

Lesson #8B

Tips for Worded Questions and Comments

10 Don't get caught in the trap of thinking that a less negative comment is a positive comment. Really think about the effect your words have on others.

1 Try not to be sensational. Look for people's positive input, not their negative ideas.

2 Ask "What do you like?" rather than "What don't you like?"

9 You can sometimes disagree with others and still use positive conversation. Being positive is a way of using positive words even if you have a different opinion.

3 Ask "What could we do to make it better?" rather than "Why is it done that way?"

8 Treat yourself when you turn a negative conversation in a positive direction.

4 Ask "How long have you been a fan of the Bears?" rather than "Why aren't you a fan of the Packers?"

7 Offering a negative thought about someone else's negative idea continues a negative chain. Try to be the end of the line for negative ideas.

6 Even if others offer negative ideas, take your own stand and offer your positive ideas.

5 Ask "Will you try to be ready to go out earlier?" rather than "Why can't you be ready to go out earlier?"



Lesson #8D

Situation Talk

1. Describe what is negative about each statement below. Without changing the meaning, reword each sentence in a positive way.

A. I don't hate your new coat as much as your old coat.

B. You are not doing much better on the bowling team than you did last year.

C. You wouldn't lose your keys if you didn't always throw them around.

D. You won't do well on the test because you aren't studying hard enough.

E. Dan shouldn't wear his red hat because it looks worse than his green hat.

F. Your team won't win because the players don't try to do their best.

G. You are not much thinner than you were before you started your diet.

H. The golf lessons didn't help you play much better.

I. You spent a lot of money going to cooking classes, but your cooking hasn't improved very much.



2. Compare the two sentences below. Which one is more positive?

A. Elena won't pass the test if she doesn't study hard.
Elena may pass the test if she studies hard.

B. You never get anything done because you never get off the telephone.
You get a lot done when telephone calls don't interrupt you.

C. Your handwriting has improved a little this year.
Your handwriting has not improved very much this year.

D. You do much better work when you read the instructions carefully.
When you don't read the instructions, you do lousy work.

3. Act out the following situations with a classmate. Try to use positive statements.

A. Mr. Gibson is telling Bob that he needs to spend more time working and less time talking so that he can get the job done quickly.