

# The Ultimate Conversation Starter Guide

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## Welcome!

Welcome to the conversation starter guide. The guide you can always look back to and get ideas from before you venture off into your social situations.

When starting a conversation, you should always strive to be unique, interesting, and genuinely interested in the person you're talking to. It's also important to be comfortable and authentic.

This guide of conversation starters is great for beginning a conversation and taking it to the next level. Which is a deeper, more meaningful relationship with someone.

Challenge yourself to go beyond the generic and safe questions such as, *"Where are you from?"* or *"How's your day?"* type of questions.

Strive to impress people with above average questions so you can keep the conversation going, and going, and going.

**Reminder: Not all of these questions will work in every situation, but will significantly improve many of your conversations you'll participate in.**

**Pro Tip: Adjust and adapt your conversation starters based upon who you're talking to and what kind of social context you're in. Open-ended questions are your friend.**

Author of "Networking in the 21st Century," by David J.P. Fisher, explains his strategy for navigating professional and casual get togethers:

*"The most powerful way to start a conversation at industry events is the simplest: introduce yourself! Simply saying, 'Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_' invites them to respond with their name, and now you have a conversation. It helps to have an open-ended question for follow up after that. Something like, 'What do you think of the event so far?' or 'Which has been your favorite session?' works well."*

There are tons of ways to use conversation starter questions. Refer to this guide if you get stuck or need a refresher. Experiment and discover what works best for you.

Receiving the answer to a specific question you ask isn't always the goal. Having an interesting conversation is! Don't be afraid to dive deep, take risks, and learn something new.

Let's get started!

Now, we have some of the most unique and interesting questions you can ask people. We've also made it easier by organizing the questions into categories to help you understand which questions might be better to ask in specific situations.

First, we want to give you a model to keep in mind when you're talking to people in different situations. **It's an easy conversation blueprint to remember or refer to.**



Pro Tip: Discover shared experiences and talk about what is relatable. Use those to extend the conversation.

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**Fun Conversation Questions:** Make things interesting. If you're confident enough to try something different as a fun question.

1. What was the last funny video you watched on YouTube?
2. What is your favorite Netflix show? Tell me about it.
3. How many days do you think it takes you to scroll a mile on your phone?
4. What are some of your future travel plans?
5. You remind me of a celebrity, but I'm having trouble remembering their name ... Who are you usually compared to?
6. Which countries have you traveled to? Anything unique?
7. What type of music or songs puts you in a good mood?
8. What's the most interesting thing you've read lately?
9. Do you listen to any podcasts? Which ones?
10. I watched a great comedian this weekend. Who's your favorite comedian or someone who makes you laugh?
11. What's your secret talent and how would you use it?
12. I just learned "happy hours" were invented in the 1920s on Navy ships to make sea life less boring. Sailors had daily breaks for wrestling and boxing matches. Do you prefer the modern or original version?

**Pro Tip:** Compliments is a great way to begin a conversation. Not only do they provide a perfect opening line and a possible door for discussion, they also make the person feel good about themselves. Starting the conversation off on a positive note is crucial to keep the conversation going.

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**Deep Conversation Questions:** Get to know someone better. Be aware of body language or facial expressions which can signal they're not comfortable talking about certain things.

1. What are some personal projects you're working on?
2. Working on anything exciting lately outside of work?
3. What was the highlight of your day today?
4. What was the highlight of your week?
5. What was the best part of your weekend?
6. What are you looking forward to this weekend?
7. What's your favorite part about living in [your location]? Least favorite?
8. I'm trying to plan my next trip -- have you traveled anywhere interesting recently?
9. Tell me more about your family? What was it like growing up in [location]?
10. What was your relationship like with you [Mother, Father, Brother, Sister, etc]?
11. How adventurous are you when traveling?
12. What's going well right now in life?
13. What are some of your political opinions?
14. Would you rather spend the day at an Art, Science, or History Museum?
15. Tell me about your childhood hero or someone you looked up to?
16. If you could live anywhere in the world, and money was no object, where would you live and what would your home be like?

**If you're feeling adventurous:** Being funny always makes you more likeable.

1. I just watched "Goodfellas" this weekend. If you were in the witness protection program, where would you go, what would your name be, and why? Also, what did you do to be in witness protective program?
2. What would your theme song be while walking to work and why?
3. If you had the ability to be amazing at any job wanted what would it be?
4. Which celebrity would you have dinner with and what are the reasons?

5. If you received \$1,000 a day for the rest of your life, what would you do with the extra cash?
6. If you could spend one month at any period during history when or what would it be?

**Pro Tip:** Ask questions people aren't used to answering. It can differentiate you from others.



## Conversation Starters to Use At A Networking Event or

**Happy Hour:** Socializing with strangers during happy hour is usually a little easier and relaxed. Try to match your tone to the vibe of the social event. Opening with different topics other than “How was work today?” can be a breath of fresh air. But, nothing brings people together like complaining about work!

1. What's keeping you busy lately?
2. What are your thoughts of this restaurant? Suggest any good food or drinks?
3. What's the best event freebie you've ever gotten from work?
4. Have you tried any of the food? What's good here?
5. What are some of the things you got done today at work?

