

ESL360© LESSON 1.3

I Should Let You Go: Ending Conversations

Unit 1 — Making Connections

KEY LEARNINGS

PART A Recognize when a conversation is ending and respond appropriately.	PART B End a conversation naturally and warmly.
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CORE LANGUAGE FOR TODAY

Listen for these phrases. Try the ones that feel useful and natural to you.

When a conversation is starting to end	When the other person is leaving
Well, I should probably get going.	Of course.
I'd better get going.	Absolutely. I'll let you go.
I've gotta get going. [C]	It was great talking to you.
I should let you go.	You too. Take care.
I'll let you get back to it.	Talk to you soon. [C/N]

Register key: [C] casual [N] neutral [F] more formal / polished

These are guides, not rules. The relationship and situation matter most.

PART A — RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND

What is happening here?

Student A: Well, I should probably get going.

Student B: Oh, before you go, how did your appointment turn out?

1. What does Student A want to happen next?
2. What is Student B doing?
3. Where is the mismatch?
4. What could Student B say instead?

PART A — LISTEN FOR THE SHIFT

In Lessons 1.1 and 1.2, you practiced being interested: listen, respond, and ask genuine follow-up questions. Now add one more skill: notice when your partner's purpose changes.

Listen closely enough to know when to keep the conversation going — and when to help it close.

Keep going or starting to close?

1. Well, I should probably get going. **KEEP GOING / STARTING TO CLOSE**
2. Oh, really? What happened next? **KEEP GOING / STARTING TO CLOSE**
3. I'd better get going. **KEEP GOING / STARTING TO CLOSE**
4. That reminds me—have you ever been there? **KEEP GOING / STARTING TO CLOSE**
5. I'll let you get back to it. **KEEP GOING / STARTING TO CLOSE**

CONVERSATION PRACTICE: BE INTERESTED — AND LISTEN FOR THE SHIFT

Use the same conversation skills you have been practicing. Ask because you are genuinely interested, and build your next question from what your partner says.

- A. Ask your partner about something they did last weekend. Listen to the answer, respond naturally, and ask follow-up questions.
- B. Ask your partner about something they are looking forward to this week. Listen to the answer, respond naturally, and ask follow-up questions.
- C. Ask your partner about something they watched, read, tried, or visited recently. Follow the part of the answer that interests you most.

When your partner gives a closing signal:

- Notice the shift in purpose.
- Respond to the closing signal instead of automatically asking another question.
- Help the conversation end naturally and warmly.

Useful Listener Responses

- Of course.
- Absolutely. I'll let you go.
- It was great talking to you.
- It was nice talking to you too.
- Same here. Take care. [C/N]
- Sure. Talk to you soon. [C/N]

PART B — END NATURALLY AND WARMLY

A natural ending may do one, two, or all three of these jobs.

1. SIGNAL	2. CONNECT	3. CLOSE
Let the other person know the conversation is ending. Well, I should probably get going. I'd better get going. I'll let you get back to it.	Leave the interaction warm. It was really nice talking to you. It was great catching up. [C] I'm glad we got a chance to talk.	Finish. Take care. Talk to you soon. [C/N] I'll be in touch. [N/F]

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

Ask yourself: Would I say this to this person?

CLOSE FRIEND	CASUAL ACQUAINTANCE	SOMEONE YOU JUST MET
I've gotta get going. [C]	Well, I should probably get going. [N]	Well, I should probably get going. [N]
It was great catching up. [C]	It was really nice talking to you. [N]	It was very nice meeting you. [N/F]
Talk to you later. [C]	Take care. [N]	Take care. [N]

BRING IT TOGETHER: REAL CONVERSATION

Keep using your Unit 1 skills:

- Be interested. Listen and ask genuine follow-up questions.
- When you need to leave, give a recognizable closing signal.
- Choose language that fits the relationship.
- When your partner signals an ending, shift from “keep it going” to “help it close.”

My Take-Away Phrases

Choose 3–5 expressions you genuinely want to remember and use.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

MAIN LANGUAGE BANK

Use this page as a reference. You do not need to learn every expression.

[C] casual [N] neutral [F] more formal / polished

WHEN I WANT TO LEAVE

- Well, I should probably get going. [N]
- I'd better get going. [N]
- I've gotta get going. [C]
- I really have to run. [C]
- I need to head out. [C/N]
- I should let you go. [N]
- I'll let you get back to it. [N]
- I don't want to keep you. [N/F]

LEAVE THE INTERACTION WARM

- It was really nice talking to you. [N]
- It was great talking to you. [N]
- It was great catching up. [C]
- I'm glad we got a chance to talk. [N]
- It was very nice meeting you. [N/F]
- It was a pleasure meeting you. [F]
- I really appreciate your help. [N]
- Thank you for your time. [F] — situation-specific

FINISH THE CONVERSATION

- Take care. [N]
- Talk to you soon. [C/N]
- Talk to you later. [C]
- See you later. [C]
- Let's catch up again soon. [C/N]
- I'll be in touch. [N/F]
- Have a good one. [C]
- Have a good day. [N]

WHEN THE OTHER PERSON IS TRYING TO LEAVE

- Of course. [N]
- Absolutely. [N]
- Of course. I'll let you go. [N]
- Absolutely. I'll let you get going. [N]
- It was great talking to you. [N]
- It was nice talking to you too. [N]
- Same here. Take care. [C/N]
- Sure. Talk to you soon. [C/N]
- No problem. I'll let you get back to it. [N]

IF THE FIRST SIGNAL DOES NOT WORK

- I'm sorry, but I really do have to get going. [N]
- I wish I could stay, but I've got to go. [N]
- I really need to head out now. [C/N]
- I'm afraid I really do need to leave. [F]