

English Vocabulary: Conversation Verbs

Verb (underlined: transitive)	Context	Noun
1) converse (with)	1) Normal conversation (formal context);	1) a conversation
2) talk (with/to)	2) Normal conversation (informal context);	2) a talk
3) discuss (<u>something</u>)	3) Converse in detail about a subject;	3) a discussion
4a) argue (<u>a point</u>)	4a) Defend your point of view;	4a) an argument
4b) argue (with)	4b) Disagree, usually emotionally;	4b) an argument
5) chat (with)	5) Converse (informal context);	5) a chat
6) gossip (about)	6) Talk about other people;	6) a gossip/rumour
7a) speak (with/to)	7a) Talk to a group (formal context);	7a) a speech / a talk
7b) speak (<u>a language</u>)	7b) Use a language;	7b) speech
8) lecture (<u>somebody</u>)	8) Speak to a group (educational context);	8) a lecture
9) brief (<u>somebody</u>)	9) Prepare somebody for an event/meeting;	9) a brief/briefing*

* <https://wikidiff.com/briefing/brief>



argue with somebody



argue/discuss something

Who does what?

- Acquaintances converse
- Colleagues talk
- Team members discuss something
- People with opposing views argue their points of view
- Siblings or friends **argue with** each other
- Friends chat
- Good friends gossip
- People in authority speak
- Everybody speaks a language
- People in authority lecture people
- Leaders or representatives brief somebody

Examples (verbs & nouns):

1. Parents and teachers should **converse** with each other about school policies. **Conversations** are important.

2a. I need to **talk with** you about our next class. Can we have a **talk** now?

2b. Our teacher wants to **talk to** us after lunch. He said that it will be a short **talk**.

3. I need to **discuss** the new project with you. Can we have a **discussion** tomorrow?

4a. Before I **argue** my point, I'd like to hear your **argument**.

- 4b. My husband and I always **argue with** each other, and the **arguments** always upset me.
5. Can I **chat** with you? I haven't seen you for ages. I always like to have **a chat** with you.
6. My sisters **gossip** every day. They love **a good gossip**.
- 7a. The boss is going to **speak to** the whole department tomorrow morning. It should be a very interesting **speech**.
- 7b. John can **speak French** very well, and his **speech** is easy to understand.
8. The headmaster **lectures** the whole school every Friday morning. His **lectures** are always very boring.
9. I need to **brief** the boss about tomorrow's meeting. It will be **a very short briefing**.

Exercise. Complete the following sentences with appropriate verbs, conjugating them as necessary:

1. During the debate, you may _____ your point for no more than 5 minutes.
2. The Prime Minister intends to _____ to the press at midday.
3. The Chief Medical Officer will _____ us about homeopathy tomorrow.
4. I like to _____ to my pets. I think that they understand me!
5. Our neighbors always _____, so I don't tell them about my personal life.
6. We will have an opportunity to _____ with each other after the meeting.
7. My cousin can _____ six languages.
8. I love to _____ with my friends on Instagram.
9. Can you please _____ me about our expedition to Mount Everest next week?
10. My brother always _____ with me. I think he doesn't like me.
11. The new project seems complex. Can we _____ it tomorrow?