

Video Script
Video: Improving Conversation

Scene	Full Transcript
1	<p>Mrs. Hertz: Alright, one more performance to go! Let's keep up that great enthusiasm!</p> <p>Hanna: The veterans really seem to love our improv!</p> <p>Mrs. Hertz: Totally, now this time as people are coming in I want you to go out there and mingle with the audience, okay? Be sure to thank the veterans AND their families for their service to our country.</p>
2	<p>Leo: Ahhhh, tell you what, you guys go ahead, I'll just start loading the car.</p> <p>Maya: Yeah, me too!</p>
3	<p>Mrs. Hertz: What's wrong? The veterans think you're hilarious.</p>
4	<p>Leo: Well, yeah, but I'm really not that funny.</p> <p>Maya & Hanna: Me either! /I'm not funny.</p> <p>Mrs. Hertz: Wait...Are you guys scared to go out there and talk to the veterans and their families?</p>
5	<p>Hanna: Well, we're not SCARED...</p> <p>Clare: No, no</p> <p>Leo: It's just that they're adults, and served our country, and, well, they're heroes.</p>
6	<p>Mrs. Hertz: Leo, your MOTHER is one of those heroes!</p>
7	<p>Leo: Well, yeah, but she's my mom...</p> <p>Maya: OK, I'm in! I'll talk to Leo's mom.</p> <p>Mrs. Hertz: (Big annoyed expression)</p>

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8	<p>Narrator: Hold that thought. Can Mrs. Hertz ENLIST the troupe’s help in greeting the veterans? Will Leo, Hanna and Maya find themselves in conversational Boot Camp?</p> <p>Ten-hut! Join the Knowledge Seekers for basic training on <i>Improving Conversation</i>...in this episode of Thinking Aloud.</p>
9	<p>Mrs. Hertz: There is nothing to be worried about...I know you went over the basics of good conversation with Ms. Carman during the last improv meeting. Remember the work we did on “Breaking the Ice”?</p> <p>Now, I want you to get out there, introduce yourselves, and remember what you discussed and practiced. Just think of it as improv.</p>
10	<p>Narrator: While the Knowledge Seekers go out to make their introductions, it’s important to recall that starting and maintaining conversations with individuals in new or unfamiliar social settings can be challenging at any age. It requires both parties engaging in, and sustaining, two-way communication.</p> <p>As the improv-ers have been learning, to have a successful conversation, you have to focus your attention on the other individual. You also need to think about what the person is saying and what you would like to communicate. Finally, you must respond verbally and non-verbally. Both are essential. For most people, their non-verbal expressions, body movements and gestures communicate just as much as what they say.</p> <p>During successful conversations, both parties follow informal, but very important, rules of conversation and discussion. Each person listens carefully, avoids speaking at the same time as the other person, establishes eye contact, and maintains polite behavior throughout the course of the conversation.</p> <p>While these guidelines for conversation are basic, many individuals quickly forget some or all of these points, and find themselves struggling during initial conversations.</p> <p>Let’s rejoin the Knowledge Seekers and their new acquaintances to see the guidelines for conversation put into action.</p>

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11	<p>Leo: Hi, I'm Leo. First off, thanks for coming to our performance. Now you're a veteran right?</p> <p>Veteran #1—Yes, I am.</p> <p>Leo--Okay, and when did you serve?</p> <p>Leo: (as if talking to himself) Okay, here it goes. I remember from improv that I need to maintain eye contact, listen carefully, be aware of my non-verbals AND think about what I want to say. But I ALSO need to make comments and ask questions that raise topics of interest.</p> <p>Leo: You know, my dad is in the navy. Where did you serve during the Gulf War?</p> <p>Leo:(as if talking to himself) Doing these things will communicate to the other person that I am actually paying attention, I want to learn more about them, and I am interested in what they have to say.</p>
12	<p>Maya: Hello, thanks you for coming, I'm Maya.</p> <p>Veteran #2: I'm Sandy.</p> <p>Maya: Nice to meet you. I overheard you were in the military? Thank you for all your service? What did you do?</p> <p>Veteran #2: I was an army nurse.</p> <p>Maya: (as if talking to herself) Ok, I am going to smile and lean in so that he knows I am interested in what she is saying. I know my responses can't be random. She is really interesting. One of the things we went over in improv was that comments need to contribute to the conversation and that we need to link comments to what the other person is saying.</p> <p>Maya: Wow...So you were a nurse in the Vietnam war...I've been thinking about becoming a nurse. What type of training is required to be a nurse in the army?</p>

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	<p>Maya: (as if talking to herself) Commenting on what has been said allows both of us to focus on one subject or idea at a time and linking our comments keeps the conversation moving along.</p>
13	<p>Hannah: Hi I'm Hanna</p> <p>Veteran #3: Hi, I'm Larry.</p> <p>Hanna: Are you one of the veterans with us today? Thank you for serving. What branch of the military were you in?</p> <p>Veteran #3—I was in the army.</p> <p>Hanna: (as if talking to herself) I can communicate that I understand what he is saying by nodding my head in agreement and paraphrasing what he just said.</p> <p>Hanna: So you did your Basic Training at Ft. Carson, Colorado...and then you were deployed to Korea. What types of things did you do there?</p> <p>Hanna: (as if talking to herself) Paraphrasing confirms that I have been listening and it gives me time to come up with my next comment or question.</p>
14	<p>Clare: Hi, I'm Clare. Are you one of our veterans here today?</p> <p>Veteran #4—Yes, I am.</p> <p>Clare: What branch of the military were you in?</p> <p>Veteran #4: The United States Navy.</p> <p>Clare: (as if talking to herself) I'm not sure I would do very well out on a ship. I'm afraid I would get sea sick...I won't bring that up unless he does!</p> <p>It's good to share your opinion in a conversation if your response is appropriate and you don't dominate the conversation. You can expand upon or illustrate your opinion if you're asked to do so.</p>

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	<p>Clare: Well, since you asked, I've been considering the air force. I don't think I'd be very good out on the ocean, because I get a bit queasy. I'm a lot better flying. Did you consider going into other branches of the military?</p> <p>Clare: (as if talking to herself) Respectfully sharing opinions in conversations indicates each person is interested in learning more about the other person's position on the subject.</p>
15	<p>Narrator: It seems as if this improv troupe is really improving their conversation skills. You can too. Whether you are meeting a new person at an event, during a class or in a cafeteria, it is important to remain aware of the basics of any good conversation. Parents can support their children by reminding them of these tips when they are facing new people and new places.</p> <p>Simply focus your attention on the other individual. Consider who they are and what their interests may be. Think about what is being said during the conversation. And don't forget to respond verbally and non-verbally.</p> <p>Soon you will be improving your own conversations. Keep communicating AND keep Thinking Aloud.</p>