

General Conversation Gambits

- Hesitation
 - Uh . . .
 - Well, um . . .
 - Let's see.
 - Let me think.
 - How should I put it?
 - That's a good question.
 - I'll have to think about that.
- Clarification: Others
 - Sorry, but I don't see what you mean.
 - Could you be more specific?
 - Could you explain that in more detail?
 - Do you mean . . . ?
 - What do you mean by . . . ?
 - If I understand you correctly,
 - What you're saying is
 - What you're trying to say is (careful)
 - Are you sure? (careful)
- Clarification: Self
 - What I mean is
 - What I meant was
 - Let me put it (say it) another way.
 - What I'm saying is
 - What I'm trying to say is
 - In other words,
 - I didn't mean to say that.
- Interruptions
 - Pardon/excuse me, but. . . .
 - Sorry/Excuse me for interrupting, but
 - May I ask a question?
 - May I add something?
 - I'd like to comment on that.
 - I'd like to say something here.
 - Could I just jump in here?
 - What about . . . ?
- Refusing Interruptions
 - Please let me finish.
 - Just let me finish my point; I'll get back to you.
 - I'd like to finish what I was saying.
 - Could I just finish my point?

- Resuming After Allowing Interruptions
 - In any case,
 - One last point,
 - To return to X,
 - To get back to X,
 - Anyway,
 - Where was I?

- Making Suggestions/ Giving Advice
 - May I make a suggestion?
 - Don't you think . . . ?
 - Wouldn't you say (agree or think) . . . ?
 - Wouldn't it be better if . . . ?
 - Why don't you try . . . ?
 - You might want to consider. . . .
 - Are you sure . . . ? (careful)

 - Let's
 - Perhaps we could
 - Why not . . . ?
 - How about . . . ?
 - I suggest that we

- Asking for Suggestions/Advice
 - Do you have any suggestions?
 - What do you think?
 - What would you do?
 - What should I do?

- Accepting and Rejecting Suggestions/Advice
 - That's a good point (idea, approach)
 - Thanks for reminding me.
 - Yes, why don't we try that?

 - I want to think about that
 - I hadn't thought about that.

 - That's a good idea, but
 - That would be great, except. . . .
 - Yes, but don't forget
 - Yes, but keep in mind
 - Yes, but consider
 - Possibly, but
 - Well, the problem is

- Giving an Opinion

I think
I believe
In my opinion,
As far as I'm concerned. . . .
Personally, I think
It seems to me that

- Asking about Agreement

Do you agree?
Don't you agree?
Wouldn't you agree?
Don't you think so?

- Agreeing and Disagreeing

That's a good point.
I (completely) agree (with you).
That's true.
That makes sense.
I think so, too.
I couldn't agree more.

That's not how I see it.
I don't really agree with you.
I'm afraid I can't agree with you.
I'm not sure I quite agree with you.
Yes, that may be true, but
Well, you have a point, but
I can see your point, but
I see what you mean, but
Do you see it that way? I think