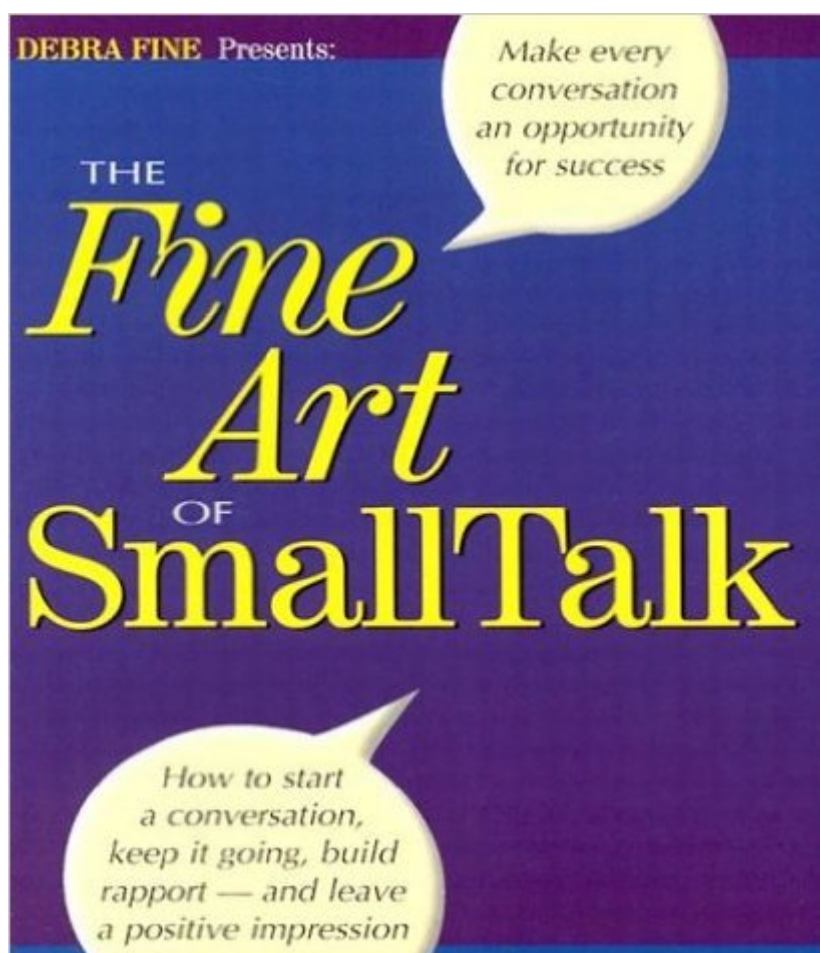


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# The Fine Art Of Small Talk



## Synopsis

Do you spend an abnormal amount of time hiding out in the bathroom or hanging out at the buffet table at social gatherings? Does the thought of striking up a conversation with a stranger make your stomach do flip-flops? Do you sit nervously through job interviews waiting for the other person to speak? Are you a Nervous Ned? (or Nervous Nellie?) when it comes to networking? Then it's time you mastered *The Fine Art Of Small Talk*. With practical advice and conversation cheat sheets, *The Fine Art of Small Talk* will help you learn to feel more comfortable in any type of situation, from lunch with the boss to a networking event to a cocktail party where you don't know a soul. Do you dread corporate cocktail parties where you are expected to schmooze with complete strangers? Do job interviews, blind dates or holiday functions make you clam up, searching frantically for things to say? When speaking with someone you've just met, do you expect him or her to keep the conversation going? Then the *THE FINE ART OF SMALL TALK* by Debra Fine is for you. This is a collection of concrete steps and tactics one can employ to begin a meaningful conversation with just about anybody in any situation. *THE FINE ART OF SMALL TALK* teaches you how to: Start a conversation even when you think you have nothing to say Avoid foot-in-mouth disease Prevent awkward pauses Adopt listening skills that will make you a better conversationalist Approach social functions with confidence Feel more at ease at parties, meetings, job interviews and trade shows Turn every conversation into an opportunity for success Make sure your body language is inviting and natural Use icebreakers that work every time Stabilize your shaky knees and dry your sweaty palms Exit conversations with tact and grace Make the most of networking events Mingle with moxie

