

THE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE

Connector

Stay connected. Let your answer be heard.



INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 01 When everyone hears yes and you mean something else
- 02 Give your own position a place in the room
- 03 Find a request behind the awkward feeling
- 04 Make room for views without hiding the decision
- 05 Stay present after someone disagrees

A practical companion for noticing patterns and trying small changes.

CHAPTER 01 / A FICTIONAL SCENE

The trip had a price. Her answer hid the limit.



Nadia and her friends planning a trip: an original fictional scene, illustrated with AI.

Nadia and two university friends are choosing a Saturday trip. The travel and entry costs come to \$60 each. Nadia has \$30 available. She likes spending time with them and can already hear their excitement about the place.

“Sounds good,” she says. That evening, one friend prepares to book. Nadia messages the other privately: she cannot afford the trip. The friend asks why she agreed at the table.

Nobody had the budget information when they discussed the plan. Nadia wanted to stay included. Her answer left the others expecting a commitment she could not make.

What did your answer allow someone else to assume?

Next: separate what you want, what you know and what you can agree to.

CHAPTER 01 / FIND YOUR ACTUAL ANSWER

You can want the connection and decline this plan.

Nadia wants a day with her friends. She prefers a trip she can afford. She can spend \$30. Those three facts can sit together. She does not have to explain her entire financial life to make the limit clear.

Name what you want to keep. The time together, a shared project, contact with family or a fair discussion. This tells you what still matters when the proposed plan does not work.

Name your view of this choice. “I would prefer a closer place.” “I think this date leaves too little time.” “I am interested, but I have not decided.” Start with what you actually think.

Name what you can agree to. An amount, a date, a part of the task or no commitment yet. If you need information, say which information and when you can answer.

NADIA'S FULLER ANSWER

“I want to come with you. My budget for the day is \$30. Could we look at a closer place? If you choose this trip, I will sit this one out.”

The group may choose the more expensive place. Saying the limit makes that choice possible with accurate information. It also gives Nadia a choice she can carry out.

What do I want to keep? What is my view? What can I honestly agree to?

What do people hear when your own view stays unsaid?

Nadia can state what she can afford. That clear sentence gets harder when somebody is already excited or expects her agreement. How does her own view reach the conversation?

FROM THE GUIDE / PAGE 08 / A CONVERSATION TO RECOGNIZE

You may have a thoughtful explanation in your head and give only the polite introduction aloud. “I see why you want that” reaches the other person. Your own view needs a sentence too.

CONTINUE WITH CHAPTER 02 / PAGE 07

Give your own position a place in the room

- 01 Recognize the point you actually understand.
- 02 State a specific preference or limit.
- 03 Make a request someone can answer.

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