

(2023) Patti DeNucci

RESOURCE MATERIAL FROM THE BOOK

MORE THAN JUST TALK

The Essential Guide for Anyone Who
Wants to Enjoy Better Conversations

Patti DeNucci

Edited by Susan Priddy



ROSEWALL PRESS

Austin, TX

~ Purchase now at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) ~

Appendix

Conversation-Starting Questions by Category

At a professional event

- ☀ What brought you here today?
- ☀ What made you decide to attend this event?
- ☀ Have you attended one of these before? What was it like?
- ☀ What do you hope to get out of this event?
- ☀ Have you heard the speaker before?
- ☀ How did you hear about this event?
- ☀ How are you connected to _____? (the host, organizer, person you were just introduced to)
- ☀ What's your career story? How did you get into that line of work / industry / profession? (After you've asked, What do you do?)
- ☀ What do you love most about your work?
- ☀ What's your typical workday like?
- ☀ Are you working on something interesting right now?
- ☀ What's most meaningful or fun about what you do?
- ☀ What was your best job and your worst job?
- ☀ What did you learn from those?
- ☀ What has been a favorite experience related to your job?
- ☀ What's the best thing that happened to you today?

- ☀ What's next for you?
- ☀ What business books have most impacted or inspired you?
- ☀ Who do you go to when you need wise advice?
- ☀ What's the best business advice you've ever received?
- ☀ How do you manage work / life balance?

At a coffee shop, restaurant, or bar

- ☀ Have you ever been here before?
- ☀ What do you like best about it?
- ☀ Any tips on the best thing to order?
- ☀ Have you ever tried the _____?
- ☀ What's your favorite drink / entrée / dessert?
- ☀ What other places like this do you enjoy or recommend?
- ☀ Have you met or had conversations with any interesting people here?
- ☀ What's your favorite question to ask random people you've met here?

At the gym

- ☀ How long have you been a member?
- ☀ What's your typical workout / way to exercise?
- ☀ What's your favorite part of the workout?
- ☀ Do you ever work with a trainer or a group?
- ☀ Do you take any of the classes? Which ones are your favorites?
- ☀ What do you think is the biggest benefit you receive from exercising?
- ☀ Are you training for an event? If so, which one?

- ☀ Any workout tips you'd like to share?
- ☀ What motivates you to come to the gym / keep up a regular workout routine?

At the dog park or if you see someone walking their dog

- ☀ What kind of dog is that?
- ☀ How old is he / she?
- ☀ What's the dog's name? How did you choose that?
- ☀ Where did you get him / her?
- ☀ Do you have other pets? Do they get along?
- ☀ What do you enjoy most about having a dog?
- ☀ What's one of your dog's most interesting personality quirks or habits?
- ☀ If your dog could talk and had the voice of a celebrity, whose would it be?

When talking to a receptionist, server, bartender, or clerk

- ☀ How's your day going so far?
- ☀ What do you enjoy most about working here?
- ☀ Met any interesting people today?
- ☀ Any celebrities or VIPs ever come in here?
- ☀ What's the weirdest or most memorable thing that's ever happened to you on the job here?
- ☀ What are the crowd-pleasing items on the menu?
- ☀ What would you recommend I order?
- ☀ What's your favorite cocktail / drink to make?
- ☀ What do you enjoy doing when you're not working here?

If you're traveling (airplane, train, bus, etc.)

- ☀ Where are you headed?
- ☀ Where is home for you?
- ☀ Traveling for business or pleasure?
- ☀ Where are you from originally?
- ☀ What's the most interesting place you've visited?
- ☀ If you could spend 90 days traveling anywhere, all expenses paid and no worries about work or family, where would you go?
- ☀ Would you travel solo or with someone?

At a social gathering (party, wedding, etc.)

- ☀ How do you know the host or guest of honor?
- ☀ Do you know any of the other people here?
- ☀ Do you live here or are you visiting from out of town?
- ☀ How long have you lived there?
- ☀ What do you do when you aren't attending social gatherings?
- ☀ Do you have a favorite story about the host or guest of honor?

At a gathering when you want to shake things up

- ☀ What's your favorite unusual question to ask people?
- ☀ What's the funniest or most unusual question anyone has asked you at a social gathering?
- ☀ What was your most profound childhood experience?
- ☀ Who is (or was) the love of your life?
- ☀ What's your most passionate belief?

- ☀ What would you do differently if you discovered you only had 30 days to live?
- ☀ Who is on your Mount Rushmore?
- ☀ What are three things that bring you joy?
- ☀ What's your favorite part of the day?
- ☀ What do you think about when you can't sleep?
- ☀ Do you ever have weird dreams?
- ☀ Do you dream in color or black and white?
- ☀ Have you done something cool for someone else recently?
- ☀ What are three things on your bucket list?
- ☀ What's your favorite room in the house?
- ☀ What's a big goal for you in the coming year?
- ☀ What was your biggest life lesson from the past year?
- ☀ What's something you recently changed your mind about?
- ☀ What do you enjoy learning most about people?
- ☀ What are you most curious about?
- ☀ What teachers most influenced you and how?
- ☀ What three items do you always keep in your fridge?
- ☀ When was the last time you did something for the first time?

At any event where you want to find “buried treasure”

- ☀ What books are on your nightstand?
- ☀ What movie do you think everyone should watch before the age of 21?
- ☀ What movie have you watched the most and never tire of?
- ☀ When do you feel the most creative?

- ☀ What gives you the chuckles?
- ☀ What's something I should know about you?
- ☀ What's the scariest decision you've ever made or step you've had to take?
- ☀ What's the one thing that has made the biggest difference in your life?
- ☀ If you could go back and do one thing over again, what would it be?
- ☀ What's your favorite wise quote?
- ☀ What's your best advice to give me right now?
- ☀ Do you have any interesting / quirky / famous family members?
- ☀ Who's the most famous person you've ever met? What was that like?
- ☀ Which one of your teachers or older relatives has influenced you the most?
- ☀ What are some of your happiest childhood memories?
- ☀ Are you a plaid, stripes, polka dots, or floral person—and why?
- ☀ How did you know your spouse or significant other was “the one”?
- ☀ When was the last time you felt true awe?
- ☀ Who do you think is your biggest fan?
- ☀ What was your favorite vacation / trip ever?

As a wrap-up and bridge to the next connection

- ☀ This was really enjoyable. Would you like to meet again sometime to continue this discussion?

- ☀ Could I introduce you to _____? She would be a great resource for you.
- ☀ If you'd be willing to share your contact information, I can follow up with you next week to talk more about that.

More useful (and powerful) phrases and questions to sprinkle into your conversations

- ☀ I wonder...
- ☀ May I share an example / story?
- ☀ Let me turn the question around and ask you ...
- ☀ Help me understand ...
- ☀ How do / did you feel about that?
- ☀ What about you?
- ☀ What are your thoughts?
- ☀ That's interesting. Can you share more?
- ☀ Tell me ...
- ☀ Tell me something good / interesting about ...
- ☀ This conversation has made me feel ...
- ☀ That reminds me of ...
- ☀ Actually, I think I've changed my mind about ...
- ☀ Could you go back and clarify ...
- ☀ That's an interesting observation ...
- ☀ I don't know the answer to that, although ...
- ☀ Yes, and ... (rather than Yes, but ...)
- ☀ I can only imagine ... (rather than I know ...)
- ☀ I've observed ...
- ☀ I appreciate you / this / what you just said because ...