Having a Conversation Worksheet



Keeping a conversation going, taking turns in it, and knowing the conventions well enough to choose when to use them.

MASTERED BY
Two-turn exchanges by about 3, staying on one topic for several turns by 4 to 5

ITEMS
108

Name: _____ Date: _____

A conversation keeps going when each turn gives the other person something to do with it. A question hands the turn straight over; a related comment or a detail of your own leaves a door open. It stops when a turn closes the door - a one-word answer, or a jump to something new with no bridge.

What to expect: Neurodivergent and neurotypical people often converse differently, and different is not worse. Talking at length about something you love is a way of sharing it. Parallel play is company. Scripts and repeated phrases are real communication. A child who does these things is not failing at conversation. What is genuinely useful to teach is the second set of moves - asking something back, following the other person's topic for a turn - so a child can switch into them when the situation calls for it and switch out when it does not. The aim is a child with two options, not a child who sounds like somebody else.

Ask a Question Back

Read the statement. The child asks three questions that fit it. Any three that fit count - the answer shown is only an example. Then swap over

1. My dog is sick.



2. I went to my grandma's house this weekend.



3. I got a new bike for my birthday.



4. We are moving to a new house.



5. I fell off the swing at school.



6 My mom is having a baby.



7 I lost my tooth last night.



8 We got a puppy.



9 I am going on a plane next week.



10 My brother broke his arm.



11 I made a cake yesterday.



12 I am in a soccer game on Saturday.



Say Something Related

Same statements, different move: instead of a question, the child says something of their own that connects. It shows they were listening ar

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22 My brother broke his arm.



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24 I am in a soccer game on Saturday.



Ending a Conversation

Read the situation. The child says how they would end it. Any version with a wrap-up line and an actual goodbye counts - the answer shown i

25 You are talking to your neighbor and your mom is calling you in for dinner.



26 You have been talking to a friend at recess and the bell just rang.



27 Your friend is telling you about her weekend but you need the bathroom.



28 You are on the phone with Grandma and you are out of things to say.



29 A kid at the park is telling you about a show you have not seen and you want to go play.



30 You are at a birthday party and it is time to leave.



31 Your teacher is explaining something and you have understood it already.



32 You are talking to someone and you have run out of things to say, but they have not.



33 You want to stop talking to someone because the subject is upsetting you.



34 You are in the middle of telling a story and you can see the other person is bored.



35 A grown-up asks how you are and you do not want to talk right now.



36 You need to leave but the other person keeps going.



Question or Comment?

Read what the second person said. Was it a question or a related comment - and did it keep the conversation going or end it? Both good ans

37 "I went to the zoo." - "Cool."



38 "I went to the zoo." - "What did you see?"



39 "I went to the zoo." - "I love the penguins."



40 "I went to the zoo." - "I have a new bike."



41 "My cat had kittens." - "How many?"



42 "My cat had kittens." - "Yes."



43 "I am tired today." - "Did you sleep badly?"



44 "I am tired today." - "Me too. I stayed up late reading."



45 "We had a test today." - "Was it hard?"



46 "We had a test today." - "Actually it was yesterday."



47 "I am learning the drums." - "How long have you played?"



48 "I am learning the drums." - "Drums are loud."



Conversation Cards: Kindergarten and first grade

One question, then both of you answer it - the grown-up too. There is no right answer and nothing to score; the point is the turns. Play it in th

49 What is the best thing you ate this week?

50 If you could have any animal as a pet, what would you pick?

51 What makes you laugh the hardest?

52 What is something you are good at?

53 Would you rather be very big or very small? Why?

54 What is your favorite place in your house?

55 What do you like to do when it rains?

56 If you could paint your bedroom any color, what would you choose?

57 What is something that is hard for you?

58 Who do you like to play with, and what do you play?

59 What sound do you love, and what sound do you really not like?

60 If you could stay up all night, what would you do?

Conversation Cards: Second and third grade

One question, then both of you answer it - the grown-up too. There is no right answer and nothing to score; the point is the turns. Play it in th

61 What is something you changed your mind about?

62 If you could be really good at one thing overnight, what would it be?

63 What is the best present you have ever been given?

64 Would you rather be able to fly or be invisible, and why?

65 What is something grown-ups do that seems strange to you?

66 What is a rule you think is fair, and one you think is not?

67 What do you want to know more about than anything?

68 If you made up a holiday, what would people do on it?

69 What is something you did that was hard but worth it?

70 Who is someone you look up to, and what do you like about them?

71 If your pet could talk for one day, what would you ask it?

72 What is something small that makes a bad day better?

Conversation Cards: Fourth and fifth grade

One question, then both of you answer it - the grown-up too. There is no right answer and nothing to score; the point is the turns. Play it in th

73 What is something you believe that other people disagree with?

74 If you could fix one problem in your school, what would it be?

75 What is the difference between being brave and not being scared?

76 Would you rather know how something ends or be surprised? Why?

77 What is something you are proud of that nobody knows about?

78 When is it okay to break a promise?

79 What would you do with a week where nobody told you what to do?

80 What is something you used to be afraid of and are not anymore?

81 If you could ask one question and get a true answer, what would you ask?

82 What makes someone a good friend, apart from being nice?

83 If you had to pick, is it better to be funny or to be kind? Why?

84 What is something you would like to be remembered for?

Conversation Cards: Sixth to eighth grade

One question, then both of you answer it - the grown-up too. There is no right answer and nothing to score; the point is the turns. Play it in th

