



IIT Madras
ONLINE DEGREE


The background of the slide is a light gray gradient. It is decorated with numerous realistic water droplets of various sizes. Some droplets are at the top left, some are scattered in the middle, and a larger cluster of droplets is at the bottom right. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS FOR **BASIC COMMUNICATION**

KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN



How are you? What's up?

- I am fine.
 - I am good.
 - I am pretty good.
 - I am okay.
 - Not bad.
 - Not great.
 - Not so good.
 - Not so well.
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What do you do?

- What are doing? - sounds similar to “what do you do?”, but means different. (your action right now or this minute).
- I am presenting a video on English.
- I am cooking/ dancing/ singing/ working on my computer. (answer with –ing verb).
- What is your job? – too direct and awkward.
- What do you do?
- I am a teacher /engineer / farmer / student.
- I work at a school/hospital.

What do you do?


- I work at a law firm.
- I work for IIT Madras / Microsoft / The Indian Express (a famous institution/ company name)
- Response
- How interesting!
- Oh..That must be exciting!
- Really? That is nice.

Asking about hobbies

- Do you have any hobbies?
- What are your hobbies?
- What do you do for fun?
- What do you do in your free time?
- I like to watch movies/read books/play tennis.



Asking about hobbies

- I like watching movies/cooking/reading.
 - I really like watching movies.
 - I kind of like watching movies.
 - I like hanging out with my friends, and stuff like that.
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Where are you from?

- Which city are you from?
- What state are you from?
- What country are you from?
- I am (your nationality).
- I am Brazilian/ Indian.
- I am from (the country you are from).

Where are you from?

- I am from Brazil/ India.
- I am from New Delhi.
- I am from Mumbai.
- Are you from New York? – polite expression
- Are you from Tamil Nadu? – polite expression
- I am from the South/North/West/North-east

What is your name?

- Native speakers do not ask this question directly. They are often direct.
- I am Karthika and you?
- I am Veena (his/her name)
- I am sorry. What was your name again? – you remember meeting them.

What is your name ?

- Riya, what do you do ? – use of name in conversation to show interest.
- What do you do for fun, Riya?
- Do not use the name too often as it may sound strange.

Getting contact details

- What is your phone number? – too direct (particularly with the opposite sex)
- For Formal and official purposes, people prefer to connect by emails over phone calls.
- Could I get your number? – less direct / softens the request.
- Could I get your email-address?

Getting contact details

- Sure, my number is 987654321.
- Sure, my email address is xyz@gmail.com.
- Sure it's (your phone number/email id).
- Are you on (facebook/linkedin/twitter/skype)
- Yes, I am/No, I am not.
- No, but you can contact me on (email/phone number).

Where do you live ?

- So where do you live?
- Do you know Adyar/ Mylapore in Chennai?
- Landmark : I live near IIT campus.
- I live near the Cancer Institute/Anna University.
- Train line: I live on the yellow line, near Patel Nagar metro station.
- I live near Guindy railway station.

Where do you live ?

- Oh yea! I know it. I live near there!
- Oh, no! I am afraid, I don't know it.
- Oh really?
- So where do you live? How about you?
- Comments about the area if you are familiar.
- That is a really nice area.
- No negative comments about the area.

Where did you go to school?

- A good small talk question/conversation starter.
- Past 23 – Where did you go to college/school?
- Where did you go to university?
- I went to (university) in (city).
- I went to New York University in America.
- Wow! That is a really famous university.

Where did you go to school ?

- I didn't go to college.
- Do not act surprised.
- Make a positive comment.
- Oh really? Did you go straight into a job?
- Follow up question: What did you study?
- What was your major?