

Choose from the sentences below to develop your own custom "conversation starter" that includes the things you would first like to tell someone you meet. Highlight the sentences you will use or copy them to a small card that you can carry in your purse or backpack. Then start "practicing" your "spiel" on people you meet. The first few times you may have to read from the card, but with practice, telling your story will get "old hat".



Greet them.		
Good morning.	Buenos días.	Bweh-nohss dee-ahss.
Good afternoon.	Buenas tardes.	Bweh-nahss tahr-dehss.

Ask them how they are.		
How are you?	¿Cómo está?	Koh-moh ehss-tah?
Fine, thank you.	Bien, gracias.	Byehn, grah-syahss.
And you?	Y usted?	Ee ooss-tehd?

Introduce yourself.		
I am called <u> (name) </u> .	Me llamo _____.	Meh yah-moh _____.

Tell them where you are from.		
I am from ...	Soy de ...	Soy deh ...
We are from ...	Somos de ...	Soh-mohss deh ...
... the United States.	... los Estados Unidos.	... lohss Ehss-tah-dohss Oo-nee-dohss.
... Canada.	... Canadá.	... Kah-nah-dah.
... (other country, state, city)		

Introduce the people you are with.		
This is my ...	Este es mi ...	Ehss-teh ehss mee ...
... husband <u> (name) </u> esposo _____.	... ehss-poh-soh _____.
... son <u> (name) </u> hijo _____.	... ee-hoh _____.
... friend <u> (name) </u> . (male)	... amigo _____.	... ah-mee-goh _____.
This is my ...	Esta es mi ...	Ehss-tah ehss mee ...
... wife <u> (name) </u> esposa _____.	... ehss-poh-sah _____.
... daughter <u> (name) </u> hija _____.	... ee-hah _____.
... friend <u> (name) </u> . (female)	... amiga _____.	... ah-mee-gah _____.

Note that words like husband/wife, son/daughter, boyfriend/girlfriend only differ by the last letter:
o for male
a for female

Ask them about themselves.		
What are you called?	¿Cómo se llama (usted)?	Koh-moh seh yah-mah (ooss-tehd)?
Where do you live?	¿Dónde vive?	Dohn-deh vee-veh?
Where are you from?	¿De dónde es (usted)?	Deh dohn-deh ehss (ooss-tehd)?
How old are you/he/she?	¿Cuántos años tiene?	Kwahn-tohss ah-nyohss tyeh-neh?

usted=you but unlike English it can be omitted here

Tell them if you don't understand.		
I don't understand	No comprendo	Noh kohm-prehn-doh
Repeat, please	Repita, por favor	Reh-pee-tah, pohr fah-vohr
More slowly, please	Más despacio, por favor	Mahss dehss-pah-syoh, pohr fah-vohr

Compliment their country.		
_____ is beautiful.	_____ es bello.	_____ ehss beh-yoh.
The people are nice.	Las personas son amables.	Lahss pehr-soh-nahss sohn ah-mah-blehss.
_____ is very interesting.	_____ es muy interesante.	_____ ehss mwee een-teh-reh-sahn-teh.
I like _____.	Me gusta _____.	Meh gooss-tah _____.
We like _____.	Nos gusta _____.	Nohss gooss-tah _____.

Ask them about their children.		
Do you have children?	¿Tiene hijos?	Tyeh-neh ee-hohss?
How many children do you have?	¿Cuántos hijos tiene?	Kwahn-tohss ee-hohss tyeh-neh?
Is he your son?	¿Es su hijo?	Ehss soo ee-hoh?
Is she your daughter?	¿Es su hija?	Ehss soo ee-hah?
What is he/she called?	¿Cómo se llama?	Koh-moh seh yah-mah?
How old is he/she?	¿Cuántos años tiene?	Kwahn-tohss ah-nyohss tyeh-neh?

Compliment the children.		
He/She is ... / You are ...	Es	Ehss ...
... handsome	... guapo (male) / ... guapa (female)	... gwah-poh / ... gwah-pah
... beautiful	... lin-do (male) / ... lin-da (female)	... leen-doh / ... leen-dah
... very intelligent	... muy inteligente	... mwee een-teh-lee-hehn-teh

Tell them about your family.		
I have ___ children.	Tengo ___ hijos.	Tehn-goh ___ ee-hohss.
I don't have children.	No tengo hijos.	Noh teh-n-goh ee-hohss.
son / daughter	hijo / hija	ee-hoh / ee-hah
___ is ___ years old.	___ tiene ___ años.	___ tyeh-neh ___ ah-nyohss.
___ lives in ___.	___ vive en ___.	___ vee-veh ehn ___.

Tell them you live on a boat.		
We are here on our ...	Estamos aquí en nuestro ...	Ehss-tah-mohss ah-kee ehn nwehss-troh ...
... sailboat.	... velero.	... veh-leh-roh.
... boat.	... bote.	... boh-teh.
Our boat is called _____.	Nuestro bote se llama _____.	Nwehss-troh boh-teh seh yah-mah _____.
We sailed here from _____ in our sailboat.	Navegamos aquí de _____ en nuestro velero.	Nah-veh-gah-mohss ah-kee deh _____ ehn nwehss-troh veh-leh-roh.
We are at _____.	Estamos en _____.	Ehss-tah-mohss ehn _____.

Tell them your plans.		
From here I want to go to _____.	De aquí quiero ir a _____.	Deh ah-kee kyeh-roh eer ah _____.
I want to visit _____.	Quiero visitar _____.	Kyeh-roh vee-see-tahr _____.
I am going to _____.	Voy a _____.	Voy ah _____.
We are going to _____.	Vamos a _____.	Vah-mohss ah _____.
I want to buy _____.	Quiero comprar _____.	Kyeh-roh kohm-prahr _____.

Tell them how long you've been here / plan to stay.		
We've been here ...	Tenemos aquí ...	Teh-neh-mohss ah-kee ...
We want to stay here ...	Queremos pasar aquí ...	Keh-reh-mohss pah-sahr ah-kee ...
... _____ days	___ días.	___ dee-ahss.
... _____ weeks	___ semanas.	___ seh-mah-nahss.
... _____ months	___ meses.	___ meh-sehss.

Say goodbye.		
See you.	Nos vemos.	Nohss veh-mohss.
See you later (literally, "until later")	Has'ta luego.	Ahss-tah lweh-goh.