**Unit 5**

**Likes and dislikes; Agreement and disagreement**

**How to Answer Questions About Likes & Dislikes**

By Colleen Reinhart, eHow Contributor | updated May 25, 2011

Instructions

1

Practice ways of saying "I like" and "I don't like," if you're new to the English language. The website IELTS Speaking offers some phrase suggestions, although some are more common to British English. Common American phrases for expressing like include: "I enjoy ... ", "I like the idea of ...", "I really enjoy ...", "I'm interested in ...", "I'm into ...", and "I'm a fan of ...". You can turn these into negative expressions: "I don't enjoy...", "I don't like the idea of...", "I'm not really interested in...", and so on.

2

Introduce a new topic to keep the conversation moving if someone introduces a subject you don't enjoy. For example, if your friend talks about his love for hockey and you don't watch that sport, move the conversation onto a new track by bringing up something else he might like to talk about: "I don't really watch hockey, but I love watching baseball. Have you been keeping up with baseball at all this season?"

3

Temper your opinions by expressing an understanding of your friend's point of view while still stating your piece. Jeremy Sherman, a researcher who blogs on "Psychology Today," suggests bringing up a shortcoming of your own approach whenever you say something that could be perceived as critical of someone else. For example, if your friend talks about how she finds leaving work to the last minute helpful, you could say: "I'm more of a planner myself. I get too panicked if I try to finish everything right before a deadline, but I can understand how it would work for you. I'm just not as good under pressure."

4

Be open to learning and changing your point of view. As cognitive scientist Art Markman points out in "Psychology Today," there's a difference between talking with someone and talking at someone. If a friend says he likes something that you think is unusual, don't fire back immediately with your contrary opinion -- ask why he likes it. Suggest the person introduce you to the activity or thing in question so you can learn more about it. For example, "You know, I've always been afraid of downhill skiing, but maybe if you wouldn't mind teaching me sometime, I could learn how to have fun with it."

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Tips & Warnings

Stay away from controversial subjects, such as religion and politics, when you're meeting new people. Although debating these deep questions with friends can be fun, getting into them with strangers can cause hurt feelings and resentment.

Read more: How to Answer Questions About Likes & Dislikes | eHow.com http://www.ehow.com/how\_8485022\_answer-questions-likes-dislikes.html#ixzz1sFmmv1J5

**How to Talk to a Quiet Guy**

By an eHow Contributor

Talking to a quiet guy can be a great experience. People who are observers rather than entertainers or big talkers usually are full of great conversation. Getting a quiet guy to talk can be a little difficult sometimes. Here are a few things you can do to put him at ease and get a conversation going.

Instructions

1

Approach a quiet guy in a calm and personal setting like a coffee house or bookstore. Do not misread his lack of conversation as lack of interest. If you really want to talk with a shy guy, a loud party or busy bus stop may not be the best place.

2

Smile and use eye contact. Guys will be more secure if they are sure you want to talk to them. One of the best ways is to smile and use consistent eye contact. This is a clear cut way to show him that you are sincere.

3

Ask personal questions about him. Try to discover what his likes and dislikes are. Find some common ground that he will feel comfortable with talking about in a conversation.

4

Compliment him. Let him know that you think highly of him by saying something nice. The compliment will be more special if you choose something that he was born with, hair, eyes or smile, versus something that he may not have chosen himself, like shirt or shoes.

5

Let silence be acceptable. Being quiet for a few moments and letting him get his thoughts together is important, as he is may be really nervous. Being with him, even in silence, may help loosen him up and feel comforted in the fact that he does not have to entertain you.

How to Talk to a Quiet Guy | eHow.com <http://www.ehow.com/how_2103537_talk-quiet-guy.html#ixzz1sFnOE2qH>

**Finding Common Ground to Connect with People**

Connecting with people is a basic human need. When you connect with someone on a deep level, it is easier to become good friends. It is easier to have a smooth working relationship. It is easier to avoid needless conflicts while having greater harmony in your life. One of the ways of forming this connection is to find common ground. No matter how different and unique people are, there is bound to be common ground if you make the effort to look for it. With common ground comes common understanding. Read on to learn how to find common ground to connect with people.

