

Speaking Well ②

Each action below is something you should NOT do as the speaker in a conversation. Rewrite each statement to say what you SHOULD do.

1. Look beyond your listener to see if anything else interesting is going on.

2. Keep your head down and talk to your feet.

3. Use a monotone voice; don't show your emotion by the way you speak.

4. Talk as quietly as you can.

5. Ignore any questions from your listener.

6. Play with your hands, your clothes or your hair.

7. Keep your facial expressions blank or neutral; don't show any emotion.

8. Use words and expressions your listener doesn't understand.

9. Talk as long as you can for each speaking turn in your conversation.

10. Walk away before the conversation is over.

Choosing an Interesting Topic

People like to talk about what interests them. Follow these steps to plan a good conversation.

1. Think about the other person. What is the person like? What does the person do? What would interest the other person?
2. Think about yourself. What are you like? What do you do? What interests you?
3. Figure out what you have in common with the other person. Choose one of these things to talk about in your conversation.

Pretend you want to have a conversation with each person below. Think about their interests. Figure out what you have in common. Then write one or two things you could talk about in a conversation with each person.

1. Kim

Things I could talk about with Kim:

likes sports, especially baseball
has a younger brother
speaks Spanish
has a dog
in your math class
rides a bus to school
can do yo-yo tricks

2. Pat

Things I could talk about with Pat:

likes movies
likes bowling
plays piano
plays video games
in 10th grade
walks to school
likes remote-control cars

3. Darcy

Things I could talk about with Darcy:

in the school chorus
likes to shop for clothes
babysits to earn money
has a stepsister
does beading
keeps a dairy
draws great cartoons

Starting Conversations 1

Here are some simple rules about starting a conversation with someone.

- Observe whether the person is busy or is available for a conversation.
- Face the person and get eye contact. (If the person looks away, it's not a good time to start a conversation.)
- Greet the person by name. You could say "Hi, Jim" or "Hey, Lisa, how's it going?"
- Say something the person would find interesting. Make a comment or ask a question.

Write a good way to start a conversation with each person below. Pretend each person is a friend of yours.

1. Paul loves any kind of music. What could you say to Paul?

2. Kelly just started a job babysitting on weekends. What could you say to Kelly?

3. Luis is in your science class. You just watched an experiment. What could you say to Luis?

4. T.J.'s two stepbrothers just moved into his home. What could you say to T.J.?

5. Nikki just won the school spelling bee. What could you say to Nikki?

6. Mike is a candidate for class president. What could you say to Mike?

Starting Conversations ②

Write or tell a good way to start a conversation with each person below. Pretend each person is a friend of yours.

1. Kim is a Harry Potter fan. What could you say to Kim?

2. Tina is excited about her dance recital next week. What could you say to Tina?

3. Joel was recently in a minor car accident. What could you say to Joel?

4. Lee just moved to a new home. What could you say to Lee?

5. Daryl is taking driver's ed. What could you say to Daryl?

6. Ann takes Spanish and enjoys it very much. What could you say to Ann?

7. Trey made the football team in tryouts. What could you say to Trey?

8. Zoe enjoys making jewelry. What could you say to Zoe?

9. Pete just came back from a trip. What could you say to Pete?
