

## Commentary: Listening for Conversational Patterns

This listening exercise comprises part of a larger unit on conversational patterns (e.g., greeting, small talk, topic shifts, closing), active participation (e.g., backchannel cues), and prosodic and phonological characteristics of spoken English, especially fast speech. The intent is to provide the student with an awareness of these features to assist them in their listening comprehension in interactive contexts.

U-M students will be familiar with the purpose of academic advising and the advisor-student relationship; others may not be and thus will need a short explanation.

A transcript of the excerpts is included for reference by the teacher. Students are instructed to listen to the excerpts **without referring to a transcript**.

Transcript:

**S1:** so. i see that you're from Hartland Michigan [S1: yes ] this is, right up the road

**S2:** mhm, like forty minutes from here [S1: yeah ] mhm

**S1:** okay, and uh, you say that you're interested in prebusiness and economics

**S2:** i was i don't think that i am anymore <LAUGH>

**S1:** okay cuz you write a lot about international business.

**S2:** mhm i wro- i w- i'm interested in the um, international aspect, [S1: uhuh, uhuh ] more, of a um, of a, program or whatnot so, like the international, business i was gonna do, it's a really, you know open field, you know like all that stuff but i don't, think that that's what i wanna do anymore, so

**S1:** okay so what, what changed your mind and what has it been changed to?

**S2:** um, i, don't know if i wanna sp- like i wanna experience like you know, cultures and and the world and and [S1: mhm ] everything and and business would be get me th- to these places but i don't know if i wanna spend all my time behind a desk, not really enjoying where i am, you know, like having to d- work with numbers all the time and like, not really being out, doing something a little more interesting maybe like flavorful in any case so, i thought about um, i don't know if i, i mean even if i, ugh i just don't think business is and i, i have lots of other interests like um, that are a little bit more like, paleontology or astronomy or [S1: oh ] international religion or uh not religion international relations, so, those things i wanna\_ i think i'm gonna concentrate more on, i don't think i wanna do the business.

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**S1:** now you see this here, this is a course in paleontology [S2: oh it is, i didn't ] but it tells you that you have to have an introductory [S2: biology ] biology course and, Geology one-seventeen before you can take it. so... so you look and you say okay, well what is this, one-seventeen is that introductory course in geology. [S2: mhm ] so, that's one way to look at it [S2: okay ] now another way... so we can also go and look at astronomy... [S2: mkay ] and it tells you about the sol- you know, you've got The Solar System, you've got The Stars Galaxies and the Universe, and see some of these courses are intended for students who, are not gonna be majors and others for students who are [S2: right ] so you've got to, kind of look at that [S2: mkay ] and some of them have labs and some of them don't. uh, and the lab is, great fun, because you go up on the, roof of Angell Hall where they have the telescopes [S2: oh, that would be fun ] and that's where and that's where you have your labs. so

**S2:** that would be exciting, yeah

**S1:** uhuh, so look at those two tonight [S2: okay, i will ] alright? [S2: definitely ] now, i'm gonna see you tomorrow morning [S2: mkay ] and at that point, i hope, that you've worked out four or five courses, [S2: mkay ] and i can um, you know we can finalize your elections, and then one of the peer advisors will help you register right in this office and you'll walk out of here with your courses in your hand

**S2:** great

**S1:** okay?

**S2:** i'm excited

**S1:** good

**S2:** yes. okay

**S1:** nice meeting you and i'll see you tomorrow

**S2:** nice meeting you yes. eight-thirty

**S1:** bye bye

**S2:** bye