

WELCOME
back

small talks



small talks

How to make small talks:
how to connect and find
common ground with others

small talks

life

work

food

travel

weather

We can ask questions that relate to:

- the current situation
- any experience in the past
- any future dreams or future plans

>> So: It's a helpful word to introduce a new question.



small
talks
time

small talks

life

work

food

travel

weather

life

So, what have you been up to lately?

So, what were you up to this weekend?

So, what do you have going on today?

So, what've you got going on today?

So, what are you doing today?

So, have you got much planned for the weekend?

So, do you have anything fun going on this weekend?

So, are you from here? Where did you live before this?

So, where did you grow up?

So, what do you like to do in your spare time?

So, do you have any kids?

So, what was the greatest day of your life?

So, what will your future self remember about you now?

So, did you hear about the accident on the freeway last night?

I got stuck in traffic for over two hours.

work

What motivated you to become a teacher?

Did you always want to be a teacher?

What was your first-ever job?

What do you do? What do you do for a living?

What is your typical workday like?

What do you love about your job?

Is this your dream job?

Are you working towards something else?

If money wasn't an issue, what job would you want?

food

I'm trying to decide where to go for lunch, do you know any good restaurants around here?

Do you like eating out? How often do you eat out?

Do you like Chinese food? Have you tried that new Chinese restaurant downtown? I've heard it's amazing!

I'm cooking pasta for dinner today, what about you?

What do you cook at home?

I'm trying to eat better, any tips?

I've heard kale is high in vitamins so I've started eating kale.

travel

Are you planning on getting away for the holidays?

Are you taking time off over Christmas?

I've just got back from a trip to Mexico, have you ever been?

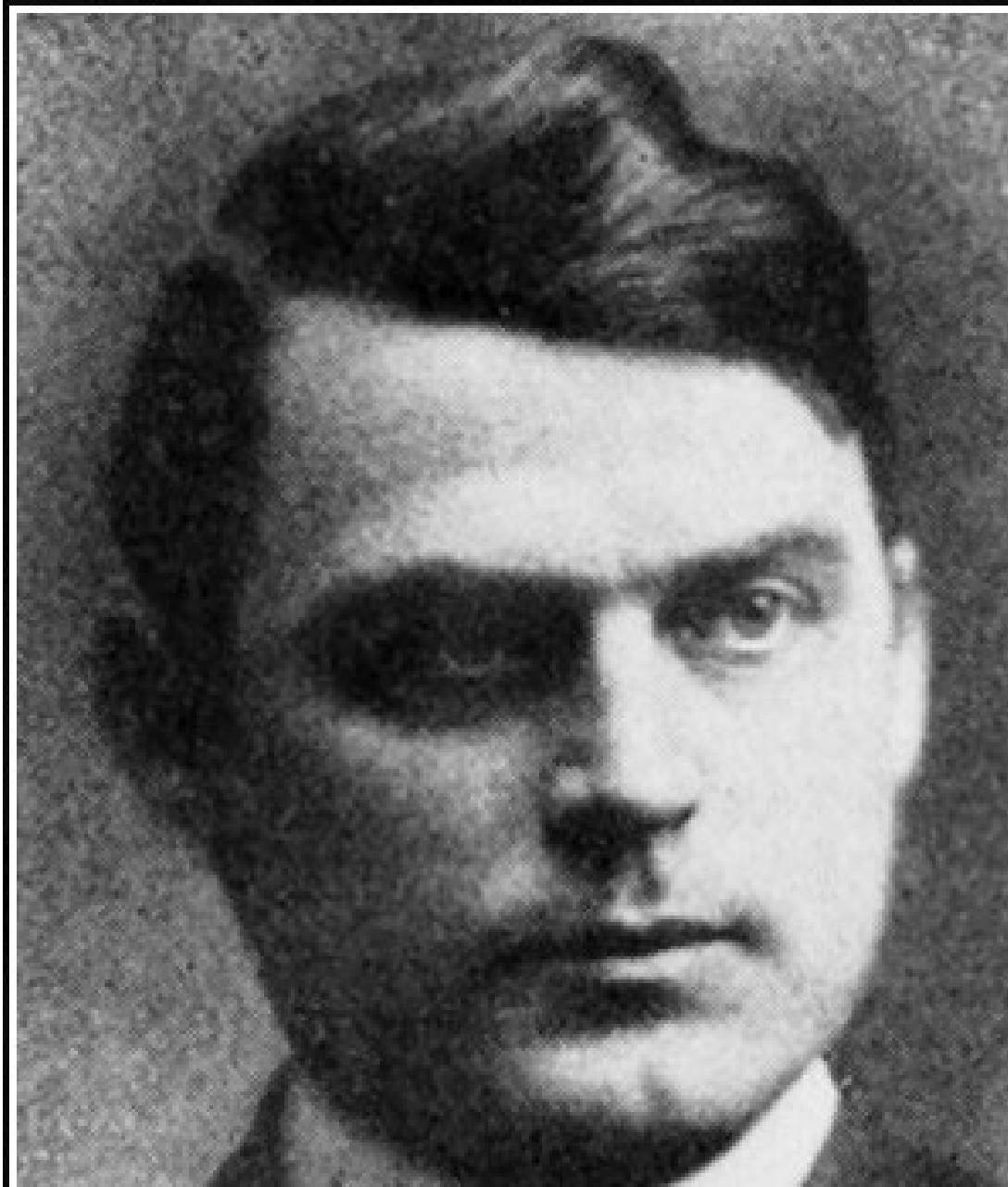
You went to Mexico last year, didn't you? I'm planning on going in June, do you have any recommendations?

