

# Conversation Starters

*If you had to start your own business right now, what type of business would you start? Why?*

*What was the best piece of professional advice you've ever received? How did it help you?*

*What is the worst piece of advice you've ever received? Did you take the person's advice?*

*Are people more stressed out than they were 30 years ago? Why or why not?*

*Have you ever purchased anything from an infomercial? What was it? Was it a good purchase? Did you get ripped off?*

*Is your career the career you thought you'd have when you were in high school?*

*Have you ever had to give a speech in front of a large group of people? How did it go?*

*Have you ever made an embarrassing mistake in English? What was it?*

*Agree or disagree: It's not what you know, it's who you know.*

*Have you ever worked for a company that offered unusual perks to its employees? Explain.*

*Do you know anyone who is very disorganized but still able to be successful? Tell your partner(s) about this person.*

*Who is the most organized person you know?*

*Have you ever forgotten about an important event? What happened?*

*If you had \$1,000,000 to invest, how would you invest it?*

*What book has influenced you the most? How has it influenced you?*

*Can someone be taught to be a leader?*

*What was the best business trip you've ever taken? The worst?*

*Who was your favorite college professor? How did this person influence you? How would your life be different if you hadn't taken a class with this professor?*

*Is it okay for companies to not pay their interns? Why or why not? Did you have an internship? Was it a paid position?*

*Are dress codes important? Is there any benefit to having a formal dress code?*

*What is the biggest goal that you've already achieved? How were you able to achieve this goal?*

*What is a good age to retire? When you retire, do you think you'll still work as a consultant or have a part-time job?*

*What's the biggest challenge you're facing right now? How are you responding to this challenge?*

*Tell us about a time you got ripped off? Did you try to get your money back?*

*Tell us about something you bought that was a terrific bargain?*

*Do you think friends make good business partners? Why or why not?*

*What is the best customer service experience you've had? The worst?*

*What is the most controversial law in your industry? Why is it controversial? Do you think it will ever be changed?*

*Have you learned from your failures? If so, how?*

*Are you a multitasker? Do you think people multitask too much?*

*Do you think the office is a good place to get work done? Why or why not?*

*Does business jargon bother you? Are there any particular expressions that bother you? Is jargon common in your industry?*

*What is the most useful website for professionals in your industry? Why?*

*Who was more influential, Bill Gates or Steve Jobs?*

*Are people in your industry accurately portrayed in movies and TV shows? Explain.*

*Do you know of any cases of businesses being sued for strange reasons? What happened?*

*Have you ever met one of your heroes? What was it like?*

*Do you think we should regularly disconnect from technology? Do you normally try to do this or are you always connected?*

*Do you think it's better to be lucky than good? Why or why not?*

*If you didn't have your current job, what would you be doing?*

*Did you have part-time jobs when you were in high school in college? What did you do? What was the worst part-time job you've ever had?*

*Do you think it's important for high school and college students to work part-time jobs or do you think students should concentrate 100% on their studies? Explain.*

*What do you think is the hardest college major? Why? Do you know anyone who graduated with a degree in that field?*

*Would you describe yourself as an optimist, pessimist, or realist? Which type of people do you think tend to be the most successful?*

*Tell us about a time you solved a problem by coming up with a creative solution.*

*Agree or disagree: We should use translators and interpreters more instead of insisting on English.*

*What unusual skill or skills have come in handy at your current job?*

*What recent technological advancements have made your job easier? Have any technological advancements made your job harder?*

*Agree or disagree: It's okay to exaggerate and not be 100% truthful on your resume.*

*Are you an extrovert, introvert, or somewhere in the middle? Are most people in your industry extroverts or introverts?*

*What's the best decision you've ever made in your professional life? The worst?*

*Do you have any unusual ways of coping with stress? What are they? Do you know anyone who copes with stress in an unusual way?*

*What countries would you not mind relocating to? Why?*

