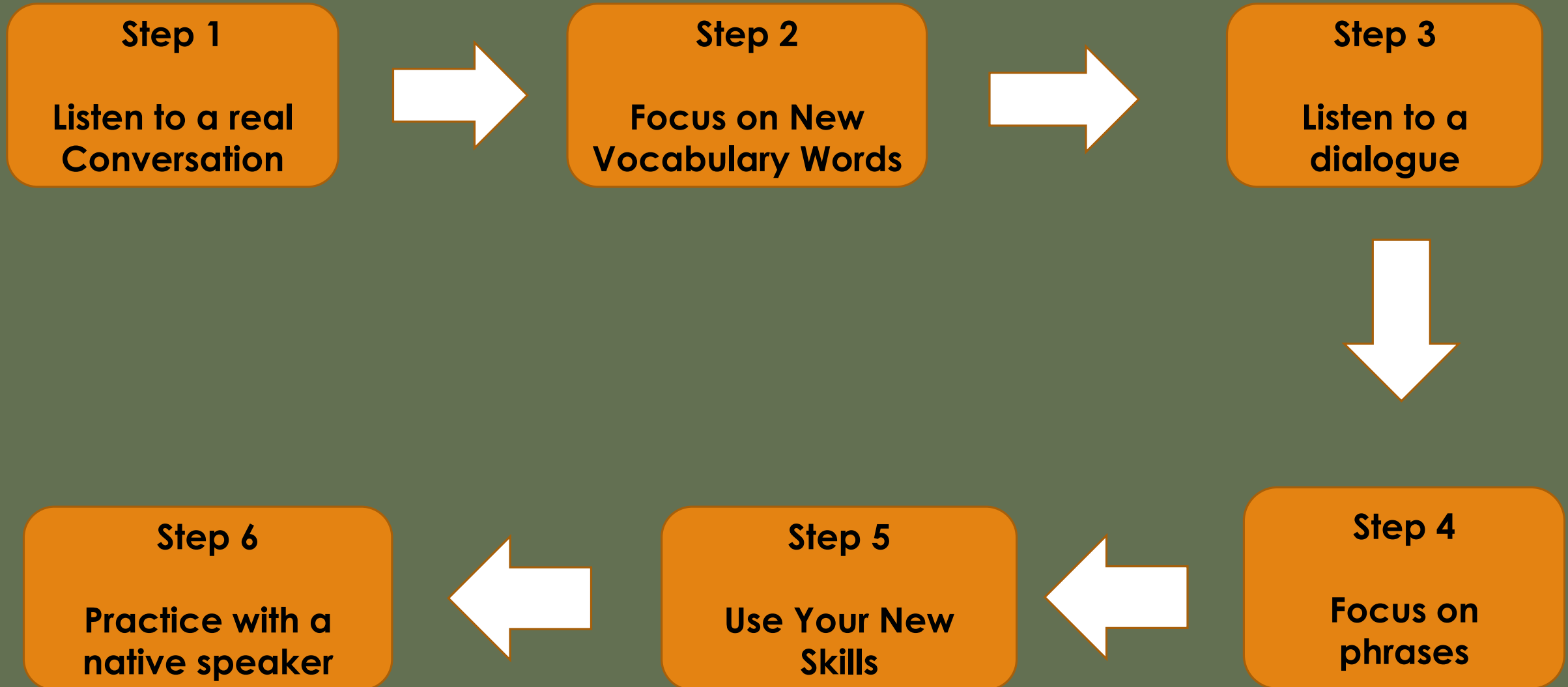




How Is Your Generation Different?

A Vocabulary Lesson

Our Method



Step 1: How Is Your Generation Different?



Please listen to Audio Step 1- “How Is Your Generation Different?”

In the US, there are major differences in life outlook and values between Generation Y and the Baby Boomer generation. Find out what they are in this conversation.

Please view Transcript Step 1- “How Is Your Generation Different?”

Bonus Step! Generation Terminology in American Culture



Generation Y

- Also known as “Millenials”
- Born between 1980 and 2000
- Digital natives
- Entrepreneurial (strongly influenced by Recession of 2008)
- Generation “Why?” (question authority and accepted norms)
- Achievement oriented, ambitious, optimistic
- Interested in social justice and humanitarian issues

**Note- these are broad generalizations and not everyone will fit these characteristics but this information does reflect research that has been done on generational cultures in the US.*

Bonus Step! Generation Terminology in American Culture



Generation X

- Born early 1960's to early 1980's
- Embrace social diversity (gender, class, race, sexual orientation)
- Entrepreneurial
- “Latch-key” kids
- Cynical

**Note- these are broad generalizations and not everyone will fit these characteristics but this information does reflect research that has been done on generational cultures in the US.*

Bonus Step! Generation Terminology in American Culture



Baby Boomer
Generation

- Born between 1946 and 1964
- Large generation (80 million)
- Strong work ethic, motivated by mobility within a company
- Believe in hierarchy at work
- Question status quo
- Career focused and goal oriented

**Note- these are broad generalizations and not everyone will fit these characteristics but this information does reflect research that has been done on generational cultures in the US.*

Step 2: Focus on New Vocabulary Expressions

Left and right

Glass ceiling

To make strides

To take a route

Bottom of the barrel

To give someone credit

Bright future

Left and right

Expression



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**This expression means that something is happening everywhere,
all of the time, it is common**

“People are losing their jobs left and right.”

**To take a
route**

Expression



To make a decision, to follow a specific path in life

***“I had to choose between becoming a doctor and a lawyer and
I took the route of becoming a doctor.”***

**Bottom of the
barrel,
to scrape the
bottom of the
barrel**

Idiom



The place where you find the items of the lowest quality

“They really scraped the bottom of the barrel to fill this position.”