What places are on your bucket list?

Where do you feel most at home?

What is your most valuable travel possession?

weather



Don't knock the weather;
nine-tenths of the people couldn't
start a conversation if it didn't
change once in a while.

— Kin Hubbard —

weather

It's a beautiful day today, isn't it?

Can you believe all the rain we've been having lately?

It's pouring out there! It's a shame I rode my bike today. How did you get to work?

How's the weather in your country changed over the last twenty years?

Do you worry about the world's changing weather?

When was the last time the weather destroyed one of your plans?

Do you always check the weather forecast?

**let's learn
a few
phrases**
well-known expressions

At the end of the day

At the end of the day
Let me know

At the end of the day
Let me know
You're pushing your luck

At the end of the day
Let me know
You're pushing your luck
Get back to you

At the end of the day
Let me know
You're pushing your luck
Get back to you
I spoke too soon

At the end of the day
Let me know
You're pushing your luck
Get back to you
I spoke too soon
Give me a break

At the end of the day
Let me know
You're pushing your luck
Get back to you
I spoke too soon
Give me a break
I'm losing it

At the end of the day
Let me know
You're pushing your luck
Get back to you
I spoke too soon
Give me a break
I'm losing it
Go ahead

At the end of the day
Let me know
You're pushing your luck
Get back to you
I spoke too soon
Give me a break
I'm losing it
Go ahead
It's no big deal

At the end of the day
Let me know
You're pushing your luck
Get back to you
I spoke too soon
Give me a break
I'm losing it
Go ahead
It's no big deal
Will do

I think I'll pass

I think I'll pass
I'd be happy to help

I think I'll pass
I'd be happy to help
We're short on time

I think I'll pass
I'd be happy to help
We're short on time
I'm happy you could make it

I think I'll pass
I'd be happy to help
We're short on time
I'm happy you could make it
She wouldn't hurt a fly

I think I'll pass
I'd be happy to help
We're short on time
I'm happy you could make it
She wouldn't hurt a fly
It's up to you

I think I'll pass
I'd be happy to help
We're short on time
I'm happy you could make it
She wouldn't hurt a fly
It's up to you
I want nothing to do with it

I think I'll pass
I'd be happy to help
We're short on time
I'm happy you could make it
She wouldn't hurt a fly
It's up to you
I want nothing to do with it
You're all over the place

I think I'll pass
I'd be happy to help
We're short on time
I'm happy you could make it
She wouldn't hurt a fly
It's up to you
I want nothing to do with it
You're all over the place
Don't put me on the spot

I think I'll pass
I'd be happy to help
We're short on time
I'm happy you could make it
She wouldn't hurt a fly
It's up to you
I want nothing to do with it
You're all over the place
Don't put me on the spot
You went too far

Living the dream

Living the dream
I've lost my touch

Living the dream
I've lost my touch
I don't want to hear it

Living the dream
I've lost my touch
I don't want to hear it
You get what you pay for

Living the dream
I've lost my touch
I don't want to hear it
You get what you pay for
How's work going?

Living the dream
I've lost my touch
I don't want to hear it
You get what you pay for
How's work going?
Have you heard the good news?

