**2. Strategies for speaking effectively on placement**

There are many strategies that you already use as you communicate and interact with others. These include:

* Expressing opinions
* Demonstrating reasoning
* Asking for clarification
* Showing awareness of others

To speak effectively during placement, consider engaging in polite, surface-level chat about ordinary or unimportant topics when talking to people you don't know well. For example, during your coffee break on placement, you might want to start a light, informal conversation with someone else on their coffee break by saying things like:

*Hi, I don’t think we’ve met yet. I am […] .*

*How long have you been working here?*

*Any recommendations for a good lunch spot around here?* etc.

Remember people’s names and repeat the name back in your greeting:

*Nice to meet you, Tom.*

Use conversation starting statements ie.,

*What a beautiful day!*

You may not feel comfortable engaging in small talk or having fluent conversations, and that’s okay. Developing communication skills is a process; it doesn’t happen automatically. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes. Having a variety of strategies to use according to your needs and context will help.

For example, to fill the awkward moments in the conversation, use ‘Jump starters’ by asking questions such as …

*Did you happen to watch …?*

*Have any of you seen the film …?*

*Have you heard on the news yesterday that …?*

Verbally let others know that you are following along, actively listening by showing interest in hearing more, clarifying, seeking specifics etc.

For more speaking strategies visit: [Improving your English](https://www.deakin.edu.au/students/study-support/study-resources/study-assistance/improving-your-english) webpage.