



10 Ways to Start a Conversation

{ PRACTICE 1 } The following are 10 topics that can be used to start a conversation. Discuss with a partner and rank these topics from most useful (1) to least (10).

TOPICS

I. Give a compliment.

II. Ask for information.

III. Ask for a favor.

IV. Mention a shared experience.

V. Ask for a recommendation.

VI. Talk about the environment.

VII. Comment on the weather.

VIII. Offer help.

IX. Care for one's condition.

X. Ask a hypothetical question.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

{ PRACTICE 2 } Below the topics are some examples (a-j). Please match each of them with the corresponding topic.

TOPICS

I. Give a compliment.

II. Ask for information.

III. Ask for a favor.

IV. Mention a shared experience.

V. Ask for a recommendation.

VI. Talk about the environment.

VII. Comment on the weather.

VIII. Offer help.

IX. Care for one's condition.

X. Ask a hypothetical question.

(a). Can you show me where the department office is?

(b). Do you remember the talented singer we met in the pub last weekend?

(c). I like your new glasses. The color of the frame suits you.

(d). (Someone sneezes.) Bless you. Here is a napkin for you.

(e). It's really cold this morning. I was struggling with getting out of bed.

(f). Has it been a busy time for you?

(g). If you were a superhero, what would your superpower be?

(h). I want to have some exotic food. Can you recommend some restaurants?

(i). Did you see the pink flowers on campus? They are soooooo cute!

(j). Do you know when we need to hand in the homework?

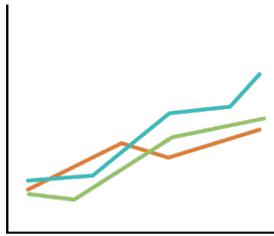


More Info



Use Charts to Visualize Your Words.

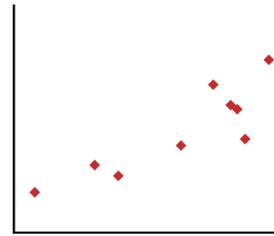
{ SITUATION } If you want readers to comprehend statistics instantly, what would you do? Take a look at some basic charts and graphs.



1



2



3



4

{ PRACTICE 1 } On the basis of the functions, match each type with its chart or graph by writing the number in the left box.

TYPE	FUNCTION
(A). a flow chart	✓ to demonstrate a step-by-step process.
(B). a scatter plot	✓ to reveal the relationship between two or more variables.
(C). a line chart/graph	✓ to show something is changing.
(D). a pie chart	✓ to present the part-whole relationship.

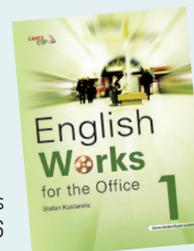
{ PRACTICE 2 } Read the scenarios below carefully. Choose the chart or graph that best explains each scenario and write the number in the blank below. Then, compare your answers with your classmates and explain the reasons for your choice.

(A).
If you want to post an Instagram story, you need to tap the plus button first. Then, take photos or choose from your gallery. Last, tap "Done" to save your story.

(B).
Young adults spend about 10 hours a day on their mobile devices: 6 hours on social media, 2 hours on entertainment, 1 hour on search engine, and 1 hour on other apps.

(C).
Work hours can affect one's dietary habits. The longer a person works, the more often they would use food delivery services.

(D).
The COVID-19 cases have been increasing in America, India and Brazil since its outbreak in the early 2020.





Watch Out! The Murderer Is Among Us.

{ SITUATION } Mysteries are part of our lives. Reading mystery stories is like sprinkling flavors on daily routine. What makes it so appealing? Let's look at the five elements of a mystery story.

SETTING

time & location

CHARACTERS

appearance & personality

PLOT

a hook & red herrings

PROBLEM

a crime or a puzzle

SOLUTION

hidden clues & the result

{ PRACTICE } Read the mystery story carefully. Complete the crossword puzzle with the short-case content of the five elements. If there are two words, please leave a space between them. Some may appear twice.

1850's England: elderly Doris and her six young wards are caught in a storm and forced to ask for shelter at an enormous manor deep in the English countryside. But all is not well in this home, and before long, Doris faces a bizarre problem: the manor's lord, stubborn Geoffrey, claims his estranged wife Alice is going to murder him that evening. Alice, meanwhile, claims that Geoffrey is going to murder her. After dinner, both are found dead, in the library, seated as if having a rational discussion, but dead as mice. There is no obvious murder weapon, and quite possibly, the murderer is loose in the manor. Doris is no detective, but she might as well figure this out. Given that storm, help won't be coming until it's too late.

Reid, R. (2016, March 09). 20 Mystery Story Ideas. Retrieved December 23, 2020, from <https://thewritepractice.com/20-mystery-story-ideas/>

Horizontal

3. SOLUTION: six young 'wards' → not Doris's real kids

4. SETTING: England

7. PLOT: Geoffrey and Alice want to kill each other.

8. PLOT: But all is not well in this home.

9. CHARACTER: 'elderly' Doris; six 'young' wards

10. PROBLEM: Alice and Geoffrey are found dead.

Vertical

1. SOLUTION: 'estranged' wife Alice → not having a good relationship with her husband

2. SOLUTION: The murderer is one of Doris's six young wards, Pip, who is also Alice and Geoffrey's son.

5. SETTING: 1850

6. CHARACTER: 'stubborn' Geoffrey

The crossword puzzle grid consists of white squares for letters and empty spaces. The starting points for the clues are as follows:

- 1: Down, top square
- 2: Down, second square from top
- 3: Horizontal, starting from the square where 2 intersects
- 4: Horizontal, starting from the square where 2 intersects
- 5: Down, starting from the square where 3 intersects
- 6: Down, starting from the square where 3 intersects
- 7: Horizontal, starting from the square where 5 intersects
- 8: Horizontal, starting from the square where 5 intersects
- 9: Horizontal, starting from the square where 5 intersects
- 10: Horizontal, starting from the square where 5 intersects



More Info