Living the dream
I've lost my touch
I don't want to hear it
You get what you pay for
How's work going?
Have you heard the good news?
Don't push me

Living the dream
I've lost my touch
I don't want to hear it
You get what you pay for
How's work going?
Have you heard the good news?
Don't push me
I have a good/bad feeling

Living the dream
I've lost my touch
I don't want to hear it
You get what you pay for
How's work going?
Have you heard the good news?
Don't push me
I have a good/bad feeling
What can I do for you?

Living the dream
I've lost my touch
I don't want to hear it
You get what you pay for
How's work going?
Have you heard the good news?
Don't push me
I have a good/bad feeling
What can I do for you?
I don't know off the top of my head

phrases in action

Lilah: Is this your dream job?

Brian: Yes, it is. Is it yours?

Lilah: No, it's not. You know what though? At
the end of the day, all that matters to me is that I'm
able to feed my children.

phrases in action

Lilah: Do you like eating out?

Brian: I'd rather eat at home but I end up eating out every other day because I'm always short on time.

Lilah: I see. I'm thinking about going out for lunch tomorrow, any recommendations?

P O L L

T I M E



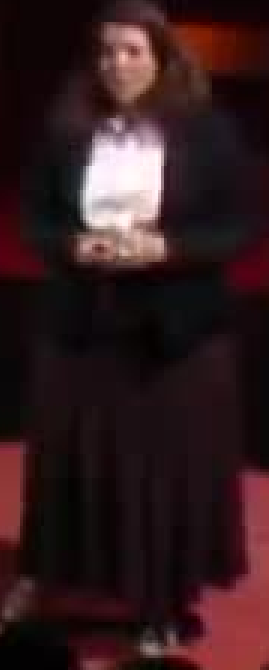
Ways to have a better conversation with Celeste Headlee





TEDx CreativeCoast
an independently organized TED event

CELESTE HEADLEE



TED

Now, I make my living talking to people: Nobel prize winners, truck drivers, billionaires, kindergarten teachers, heads of state, plumbers... I talk to people that I like. I talk to people that I don't like. I talk to some people that I disagree with deeply on a personal level. But I still have a great conversation with them. So, I'd like to spend the next ten minutes or so, teaching you how to talk and how to listen. Many of you have already heard a lot of advice on this, things like look at the person in the eye, think of interesting things, topics to discuss in advance, look... nod and smile to show that you're paying attention, repeat back what you've just heard or summarize it. So, I want you to forget all of that. It is crap. There's no reason to learn how to show you're paying attention if you are in fact paying attention.

- 1) Don't multitask.
- 2) Don't pontificate
- 3) Use open-ended questions.
- 4) Go with the flow.
- 5) If you don't know, say that you don't know
- 6) Don't equate your experience with theirs.
- 7) Try not to repeat yourself.
- 8) Stay out of the weeds.
- 9) Listen.
- 10) Be brief.



And I don't mean just set down your cellphone, or your tablet or your car keys or whatever is in your hand. I mean, be present, be in that moment. Don't be thinking about your argument you had with your boss, don't be thinking about what you're gonna have for dinner. If you wanna get out of the conversation, get out of the conversation. But don't be half in it and half out of it.



don't
multitask



Now people on the radio, especially on NPR, are much more aware that they are going on the record and so they're more careful about what they claim to be an expert in and what they claim to know for sure. Do that. Err on the side of caution. Talk should not cheap.

If you don't
know, say that you
don't know.




If they're talking about having lost a family member, don't start talking about the time that you lost a family member. If they're talking about the trouble that they're having at work, don't tell them about how much you hate your job. It's not the same, it is never the same. All experiences are individual. And more importantly, it is not about you. You don't need to take that moment to prove how amazing you are or how much you've suffered.

Don't equate
your experience
with theirs.



I cannot tell you how many really important people have said that listening is perhaps the most, the number one most important skill that you could develop. Buddha said and I'm paraphrasing, "if your mouth is open, you're not learning".



listen

1) Don't multitask.

2) Don't pontificate

3) Use open-ended questions.

4) Go with the flow.

5) If you don't know, say that you don't know

6) Don't equate your experience with theirs.

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9) Listen.

10) Be brief.



I kind of grew up assuming, everyone has some hidden, amazing thing about them. And honestly, I think it's what makes me a better host. I keep my mouth shut as often as I possibly can, I keep my mind open and I'm always prepared to be amazed and I'm never disappointed. You do the same thing. Go out, talk to people, listen to people and most importantly, be prepared to be amazed. Thanks.

Q & A
time to ask

T H a n k

Y O U