



Let's talk about *the PAST*



Conversation cards

What did you do yesterday?
Describe your day.

What were you doing at 10 p.m.
yesterday evening?

How is life today different from
life 100 years ago?
Give examples.

Where were you born?
Where did you grow up?
Talk about your childhood.

When was the last time you went
on holiday?
Talk about it. (where, who, when,
how long, with whom, what see/do)

Think of a major news story of
the recent past.
Tell it in your own words.

Think of three things that didn't
exist 20 years ago. What did
people do without them?
Could you live without them?

Talk about your last birthday.
What did you do? Did you have a
party? Who was there?

Think of a relative or a celebrity
who *passed away*. (=died)
Talk about them.

When was the first time you
went to the cinema?
Talk about this experience.

Think about the last time you
had a lot of fun with friends.
What did you do?
Talk about it.

Think about the first pet you
ever had. What was it?
Tell the class about it.

Ask a friend some questions
about their last shopping trip.
(when, how/get there, where/go, what/buy,
go/with who, how much/spend)

Did you watch the 2008 Beijing
Olympics? What do you
remember?
Talk about them.

Nowadays many families have a
car. How did your grandparents
get around?

Older people sometimes talk
about 'the good old days'.
What do they mean? Discuss.

Christopher Columbus is one of
the most famous explorers ever.
What do you know about him?

'You have to know the past to
understand the future.' (Carl
Sagan) Do you agree? Explain.

Interview a friend

When was the last time you ...

... (buy) an ice cream?

... (come) home late?

... (do) housework?

... (drink) orange juice?

... (eat) fast food?

... (get) up late?

... (go) swimming?

... (have) a party?

... (meet) your grandparents?

... (play) basketball?

... (speak) English?

... (visit) a museum?

Talking about the past

| Ago | Other time markers |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| five minutes ago | yesterday |
| one hour ago | the day before yesterday |
| three days ago | last week |
| two weeks ago | last month |
| six months ago | last year |
| a few years ago | |
| a long time ago | |

- Whatever your past has been, you have a spotless future.
 - No man is rich enough to buy back his past. (Oscar Wilde)
 - For the majority of us, the past is a regret, the future an experiment. (Mark Twain)
- Do you agree? Discuss.