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 . . .