

Casual Talking Points Guide

1) Learn simple things about someone:

- A. Ask a question about someone, but not too personal, of course. Get small pieces of information.
- B. Use the information someone gives you to ask another question.
- C. Ask about small pieces of information you already know about someone.
- D. Use small pieces of information about someone to ask a question or comment.

2) Recognize common interests:

- A. Listen for something that someone says that might be a common interest even in the smallest way.
- B. Listen for something someone says that that reflects a common interest or that relates to you and reply. In other words, give something back. There is no conversation, shorter or longer, unless you have something to say in reply to what someone says.

3) Use the other person's knowledge, ideas, and thoughts. After you know a few things about someone, you might have an idea of what types of opinion and simple advice questions you can ask.

4) Ask for opinions on simple topics.

5) Ask for advice about something simple.

6) More Specific Ideas

- a) The town or city someone lives in
- b) The town or city you are from
- c) Travel time - How long does it take to ...? Traffic
- d) Personal interests - free time activity or inactivity
- e) Compliments - Say something good about someone.
- f) What are you doing for the weekend?
- g) Find out what someone likes to complain about or does not like: talk about it.
- h) Superlatives: The best, the most, the biggest, the smallest, the longest, the shortest, the easiest, the most difficult etcetera

7) More specific ideas

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| a) Public transportation | j) Pets | s) Weather |
| b) Cooking, food, and drink | k) Cars | t) Movies |
| c) Preferences | l) Family | u) Music |
| d) Likes and dislikes | m) Common interests | v) Entertainment |
| e) The mall | n) How is your day going? | w) Celebrities |
| f) Computers | o) What did you do last night? | x) Learning a language |
| g) Technology gadgets | p) How was your weekend? | y) Favorite things |
| h) Clothes | q) Environment | |
| i) Sports | r) Current events | |

8) Quick Stories

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| a) Something that happened to you | e) Something that happened to someone |
| b) Something good that happened to you | f) Something good that happened to someone |
| c) Something you enjoyed | g) Something someone else enjoyed |
| d) Something not good that happened to you | h) Something not good that happened to someone |

9) Culture

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| a) State an observation about living here. | d) Ask questions about your experiences here. |
| b) Ask questions about here. | e) Talk about here compared to where you are from. |
| c) Talk about what you have experienced here. | f) Compare here to there. Ask questions. |

10) If you are having trouble starting, keep in mind that you should use simple yes-no questions, simple information questions, or open-ended questions that don't require too much thought or consideration to answer. Follow a yes-no question with an information question.