

50 CONVERSATION STARTERS

Communication Skills



Navigating a room full of strangers can feel like a high-stakes sport, but the best "players" usually just have a few solid go-to lines. The trick is to move from closed questions (Yes/No) to open questions that let people share their stories.

Here are 50 Conversation Starters tailored for every social arena.

NETWORKING & PROFESSIONAL EVENTS

FOCUS ON GOALS, INDUSTRY TRENDS, AND SHARED EXPERIENCES WITHOUT BEING TOO "STIFF."

- "What's the most interesting project you're working on right now?"
- "How did you get your start in [Industry]?"
- "What's one thing about your job that most people wouldn't expect?"
- "What brought you to this event today?"
- "Are there any speakers or sessions you're particularly excited about?"
- "How has your industry changed since you first started?"

FOCUS ON GOALS, INDUSTRY TRENDS, AND SHARED EXPERIENCES WITHOUT BEING TOO "STIFF."

- "What's a professional 'win' you've had recently?"
- "If you weren't doing this, what would your 'dream' career be?"
- "What's the best piece of career advice you've ever received?"
- "Do you have any 'must-read' book or podcast recommendations for someone in our field?"

MAKING NEW FRIENDS

FOCUS ON LIFESTYLE, HOBBIES, AND PERSONAL "FAVORITES" TO FIND COMMON GROUND.

- "How do you usually spend your weekends when you're not busy?"
- "What's the best meal you've had in this city lately?"
- "Are you a morning person or a total night owl?"
- "What's the last show you binge-watched and actually enjoyed?"
- "If you could travel anywhere tomorrow, where would you go?"

FOCUS ON LIFESTYLE, HOBBIES, AND PERSONAL "FAVORITES" TO FIND COMMON GROUND.

- "What's a hobby you've always wanted to try but haven't yet?"
- "Do you have any pets, or are you more of a plant person?"
- "What's your go-to comfort movie?"
- "Are you working on any personal goals or 'passion projects' right now?"
- "What's the coolest thing you've discovered recently (an app, a shop, a song)?"

SOCIAL GATHERINGS & PARTIES

KEEP IT LIGHT, OBSERVATIONAL, AND SLIGHTLY PLAYFUL.

- "How do you know the host?"
- "I'm loving this playlist—do you have a favorite genre of music?"
- "On a scale of 1 to 10, how much of an extrovert are you feeling tonight?"
- "What's the best part of your week been so far?"
- "If you could only eat one cuisine for the rest of your life, what's the winner?"
- "What's your 'hot take' on [a harmless topic, like pineapple on pizza]?"

KEEP IT LIGHT, OBSERVATIONAL, AND SLIGHTLY PLAYFUL.

- "Have you seen any good live music or shows lately?"
- "What's the most underrated spot in this neighborhood?"
- "What's your favorite way to decompress after a long day?"
- "If you were hosting this party, what would be the 'signature' drink or snack?"

NEW JOB / WORKPLACE

FOCUS ON CULTURE, NAVIGATION, AND BUILDING RAPPORT WITH COLLEAGUES.

- "What's something I should know about the office culture that isn't in the handbook?"
- "Where is the best place to grab lunch around here?"
- "How long have you been with the team?"
- "What's your favorite part about working here?"
- "Are there any 'unspoken rules' of the breakroom I should know?"
- "What was your first day like when you started?"

FOCUS ON CULTURE, NAVIGATION, AND BUILDING RAPPORT WITH COLLEAGUES.

- "I'm still learning the ropes—who's the go-to person for [Topic]?"
- "What's one thing that makes your job easier or more fun?"
- "Do you have any tips for surviving the [Monday morning/Friday afternoon] slump?"
- "Are you involved in any of the office clubs or committees?"

SCHOOL & COLLEGE

FOCUS ON THE SHARED STRUGGLE OF CLASSES, CAMPUS LIFE, AND FUTURE PLANS.

- "What made you choose [Major/Subject]?"
- "Which professor should I definitely try to take a class with?"
- "Is this your first year here, or are you a seasoned pro?"
- "Where's the best place on campus to actually get some studying done?"
- "Have you joined any clubs or societies yet?"

FOCUS ON THE SHARED STRUGGLE OF CLASSES, CAMPUS LIFE, AND FUTURE PLANS.

- "What's the most interesting thing you've learned in class this week?"
- "Are you living on campus or commuting?"
- "How are you handling the workload so far?"
- "What are you planning to do once the semester/break starts?"
- "Do you want to grab a coffee/tea and compare notes sometime?"

PRO TIP:

THE REACH METHOD

The "REACH" method works wonders -

1. *R*ead to what they said
2. *E*mpathize
3. *A*sk a follow-up
4. *C*heck in later

thank
you