Worksheet 3: Research method answers

Feature	Evaluation	
Overt / Covert	**Type:**	This is an overt observation as the <u>worker</u> will know I am observing them.
	Strength:	The study is ethically sound as participants are aware that they are being <u>**observed at work**</u> and have given their permission (informed consent).
	Weakness:	The <u>**workers might avoid non-work related topics**</u> of conversation as they are being observed which lowers the validity of the study.
Naturalistic / Controlled	**Type:**	This is a naturalistic observation as I would be in the participants' natural environment (<u>**the workplace**</u>).
	Strength:	Participants should behave more normally as they are in the familiar environment with <u>**co-workers**</u> they know well which can improve the validity of the findings.
	Weakness:	It could be challenging to hear all the conversations in a <u>**busy workplace**</u>, as I would have no control over background noise, for example.
Structured / Unstructured	**Type:**	This is a structured observation, as I will record in a checklist whether the conversations were <u>**about work or not about work**</u>.
	Strength:	Quantitative data will be produced, e.g. <u>**minutes spent talking about work or about other topics**</u> which is a reliable method.
	Weakness:	In designing the checklist I may not have captured all behavioural categories, for example if <u>**participants talk about the economy, this may or may not be work-related**</u> which lowers the reliability of my findings.