

Conversation Starters for your next Work Party/Event

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Corporate
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Works

What Makes a Good Conversation Starter?



1. **Open Ended:** Broad questions are far more engaging than questions that result in yes/no answers
2. **Non-Routine:** Inviting someone to an interesting, uncommon conversation will take the person out of autopilot and increase your memorability
3. **Professional:** Certain topics are better suited for friends/family than co-workers, be mindful
4. **Relevant:** If possible, use timely and specific topics that are relevant to the event and attendees

First You Give, Then You Get

- Volunteer information about yourself prior to asking questions, this makes people more comfortable and willing to share
- Negative to positive
 - If you answer no to a question, follow it with a positive “No I don’t follow football, but I do love baseball! Do you have a favorite team?”



Ask Questions



People love to talk about themselves and their interests, asking questions can start great conversation!

- “What keeps you busy lately?”
- “Tell me about you.”
- “Have you always lived in (city) or did you move here?”
- “Have you seen anything good on Netflix/ Hulu lately?”
- “How has your year been going?”

Use the Shared Employer

Since you likely all work for the same company, use this time to get to know people you've never met.

- “What do you love about what you do?”
- “How long have you been with the company?”
- “Who is your work BFF?”
- “Have you always worked in this industry?”
- “Is there anyone I can introduce you to?”



Use the Location

- “Have you tried any of the food? What’s good?”
- “This venue is beautiful, have you been here before?”
- “Do you know any good restaurants in the area?”
- “Have you been to an event like this before?”
- “What are you drinking/eating?”



Find Humor

Making appropriate jokes can ease the mood of a conversation and invite some light-hearted energy.

- “2020 has been a heck of a year, what good things have come of it for you/your family?”
- “Know any funny conversation starters?”
- “I only come to these events for the food.”



Use the Time of Year

December is a time for many holiday celebrations and looking forward to new opportunities in January. Center conversations around upcoming plans!

- “Do you have any fun holiday plans?”
- “What are your favorite holiday traditions?”
- “I love how cold it gets during winter, do you?”
- “What are you looking forward to in the new year?”



Starters for Introverts

Not everyone enjoys the hubbub of a busy room. Whether you are an introvert or you're in a conversation with one, here are some starters that be successful:

- “These events can get so noisy, mind if I join you over here where it’s quieter?”
- “While we’re both here at the bar/buffet/waiting area, I should introduce myself, I’m (name)”
- “I like your dress/tie/hair/accessory.”



I Noticed...

Fill in the blank to give a compliment or start a conversation

- “I noticed you got a haircut, it looks great!”
- “I noticed on facebook that you got a new puppy, how is dog mom life?”
- “I noticed you moved desks at work, how’s the view over there?”

Topics to Avoid

Keeping your conversation partner comfortable is an important part of successful conversation! Typically, it's best to avoid:

- Politics
- Gossip
- Religion
- Health
- Personal Finances
- Inappropriate Compliments/Comments



Remember, You Are Human

Keeping a conversation going, especially with strangers, can be challenging and exhausting.

- Don't be hard on yourself for small or awkward pauses in conversation
- Spend a few minutes alone if you need a break from socializing
- Convey your real feelings, people will be vulnerable if you are!

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