



START THE CONVERSATION

*9 Genuine Ways to Say Hello,
Spark Real Connection, and
Build Towards Meaningful
Friendships*

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*"I like to make funny faces, because it gives others
permission to be themselves"*

— Jim Carrey

*"Friendship is born at that moment when one
person says to another: 'What! You too? I thought I
was the only one.'"*

— C.S. Lewis

*Stop trying to be everyone's drink. Be special to
someone. Be yourself. Be.. matcha!*

--Devon James

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INTRODUCTION



Hey you — welcome.

I wrote this little guide because, like you, I've felt lonely, isolated, and unsure of how to connect at times.

I've worked solo, traveled alone, and probably spent more time by myself than most people know...

Nevertheless, over 15+ years in Sales, Coaching, and from my early mentors, I stumbled on what might be the most valuable skill I've ever learned—not just in business, but in life: *How to say hello-- and thus: How to make a friend.*

This guide is a collection of simple, genuine ways to start conversations, spark connection, and maybe even meet your next great friend or partner in life.

Wishing you a life of adventure, shared stories, and the kind of friendships that make the make your path feel a little more full; a little more exciting.

Rooting for you from afar,

Devon James,

@SuperselfVersion ([Instagram](#) | [Website](#) | [Coaching](#))

THE ART OF CONJUGATION



Go where your people are, and the rest gets easier.





Making friends isn't always about having the best conversation skills — it's about placing yourself in the right environment.


If you go where like-minded people already gather, you don't need to try so hard. You've already increased your chances of connection just by showing up.

Places to conjugate based on your interests:

  **Interested in Wellness?** → Yoga studios, gyms, farmers markets, bright cafés

 **Creative or artistic?** → Indie bookstores, art galleries, open mic nights

 **Pet lover?** → Dog parks, shelters, dog-friendly cafés

 **Entrepreneurial?** → Co-working spaces, founder events, startup panels, well-lit coffee shops

OPENING WITH A COMMON INTEREST

Shared interests are shortcuts to connection.



Simply commenting out loud on things I genuinely like has helped me make many new friends.

People naturally warm up when they feel seen for something they care about.

3 Commonality-Based Openers:

“I love your dog — I grew up with the same breed! Does yours also get the zoomies every time it...?”

“Hey, I love that book you’re reading. The author’s one of my favorites — how are you liking it so far?”

“Hey! I noticed your shirt — I’m a big fan of that artist too. Do you have a favorite song or piece by them?”

[For me personally , books, coffee, Muay Thai, Marcus Aurelius, dogs--commenting on my own interests have sparked extraordinary conversations--and friendships].