

## Keeping Conversations Going

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When someone starts a conversation with you, you are supposed to take your conversation turn in a way that keeps the conversation going. You should say something about what the person said. Stay on the same topic and say at least one sentence.

Pretend a friend started each conversation below with you. Write or tell what you could say to keep the conversation going.

1. Hi! I just heard about the fire in your neighborhood. What happened?

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2. Hey, what's up? I can't believe we have another science test next week.

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3. Hi! I just heard the good news that you won the election. Congratulations!

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4. Hey there! Someone told me you're learning to play the guitar.

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5. Hi! I'm taking my first plane trip next week. I don't really know what to expect.

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## Conversation Balance 1

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Like dance partners, conversation partners each need to take responsibility for having a good conversation. Each partner should talk about half the time and listen about half the time.

Read the conversation below and answer the questions.

Partner 1: That was a great game on Saturday.

Partner 2: Yeah.

Partner 1: Jared really saved the day for us. I'm glad he'll still be on the team next year.

Partner 2: Yup.

Partner 1: Okay, I've got to go. See you later.

Partner 2: Okay.

1. Did both partners try to make this a good conversation?  yes  no
2. Which partner tried harder to keep the conversation going? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Check each reason Partner 2 didn't participate well in this conversation.
  - a. Partner 2 didn't hear Partner 1.
  - b. Partner 2 didn't like Partner 1.
  - c. Partner 2 didn't feel like talking to Partner 1.
  - d. Partner 2 couldn't see Partner 1.
  - e. Partner 2 wasn't interested in the topic of the conversation.
  - f. Partner 2 was thinking about something else.
  - g. Partner 1 started talking before Partner 2 could think of what else to say.

## Staying on Topic 1

Each turn in a conversation should relate to what the other person just said.



Write + before each comment that relates to what the other person just said. Write - before each comment that doesn't relate to what the other person just said.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ "Coach Tyson did a great job this year. We should do something for him."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "That's a great idea. Maybe we could get him a trophy."
2. \_\_\_\_\_ "My brother is in the Army. Next week, he's going to Iraq."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "What's our math homework for tonight?"
3. \_\_\_\_\_ "There was an accident in front of my house yesterday."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "I have great tickets for the game on Saturday."
4. \_\_\_\_\_ "My cousin got her driver's license. I wish I had mine."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "When will you get your license?"
5. \_\_\_\_\_ "Izzy and Brad are going to the movies tonight."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "Which movie are they going to see?"
6. \_\_\_\_\_ "I can't wait to get my braces off."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "How long have you worn braces?"
7. \_\_\_\_\_ "It's raining too hard to walk home."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "I can't find my glasses."
8. \_\_\_\_\_ "I'd like to watch that show again. I missed some of the clues."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "Me, too. I didn't expect it to end that way."
9. \_\_\_\_\_ "Harriet forgot all about the test today. She didn't study at all."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "That would be an awful feeling. I hope she does okay anyway."
10. \_\_\_\_\_ "I'm thinking about getting a part-time job. I might try Bigger Burger."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "I like their food. It might be fun to work there."
11. \_\_\_\_\_ "I heard you're going to a cool concert this weekend."  
\_\_\_\_\_ "I just found a ring on my desk. I don't know whose it is."

## Staying on Topic 2

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Play this game to practice staying on topic in a conversation. Sit or stand in a circle and decide who will go first. That person reads one of the conversation starters below. Play passes to the person's left; each person adds a comment related to the previous person's comment. See how long you can keep the conversation going.

1. Jason couldn't unlock his front door yesterday when he went home.
2. We watched a great movie last night.
3. Everybody is talking about the weather.
4. I don't know what I want to do when I get out of school.
5. There are good things and bad things about having a puppy.
6. It can be risky to write what you really think.
7. Did you hear about the new contest? The city is awarding a prize for the best ideas for a new park.
8. Some people think birds are related to dinosaurs.
9. I don't really want to babysit for toddlers.
10. The school band needs new uniforms.
11. We need to raise money for better sports equipment.
12. I can't believe how much it costs to see a movie in a theater.
13. We should have more food choices for lunch.
14. I wish I had more free time.
15. I'd like to go to Germany as a foreign exchange student.

For extra challenge, use a large ball to signal who will speak next. Each speaker tosses the ball to someone to make the next comment.