

Marriage & Family

Conversation Tips for Husbands & Wives

Remember how it was when you were dating.

A woman has a profound need to engage in conversation about her concerns and interests with someone who—in her perception—cares deeply about her and for her.

Men, if your job keeps you away from home overnight or for days on end, think about changing jobs.

Get into the habit of spending fifteen hours each week alone with your spouse giving each other undivided attention.

Remember, most women fall in love with men who have set aside time to exchange conversation with them. They stay in love with men who continue to meet those needs.

Financial considerations should not interfere with time for conversation. If you don't have the time to be alone to talk, your priorities are not arranged correctly.

Never use conversation as a form of punishment (ridicule, name calling, swearing, or sarcasm). Conversation should be constructive, not destructive.

Never use conversation to force your spouse to agree with your way of thinking. Respect your spouse's feelings and opinions, especially when yours are different.

Never use conversation to remind each other of past mistakes. Avoid dwelling on present mistakes as well.

Develop interest in each other's favorite topics of conversation.

Learn to balance your conversation. Avoid interrupting each other and try to give each other the same amount of time to talk.

Use your conversation to inform, investigate, and understand each other.

This material comes from William F. Harley, *His Needs Her Needs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 1994), 72-73.