

Simple ways to start a conversation with anyone.

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Communication is an essential skill in modern society. However, not everyone is born with good communication skills. Most people need to train and gain experience. If you work in marketing or advertising, this skill is even more crucial.

Communicating with acquaintances can be easy, but it's not so simple with strangers. However, you're not the only one who finds it difficult to interact with strangers. Many people are willing to stand still and wait for others to initiate a conversation.

Don't let yourself fall into this passive position. In fact, there are many ways to easily start a conversation with someone you've just met or who's new to the office. This is an essential life skill if you want to develop yourself in modern society.

Here are some tips to help you start conversations with others. Initially, following these tips might be difficult for those who are a little shy. But keep trying! You can practice by standing in front of a mirror and visualizing a possible real-life meeting situation and practicing initiating a conversation. With consistent practice, over time, you'll find it much easier to get to know strangers.

1. Ignore the small talk.

"What's the weather like today?", "Did you enjoy last night's football match?". These are bland , uninteresting ways to start a conversation . It's best to avoid these cliché questions.

So how do we begin?

First and foremost, a key principle to remember is that every conversation takes place in different times, circumstances, with different people, and under different environmental conditions. Therefore, you cannot apply the same approach to all situations.

Secondly, depending on the person, **purpose, and circumstances, you can start a conversation in an engaging way.** For example, you can ask about their work, projects, hobbies, or choose a unique way to start a conversation, such as telling a funny story.

2. Ask for the other person's opinion.

Everyone has different opinions and thoughts!



For people you don't know well, such as strangers, it's a good idea to start with topics like food, music, sports, etc., with a few questions like *"What would this dish taste like if you added more salt?", "Did you find this horror movie impressive?", or "I find this song very meaningful, what about you?"*.

However, avoid asking questions related to politics and religion unless you have a thorough understanding of them.

3. Ask for advice or suggestions.

Asking for advice or suggestions on how to dress, use cosmetics, choose electronics, etc., is an ideal way to start a conversation. For example, *"That tie of yours is gorgeous, where did you buy it?" or "You have such beautiful skin, could you tell me your secret?"*

4. Ask questions

However, ask questions that are easy to answer.

For example, if you know the other person is an IT employee, you can ask them about software installation, virus removal, file deletion, etc., but avoid making overly complex requests. You're trying to strike up a conversation, so choose a gentle approach so that both of you feel comfortable and confident in your answers.

5. Discuss the issues surrounding this.

No matter where you are, there are plenty of things around you that you can choose as topics to start a conversation with a stranger. For example, if you're waiting for a bus, you can start a conversation with things like, *"The bus seems to be taking longer than usual today, doesn't it?"* or *"Which stop are you getting off at? Maybe we're going the same way."*

6. Ask about their new things.



If you know a little about someone's life or work, or if you know they are a reputable or well-known person, you can ask them questions like: *"Oh, Mary said you're opening a dance class. How's it going?"*

7. Ask open-ended questions.

If you only ask closed "yes" or "no" questions, you won't get any surprising answers. Therefore, if you want to start a conversation in an interesting way and keep it going, use open-ended questions. This way, you'll get more information and get a better idea of the other person's thinking.

For example, *"What do you think of this dish? I find it quite appealing!"*

See also: 4 tips to help you ask smart questions

8. Ask hypothetical questions.

This is a great way to start a conversation, but try to connect it to a specific situation to avoid asking a question that sounds too random. For example, *"I think this movie is a bit too science fiction, but what if the sun disappeared one day?"*

9. Ask about hobbies, children, or pets.

Everyone likes to talk about things that matter to them. If you know your boss enjoys traveling, owning pets, or loves children, start a conversation with these topics. You'll surely have your boss spending hours discussing them.

Here are some suggestions for the best topics to start a conversation naturally:

1. Family: As long as your communication skills are good and you don't ask overly sensitive questions, people are usually happy to share interesting stories about their families.
2. Sports: People who love sports are always eager to share their passion. You can ask questions about your favorite team, league, and sporting events.
3. Entertainment: If you ask someone about their favorite TV show, they'll usually give you one or two answers.
4. News: Hot news and events, both domestic and international, are always great topics to start a conversation with strangers or acquaintances. However, it's best to avoid discussing politics in the workplace.
5. Work: This is a very common topic, both at home and out in public. However, it's also a great way to start a conversation.

10. Introduce yourself

Of course, this way of starting a conversation may not work in every case; however, if you don't know how to begin a captivating conversation, try this direct, simple approach. Be brave, approach the stranger you want to talk to, extend your hand, and say, "Hello, this is my first time here, my name is. Nice to meet you. Could you.?" With this polite and natural way of starting a conversation, most people will be willing to help you. Who knows, you might even make a new friend.

Whether you're attending a business networking event or a friend's party, remember that to successfully apply all of these tips, you need courage, less anxiety, and to maintain the most relaxed state of mind possible.

A confident person is always attractive to others. Don't be afraid to strike up a conversation with someone different from you. Just offer a bright smile and a friendly greeting, and it will be easy to start a conversation, gradually leading to topics you both want to share. It's incredibly simple, so don't worry or overthink it!

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