

Suggested conversation starters

If you can think of better open questions or ways to start a conversation then please email sally@partnerswithyou.co.uk so we can keep building this list for everyone to benefit from.

An open question will help the conversation flow. There is nothing wrong with a closed question (a question to which you can respond with a yes or a no to) but you will need to think of a follow on question to either response to keep the conversation going.

About the event:

- Where have you travelled from?
- Who did you come with?
- What did you think of the speaker?
- How do you know....?
- Have you been to this sort of event before...?
 - Yes – how does it compare?
 - No – what do you think of it so far?
- What did you find the most interesting?

About their role and career:

- What do you do?
- What division/department/function are you from?
- How did you get started?
- What is your biggest challenge
- Is that what you have always wanted to do?
 - Yes – why is that?
 - No – How did you end up doing this?
- What gave you the idea to ...?
- If you could start again, what would you do differently?

About them as a person:

- I love your Where is it from?
- Does your surname have a history behind it? What is it?
- Does your first name have a meaning?
- I can imagine people mispronounce your name quite often. How do I get it right?
- So when you aren't working, what do you like to do?

Once you are in conversation try using the phrase TELL ME MORE to get them to say more without it feeling like an interrogation.

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