



Peabody Institute Library Conversation Circles

Suggested Conversations for Getting Started

Ice Breaker – First Conversation Circle for New Volunteers

Prepared by Claire Crosby

1. Greeting: Give your name and one fact about yourself. Go around the group and ask them to do the same. Try to comment after each one.
2. Ask each person in turn, one of the following questions:
 - Where do you live?
 - Do you work? Where
 - What time do you get up in the morning?
 - How do you get to the library?
 - Who cooks dinner in your home?
 - What do you do in the evening?
 - What is your favorite day of the week? Why?
 - What month and day were you born?
 - (ask your own questions)Write their answers on the board. Discuss correct usage & vocabulary & pronunciation tips.

3. Read or ask a volunteer to read the attached paragraph. After, ask the discussion questions. Write as much as you can on the board and discuss correct usage & vocabulary & pronunciation tips. Continue with Discussion topics if time allows.
4. Either as a group or individually make up a conversation using one of these as a starter:
 - Nice to see you again.
 - Who is this?
 - Today is April ___
 - I have two sisters.
 - I am from Brazil.
5. Describe what is happening in [sample] pictures.

We Are What We Eat

A young American doctor went to Guatemala to work. His patients came from all over the country. They were workers with families. Their children also came to the doctor.

The doctor saw that his older patients were very healthy. They lived a long life. But his younger patients were often sick. They had high blood pressure and heart problems. Some younger patients had diabetes, cancer or arthritis. Many of them were overweight.

Discussion Questions

Why were his older patients so healthy? Why were their children unhealthy? The doctor asked them about their food. The older people told him they liked to eat traditional foods, such as rice, vegetables and fish. The younger people said they didn't eat their parents' food. They liked to eat the same food as most Americans.

This doctor says what we eat is very important for our health. Do you agree?

Discussion Topics

1. Name some traditional foods from your country.
2. Name some modern foods you can see in this country that are not like traditional foods.
3. Name some healthy foods.
4. Name some unhealthy foods.
5. What do you eat every day?
6. What do you like to eat for a holiday meal?

Snow Storms of 2015

Write down any experiences you have had dealing with the snow.

Bring it to class next week.

And take pictures! This is a historic event.

Important vocabulary: shoveling, dig out, buried, icicles

Also, a quiz. What's the difference:

snow plowing

snow blowing

Conversation Circle on _____

Fix the English!

Wrong	Right
<p>I no go work yesterday.</p> <p>He no tell me, so I was late.</p>	
<p>I say him call me back! But he no call.</p> <p>I see her yesterday at the store.</p> <p>I no go see doctor.</p>	
<p>The doctor said me come back next week.</p> <p>Who go store?</p>	
<p>I say her stop many time, but she no stop.</p> <p>Today I go Boston, come back late.</p>	
<p>I don't know he go or not go last week.</p>	
<p>I say him too many work, but he no listen.</p> <p>I go sometimes, no every day.</p>	
<p>Yesterday I visit friend.</p>	

It's very easy to make a negative by putting "no" in front of the verb, but it's a bad habit! Try to use the correct forms. Often, a helpful word is "**didn't**".

Conversation Circle on _____

More "should" sentences

Every morning I leave at six.	This morning I _____ at six.	Yesterday I should _____ at six.
Every day I go to school.	Yesterday I _____ to school.	Last week I should _____ to school.
Every day I bring my lunch.	Yesterday I _____ my lunch.	Last week I should _____ my lunch.
Every day I think about the weather.	Yesterday I _____ about the weather.	Last week I should _____ about the weather.
Every week my cat fights with the neighbor's cat.	Yesterday my cat _____ my neighbor's cat.	He shouldn't _____ with the neighbor's cat! Yesterday, he shouldn't _____ with the neighbor's cat!
Did you go yesterday?	No, I didn't go.	You should _____.
Did he tell you?	No, he _____ me.	He should _____ you.
Sometimes I worry about my car.	Yesterday I _____ about my car.	You shouldn't _____ your car.
I never wear a hat.	Yesterday I _____ wear a hat.	Yesterday, you _____ a hat!
I often lose my keys.	Yesterday I _____ my keys.	I _____ my keys!
Every day I drink too much coffee.	Yesterday I _____ too much coffee.	I _____ drink so much coffee.
Every day I sleep at lunch.	Yesterday I _____ at lunch.	You shouldn't _____ at lunch! Yesterday, you shouldn't _____ at lunch!
My house gets cold at night.	Yesterday my house _____ at night.	My house shouldn't _____ so cold at night!
He buys cigarettes every week.	Yesterday he _____ cigarettes.	He shouldn't _____ cigarettes! He shouldn't _____ cigarettes last week!
I ride my bicycle every day.	Yesterday I _____ my bicycle.	I shouldn't _____ my bicycle in the winter! I shouldn't _____ my bicycle yesterday!

