

## TIPS ON HOW TO USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONVERSATION EXCHANGE SITES

Mixer

<http://www.language-exchanges.org/content/welcome>

My Language Exchange

<https://www.mylanguageexchange.com/>

Wespeke

<http://en-us.wespeke.com/index.html>

Conversation exchange

<http://www.conversationexchange.com/>

- Don't wait for someone to contact you! Send a message to a few people and, if they don't respond, try someone else. All participants in these sites want to find a conversation partner, so they expect to be contacted.
- When you find a conversation partner, agree in advance how often you'll speak online and how long you'll spend on each language. Use one language at a time and switch languages only once, halfway through the conversation.
- Agree on a series of conversation topics beforehand. Here are some conversation starters that even a beginner student could try:
  - Describe yourself, your family and your circle of friends
  - Talk about your hometown (what are the pros and cons about living there? what are the fun things to do?)
  - Talk about your daily activities
  - Talk about your interests
  - Talk about your leisure activities

If you are stuck, remember to resort to "where?" "how?" "when?" "why?" statements or questions to expand any given topic.

If you have exhausted these topics, and if you feel comfortable, you can move to other subjects of conversation, such as:

- Issues involving your community
- Holidays in your country
- Traditions you follow and like
- Current events in the world
- Cuisine, cinema, literature, and other topics of interest

Keep in mind that misunderstandings may happen when interacting with someone from a different culture and with an imperfect knowledge of your language. So, be patient and forgiving, and be ready to listen as much as you are ready to speak.

Finally, have fun and report back to us via **Discussion Board** (subject "Conversation exchanges") or email ([italianonline@wellesley.edu](mailto:italianonline@wellesley.edu))

*Buona conversazione!*

Daniela Bartalesi-Graf & the ItalianOnline Team

