Small Talk That Goes Somewhere

ANSWER KEY | Self-check and teacher notes

CHECK YOUR WORK

Questions 1–8 have one intended answer. Questions 9–10 are open: the examples below are models, not the only acceptable answers.

A Choose the most natural response (4 points)

QUESTION	ANSWER	WHY
1	a That sounds exciting!	Matches positive business news.
2	b That sounds challenging.	Shows empathy without celebrating a hard week.
3	a How did it go?	Follows up on a completed event.
4	b I've been working on a new project.	Shares an update when invited to speak.

B Complete the expressions (4 points)

QUESTION	ANSWER	COMPLETE SENTENCE
5	been	How's your week been so far?
6	sounds	That sounds challenging.
7	did	How did it go?
8	working	I've been working on a presentation.

C Model answers (2 points)

9. "That sounds interesting! How did it go?" or simply "How did it go?"

10. "That sounds challenging." / "That sounds stressful." / "I hope it goes smoothly."

Accept other responses that are polite, relevant and natural. Award 1 point for each suitable improvement.

Speaking mission: possible model

SHORT MODEL EXCHANGE

"How's your week been?" / "We've just finished a difficult project."
"That sounds challenging. How did it go?" / "Better than expected!"
"Glad to hear it. I've been preparing a new workshop."

Teaching tip: Do not require learners to memorise the model. Reward listening, relevant follow-ups and appropriate reactions.