HOST THOUGHTFULLY 025

Give Introductions a Starting Point



OFFER A CONNECTION, THEN LET CONVERSATION GROW.

A useful introduction gives guests something they can talk about beyond their names. Share one comfortable point of connection, then give the conversation room to develop.

1 Find a natural link

Consider an interest guests have chosen to share, such as gardening, travel, cooking or a local project.

Why: A familiar subject can make the first exchange easier.

2 Keep the introduction brief

Offer names and one relevant detail. Speak to both people and leave space for them to respond.

Why: The introduction opens a conversation without taking it over.

3 Protect personal boundaries

Avoid private matters, awkward stories or a topic someone may not want discussed at dinner.

Why: A warm welcome should not require a guest to explain something personal.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

An easy opening

'Alex, this is Jordan. You both enjoy making bread, and Jordan just tried a new sourdough recipe.'

Include a new arrival

Pause long enough to introduce someone joining an existing group. Help them connect with the people already talking.

Notice the quieter guest

Offer a comfortable opening without announcing that someone has been quiet. An ordinary question may be all that is needed.

Let the subject change

The shared interest is a beginning, not an assignment. Guests can take the exchange in a different direction.

THE PLATING MINDSET Give people a useful first connection, then let them discover the rest for themselves.