

# Great Couple Conversations #8

Roll 2 dice twice to locate a table cell. First roll is vertical and second roll is horizontal. 12 = you choose a number. Or use a deck of cards where you ignore face cards and the ace is 11. Take turns clockwise. If that cell item has already been dialogued, use one from any cell touching the cell of the numbers. Then, answer the question. When a person answers, the other asks curious questions to get to know the partner better, but never to criticize. The process repeats with the other person answering the same question and being asked questions in a curious manner. For the very best results, read the free article "Successful Couple Dialogue" at [www.ChurchesReachOut.com](http://www.ChurchesReachOut.com).

\*The designers, publishers, organizations and persons who gave you this tool cannot be responsible for any specific outcome. Use good judgment. If conflict arises, stop immediately and seek the expert help of a professional counselor or psychotherapist.

	2 & 3	4 & 5	6 & 7	8 & 9	10 & 11	
2 & 3	What do you really think of parenting?	What do you tell yourself to feel better?	Tell about one of your heroes from a television show.	Tell about one of your heroes from a novel.	Who is the hardest working friend you have ever had?	2 & 3
4 & 5	What do you tell yourself to feel smart?	Who is the wisest friend you have ever had?	Tell about one of your female heroes who is or was in your life.	What makes you feel poised?	What do you really think of e-mail?	4 & 5
6 & 7	What do you really think of pets?	What would you like to change that seems impossible?	If you could rid the world of one leader, whom would you replace?	Tell about one of your heroes from a movie.	What cultural thing would you miss most if stranded in Greenland?	6 & 7
8 & 9	Tell about one of your male heroes who is or was in your life.	What makes you feel giddy?	What, to you, makes a really good friend?	What do you really think of the internet (not e-mail)?	What makes you feel vivacious?	8 & 9
10 & 11	Is there anything you can do that lifts your spirits?	What animal would you like to be able to talk with? Why?	What makes you feel indifferent?	How would you live as a poor (money) retired person?	Tell about one of your cartoon heroes.	10 & 11

	2 & 3	4 & 5	6 & 7	8 & 9	10 & 11	
2 & 3	What, to you, makes a really good weekend?	What no-cost gifts do you like to receive?	Who is the most social friend you have ever had?	What makes you feel really free?	On what television program would you like to appear?	2 & 3
4 & 5	What ten things would you want included in your biography?	Who is the most educated friend you have ever had?	As an adult, who are some children you did not like and why?	Tell three things you wish you did not know about?	What makes you feel queasy?	4 & 5
6 & 7	Who is the cleverest friend you have ever had?	What, to you, makes a really good sports event?	Who is the classiest friend you have ever had?	What, to you, makes a really good restaurant?	What is a ridiculous thing people have to do?	6 & 7
8 & 9	What are five evil things you cannot tolerate?	What makes you feel listless?	Who is the most gentle friend you have ever had?	What gross habits do you have?	What makes you feel grieved?	8 & 9
10 & 11	About what would you like to write a book?	Who is the "coolest" friend you have ever had?	Name five really sad things.	Who is the smartest friend you have ever had?	What, to you, makes a really good movie?	10 & 11

**Your Church Name & Other Information Goes Here**

Information of your choosing goes here.

(example)

## **River Bend Community Church**

1289 East Willow Road  
River Bend, California

**www.rbcxchurch.org**

**(876) 987-XXXX**

If you order a license,  
this space is blank  
so that you can insert  
whatever your church wants  
in this space.

This space can also be used as  
advertising for someone who  
wants to pay the expense of this  
outreach effort.

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### **WHAT IS DIALOGUE?**

There is probably no finer communication skill than dialogue. Therefore, if you do it, you will build a better and better relationship through understanding and caring.

#### **DIALOGUE IS MERELY ASKING QUESTIONS OF EACH OTHER OUT OF CURIOSITY IN ORDER TO BETTER KNOW AND UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER**

Dialogue usually means just asking the questions "Why?" and "What do you mean?" over and over again. When you ask a person a "why" question, it usually opens up a bit of new information about him or her. Another "why" question yields a little more. When a "why" question seems hard to think of, then any simple, friendly, non-judgmental question motivated by curiosity is fine.

Such dialogue helps you find out what others really think and feel. It also helps others find out what you really think and feel.

Understanding and accepting other people – deeper and deeper through dialogue – knowing how others think and feel, as well as what they really mean by what they say, creates much better relationships.

### **GUIDELINES FOR DIALOGUE**

For good dialogue, it is important to follow these ground rules:

1. Answer what is true for you. The other person will try to remember what you said so that he or she can better understand you and treat you better.
2. Listen in order to understand the person talking, not to change him or her.
3. No arguing, criticizing or objecting. People hate to be criticized over things they say. They know what they think and feel, and they consider it absurd and insensitive if others think they know these things better.
4. Ask lots of questions (usually "Why?" or "What do you mean?") to clarify what is being communicated. Other clarifying questions can be: "What?" "What for?" "How?" "When?" "How come?" "Where?" "In what way?" "Can you explain?" "Please tell me more."
5. Refrain from giving advice or breaking in with your own contribution.
6. Let people be themselves, even if they give an answer that you do not agree with or like. Instead of objecting or offering criticism, ask the other persons "Why" questions. This will help you clarify what they are saying, what they think and feel about things, and who they are. People will appreciate your efforts to understand them.
7. Avoid conflict. There are no right or wrong answers. There is just what a person says. He or she will appreciate you for asking about and learning from his or her own words.
8. Solve problems only after much dialogue has produced deeper understanding. Dialogue may expose some differences that might have to be solved. Make a note of those you think might need later discussion and problem-solving. During dialogue, do not bring up problems.