

Tell Me More

Keeping a Conversation Going

Be Interested AND Interesting

A good conversation is a shared experience.

Be interested. Listen carefully. Respond to what the other person says. Show genuine curiosity.

Be interesting. Share your own experiences, ideas, opinions, interests, and specific details.

The goal is not to ask question after question. **Listen to what the other person says and build your next response from it.**

Listen → Notice → Respond → Build

1. LISTEN What did the person actually say?

2. NOTICE What catches your interest? What would you like to know more about?

3. RESPOND You have several choices:

REACT

- Really? • No way!
- Oh, wow! • I didn't know that.

COMMENT

- That's interesting. • That sounds difficult.
- That sounds wonderful. • I've heard that's ____.

CONNECT

- I've had a similar experience. • I've heard ____.
- Someone I know ____.
- I know that feeling. • I've always been interested in ____.
- That reminds me of ____.

ASK

- Tell me more about that. • What made you decide to ____?
- What was that like? • How did you get interested in ____?
- How did that happen?

GO BACK TO SOMETHING

- You mentioned ____.
- You said ____.
- Going back to what you said about ____.

Six Ways to Build a Connection

4. BUILD Give the other person something to respond to, and let the conversation continue naturally.

You don't always need to ask a question. A brief connection can also show that you're listening.

1. Shared experience

I tried making sourdough once too.

2. Someone or something you know

My daughter got really interested in sourdough a few years ago.

3. Shared feeling

I know that feeling. It's frustrating when you've worked hard on something.

4. Knowledge

I've heard sourdough can be really difficult.

5. Interest

I've always wanted to learn how to make it.

6. Memory

That reminds me of the bread my grandmother used to make.

Connect — then step aside.

Keep your own connection brief enough to give the other person room to continue.

"I've tried making sourdough too. What made you decide to try it?"

You Don't Always Need a New Topic

Listen for a detail you can build on.

"We went to Colorado this summer because my sister moved there."

That sentence gives you several possibilities: **Colorado • summer • sister • moving**

- I've always wanted to visit Colorado.
- How does your sister like living there?
- My sister lives far away too. How is yours doing with the move?

Remember:

Don't freak out. The other person's words can help you decide what to say next.

Grammar for Meaning: Interested or Interesting?

Compare: **I'm interested.** **The conversation is interesting.**

These words are related, but their meanings are different.

-ED ADJECTIVES

often describe someone's experience, feeling, or state.

- I'm interested.
- She's bored.
- We're excited.
- He was confused.

-ING ADJECTIVES

describe the person, thing, event, or situation that creates or has that effect.

- The topic is interesting.
- The lecture is boring.
- The news is exciting.
- The directions are confusing.

-ED	-ING
interested	interesting
bored	boring
excited	exciting
fascinated	fascinating
surprised	surprising
confused	confusing
disappointed	disappointing

Be careful! Don't use the rule "-ed = people; -ing = things." People can also be described with -ing adjectives: *She's an interesting person. He's a fascinating speaker.* The meaning matters.

A SMALL ENDING CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

I was bored. = I did not find something interesting.

I was boring. = Other people did not find me interesting.

She was interested. = Something caught her interest.

She was interesting. = Other people found her interesting.

Remember...

Take a deep breath. Don't search for your next question. Listen for your next response.

Decide whether you should react, comment, connect, or ask. (But remember not to monopolize the conversation.)