85 What is something everyone your age seems to care about that you do not?

86 When has changing your mind made you feel better, not worse?

87 What is the most useless thing you are very good at?

88 Is it worse to be disliked or to be ignored? Why?

89 What do adults get wrong about people your age?

90 What is a piece of advice you have been given that you ignored?

91 If you could send one message to everyone in the world, what would it say?

92 What is something you do differently from most people, that works for you?

93 How do you know when you can trust someone?

94 What is something you want to be better at, and what is stopping you?

95 Would you rather have a few close friends or a lot of people who like you? Why?

96 What is a question you wish people would ask you?

Conversation Cards: High school

One question, then both of you answer it - the grown-up too. There is no right answer and nothing to score; the point is the turns. Play it in th

97 What is an opinion you hold that you expect to change in ten years?

98 What is the difference between what you are good at and what you want to do?

99 When is it right to keep going, and when is quitting the better call?

100 What is something you learned outside school that mattered more than something in it?

101 How do you decide what is worth your time?

102 What is a compliment you have been given that you did not believe?

103 What would you do if you knew you could not fail at it?

104 Can you know somebody well without having much in common? How?

105 What is something about the way you communicate that you would not change for anyone?

106 What do you wish teachers understood about how you learn?

107 What is a problem you would genuinely like to spend your life on?

108 Who are you when nobody is watching?

Answer Key

Ask a Question Back

1. For example: What is wrong with him? Have you taken him to the vet? Is he getting better?
2. For example: How long did you stay? What did you do there? Does she live far away?
3. For example: What color is it? Have you ridden it yet? Did you get other presents?
4. For example: When are you moving? Is it far away? Will you change schools?
5. For example: Did you get hurt? Who helped you? Are you okay now?
6. For example: When is the baby coming? Do you know if it is a boy or a girl? Will you share a room?
7. For example: Which tooth was it? Did it hurt? Did you put it under your pillow?
8. For example: What is his name? How old is he? What does he look like?
9. For example: Where are you going? Who is going with you? Have you been on a plane before?
10. For example: How did he break it? Does he have a cast? How long does he have to wear it?
11. For example: What kind of cake? Who helped you? How did it taste?
12. For example: Who are you playing? Where is the game? Are you nervous?

Say Something Related

13. For example: Oh no, I hope he gets better. My dog was sick last year and the vet helped.
14. For example: I like going to my grandma's. She always makes pancakes.
15. For example: I got a bike too, but mine is too small now.
16. For example: We moved last year. It was strange at first and then I liked it.
17. For example: I fell off the monkey bars once. It really hurt my hands.
18. For example: My little sister is a baby. She cries a lot but she is funny.
19. For example: I lost two teeth already. One came out when I bit an apple.
20. For example: Puppies chew everything. Mine ate my shoe.
21. For example: I went on a plane to see my cousins. My ears felt funny.
22. For example: My friend broke her arm and everyone signed the cast.
23. For example: I like making cakes. Licking the spoon is the best part.
24. For example: I play soccer on Sundays. I am usually the goalie.

Ending a Conversation

25. For example: I have to go, my mom is calling me. See you later!
26. For example: There's the bell. I'll tell you the rest at lunch. Bye!
27. For example: Hang on - I need the bathroom. Tell me when I get back.

28. For example: Well, it was nice talking to you, Grandma. I love you. Bye!
29. For example: That sounds cool. I'm going to go on the swings now - see you!
30. For example: Thanks for having me, I had fun. Happy birthday!
31. For example: I think I've got it now, thank you. I'll come back if I get stuck.
32. For example: I'm going to go now, but I want to hear the rest tomorrow.
33. For example: I don't really want to talk about this. Can we talk about something else?
34. For example: Anyway - that's basically it. What have you been up to?
35. For example: I'm okay, thanks. I don't feel like talking much today.
36. For example: Sorry to cut in - I really do have to go now. Bye!

Question or Comment?

37. A closed door. It is not unkind, it just leaves nothing to answer.
38. A question. It hands the turn straight back.
39. A related comment. It shares something and leaves a door open.
40. A jump with no bridge. Most people will find it hard to follow.
41. A question, and an easy one to answer.
42. A closed door - and it does not answer anything.
43. A question that shows you were listening.
44. A related comment with a detail of its own.
45. A question.
46. A correction. True, perhaps, but most people read it as being told off.
47. A question.
48. Related, but it may read as a complaint. Adding "I like loud music" keeps it open.

Conversation Cards: Kindergarten and first grade

49. Both of you answer. Then ask each other one more thing about it.
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Conversation Cards: Second and third grade

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Conversation Cards: Fourth and fifth grade

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Conversation Cards: Sixth to eighth grade

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95. Both of you answer. Then ask each other one more thing about it.
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Conversation Cards: High school

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