Common Interests

One useful way to connect with people is through shared interests and passions. Nothing causes a person to light up faster than talking about something close to their hearts. It could be a passion for reading or sports or food and so on. When you have the same passion and interests, it becomes a joy to spend time with another like-minded soul. To connect on a deeper level, you could exchange knowledge and ideas on the subject as well. Doing so will strengthen the common bond you share.

Common Experiences

You can also bond with someone else over a common experience. For example, a teacher understands the problems of a fellow teacher. Parents will know the joys and troubles of bringing up children. People who go through the same experience will be aware of the opportunities and pitfalls involved. Sharing a common experience with someone else makes you comrades of sorts. You could reflect on past glories or bond over the struggles you face. If need be, you could also lend a helping hand or advice as you discuss solutions to problems. This will help you to connect on a deeper level as well.

Common Beliefs and Views

Each of us has deeply held beliefs that make up our very identity. If you meet someone else who shares similar views as you, there is a potential to connect on a deep level. After all, you would want to keep people who understand you by your side. With like minds, you can convey much more in fewer words. Under such circumstances, the both of you are likelier to hit it off and become good friends. With this common understanding, there will be fewer chances of conflict between the two of you as well.

Taking Action

When it comes to finding common ground, the little things matter. You should not expect instant success even if there is common ground. A solid foundation needs time and effort to build. But once that foundation is in place, it can support great loads. Similarly, it takes time and effort to form a lasting connection even if there is common ground to build upon. We all need to nurture the important relationships in our lives. Common ground alone is not enough to sustain a relationship. All that it does is to provide a part of the foundation for a meaningful relationship.

What other ways of finding common ground have I have missed out? Do you have any other ways to connect with people? What are your views on finding common ground to connect with others? Do share your thoughts and comments below.

**Ten Tips for Cross Cultural Communication**

By Neil Payne

Here are some simple tips to help you improve your cross cultural communication skills:

**Slow Down** Even when English is the common language in a cross cultural situation, this does not mean you should speak at normal speed. Slow down, speak clearly and ensure your pronunciation is intelligible.

**Separate Questions** Try not to ask double questions such as, "Do you want to carry on or shall we stop here?" In a cross cultural situation only the first or second question may have been comprehended. Let your listener answer one question at a time.

**Avoid Negative Questions** Many cross cultural communication misunderstandings have been caused by the use of negative questions and answers. In English we answer 'yes' if the answer is affirmative and 'no' if it is negative. In other cultures a 'yes' or 'no' may only be indicating whether the questioner is right or wrong. For example, the response to "Are you not coming?" may be 'yes', meaning 'Yes, I am not coming.'

**Take Turns** Cross cultural communication is enhanced through taking turns to talk, making a point and then listening to the response.

**Write it Down** If you are unsure whether something has been understood write it down and check. This can be useful when using large figures. For example, a billion in the USA is 1,000,000,000,000 while in the UK it is 1,000,000,000.

**Be Supportive** Effective cross cultural communication is in essence about being comfortable. Giving encouragement to those with weak English gives them confidence, support and a trust in you.

**Check Meanings** When communicating across cultures never assume the other party has understood.

**Be an active listener**. Summarise what has been said in order to verify it. This is a very effective way of ensuring accurate cross cultural communication has taken place.

**Avoid Slang** Even the most well educated foreigner will not have a complete knowledge of slang, idioms and sayings. The danger is that the words will be understood but the meaning missed. Watch the humour In many cultures business is taken very seriously. Professionalism and protocol are constantly observed. Many cultures will not appreciate the use of humour and jokes in the business context. When using humour think whether it will be understood in the other culture. For example, British sarcasm usually has a negative effect abroad.

**Maintain Etiquette** Many cultures have certain etiquette when communicating. It is always a good idea to undertake some cross cultural awareness training or at least do some research on the target culture. Cross cultural communication is about dealing with people from other cultures in a way that minimises misunderstandings and maximises your potential to create strong cross cultural relationships. The above tips should be seen as a starting point to greater cross cultural awareness. For more information on cross cultural communication training please visit http://www.kwintessential.co.uk

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