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| Communication Skills: Talking about Yourself  |
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| Generally speaking, people want to know more about you. They will often ask questions that will allow you to talk about yourself. Even when you answer the simple introductory question, “How are you?” you can give more information about yourself. For example, “I’m doing really well. I just received a new promotion at work.” Things about you that others will want to know include:* Your job
* Your family
* Your friends
* Your hobbies

People also like to hear your stories and experiences. These are called anecdotes. When you are telling anecdotes keep them simple. Use a basic story structure with a beginning, a middle and an ending. The beginning sets the scene and introduces the characters. The middle presents the characters with a problem. The ending shows how the characters resolve the problem. Beginning: *When I was travelling in Australia a few years ago, I went to the very far north, near Darwin. There is a national park there called Kakadu National Park. I joined a group of people and we went camping out in the wilderness for a week.*Middle: *We spent our days hiking around the park. We climbed up massive rocks and up a waterfall. Then we jumped from the top of the falls. We floated down a small river on a raft. I got hot, so I jumped off the raft and swam instead. I was swimming through the water and turned my head to look at the rocks beside me. There, sitting on a rock was a small fresh water crocodile.*Ending: *I panicked and started to swim as fast as I could. I raced to a beach beyond the rocks. When I got to the sand I ran out of the water. I turned around to look back. The crocodile was still sitting there on the rocks enjoying the sun, smiling.* |

*A. Write three short personal stories. Keep them short and simple. Make sure there is a clear beginning, middle and ending.*

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*B. Talk with several classmates, as if you were meeting them for the first time. Find out some of their interesting anecdotes and share yours.*