Suggestions for table topics

Have you ever been called upon in a meeting to give your opinion about something, only to have dined go blank? The ability to “think on your feet” is an important skill that successful you are in your life. That’s why the “table topics” portion of the two assassinating was developed. Table Topics gives you the opportunity to practice thinking and speaking on your feet. Topics you learn how to present your thoughts in a clear, organized manner with minimum preparation.

The enclosed color-coded cards provide suggestions for three types of provocative, informative and amusing table topic subjects. Included are some blank cards to make your own topics. As are provided for each section.

- The Blue cards or verbal topics
- The Red cards are sentence completions
- The Green cards are non-verbal topics

Verbal Table Topics

There are several ways to use this fun game.
1. The Topic Master chooses one card and calls on several numbers, one at a time, to give impromptu one-to two-minute talks on that topic.
2. The Topic Master chooses one card for each member to give an impromptu talk.
3. Each member chooses a card in response to the question.
4. Each member chooses a card to ask another member.

What habits would you like to break?

You have just inherited a lot of money. Since you already are wealthy, you decide to donate the money to charity. What charity do you choose? Why?
Describe your ideal vacation.

Described your least favorite vacation trip.

What does each equality mean to you?

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment?
Explain to your – who lives 5 miles away – why you have not visited or called her in two months.

How much time and money should be spent to achieve the goals of our club?

Look carefully at the person closest to you, then close your eyes and described him or her.

You have just won an Olympic gold medal. Describe your feelings as the medal is placed around your neck and your national anthem is played in the background.
Who has had the greatest effect on your life?

The late pop artist Andy Warhol said that everyone will be famous for 15 minutes. Tell why you will be famous.

What country would you like to visit? Why?

How would you convince your boss that you deserve a promotion.
What would you say was the saddest moment of your life?

What’s rituals does your club perform (i.e. inducting new members, installing officers) and what rituals would you like to see added?

What does friendship mean to you?

How can your club improve its meetings?
Explain to your boss why you came to the board meeting wearing your pajama top under your suit coat.

Are politics and religion appropriate topics for conversation?

How will toastmasters have changed in 50 years from now?

One of the world’s most recognizable “movie” songs is “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” from the *The Wizard of Oz*. What do you think is on the other side of the rainbow for you?
Whom do you admire most?

How do we find out how well we are doing as a club?

Where you like to see a Toastmasters international convention held?

If you could be in animal, which would you be and why?
Do you think the United Nations should have more power over international affairs?

How should we support our members so that the goals of our club are met?

*Rocky* is a story of one man’s battle to overcome insurmountable odds. What is the greatest barrier you have ever had to overcome?

Who do you feel are the best leaders the world has ever known?
What do you feel we have to do to achieve the goals of this club?

If you could have any job in the world, what would it be? Why?

What do you feel are the requirements to be a good leader?

What do you believe to be the purpose of this club?
What is your best quality?

What do you like about your Toastmasters club?

How does meeting the goals of our club help the club, the district, and Toastmasters international?

Where would you like to live? Why?
Do people all over the world laugh at the same things? Explain your answer?

Your club has 20 paid members, yet only seven or eight show up for each meeting. What should you do to increase attendance?

What would you least like to do for a career?

Your mother-in-law is visiting for a week. What activities have you planned to entertain her?
Imagine that a UFO whisks you off to another galaxy. You’re asked to explain the human race to the extraterrestrials leader. What do you say?

Explain your beliefs about capital punishment.

Who is your hero? Why?

What do you dislike about your Toastmasters club?
Who is your favorite sports star of all time?

What could the leaders of your club due to better serve the members?

What would you say it was the happiest moment of your life?

List five activities you have done this week of which you are proud.
Describe the plot and main characters of your favorite television show.

You accidentally run over your neighbor’s cat – an animal you were not fond of – with your car. How do you tell your neighbor the bad news?

If you were to make a career change, what new career would you choose?

What are some of the benefits you have gained or would like to gain from the Toastmasters program?
Sentence Completion Table Topics

Written on each card is the beginning of a sentence. Complete each sentence and build the idea into one to two minute talk.

This section can be used along with the verbal table topics section or by itself.

The best place to be
__________________.

One a spouse asks for help around the house _________.

I place importance on ______________.
10 years from today
______________.
Marriage ________________.

Liberation ________________.
Failure ________________.
When I really let my hair down
_____________________.

Religious denominations
_____________________.

Talking with people about
personal matters
_____________________.

Children should be
_____________________.
Crowds to make me
________________.
The worst problem in the world
________________.

Walking barefoot on the sand
________________.
It makes me happy when
________________.
My mother is one of the world’s true _______________.

What motivates me is _______________.

Average people _______________.

I love to ____________.
On the whole, my life has been ____________________.

Indecision makes me ____________________.

People disappoint me when ____________________.

A spouse ____________________.
Patriotism __________________.  

I believe people consider me ___________________.

The neighborhood I would most like to live in ___________________.

My physical appearance ___________________.

I feel ____________________.

The child feared

______________________.

The person I most admire

______________________.

Talk about sex makes me

______________________.
Fatherhood means ______________.

Wild animals ________________.

Things go wrong when ________________.

I enjoy greatly ________________.
Bad teachers _______________. People usually _______________.

What interests me most is _______________.

My mother’s house during the holidays _______________. 
The worst punishments for me

_____________________.

When I am successful

_____________________.

Motherhood means

_____________________.

I worry most when

_____________________.
Trusting people requires ________________.

Superiors ________________.

Authority ________________.

Pressure makes me ________________.
Singles’ bars ____________.

Anger is ______________.

Good teachers are
______________.
Non-Verbal Table Topics

1. Topic Master distributes cards with nonverbal situations to each member.
2. Each member acts out the situation described on his/her card.
3. Remaining members guess the situation, then discuss how well the presenter got his/her point across.

Fix a on a car

Sing in an Opera

Dress for work
Build a house

Create a pizza

Move a piano

Walk on a carpet of eggs
Walk through deep snow  Give a sermon

Weed a garden  Give your dog a bath
Play football
Make a doughnut

Carry a glass of water so that you don’t spill liquid
Ride a skateboard
Build a snowman  Present an award

Climb a steep hill  Ride a bike
Sell a product

Climb a tree

Make and bake a pie

Waterski
Play chess  Eat a plate of spaghetti

Build a ship model  Ice skate
Tie your tie  Open a present

Ride a roller coaster
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