? Why or why not? Support your opinion.

5. **Would you give unpleasant advice to your friend if necessary?**
 ➤ Why or why not? Support your opinion.

6. **'Nobody knows you when you're down and out.'**
 ➤ What does this mean?
 ➤ Is it possible for rich and famous people to have good friends? Why or why not? Support your opinion.

7. **Is friendship more important than marriage?**
 ➤ Why or why not? Support your opinion.

Conversation Strategies

Putting things in sequence:

1. First of all,
2. Then,
3. Next,
4. After that,
5. Finally,

6. To begin with,
7. Furthermore,
8. On top of that,
9. What's more,
10. In conclusion,