

## What Is a Conversation?

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A conversation is a talk about a topic between two or more people. People in a good conversation do not interrupt each other. They take turns talking and listening.

Here are some reasons people have conversations:

- to share information with someone
- to enjoy being with someone
- to persuade someone to agree with you
- to learn what someone thinks or wants to do
- to apologize for hurting someone or making a mistake
- to be a good listener for someone who wants to talk
- to talk about the news or what's happening now
- to talk about things that happened or will happen
- to share emotions or feelings with someone



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Write **C** in the blank for each conversation. Write **X** in the blank for each thing that is not a conversation.

1. \_\_\_\_ You ask a salesperson in a shoe store to get you shoes in your size.
2. \_\_\_\_ Your teacher tells you your homework assignment.
3. \_\_\_\_ Your friend talks to you about a great new movie.
4. \_\_\_\_ Your family talks about the new neighbors at the dinner table.
5. \_\_\_\_ You wave to a friend in the hall.
6. \_\_\_\_ A stranger sitting next to you on the bus asks you what time it is.
7. \_\_\_\_ The checker in a grocery store tells you to have a nice day.
8. \_\_\_\_ You leave a phone message for a friend.
9. \_\_\_\_ You ask your parent's opinion about something.
10. \_\_\_\_ You talk with a classmate about a test you just took.

## Speaking Well 2

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Each action below is something you should NOT do as the speaker in a conversation. Rewrite each statement to say what you SHOULD do.

1. Look beyond your listener to see if anything else interesting is going on.

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2. Keep your head down and talk to your feet.

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3. Use a monotone voice; don't show your emotion by the way you speak.

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4. Talk as quietly as you can.

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5. Ignore any questions from your listener.

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6. Play with your hands, your clothes or your hair.

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7. Keep your facial expressions blank or neutral; don't show any emotion.

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8. Use words and expressions your listener doesn't understand.

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9. Talk as long as you can for each speaking turn in your conversation.

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10. Walk away before the conversation is over.

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## Role-Playing Conversations 2

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Choose one of the conversation situations below and role-play the conversation with a partner. Then complete the Conversation Evaluation Form (page 39) to evaluate your conversation.

1. You and a friend want to talk about your plans for this coming weekend.
2. Talk with a friend about a good place to have a personal bank account.
3. Talk with an adult about the weather.
4. Talk with a friend about what you each plan to do as a career someday.
5. Talk with a classmate about your school newspaper.
6. Talk with a classmate about something in the news recently.
7. Talk with a friend about where you live.
8. Talk with a classmate about how you get home from school.
9. Talk with a friend about ways to earn money.
10. Talk with a friend about favorite relatives.
11. Talk with a friend about what you will do after you graduate from high school.
12. Talk with a friend about good computer games.
13. Talk with a teacher about the school rules for cell phones.
14. Talk with a classmate about the school yearbook.
15. Talk with an adult about a local tourist attraction.
16. Talk with a friend about having brothers or sisters.
17. Talk with a brother, a sister or a friend about having an allowance.
18. Talk with a stranger in a dentist's waiting room.
19. Talk to a friend about good TV shows.
20. Talk to a classmate about something going on at your school.