Glass ceiling

Expression



The unseen barrier that keeps minorities and women from moving up to higher levels within a company or professional field

“No matter how hard she works she will have to face the glass ceiling.”

**To give
someone
credit**

Expression



**To recognize something good that someone has done or
accomplished**

“I have been working hard on this report. Give me some credit.”

**To make
strides**

Expression



**To make significant improvements in any area of life, including
personal or professional goals**

***“You have made huge strides in terms of your fitness goals this
year.”***

Bright future

Expression



Positive expectations for the future

“This kid has a bright future because he has a great family and is getting a good education.”

Step 3: When Are You Going to Get a Real Job?

In this conversation you will hear a common disagreement between a mother in the Baby Boomer generation and a daughter in Generation Y.

Please see the “Audio Steps 3 and 4- When Are You Going to Get a Real Job?”



Step 4: Focus on the Vocabulary Phrases

Learn the new vocabulary in context!

Please open “Transcript Steps 3 and 4- When Are You Going to Get a Real Job?”

- Mom, give me a little credit here
- I know you have been making some huge strides
- I am not sure why you want to take this route.
- People are losing their jobs left and right
- I think you would have a bright future...
- I would still have to deal with the glass ceiling
- I don't want to start at the bottom of a corporate ladder with coworkers who are at the bottom of the barrel

Bonus! Say It Another Way!

Learn how to say the phrases in a different way!

Click on the file “Say It Another Way”

Step 5: Use Your New Skills

Bright future

Left and right

**To make
strides**

To take a route

Glass ceiling

**To give
someone credit**

**Bottom of the
barrel**

A: So how are things going with your nine-to-five job?

B: Well I feel like I am ___1___ (making progress), but there is still a huge ___2___ (invisible barrier) for women in the corporate world and I can't break through it.

A: Hmm I know what you mean. Have you ever thought about ___3___ (trying something different)?

B: Like what?

A: I don't know. Maybe you could work in a place where they give you ___4___ (more recognition) when you do a good job.

B: It's a good idea. I'll look into it.

Answers to Step 5

- 1) Making strides
- 2) Glass ceiling
- 3) Taking a different route
- 4) more credit

Bright future



Prepare Your Vocabulary Cards

To make strides



To give someone credit



Glass ceiling

Bottom of the barrel



To take a route



Left and right

Step 6: Practice with a Native Conversation 1

- Do you think that the **glass ceiling** still exists for women in the working world? Describe how the glass ceiling works in your home country and how it might be different from the glass ceiling in the US.
- How do you see the future for Generation Y in terms of careers. Do they have a **bright future**? Why or why not?
- Name one career decision that you made that was influenced by the mindset of your generation. Are you glad you **took that route** Should you have **taken a different route**?

Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student): Do you think that women are still affected by the _____ (glass ceiling) in the corporate world?

B: I guess it still exists but young women these days have a _____ (bright future).

A: Why do you say that?

B: Well they have so many different options that other generations never had. They can _____ (take different routes) and can bounce back quickly if things don't work out.

Answers to Bonus Conversation 1

Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student): Do you think that women are still affected by gender discrimination in the corporate world?*

B: I guess it still exists but young women these days have a lot of opportunities.

A: *Why do you say that?*

B: Well they have so many different options that other generations never had. They can go down different paths and can bounce back quickly if things don't work out.

Step 6: Practice with a Native Conversation 1

- Give an example of an area of your life where you have **made strides** in the last 5 years. What advice would you give to someone else who wants to **make strides**?
- In the question above, who would you **give credit** to for helping you succeed? How did that person help you?
- Describe a trend that is happening **left and right** for people in your generation right now. Are they having kids **left and right**? Are they quitting their jobs and starting businesses **left and right**?

Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student): Hey I noticed you have _____ (made strides) in your career this year. How did you do it?

B: Well I didn't do it alone. I have to _____ (give some credit) to my mentor.

A: Is there anything else that has helped you become successful?

B: Maybe it was just living in Silicon Valley. People are developing new ideas here _____ (left and right). Being here is a real inspiration for me.

Answers to Bonus Conversation 2

Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way(A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student): Hey I noticed you have seen some big results in your career this year. How did you do it?*

B: Well I didn't do it alone. I have to give some recognition to my mentor.

A: *Is there anything else that has helped you become successful?*

B: Maybe it was just living in Silicon Valley. People are developing new ideas here all of the time. Being here is a real inspiration for me.

Practice with a Native Speaker

- What are the biggest differences that you see between your generation and younger or older generations in your country in terms of family life? How are your views and their views different on issues like raising children, same-sex marriage, abortion, getting married early versus later in life?
- How are you (personally) different from the common characteristics of your generation that we have mentioned in the module? How is your generation (as a group) within your home culture different from the characteristics of your generation in the US? To what extent do generational differences vary across cultures?
- What causes generational differences?
- Name 3 words that characterize your generation. Why did you choose these three words?

Practice with a Native Speaker

- How do people in your home country view older people (elderly)? Is there a lot of respect shown toward the older generation? Please discuss the differences between your country and the US in this area with your conversation partner.
- Have you ever felt misunderstood in your professional life (at work) by a colleague because of a generational difference?
- What do you think that you, personally, could learn from people in other generations? What could they learn from you?

Practice with a Native Speaker

- What messages or lessons did your generation learn as children in your home country? (For example, Gen Y was brought up during the “self-esteem era” where parents wanted to instill a sense of self worth and “I-can-do-anything attitude” in children. As a result, today Gen Y young adults continue to change career fields until they find their passion and they believe that there are no limits in their careers.) Give a similar example in your life.

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