

# BPMN Conversation Diagrams

Conversation diagrams have been introduced in BPMN 2.0 and represent a top level (i.e. simplified, more abstract) view of a BPMN collaboration diagram. Conversation diagrams are useful for representing high level interactions between the involved parties – i.e. for representing an overview of a network of partners and how they communicate with each other. This study card represents the elements of a conversation diagram and the semantics of their use.

## Participants

A participant in a conversation is represented by a BPMN Pool. Most commonly a "black-box" pool is used.



A Participant can be a specific Partner Entity (e.g., a buyer, seller, or manufacturer). A Pool MAY or MAY NOT reference a Process.



A Multiple Participants marker (||||) indicates a set of similar participants (e.g. several buyers, sellers or manufacturers).

## Conversation diagram example

The example below represents the interactions between participants involved in a Pizzeria process.



## Conversation nodes & links

Conversation nodes connect different conversation participants with each other by using conversation links.



Conversation Links are used to connect Conversation Nodes to and from Participants. Conversation Links must be drawn with double thin lines.



Conversation

A Conversation is an atomic element for a conversation diagram. It represents a set of Message Flows grouped together based on a concept and / or a Correlation, which assigns messages to process instances.



Sub-Conversation

A Sub-Conversation is a composite Conversation Node, which can consist of Message Flows, Conversations, and other Sub-Conversations. The Sub-Conversations shares Participants of its parent conversations.



Call Conversation

A Call Conversation calling a Global Conversation identifies a place in the Conversation diagram, where a global conversation (i.e. a reusable, atomic Conversation) is used.



Call Collaboration

A Call Conversation calling a Collaboration identifies a place in the Conversation diagram, where a Collaboration is used.

## Conversation

A Conversation is a logical grouping of Message exchanges (Message Flows) that can share a Correlation (i.e. a mechanism that assigns messages to process instances).



Each Conversation can be expanded into a set of Message Flows.



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