

Small Talk Tips

Improving your everyday communication skills is important. In fact, most of the time we aren't speaking in front of large audiences. We are engaging in small talk with new people we encounter every day. It may seem nerve wracking to talk to someone for the first time, but the following tips will make the process easier.

1. **Be curious about the other person.**

- Ask someone questions about themselves.
- Likes/dislikes, college major, job, weekend plans, favorite season, etc.

2. **Find common interests.**

- The place you meet can be a topic of discussion.
- May suggest similar interests.
 - E.g. If you meet at a boba tea shop, you can ask about their favorite drink.

3. **Silences are not always awkward.**

- Don't worry! Silences give time to process the conversation. It leads to thoughtful responses when the conversation resumes.

4. **Practice, practice, practice.**

- Small talk needs time and practice to master. The more you approach people, the more confident you will become. You never know if someone is also looking to make a new friend!