

# Conversation Starters Cheat Sheet

Hey there! Thanks for picking up this cheat sheet. I've put together some conversation starters that are all about making networking less of a chore and more of an awesome, fun-filled adventure.

Now, a quick heads-up: when you read these starters, they might sound a bit off. Like, "Do I really talk like that?" No worries, that's totally normal. These examples are just a springboard for you to dive into conversations in your own amazing way. Feel free to tweak them, play around with the words, and make them sound like something you'd actually say.

Here's the deal: I'm not expecting you to memorise these word for word. That would be like learning lines for a play, and we're not here to put on a show, right? Use these as inspiration, a launchpad for your own cool, casual convos.

And hey, not every line here is designed to spark a deep, soul-searching dialogue. Some of them are just to get you talking, to break the ice, or even to throw a fun curveball in a chat with a stranger. Like asking a cashier, "What's a secret I'd know about you if we were best friends?" It's all about stepping out of your comfort zone.

If you're feeling a bit nervous, start small. Try these out with shop assistants (or my favourite - Uber Drivers) - it's a great practice ground. Worst case? You drop a joke, it lands with a thud, and you get to say, "That was so much funnier in my head." Awkward? Maybe a bit, but it's all part of the fun. And remember, if things get weird, you can always make a quick getaway - unless you're the one with the overflowing shopping cart!

Alright, let's jump into it. Remember, the key here is to have fun and be yourself. You've got this!

## In a Coffee Shop (To the person serving)

"I always go for the same coffee, but today I feel like mixing it up, what would you recommend?"

"I'm trying to decide between two pastries. Which one would you choose?"

"Have you tried the [seasonal drink] yet? I'm thinking about giving it a go."

## At a Networking Event

"I'm excited about the next keynote speaker. Is there a particular session you're looking forward to?"

"It's great to meet others in the industry. What brings you to this event?"

"I'm always looking to learn from these events. What's one key thing you're hoping to take away?"

## With a Random Stranger on the Street

"Excuse me, I'm looking for a good coffee spot around here. Any recommendations?"

"It's a beautiful day, isn't it? Do you know any good coffee shops/ cafe / restaurants?"

"I've got 1 day in town what do you think I should do?"

## In a Hotel Lobby

"This hotel has a great vibe. Have you stayed here before?"

"Are you here for the [fill in the blank] conference?"

"I heard the restaurant here is excellent. Have you tried it yet?"

## At the Gym

"I'm looking to train for cardio, what exercise do you think is the best?"

"This is my first time at this gym. What time do you think is the best to come in?"

"I've always wanted to use this [equipment person is using]. Do you have any tips for beginners?"

## While Waiting in a Queue

"I always end up picking the slowest line, which do you think will be the fastest?" [Said with tongue and cheek as it could lead to negative conversation]

"This line is so long, I'm not sure what to expect at the end of this queue but it must be good?" [This one to be said in a joking way]

## In a Bookstore

"I'm always looking for new reads. What book would you recommend?"

"That's a great book you have chosen, what's the best book you've read recently?"

"So are you an audiobook or in your hands book kinda person?"

## At a Community Event

"This event is a great way to meet locals. Are you from around here?"

"I love how this event brings the community together. How long have you lived around here?"

"I'm always amazed by local talent. What amazing things have you seen today?"

## Getting in an Uber

"It's my first time in this city. Do you have any local tips or things you think I should check out?"

"I always enjoy hearing about new music. What's your go-to driving playlist?"

Whenever I get in an Uber I check out the drivers profile while I am waiting, most of the time I get high rated drivers, and I will look to see if there is anything I can start a conversation with

in their profile. This is pretty much my go to opening line (I am also a front seat rider ;)

"Wow your car is super clean, what's your secret then to getting such high ratings?"

I will normally follow up with something like...

"I'm always curious, I bet you've got some stories to tell about people you've picked up?"

(you will be surprised what you will find out)

## In a Bar or Restaurant

"This menu looks amazing. Any dishes you'd recommend?"

"I'm trying to decide on a drink. What's your favourite cocktail here?"

"Do you know if they have any house specials tonight?"

## During a Work Meeting / training (Not Knowing Anyone)

"I always like to meet new people. What department are you from?"

"I'm looking forward to learning a lot today. What's your main goal for this meeting?"

"It's great to connect with others in the company. What's a project you're currently excited about?"

## At the Airport

"Are you a book or movie person on a long flight?"

"How good is the lounge, are you travelling for work or pleasure?"

"I'm always curious about travel destinations. Where are you headed?"

# Networking Event Or Conference Conversation Starters

**\*\*Industry Trends\*\***: "I've been really interested in the recent trends in [industry/field]. Have you noticed any particular developments that have got you excited?"

**\*\*Keynote Speaker\*\***: "What did you think of the keynote speaker's points on [specific topic]? My biggest takeaway was \_\_\_\_\_."

**\*\*Professional Roles\*\***: "I always enjoy learning about what draws people to these events. What are you looking to get out of being here?"

**\*\*Session Feedback\*\***: "Wow it's been a jam packed day, which sessions did you find particularly useful and informative?"

**\*\*Technology and Tools\*\***: "I often struggle with keeping up with the current tech and tools. Are there any useful things you've recently started using that you'd recommend?"

**\*\*Networking Goals\*\***: "What are you hoping to get out of this event? I'm looking to increase my [knowledge/connections] in [what you are looking for]"

**\*\*Event-Specific Topics\*\***: "This event is known for [a specific aspect, like innovative discussions, networking opportunities]. Have you found it living up to your expectations?"

**\*\*Company Representation\*\***: "Hi I'm [Your name], I'm representing [Your Company]. We're particularly focused on [specific project or area]. What about you?"

**\*\*Recent Industry News\*\***: "Did you hear about [recent news item relevant to the industry]? I thought it was quite [interesting/shocking/relevant]. What's your take on it?"

**\*\*Personal Experience in the Industry\*\***: "I've found working in [your industry] to be [rewarding/challenging/evolving]. How has your journey in this field been?"

# Let's Wrap This Up!

Alright, you've reached the end of this cheat sheet, and now it's showtime! Remember, all these starters are like training wheels - they're here to give you a little nudge, but the real magic happens when you ride solo.

So, what's next? Just get out there and start chatting! Sure, it might feel a bit uncomfortable at first, like doing a funky new dance in public. But guess what? That's totally okay. Stepping out of your comfort zone is where the fun begins. It's like jumping into a pool - a bit shocking at first, but then you're having a blast splashing around.

Don't stress about getting every conversation 'right.' There's no such thing. Even if you stumble, remember, you're one step closer to becoming a networking ninja. And hey, if a line doesn't land as smoothly as you hoped, you can always pull the classic, "That was so much funnier in my head." A bit of self-deprecating humor goes a long way in smoothing over any hiccups.

The key here? Just start. Whether it's with your Uber driver, a fellow coffee lover, or someone at a networking event, every conversation is an opportunity. And who knows, that random chat could open the door to something awesome - a new friend, a business opportunity, or just a great story to tell.

So go ahead, take a deep breath, and dive into those conversations. Remember, you're not just talking - you're connecting, learning, and growing. And that's what makes all the difference.

You've totally got this! Now, go make some conversational waves!

Anthony - Take Action, Create Your Story