

Conversation Partner Program Conversation Starters & Activity Ideas

As a volunteer, you do not need to have an organized lesson prepared or use any textbooks. The purpose of the program is to enjoy conversation and teach some fun slang and everyday American sayings and idioms in a casual and comfortable setting. Additionally, volunteers may be able to assist internationals with questions and concerns they may have as relates to pronunciation, test preparation, paper and presentation organization, or simply what a phrase or word means. Having trouble knowing what to talk about? Browse the listing below for ideas.

- Family
- Hobbies
- Hometowns
- Pet
- Weather
- Sports
- National holidays
- Different customs
- Food
- Favorite recipes
- Buying a car
- Getting insurance
- Going to a mechanic
- Getting a haircut
- Cell phones, cable, etc.
- TV shows, movies, music
- Technology
- What to do if you get sick or hurt
- What to do if you get pulled over by the police or are in an accident
- Where to shop
- Proper tipping
- Regional accents, slang, dialect
- Life goals
- Fashion
- Taboo topics
- Dating customs
- Religion, spirituality
- Political/government systems
- Parenting customs
- Legal systems and individual rights
- Travel experiences
- Field of study/work

Conversation Partner Program Conversation Starters & Activity Ideas

What you choose to do in your time with your Conversation Partner is completely up to both of you. The intent is for each party to learn, share, and have fun. While you may meet your partner on campus for activities, there may also be events off-campus that peak your interest. Here is a list of places and activities that past partners have enjoyed together.

- Celebrate American and international holidays together
- Visit the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art or the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art
- See the Country Club Plaza Christmas lights
- Have coffee at a café
- Go shopping
- Check out the Hallmark Visitor's Center
- Have dinner at each other's homes
- Go to an art or cooking class together
- Go to the Kansas City Zoo
- Go to a concert
- Go hear live jazz
- Visit the American Jazz and Negro Leagues Baseball Museums
- Borrow each other's favorite CD or DVD
- Exchange fun vocabulary or phrases in each other's languages
- Check out the Arabia Steamboat Museum
- Go dancing
- Go ice skating at Crown Center
- Go to Union Station and Science City
- Exercise together at Kirmayer Fitness Center
- Go for a drive together
- Show each other pictures of your families, friends, hometowns, etc.
- Go see a movie with subtitles and discuss it afterwards (for international movies at Tivoli cinema see www.tivolkc.com)
- Go on a day trip
- Go to the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum
- Go to the City Market
- Eat Kansas City barbeque
- Look at the fountains
- Go to a sporting event
- Go see a musical, play, opera, or ballet
- Check out the Shakespeare and other cultural festivals
- Go to art festivals and gallery openings
- Go to a comedy show and dinner theatre
- Enjoy the botanical gardens
- Go to Worlds of Fun
- Go to places of worship together