

Discussion Strategies

Using Follow-up Questions



Sometimes when we are discussing a topic, we want to know more about the answer that the other person gives. When we want to know more, we ask follow-up questions.

By asking follow-up questions, we can...

- Keep the conversation going
- Get someone else's opinion
- Show you are interested and listening to what others are saying

We usually start a follow-up question with one of these question words:

What _____? What kind of _____?
Where _____? How long/far/late/big _____?
When _____?

Here is an example dialogue – **follow-up questions** are in bold and *rejoinders* are in italics:

Mary: What time did you go to bed last night?
Luis: At midnight.
Mary: *Really? That's late!* **What were you doing until midnight?**
Luis: I had a date.
Mary: *I see.* **Where did you go?**
Luis: We went to a party at a friend's house.

Activity: With a partner, take turns asking these questions and responding to each other using rejoinders and *several* follow-up questions.

1. What country would you like to visit someday?
2. How many members are there in your family?
3. Have you read any books or seen any movies lately that you could recommend to me?