

Ending a conversation

Signals that suggest someone wants to end a conversation with you include



- not asking questions back
- increasingly monosyllabic responses
- looking around the room
- yawning
- looking at their watch
- saying they have something else to do
- Standing up (if you've been sitting down)



Don't be offended if your conversation partner does any of these things. All conversations need to come to an end at some point and your conversation partner may have other things that they need to do.

There are perfectly valid reasons why someone may want to end a conversation. It doesn't mean that they don't like you or are bored with you. Reasons for wanting to close the conversation could include:

- They have to get back to what they were doing - working, running errands, mingling with other guests, etc.
- The conversation is starting to wind down and they want to neatly wrap it up.
- They're just not in a chatty mood, and want to keep things short.
- They might need to leave to go to an appointment or meet with someone.
- They may have other people they'd also like to speak to

If you sense that your conversation partner wants to end the conversation, you can close it by saying:

- "I don't want to keep you any longer, so I'll say goodbye"
- "I can see you're busy, but it was good to see you, goodbye."

If you can see that your conversation partner is busy, and they are using the signs above to indicate that they want to end the conversation, you can say:

- "Anyway, it was good seeing you. I'll let you get back to your shopping."
- "Anyway, I'll talk to you more later. I'll let you get back to your work."

All conversations must come to an end, and even if your conversation partner isn't indicating that they want to end the conversation, you might want to end it for one of the above reasons or because you want to take a break from socialising.

If you want to end the conversation, it is polite to say something to close the conversation, such as "Well I'd better be going now" before saying "Goodbye". Just suddenly saying 'goodbye' without a closing statement can come across as sudden and a bit rude or abrupt to your conversation partner. In this section of the manual, we will discuss closing statements that you can use to end the conversation before saying "goodbye".

One way of closing a conversation is to express that you've enjoyed speaking to your conversation partner. For example you could say:

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"Man Yawning" by artur84, downloaded from FreeDigitalPhotos.net

- It's been lovely to speak to you
- "I'm so glad you stopped by."
- "It's been great to see you."

If you need to leave the conversation to go somewhere or to return to a task or errand, examples phrases you can use include:

- I wish we could talk some more but I have to go
- It's been lovely talking to you but I need to get to an appointment
- I'm afraid I've lost track of the time.
- I'm really sorry but I'm running a bit late.
- Well I'd better go, I promised I'd meet
- Well, I should probably get back to work now.

You can also try to bring the conversation to a close by using a summarizing statement relating to the topics you've been discussing, for example:

- "It sounds like you are really enjoying your new car, I've really enjoyed hearing about it"
- "I've enjoyed learning from you about space. I hope we can discuss it again sometime"
- "Thanks for your advice about cameras."
- "Great to hear that you're enjoying your new job."
- "Yeah, that film's going to be great. I'm really looking forward to it. Anyway, I should get going"

If you're closing a conversation with someone you've met for the first time you can try:

- "Well, it was nice meeting you"
- "It was good to talk to you"

If you're at an event and you want to end the conversation, you can try:

- "Please excuse me, I've got to go and find my friends"
- "I'm going to go grab another drink"
- "If you'll excuse me, I just saw someone I've been meaning to catch up with"
- "I just have to head to the bathroom. I'll run into you later maybe."

If you are finishing a conversation with someone you'd like to meet again, you can say:

- "We'll have to get together again soon."
- "It'd be nice to continue this discussion another time."
- "It'd be good to catch up again soon"
- "Maybe we'll run into each other again,"
- (for someone you are good friends with) "I'll give you a call next week."

As with the other aspects of conversation, it can be useful to practice these ending phrases with a close friend, relative or Support Worker.

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