

Speaking: sounding interested

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1 Listen to two people talking about zoos and answer the questions.

- 1 Which one sounds the most involved in what they are saying?
- 2 Which one doesn't sound very interested?
- 3 How did you decide?
- 4 What effect does the attitude of the speaker have on the listener?

2 Which of the following statements are true?

To involve a partner in a conversation:

- it is always necessary to disagree with them
- it is a good idea to ask them for their opinion
- it isn't a good idea to use question tags
- it is important to answer using more than one or two words
- intonation is important to give a good impression
- you should talk a lot.

2 Which of the following phrases are engaging? Which are off-putting? Try saying them to a partner and see what they think.

That's really interesting – tell me more.

Do you think so?

No, I don't really agree – but what I think is ...

I suppose so.

I totally agree – and what's more ...

A good point – it's absolutely true that ...

3 Discuss the following question with a partner:

Do you think that zoos have a place in modern society?

- 1 Begin the conversation by expressing your view in a bored way.
- 2 Then change to be more interested.
- 3 Finally change to sound interested, engaged and involved.

4 Discuss these questions. Try to sound interested, and to engage your partner in the conversation.

- 1 Does it really matter if some animals become extinct?
- 2 How can ordinary people help endangered animals?
- 3 Do we have a responsibility to future generations? What?
- 4 What can we learn from studying animals?