

GETTING-TO-KNOW-YOU QUESTIONS

This activity is meant for advanced ESL students.

This activity contains detailed teacher's notes, 24 question cards, and a handout listing all the questions. This is a great activity for the first day of class.

The activity is designed to

- provide advanced students with the opportunity to share personal information with classmates
- encourage group interaction and discussion
- increase individual student's speaking time during class



Teacher's Notes

- 1** Print out and photocopy the two sheets of question cards.
- 2** Cut the sheets into cards and place them into envelopes. (For large classes, you may want to make several sets.)
- 3** Divide the class into groups of three or four.
- 4** Place an envelope in front of each group. (Do not let the students open the envelope to see the topics ahead of time.)
- 5** Tell the students to take turns selecting one card from the envelope.
- 6** Tell them to read their question aloud and lead their group in discussing the question on the card. If a group does not feel comfortable discussing a topic, encourage them to choose another topic. (Each student should lead at least one discussion.)
- 7** Walk around the classroom and join each group for a few minutes and correct the students pronunciation and grammar. (Do not hover over a group, sit down at eye-level.)
- 8** If groups run out of question cards, have them exchange cards with another group and continue the activity.
- 9** During the last twenty minutes of the activity, ask volunteers from each group to share which questions their group discussed. (Place important vocabulary and expressions on the board.)
- 10** At the end of the activity collect the cards and store them in the envelopes for future use.
- 11** Distribute the handout containing the complete list of questions.

What's the best way to get internet connection at home?

What's the best way to get money from your country?

Are you satisfied with your cell phone company? Why or why not?

What's the cheapest way to call your family overseas?

How often should you be in contact with your family abroad?

What surprised you the most about this city?

How different is your living condition here from where you used to live?

What do you like/dislike about your current living conditions?

How have your eating habits changed since you've been here?

How easy/hard has it been making friends here?

Who can you talk to if you need personal advice?

How will your experience here help shape your future?

How can you
improve your
quality of life
here?

How do you
deal with
the different
cultures?

How informed
are you
about what's
happening in
the world?

What is your
favorite hobby
or pass time?

Where have
you traveled
in the world?

What is/was
your favorite
subject at
school?

Have you ever
been married?
Explain.

How do you
get around
the city/town?

Tell us
something that
most people
don't know
about yourself.

What is the
weirdest thing
that has ever
happened to
you?

What do you
think you'll be
doing ten years
from now?

What's the
longest period
of time you've
been away from
home?

GETTING-TO-KNOW-YOU QUESTIONS

1. Are you satisfied with your cell phone company? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever been married? Explain.
3. How can you improve your quality of life here?
4. How different is your living condition here from where you used to live?
5. How do get around the city/town?
6. How do you deal with different cultures?
7. How easy/hard has it been making friends here?
8. How have your eating habits changed since you've been here?
9. How informed are you about what's happening in the world?
10. How often should you be in contact with your family abroad?
11. How will your experience here help shape your future?
12. Tell us something that most people don't know about yourself.
13. What do you like/dislike about your current living conditions?
14. What do you think you'll be doing ten years from now?
15. What is the weirdest thing that has ever happened to you?
16. What is your favorite hobby or pass time?
17. What is/was your favorite subject at school?
18. What surprised you most about this city?
19. What's the best way to get internet connection at home?
20. What's the best way to get money from your country?
21. What's the cheapest way to call your family overseas?
22. What's the longest period of time you've been away from home?
23. Where have you traveled in the world?
24. Who can you talk to if you need personal advice?

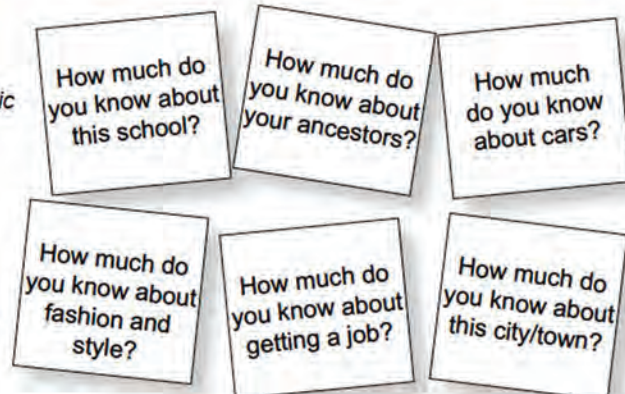
Group Discussion Activities for Advanced ESL Students

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ...?

