

## Some typical topics or ideas for conversations in America

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Here are some questions you might ask people during a conversation

### The weather

- sunny, rainy, hot, cold, foggy, cloudy
- sunsets, pretty clouds,
- seasons: winter, spring, summer, fall
- What kind of weather do you like?

### Where people live?

- Do you live near here?
- Do you live far away from here?
- Where do you live? What is the name of the city or town where you live?
- Where is that city?
- What other city is that city near?
- What do you like about living there? What do you like about living in that city?
- Is your home in the city? Is your home in the middle of a city?
- Is your home in the country?
- How long does it take you to drive to this center?
- How much traffic there is to get to this center? How much traffic is there to drive here?

### Where did people grow up?

- Where did you grow up?
- What city did you grow up in?
- What state is that in?
- Did you like it there where you grew up?
- What did you like about it there?
- When did you move to the San Francisco Bay Area? When did you move to this area?
- Does your family still live where you grew up? Does your family still live there?
- Do you go back to visit that place? Do you go back to visit that area?

### Where else have people lived besides the San Francisco Bay Area?

- Where else have you lived?
- Did you like it there?
- What did you like about it there?
- Why did you move there?
- Why did you move away from there?

### Pets

- What kinds of pets do you have?
- What kinds of pets would you like to have?
- What is your pet like?
- What kind of \_\_\_\_?
- What color is your \_\_\_\_?
- How big is your \_\_\_\_?
- Does your pet do funny things?
- What does he or she do that is funny?
- What do you love about your pet?
- What pets did you used to have that died, but you still remember with love ?

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### Activities

- What do you like to do, when you aren't working?
- Do you like to \_\_\_\_\_?  
read, study, meditate, yoga, hike, walk, bike ride, exercise, sports: run, tennis, golf, swim, baseball, football, basketball, Watch tv, go to movies, go places, gardening, take classes, get together with people, make things, cook, photography (take pictures), computers, play music etc

### Vacations

- Do you like to go away on vacations?
- Where do you like to go on vacations?
- What do you like about that vacation place?
- What do you like to do on vacation?
- Where would you like to go in the future?      Where would you like to go?

### Buddhist centers, where people like to go?

- Do you like to go to teachings?
- Is there a center you like to go to?
- Where is the center you like to go to?
- What teachings have you learned from?
- Have you traveled to far away places for teachings?

### Work or volunteering (volunteer= working for no money, just to be helpful to others)

- What kind of work do you do?
- What kind of volunteer work do you do?
- Where do you work?
- Where do you volunteer?
- What do you like about your work?
- What do you like about volunteering?
- What is special about your work?
- What is special about the volunteer work you do?

### Who people live with

- family members who live at home with that person
- family members, such as children, who have moved away
- children, grandchildren, parents
- pets