Helpful Hints for Conversation

Use the examples below to help you think about how to begin a conversation, keep a conversation going, redirect the conversation, or to expand the conversation beyond one topic.

Request Details

- Can you give me a specific example?
- How did that happen?
- Why did you go?
- What were the names of the other people?

Request More Information to Expand the Conversation

- Is there anything else you can think of?
- Tell me more about...
- Had you done similar things?

Ask About Context

- Who else was there?
- What were you wearing?
- What color was it?
- Who did you travel with?
- What did you eat?
- How did the flowers smell?
- Had you ever been there before?

Ask About Time/Sequence

- When did it happen?
- What day of the week was it?
- Was it dark or light?
- What time of year did it happen?
- How long did it last?
- What happened next?

Ask About Place

- Where did it happen?
- Were you inside or outside?
- What room were you in?
- Where were you sitting?
- What sorts of things were around you?
- Did you stay there or go somewhere else?

Acknowledge Any Response

- Yeah, I like it there too.
- You're right, she is a wonderful friend.
- I remember doing that, and then we...
- That was a long time ago, but what I'm really asking is...
- I'd love to talk more about that.