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| Communication Skills: Changing the Subject |
| The subject of a conversation can change as frequently as every sentence. We might change the subject because:   * We are bored. * We feel we have talked about the subject long enough. * We find the subject awkward or embarrassing. * We have another subject that we really want to talk about.   There are many phrases or sentences that we can use to signal to the other people in the conversation that we would like to change the subject. These phrases allow us to change the subject without appearing to be rude. The phrases are listed here in order of formality, from least formal to most formal.   * Can we talk about something else? * Moving on…. * What else is new? * Oh, before I forget…. * So… * Anyway… * So, anyway… * I was wondering about… * By the way… * Speaking of [current subject], how about [new, related subject]… * Let’s talk about/discuss… * To change the subject… * Another thing I wanted to mention… * Another thing I wanted to bring up… * Another thing I wanted to ask you about… * Another thing worth mentioning… * Can we/Let’s discuss the next item on the agenda? |

*A. Underline the phrases in the dialogue below that are used to change the subject.*

Joe: Have you seen the movie *Hitch Hiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* yet?

Cheryl: No, not yet. I heard it was good, but I want to read the book first. Speaking of movies, how was your movie date with Anna?

Joe: It was okay. We went for dinner then to the late show. By the way, how are your night classes going?

Cheryl: They’re going well. I passed all of the tests with flying colours.

*B. Work with a partner to write a dialogue in which there are at least three changes of subject. Practice your dialogue with your partner.*

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