

Elaboration Don'ts observation sheet

DIALOGUE	NON-ELABORATIVE FEATURE	NOTES
WIFE: I hope it doesn't rain tomorrow.	Introduces topics of marginal interest, with little potential for elaboration	Starts with a boring topic, which can't really go far in the conversation
HUSB: Oh yeah.		
WIFE: Yeah. I was hoping to be able to get some clothes out on the line before we have to go out.	Partner fails to invite the other person to add information	Just says her own thoughts without trying to include him in the conversation
HUSB: Mmm, that's a good idea.		
WIFE: And maybe we should measure up the garage.	Changes topics frequently Fails to make connections clear when topics change	Jumps to a new topic, but doesn't make it clear what the new information relates to. Assumes that he can remember previous conversations they have had on this topic.
HUSB: What for? [looks puzzled]		
WIFE: To see whether my new car will fit.	Partner fails to add adequate information to the topic	Does not take the chance to add more information to take this topic further
HUSB: Oh OK.		
WIFE: Oh, I saw your mate Steve the other day at the shops - he looked well.	Changes topics frequently	Moves onto a new topic quickly without extending the original topic
HUSB: Oh yeah, what's he doing with my old car?		

<p>WIFE: Oh, I don't know.</p> <p>We'll have to fix up that insurance too.</p> <p>Oh, Steve did say, when I saw him the other day, we should go over for a BBQ.</p>	<p>Partner fails to add adequate information to the topic</p> <p>Fails to make connections among day-to-day conversational themes.</p> <p>Meaning is vague.</p>	<p>Even though he shows some enthusiasm for this topic, she does not take the chance to extend on the topic</p> <p>Does not connect this new information into the conversation</p> <p>Conversation jumps around to different topics and is confusing to follow.</p>
<p>HUSB: Oh yeah, that'd be good! I haven't seen Steve for ages [more animated about the opportunity]</p>		
<p>WIFE: [Pause... his enthusiasm reminds her what happened last time and then makes an about face]</p> <p>No...actually...that's not a good idea...Remember what happened last time? [condescending, like talking to a child]</p>	<p>Partner fails to add adequate information to the topic</p>	<p>Potential topic is stopped because of negative associations. Does not take opportunity to deal with it constructively as in an adult conversation (e.g. exploring solutions, contrasting with other more positive situations)</p>
<p>HUSB: Oh [although he can't exactly remember what did happen, he knows something wasn't good and is deflated and disempowered]</p>		
<p>WIFE: I was thinking of taking a week off work in July. I was thinking we could go up and visit my sister in Brisbane.</p>	<p>Fails to organize information</p>	<p>Does not organise information (e.g. talking through the planning process step-by-step, considering different options) to allow him an opportunity to contribute. Presents the plan as complete rather than organising it together.</p>
<p>HUSB: OK [angry, put down and resentful by this stage]</p>		
<p>WIFE: Alright, have you finished your coffee? I think we should be heading home. We've got lots to do.</p>	<p>Fails to review organization of information</p>	<p>Does not review what they have talked about to help him remember or organise the information in his mind</p>

Elaboration Dos observation sheet

DIALOGUE	ELABORATIVE FEATURE	NOTES
WIFE: I hope it doesn't take too long to get the car ready.	Introduce and initiate topics of interest which can go further	Starts with a topic which has potential for further discussion
HUSB: Oh your new car?		
WIFE: Yeah. I was thinking once we get the new car, we could give the old car to Steve to fix up.	Organises information in the conversation as clearly as possible – sequential order	Talks about information step by step
HUSB: Mmm, that's a good idea.		
WIFE: Steve's probably pretty busy at the moment; he's working on a few cars.	Partner contributes many pieces of information to the topic	Adds more related information to the topic
HUSB: What's he doing with my old car?		
WIFE: I don't know, his mum's going to kill him though, if he keeps buying new cars.	Partner contributes many pieces of information to the topic	Although doesn't know the answer to his question, adds more related information
HUSB: [laughs] Oh well.		
WIFE: He seems pretty keen to get my old one though.	Partner contributes many pieces of information to the topic	Continues the topic with more related information
HUSB: Yeah, it'll need a lot of work on that		
WIFE: Yeah, It'll be good to get rid of the old one. The new car will be more reliable, although I'm worried about it being a lot bigger. Do you think it'll feel different to drive?	Organises information in the conversation as clearly as possible – similarity and difference	Continues the topic by adding information about differences between the new car and the old car to help extend his thinking on the topic.

	Partner invites elaboration	Asks question to get a real answer not to test him. Sees him as someone who could provide good information
HUSB: Nah, you will be fine darling. It's not that big.		
WIFE: Do you reckon it'll be too big to fit in the garage?	Partner invites elaboration (open ended statement)	Asks him further questions about his opinion to help continue the topic
HUSB: Well, maybe we could measure it.		
WIFE: Yeah right. Do you remember when we got the awning and Robbie wanted to garage his new truck?	Organises information in the conversation as clearly as possible – association	Continues the topic by drawing an association between what they are discussing and previous similar shared experiences
HUSB: Yeah.		
WIFE: Yeah, and he was worried it wouldn't fit under.	Partner contributes many pieces of information to the topic.	Gives enough information about the event to help him remember so that he can share in the conversation
HUSB: Yeah and it didn't did it! [laughs, both laugh]		
WIFE: No, no it got stuck, and it wouldn't go forward, and it wouldn't go back!	Partner contributes many pieces of information to the topic	Continues to add information to build up a detailed description of the event
HUSB: And we had to let the tyres down...What an idiot !		
WIFE: Yeah. Well we're not going to let Robbie anywhere near <i>our</i> nice new car, are we?	Partner connects topics	Builds connections in the conversation between current and previously shared topics
HUSB: You know, we should really run the new car in.		

WIFE: Yeah, yeah. We could do a bit of a road trip? What about that?	Partner invites elaboration (open-ended questions)	Follows up his suggestion and gives him the opportunity to contribute his opinion
HUSB: Yeah, I reckon I could handle that. I'd love a road trip.		
WIFE: OK, well where could we go?	Partner invites elaboration (open-ended questions)	Uses questions to invite him to give his opinion and involve him in the planning
HUSB: You've got all them up in Brisbane.		
WIFE: My sister's up there, yeah yeah. And you've got a lot of friends and that down in Melbourne.	Partner contributes many pieces of information to the topic	Gives further information to expand on the possible options
HUSB: Oh yeah.		
WIFE: OK so, I could take a week off work in July. Where do you think you'd feel like going?	Partner contributes many pieces of information to the topic Partner invites elaboration (open-ended questions)	Gives information to assist with decision making process Allows him to give his opinion
HUSB: Brisbane might be good.		
WIFE: Yeah, yeah we might feel like heading up there for some nice warm weather. Yeah because it's going to be another cold day and rain again tomorrow.	Partner organises information in the conversation as clearly as possible – psychological cause	Extends the conversation by stating possible reasons for decisions, discusses feelings and emotions
HUSB: Not more rain.		
WIFE: Yeah. Actually, we'd better get home so I can put some clothes out on the line. Have you finished your coffee?	Makes connections among day to day conversational themes	Connects information so the links in her thinking is clear (putting out the clothes because of the rain tomorrow)

Alright, when we get home, why don't you give Steve a call about my old car, we'll measure up the garage to see if the new car will fit [humorous], organise the insurance and call my sister in Brisbane to see if she wants a visit. [Looks at him and is checking to see if he's "with' her]	Reviews organization of information	Goes over what they have planned to do to help him remember and take on his role
HUSB: Lots to do.		
WIFE: I reckon.		