

CONVERSATION CHEAT SHEET

HOW TO START A CONVERSATION

-Comment on the context (Situations, news, setting, people)

"How is the weather today?"

"It's awesome weather. Nice day. It's so nice outside."

"What's it going to be like tomorrow?"

"I think it's going to be sunny for the whole weekend."

"This coffee place has a nice nostalgic interior, don't you agree?"

-Give a real compliment

"I really like those sneakers, where did you get them?"

-Ask an opinion

"So what do you think about velvet slacks?"

-Ask about general information

"Can you tell me what time it is?"

-Talk about shared experiences:

"That was an amazing game, that last goal! Wow, what did you like?"

-Talk about the social context:

"So who invited you to the party?"

-Mention common interests

"Are you going to watch the game tonight?"

HOW TO KEEP A CONVERSATION GOING

-Balance talking and listening

Show genuine interest,

Ask open-ended questions

Truly willing to listen and learn

"What was/is your highlight this week?"

"What are you living towards?"

-Ask for the emotional layer

"Why"

"How come you chose"

-Avoid closed questions (limited answers such as "yes/no")

-Ask for opinions;

What do you think about .

Find common ground;

Agreement on an issue

Same interest [hobby / career / etc]

Knowing the same person

Enjoying a similar background

Elaborate on common interest but keep the focus on them

Approach subjects from a unique angle

-Add emotion and quirk

"What about cars? Wouldn't they be much cooler with 6 wheels?"

-Have your own opinion

But be open and respectful of other's opinion as well

"I actually really like pineapple on my pizza"

-Segue from the current subject by zooming in/out or move lateral

Dig into the details, see the bigger picture or mention related subjects

Use "what-if" scenarios to get people thinking and talking

"What if mobile phones were forbidden"

WHAT TO TALK ABOUT

-Be prepared

Be informed, what is on people's mind now? Latest meme, hype, news?

"Did you guys see that pizza rat video?"

"Have you met the new girl in HR?"

-Prepare a few anecdotes you can use in conversation

"This one time on bandcamp,..."

"So I was going to the police office,..."

-Prepare and share some interesting facts

"Did you know this place was built in 1908?"

"So India just had its first moon mission."

-Safe subjects to ask about;

Family

Occupation

Recreation

Dreams (aspirations)

Don't just talk about yourself

WHEN AND HOW TO END A CONVERSATION

-If conversations seem to be going nowhere

Or if there seems to be no real interest feel free to leave

"(Excuse me) I have to go "

"It was nice talking to you, but I have to "

"Alright, see you around"