*This activity is meant for advanced ESL students.
This activity contains detailed teacher's notes and 48 topic cards.*

The activity is designed to

- provide advanced students with the opportunity to share general information with their classmates
- encourage group interaction and discussions
- increase individual student's speaking time during class
- expand students' use of new vocabulary and expressions



Teacher's Notes

- 1 Print out and photocopy the four sheets of topic cards.
- 2 Cut the sheets into cards and place them into envelopes. (For large classes, you may want to make several sets.)
- 3 Divide the class into groups of three or four.
- 4 Place an envelope in front of each group. Do not let the students open the envelope to see the topics ahead of time.
- 5 Tell the students to take turns selecting one card from the envelope.
- 6 Tell them to read their question aloud and lead their group in discussing the topic on the card for about five minutes. (If the students are uncomfortable with a specific topic, encourage them to choose another card.)
- 7 Each student should lead at least one discussion.
- 8 Walk around the classroom and join each group for a few minutes and correct the students pronunciation and grammar. (Do not hover over a group, sit down at eye-level.)
- 9 If groups finish discussing their topics, have them exchange cards with another group and continue the activity.
- 10 During the last twenty minutes of the activity, ask volunteers from each group to share what their group discussed. Place important vocabulary and expressions on the board.
- 11 At the end of the activity collect the cards and store them in the envelopes for future use.
- 12 Continue this activity at a future time using different sets of cards for different groups.

Discussion Topics

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. AIDS | 11. clean energy | 21. greed | 31. local taboos | 40. space exploration |
| 2. American football | 12. climate change | 22. guns | 32. local transportation | 41. state/province |
| 3. astrology | 13. computers | 23. having a pet | system | 42. the President/Prime |
| 4. babies | 14. contraception | 24. health | 33. love | Minister |
| 5. baseball | 15. cooking | 25. illegal drugs | 34. marriage | 43. this city/town |
| 6. buying a house | 16. fashion and style | 26. international news | 35. national holidays | 44. this country |
| 7. cameras | 17. financial planning | 27. Internet | 36. raising a family | 45. this school |
| 8. cancer | 18. food safety | 28. justice | 37. religion | 46. war |
| 9. cars | 19. getting a job | 29. local customs | 38. skin care | 47. your ancestors |
| 10. cell phones | 20. giving | 30. local restaurants | 39. soccer | 48. your career |

How much
do you know
about guns?

How much
do you know
about healthy
living?

How much do
you know about
international
news?

How much
do you know
about justice?

How much
do you know
about local
customs?

How much
do you know
about local
restaurants?

How much do
you know about
marriage?

How much
do you know
about love?

How much
do you know
about raising
a family?

How much
do you know
about your
career?

How much
do you know
about religion?

How much do
you know about
skin care?

How much do
you know about
soccer?

How much
do you know
about American
football?

How much
do you know
about space
exploration?

How much
do you know
about local
taboos?

How much do
you know about
the Internet?

How much
do you know
about the local
transportation
system?

How much do
you know about
the President/
Prime Minister?

How much do
you know about
this city/town?

How much do
you know about
this school?

How much do
you know about
this country?

How much
do you know
about this state/
province?

How much
do you know
about war?

How much do
you know about
AIDS?

How much
do you know
about national
holidays?

How much do
you know about
your ancestors?

How much do
you know about
astrology?

How much
do you know
about babies?

How much
do you know
about baseball?

How much
do you know
about buying
a house?

How much
do you know
about cameras?

How much
do you know
about cancer?

How much
do you know
about cars?

How much
do you know
about cell
phones?

How much
do you know
about clean
energy?

How much do
you know about
climate change?

How much do
you know about
computers?

How much do
you know about
contraception?

How much do
you know about
cooking?

How much do
you know about
having a pet?

How much do
you know about
illegal drugs?

How much
do you know
about financial
planning?

How much do
you know about
fashion and
style?

How much do
you know about
food safety?

How much do
you know about
getting a job?

How much do
you know about
giving?

How much do
you know about
greed?

Group Discussion Activities for Advanced ESL Students

CURRENT AND FUTURE TRENDS

This activity is meant for advanced ESL students. This activity contains detailed teacher's notes and 48 topic cards, and a student handout listing some current and future trends.

