



# Conversation Tennis

Having a conversation is like playing a game of tennis. The aim is to keep the ball going forwards and backwards between the players. If a player can't return the ball, he can't win the match. If a person can't keep a conversation going, he or she tends to become a bit of a 'conversation killer'. Your conversation partner may give up trying to play with you.

To get started, one player has to 'serve'. This is called initiating or starting the conversation. There are two ways to 'serve'. You can 'ask' a question or 'tell' your conversational partner about something. This is also the way to introduce a new topic during the conversation when there have been a few seconds of silence between you and neither of you has anything new to ask or tell about that topic.

Make sure you stay on the same topic as your partner. Going off topic is like hitting the ball into a different court and it's hard for the game or conversation to continue.

