Conversation starter cards

Choose a question you both fancy. You can always skip one or swap stories.

01 / TODAY

What’s been the best bit of your day so far?

It can be tiny. Mine was the first cup of tea. What made yours a good moment?

02 / SOMETHING NEARBY

If I were sitting where you are, what would catch my eye?

Pick something at your end too. A wonky shelf or a mug can make a better story than a perfect view.

03 / MUSIC

If you had charge of the radio for the next song, what would you put on?

Ask whether to look it up together. They might want to hear it more than they want to explain the choice.

04 / FOOD

What would you put on the menu if somebody else was doing all the washing-up?

You can disagree about pudding. An opinion is enough; nobody has to remember a recipe.

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05 / PLACES

Where would you take a visitor who only had an afternoon in your area?

Let them choose what counts as worth seeing. Ask what you should look out for when you get there.

06 / LOCAL NEWS

Has anything round your way changed lately?

A new crossing or a closed shop can open a conversation. Ask what it’s like now, rather than what year it changed.

07 / A SMALL DECISION

I need something to watch or listen to. What would get your vote?

Give two choices if that’s easier. A firm ‘neither’ gives you something to talk about too.

08 / A SKILL

What’s something you could teach me to do?

Ask for the first step. If they like, next time you can tell them how your attempt went.

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09 / A MEMORY, IF WELCOME

Is there a journey you still like telling people about?

Follow whatever detail they choose. If travel or the past feels uncomfortable, try the radio card instead.

10 / A FRIENDLY DEBATE

What everyday invention deserves more credit?

Give your own nomination first if they like. A tin opener and a washing machine are both fair game.

11 / LOOKING AHEAD

Is there anything coming up this week you’d like me to ask about next time?

It might be a match on television or a plant about to flower. Only promise to ring if you can keep the arrangement.

12 / THEIR TURN

What would you like to ask me?

Give a proper answer. It’s a conversation, and the other person may be just as curious about your week as you are about theirs.