This activity is designed to

- advanced students with the opportunity to share their opinions with their classmates.
- encourage group interaction and discussions
- increase individual student's speaking time during class
- expand students' use of new vocabulary and expressions



Teacher's Notes

- 1 Print out and photocopy the two sheets of cards.
- 2 Cut the sheets into cards and place them into envelopes. (For large classes, you may want to make several sets.)
- 3 Divide the class into groups of three or four.
- 4 Place an envelope in front of each group. Do not let the students open the envelope to see the topics ahead of time.
- 5 Tell the students to take turns selecting one card from the envelope.
- 6 Tell them to read their question aloud and lead their group in discussing the topic on the card for about five minutes. (If the students are uncomfortable with a specific topic, encourage them to choose another card.)
- 7 Each student should lead at least one discussion.
- 8 Walk around the classroom and join each group for a few minutes and correct the students' pronunciation and grammar. (Do not hover over a group, sit down at eye-level.)
- 9 If groups finish discussing their topics, have them exchange cards with another group and continue the activity.
- 10 During the last twenty minutes of the activity, ask volunteers from each group to share what their group discussed. Place new vocabulary and expressions on the board.
- 11 At the end of the activity collect the cards and store them in the envelopes for future use.
- 12 Continue this activity by discussing additional topics on the accompanying handout.

Discussion Topics

1. Is there a trend to accept gays more openly in society?
2. Will it be easier or more difficult to get health care in the future?
3. Will the declining trend in cigarette smoking continue?
4. How have clothing and fashion trends changed how people dress?
5. Will the trend for women to have fewer children continue?
6. Will the trend to increase food production continue?
7. Is there a serious trend in the development of sustainable energy?
8. What future trend do you see in the cost of gas/oil?
9. How have trends in hair styles changed over the years?
10. What trends in real estate do you expect to see in the near future?
11. What are some of the latest trends in technology?
12. Will gold continue to increase in value?
13. How have musical trends changed in the past few years?
14. What are some current trends in new car design?
15. Are there any new trends in what kind of food people eat?
16. Are there any new kinds of diet trends?
17. Are there any new exercise trends?
18. Will the trend for people to live longer continue?
19. Will the trend to replace people with robots at work be positive or negative?
20. Will the trend for women to work outside the home continue?
21. Do you notice any political trends in your country?
22. Can you name any cultural or social trends that worry you?
23. Can you name any positive current cultural or social trends?
24. Do you notice any trends in how people do their shopping?

Will it be easier
or more difficult
to get health
care in the
future?

Is there a trend
to accept gays
more openly in
society?

Will the
declining trend
in cigarette
smoking
continue?

How have
clothing and
fashion trends
changed how
people dress?

Will the trend for
women to have
fewer children
continue?

Will the trend
to increase
food production
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Is there a
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the development
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What future
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What are some current trends in new car design?

Are there any new trends in what kind of food people eat?

Are there any new kinds of diet trends?

Are there any new exercise trends?

Will the trend for people to live longer continue?

Will the trend to replace people with robots at work be positive or negative?

Will the trend for women to work outside the home continue?

Do you notice any political trends in your country?

Can you name cultural or social trends that worry you?

Can you name any positive current cultural or social trends?

Do you notice any trends in how people do their shopping?

Current and Future Trends

trend: *definition* - a general direction in which something tends to move

Discuss some of the following trends and their implications for the future.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. hair styles | 26. interior design |
| 2. cigarette smoking | 27. internet use |
| 3. renewable energy | 28. life expectancy |
| 4. university costs | 29. curing diseases |
| 5. use of technology | 30. availability of health care |
| 6. cost /standard of living | 31. shopping |
| 7. personal liberty/freedom | 32. news coverage |
| 8. employment opportunities | 33. pace of life |
| 9. entertainment choices | 34. parties and celebrations |
| 10. climate change | 35. kinds of personal relationships |
| 11. life expectancy | 36. political views |
| 12. clothes and fashion | 37. population growth |
| 13. food production | 38. racial and ethnic harmony |
| 14. social networking | 39. real estate prices |
| 15. family size | 40. recreational activities |
| 16. gas and energy prices | 41. religious beliefs |
| 17. genetic engineering | 42. stock market growth |
| 18. global economy | 43. acceptance of homosexuality |
| 19. personal security | 44. surveillance |
| 20. robots | 45. tattoos |
| 21. housing costs | 46. terrorism |
| 22. human rights | 47. tourism |
| 23. amount of personal privacy | 48. modes of transportation |
| 24. income disparity | 49. use of marijuana |
| 25. interest rates | 50. war |