

SMALL TALK

1. What is small talk?
2. In what situation do people make small talk?
3. Are you good at small talk?

Look at the list of topics below. Are they small talk appropriate?

The latest films

Your last holiday

The One True Path to Eternal Life

Your family

The local basketball team

The correct political party

Cars

The weather

The death penalty

Gardening

Your home town

The product you want to sell

How much you make

Your health problems

How to make small talk effectively

Some people say that the key to small talk is to be interested, not interesting.

Read the list below and decide which are the dos and don'ts of small talk.

- a) talk more than you listen
- b) ask open-ended questions
- c) stick to upbeat topics
- d) gossip about the people in the room
- e) stick to one topic
- f) talk to one person
- g) maintain eye-contact
- h) emphasise mutual interests you share
- i) encourage your partner to talk
- j) share a lot of personal information
- k) be the first one to introduce yourself

Are these good conversation openers? Why?

What?	Good? Why?	What?	Good? Why?
Did you catch the news today?		What do you think of these new laptops the company has bought?	
So, how do you know the host?		How do you like this new bistro on the corner?	
How old is your baby?		How about Barça, they really did great last week, don't you think?	
So, are you looking forward to the weekend?		How long have you been waiting?	