

## Functional language frequently used in speech . . .



*...to start a conversation with a stranger /  
to draw somebody's attention:*

▶ **Excuse me.**

*...to introduce a question:*

- ▶ **Can/Could I ask you a question?**
- ▶ **Let me ask you something.**

*...to introduce a suggestion:*

- ▶ **Listen... / Why don't we...?**
- ▶ **Let's...! / Shall we...?**
- ▶ **I'll tell you what...**

*...to give yourself time to think /  
to show that you're about to answer:*

- ▶ **Well, er... / All right, uh...**
- ▶ **Let's see...**
- ▶ **Let me think/see...**

*...to express uncertainty / hesitation:*

- ▶ **Perhaps / Maybe.**
- ▶ **Who knows?**
- ▶ **I'm not sure.**

*...to show that you couldn't understand what someone said:*

- ▶ **(I beg your) Pardon?**
- ▶ **Sorry. What did you say?**
- ▶ **I'm sorry. Can you say that again?**

*...to agree with the speaker:*

- ▶ **(Yes) That's right / You're right.**
- ▶ **Absolutely.**
- ▶ **Me too/neither.**

*...to show disagreement:*

- ▶ **I don't think you're right.**
- ▶ **(I'm afraid) I don't agree with you.**

*...to make sure the listener understands:*

- ▶ **You know what I mean?**
- ▶ **You see?**

*...to give listeners their turn to speak:*

- ▶ **How/What about you?**
- ▶ **What do you think about it?**
- ▶ **How do you feel about that?**