



Conversation Card Instructions

1. Cut out the cards and place them face down on the table
2. Without looking, draw one of the cards
3. Each card has a conversation topic
 - Talk with each other about the topic for a set amount of time (perhaps 5 or 10 minutes)
 - You can let the conversation lead in any direction – with regard to a given topic, such as, say, “Talk about your favourite kind of car,” it could lead to cars in general, the kind of car you already have, trips you like to take in the car, memories of learning to drive or teaching your children to drive, etc.
4. If the conversation leads to something different altogether than what is on the card, that’s OK too – the point is just to talk comfortably in your language
5. To make it a real conversation, make sure both people talk – for example, one could ask questions about the topic and the other answers them, or both could take turns talking about their own experiences with the topic
6. Don’t feel bad if you have to use loan words from English – native speakers do it all the time. Just don’t start using whole sentences in English!
 - One of the conversation topics can always be “How might we express this phrase in our language?”

¹ We thank Leanne Hinton and the Advocates for California Language Survival for sharing these cards.

<p>Talk about your favourite board game. (Play it, too, if you like.)</p>	<p>Talk about the ocean.</p>
<p>What kind of things do you like to do for recreation or relaxation?</p>	<p>Talk about your favourite kind of car.</p>
<p>Talk about the stars and/or constellations.</p>	<p>Talk about a natural disaster that you either experienced or heard about (e.g. an earthquake, wildfire, etc.).</p>
<p>Talk about why you love your language.</p>	<p>Discuss a current political issue.</p>
<p>Discuss what you know about the history of your nation. How does this differ from what children read about in their schoolbooks about First Nations History?</p>	<p>Think of a historical person who you think of as a hero. Discuss your ideas on this with each other.</p>

<p>Pretend one of you is a door-to-door salesperson wanting to sell you a vacuum cleaner; the other is the person who answers the door.</p>	<p>Talk about the topic of fishing. It could be about your own fishing, or about commercial fishing, or a controversy such as salmon kill-offs, etc.</p>
<p>Do you hunt or does a member of your family hunt? Discuss hunting practices and/or experiences.</p>	<p>What leads to having a healthy body? You could discuss nutrition, exercise, "clean living", spirituality, etc.</p>
<p>Is there life after death? What are your thoughts on the subject?</p>	<p>What time do you go to bed and get up? How important is it to get a good night's sleep? Discuss issues around sleep.</p>
<p>Talk about some of the ways life has changed since you were children.</p>	<p>Name the things inside a grocery store. If there are things that don't have names in your language, describe them and discuss what a good name for them might be.</p>
<p>Talk about places that you would like to visit.</p>	<p>Discuss your plans for your next session together.</p>

Talk about an illness you once had.

Talk about your favourite kind of music.

Either plan or pretend to plan a vacation that you will take together. Where will you go? How will you get there? What would you like to do?

Talk about making regalia (dance dress, etc.).

Find a magazine or book and talk about the pictures in it. (Don't read the words.)

Talk about a dream you had.

Was there ever a time when you were in a really dangerous situation, where you thought "This is it – I could die here!"

Take turns talking in detail about a favourite recipe you like to cook.

Take turns looking at a piece of furniture in the room and describe it in as much detail as you can.

Take turns asking each other questions about anything you like (and the other one answers them).

<p>Do you know any coyote or raven stories? One of you can tell a story and have the other tell it back in his or her own words.</p>	<p>Talk about native plants.</p>
<p>Talk about a trip you took once.</p>	<p>Discuss the weather.</p>
<p>Describe what your ideal house would look like.</p>	<p>Describe your spouse's (or sister's, brother's, etc.) personality.</p>
<p>Look around the room (or wherever you are) and find objects that neither of you know a name for. Describe them and discuss what you might call them.</p>	<p>Read any good books lately? What things do you like to read?</p>
<p>Describe a house that you lived in as a child.</p>	<p>Were you ever in the armed forces, or do you have a friend or relative who was?</p>

<p>Talk about your neighbourhood or reserve; you could draw a rough map while you talk if you like, showing where houses and other buildings are and who lives where near you.</p>	<p>Have you ever played any sports (e.g. in school, or just with friends)? Discuss the sports you have played.</p>
<p>Talk about a childhood memory.</p>	<p>Talk about a beautiful place you know, describing it in as much detail as possible.</p>
<p>Talk about traditional songs. You could also sing some of them if you want to.</p>	<p>Talk about finances.</p>
<p>Talk about a person you both know.</p>	<p>Talk about a sacred place.</p>
<p>Talk about what you did yesterday.</p>	<p>Talk about summer.</p>

Describe your houses to each other.

Talk about your favourite TV show.

Talk about winter.

Talk about gardening.

Turn on the TV but without the sound; talk about the show you are watching.

Take turns talking about a person you admire.

Do you have a pet? If so, describe your pet and its behaviour. If not, talk about a pet you once had.

Discuss movies you have seen.

Talk about wild animals that live in your area.

What do you like to do for fun and relaxation?

<p>Talk about shells (e.g. abalone, dentalium, etc.) – what they look like, where one gets them, what they are used for, anything you know about them.</p>	<p>Talk about shopping – what do you need to buy? Develop a shopping list together and discuss where you will go to buy these things.</p>
<p>Talk about ceremonies.</p>	<p>Talk about your parents.</p>
<p>Talk about colours: your favourite colours, the colours of objects around you, etc.</p>	<p>Talk about baskets and basket-making.</p>
<p>Talk about experiences you remember from your school days. (Or, if you are in school now, talk about recent experiences.)</p>	<p>Talk about birds.</p>
<p>Talk about a scary experience you had.</p>	<p>Talk about hockey. (If you aren't a fan, just describe what you know about how hockey is played. Or if you REALLY aren't a fan, talk about how and why you don't like it.)</p>

<p>What kinds of food do you like to eat?</p>	<p>Talk about some of your young relatives – children, grandchildren, or other children in your (extended) family.</p>
<p>Describe what happened on your most recent trip to a casino or bingo. (Or, if you don't go to bingo or casinos, discuss why.)</p>	<p>Talk about something that happened once that made you sad.</p>
<p>Talk about some experience that made you happy.</p>	<p>Choose your own topic.</p>
<p>Choose your own topic.</p>	<p>Choose your own topic.</p>