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Scott Thornbury and Diana Slade

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Thanks and acknowledgements

The idea of co-authoring a book on conversation emerged, appropriately enough, out of a conversation. Through conversation, we discovered a mutual interest *in* conversation – and in its description and its teaching. The combination of our two specialisms – linguistic description, on the one hand, and teacher education, on the other – seemed to represent a plausible, even original, vantage point from which current research into spoken language could be surveyed and evaluated. That initial conversation has been prolonged and nourished over many years, albeit mostly at a distance, and against the backdrop of our separate, and often demanding, professional and personal lives. Credit for encouraging us to keep talking the talk, and for helping turn the talk into a book, must go to Mickey Bonin, previously of Cambridge University Press, for whose enthusiasm, support and extraordinary patience, we owe an incalculable debt. We would also like to thank the publishing team at CUP, and Jane Walsh in particular, as well as our indefatigable editor, Sylvia Goulding. Special thanks are due, too, to Jane Evison for her careful reading of the manuscript and for her insightful suggestions: these were an invaluable aid in the preparation of the final draft.

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