6. What made you come tonight? I usually don't see you out.
7. How long have you lived [your location]? What are some things you like about it?
8. Where did you move to [city] from? What do you miss about your last town? What were you happy to leave behind?
9. I'd love your input on this. Should I have [appetizer #1] or [appetizer #2]? It's the most important decision I've had to make today!
10. If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would you choose?
11. Are there any skills you thought would be crucial to your job that turned out to not be true?

**Pro Tip: Be Attentive.** Recognize the connection—or lack of one. If the conversation lasts a few minutes, then there's a good chance you've made a connection. If you don't find common ground, or it's obvious one of you isn't interested, politely smile and excuse yourself.



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## Conversation Starters to Use at a Casual Social Event:

If you're at a social event, you might want to consider staying away from serious subjects. There are more fun conversation starters to use. Build a bond with the people you've met. After the social event, consider who you'd like to stay in touch with and follow up.

1. If you were in charge of the playlist at this party which song would you play next?
2. Have you tried any of the [appetizers, drinks, etc]? Any recommendations?
3. Do you have a signature drink for the party?
4. What's your [day/night] going? Going like you expected?
5. Do you prefer hosting events or attending them? [Ask open-ended question here]
6. What types of games are we playing tonight?
7. Who do you know here? [Try to find a mutual person in common]
8. I'm trying to plan my next trip -- where do you suggest I go?
9. Read any interesting books lately? I'm trying to find another book to read.
10. What's the last movie you saw in theatres? Was it worth the trip?
11. Have you been to any great restaurants lately? [Tell me about them, if Yes]
12. Have any fun plans for the weekend? I need some inspiration so I don't end up on the couch with TV and Pizza again.
13. Are you looking forward to anything in the next few weeks?
14. Do you have a go-to conversation starter for these types of events?
15. So, what do people talk about at these get togethers?
16. Do you listen to any podcasts? Which ones do you recommend?
17. Some dinner party hosts are banning small talk? What do you think of that?
18. Do you recommend any documentaries?
19. What's the last thing you learned outside of work?
20. How do you feel about unlimited vacation policies some companies have? Do you think they can work?
21. What's one company perk you'd love or have now?
22. If you could only [read, watch, listen to] one genre of [books, shows, music] for the rest of your life, which would it be?
23. What would you consider yourself an expert on?
24. If you could publish a book on any subject, what would it be?
25. Let's say you could invite any three people in to dinner. Who would you ask and what are the reasons?



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Pro Tip: Don't make assumptions. Go into every conversation reminding yourself that everyone you speak to is a human being with a story. Try not to memorize conversation starters, let this be a guide.

**More Conversation Starters:** The goal is really to have an interesting conversation. Be random!

1. If you could use a time machine, would you rather go back in time or go into the future?
2. What type of place do you wish you had grown up?
3. If you could be good at any profession which would you choose and what reasons?
4. What's something that makes you feel better when you're down?
5. Which job has taught you the most and what did you learn?
6. What single event or decision has most affected your life?
7. What is your biggest accomplishment? [Use this to extend the conversation]
8. What is one childhood memory that you remember especially well?
9. Is there a song/movie/food/etc that reminds you of someone whenever you experience it?
10. What's the worst advice you've ever been given?
11. What fact about yourself took you the longest to understand or accept?
12. What is your least popular or most controversial opinion?
13. If you could live in another time period but stay in the same place you live now, when would you want to live?
14. What have you been meaning to do but haven't yet done? Why haven't you done it?
15. If you could tell your future self one thing, what would it be?
16. What is the best advice you've ever received?
17. What question do you most hate being asked?
18. What's the best lesson you've learned from a difficult situation?
19. If you could learn any language in two hours, which would you choose? Why?
20. What animal would you be and why?
21. What historical event would you most like to have experienced?
22. What always makes you nostalgic?
23. What would you like to accomplish before the year is over?

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24. What is one thing you've done/seen/eaten/etc. that turned out to be really good, but you didn't expect it to be?
  25. What's your favorite memory? Why?
  26. Tell me about the best year of your life? What was it like?
  27. What do you fear most and why?
  28. What has been the happiest moment of your life so far?
  29. In what ways do you think you benefit the world?
  30. In what way would you like to become famous?
  31. Who has had a positive impact on your life?

Pro Tip: Exit gracefully. Offer a business card or personal card, exchange information or and say you'd love to connect on Facebook, LinkedIn, email or any social media (if you're comfortable).

For conversations that don't establish a reason for further connection, simply finish with, "It's been nice talking with you. Have a great day."



## The Ultimate Conversation Starter

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Last but not least, the ultimate conversation starter you can ask anyone, anywhere, anytime:

### *What do you love to do outside of work, in your free time?*

This question gives people the chance to talk about their passions and think about things outside of their regular work life. The majority of people have second lives outside of work and want to talk about it.

This question will spark people's interest, put them in a good mood and make them more likely to enjoy the conversation with you. Making you more memorable.

You'll instantly stand out from the hordes of other people making boring small talk.

Pro Tip: Starting a conversation, for most people, is a learned skill. So if you're not a natural at it, make it a point to practice. **That's what successful people do.** Anyone can do this. You got this!

**\*If you have any questions feel free to reach out to us at [contact@loopward.com](mailto:contact@loopward.com)**

