

Changing the Topic 1

To change the topic of a conversation, start by linking it to the previous topic. State a logical connection between the two topics.

Partner 1: So I grabbed the leash before Maxwell could run off again.
(The topic is keeping his dog, Maxwell, from running away.)

Partner 2: Speaking of Maxwell, how do you like the dog training classes?
(Both the old and new topics are about Maxwell.)

Write + before each comment that makes a logical connection between the old topic and the new topic. Write – before each comment that doesn't make a logical connection between the old and new topics.

1. "I worked up to jogging five miles a day."
 ___ "That's great! Speaking of exercise, I'm learning to do yoga."
2. "The only thing that keeps me from biting my nails is chewing a pencil."
 ___ "That reminds me, I need to buy another notebook."
3. "So I sat on the bench for two hours, waiting for Dad to pick me up."
 ___ "That happened to me last week, too. Mom picked me up an hour late."
4. "That movie had so much violence, I couldn't sleep all last night."
 ___ "That's exactly why I prefer nonviolent movies; I never lose sleep over them."
5. "And then the substitute made us sit in our assigned seats."
 ___ "I wish we didn't have to write any reports at all."
6. "My sister and brother are going away for the weekend."
 ___ "That'll be a nice break. What are they going to do with their dogs?"
7. "The only money I had with me was some change in my pocket."
 ___ "Can't buy much with that. Do you use a credit card?"
8. "The wind was so strong, it blew our front door open."
 ___ "I saw that the house next to yours is for sale now."
9. "I'm already on Level 5 in my new game."
 ___ "You remind me of my sister. She's a whiz with games, too."

Changing the Topic ②

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1. "I forgot my snack today."
 ___ "That's not so bad. I forgot my lunch."

2. "Babysitting was great yesterday. Dillon slept the whole time."
 ___ "I'm glad you had a good evening. I stayed up way too late last night."

3. "I can't decide which sandals would be more comfortable."
 ___ "I can hear thunder again."

4. "No one but us knows where we keep the key."
 ___ "I'm going over to Ian's for a while."

5. "I promised I wouldn't tell anyone about her plan."
 ___ "Okay, but speaking of secrets, why is Julio so nervous today?"

6. "She spilled chocolate milk all over her new shirt."
 "Yuck! I hate it when that happens. That reminds me, I got mud on my
 ___ shoes this morning."

7. "Greg was the last one to leave the room."
 ___ "I'm almost finished with my homework."

8. "I heard a rumor that Mark and Bree broke up."
 ___ "That's too bad. Speaking of rumors, did you hear the one about Omar?"

9. "That was the best beach I've ever been to."
 ___ "That reminds me of the beach we used to go to in North Carolina."

10. "Before I knew it, there were four messages on my phone."
 ___ "I need to look for my sunglasses."

11. "She could hardly see with her wet hair all over her face."
 ___ "I'll bet! Talking about hair, I like your new haircut."

Closing Conversations

Like a letter, a conversation should have a good closing. Here are some ways to end conversations nicely:

- Say something positive about the conversation.
 "It was nice talking to you."
- Give a reason to end the conversation.
 "I need to get home on time."
 "I should go say hi to my friend."
 "Excuse me. I need to get some water."

When your partner makes a closing comment like the ones above, you should respond with something like "Goodbye" or "See you later" or "Nice talking to you, too."

Write a + before each comment that closes a conversation nicely. Write a – before each comment that doesn't close a conversation.

1. ____ "It's been great to hear more about your vacation."
2. ____ "I don't remember anything about that book."
3. ____ "Well, thanks for letting me know about Brian."
4. ____ "It doesn't matter if he's not talking to you anymore."
5. ____ "Thanks, now I understand why you were late today."
6. ____ "I've enjoyed talking with you."
7. ____ "Why aren't you going to practice today?"
8. ____ "That's a great story. Thanks for telling me!"
9. ____ "She's the best player on the team."
10. ____ "My ride is here. See you later!"
11. ____ "He's going to get contact lenses next week."
12. ____ "Bye, see you tomorrow."