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I found myself walking around day to day saying, "folks just aren't friendly"... my neighbors, church members, parents at my child's school, folks I see every day/week at the grocery store and believe it or not relatives. I think Debra Fine has hit on some of the key reasons that I was not finding folks to be "friendly". Some of the reasons being: we are socialized to be wary of strangers, we think too many questions makes us nosy, introducing ourselves and others is not easy always, initiating, carrying on and ending a conversation is a challenge and lastly, finding similarities and interest in our conversation partners is hard at times. Ms. Fine advised that no one can wait to be introduced or expect someone else to initiate the conversation and she is right. When I used the suggestions it made a world of difference in the contacts and connections that I began to make. I used the suggestions in professional and personal settings, with women and men and with folks my age and teens. What I relay to folks when I use these techniques is "I care about you" and "I am interested in you as a person". The feedback I have received from people is that I make them feel good, in a world that is too busy I take time. That is really the bottom line about this book, why would I not use the suggestions when the potential is to evoke that kind of feeling from folks that you interact with everyday of your life. Lastly, I have used this book in many ways. I have passed the book to my husband who works in a technical field is reading the book and has begun using some of the suggestions at his workplace and finding them to be applicable. As a homeschooling parent I used the book as part of a communications curriculum for my 16-year-old son. Many of the strategies he used to get a job and now to maintain his employment; he has been told he is a wonderful conversationalist.

When deciding whether or not to buy this book, you are obviously reading the reviews (otherwise you wouldn't be reading this. ;) ). Please think about the type of book this is as you read the reviews. This is a book designed for people who are more comfortable dealing with machines, numbers, logic, animals, etc., then they are with people. The author freely admits that she was an engineer and wrote this book to help other engineers and technical people. It is a beginner's book on how to interact with people. If you are married, for example, you probably don't need this book. You were able to talk to someone. I suspect the people who found it boring or uninformative were too advanced. Like a brain surgeon reading a high school biology book. But, if you're extremely shy and get really nervous when interacting with people, you must own this book.

The Fine Art of Small Talk is fantastic! Author Debra Fine gives wonderful ideas and tips for starting,

maintaining and ending a conversation. The Fine Art of Small Talk is perfect for anyone who's less than completely secure about his or her conversation skills, anyone who wants to overcome feeling awkward or tongue-tied, and especially for anyone who wants to learn to gracefully deal with people who talk too much, offer unsolicited advice, etc., etc. I've found that the tips in the book are perfect for both business and social settings. I can tell that using the advice makes a big difference in how people respond. The Fine Art of Small Talk really has had a positive impact. Be warned, though: you may - as I did - see yourself among the list of the author's "conversation offenders!" Not surprisingly, the book is written in an engaging, conversational style and, in addition to being helpful, is extremely enjoyable.

Facilitated in a seminar setting, you listen and feel as though you are participating with the group. The conversation skills taught in this tape are well presented and Deborah is extremely motivating. I am using her suggestions in practice and find that I am becoming more outgoing already as a result. You will truly see a positive difference in how people relate to you when you take the burden off of them and start the conversation yourself.

At the same time, I have ordered Debra's tape, I have bought also 7 others books and video, audio tapes from others authors, on the same subject of conversation. Debra's tape, definitely appears to me, easy, comfortable, to apply for any occasions to talk to people Her voice is very friendly and warm. I am so glad to have found Debra's audio tape. She gives, not only advice and techniques, but immediate examples of small talk for introducing yourself, with warmth and giving people the chance and the desire to develop conversation with you. Usually, when invited to dinner, or cocktails, or meeting, I go with the apprehension to meet new people, and to be in the situation of nothing to say, and to appear not interesting to be with. The days after listening to Debra's tape, I have the opportunity to apply in a dinner. I was the guest on a table of 12 persons that I did not know. The evening was lovely, because at last I could engage conversation with new people, as if we were friends. I feel much more comfortable, in such short time and I know that with more training with this tape, I will allow myself, for near future, to love meeting new people, as well as to talk friendly with my clients, my hairdresser, old friends... I really recommend this tape to who wishes to leave a positive impression.

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