## PurlandTraining.com

**Discussion Questions**

# for English Classes



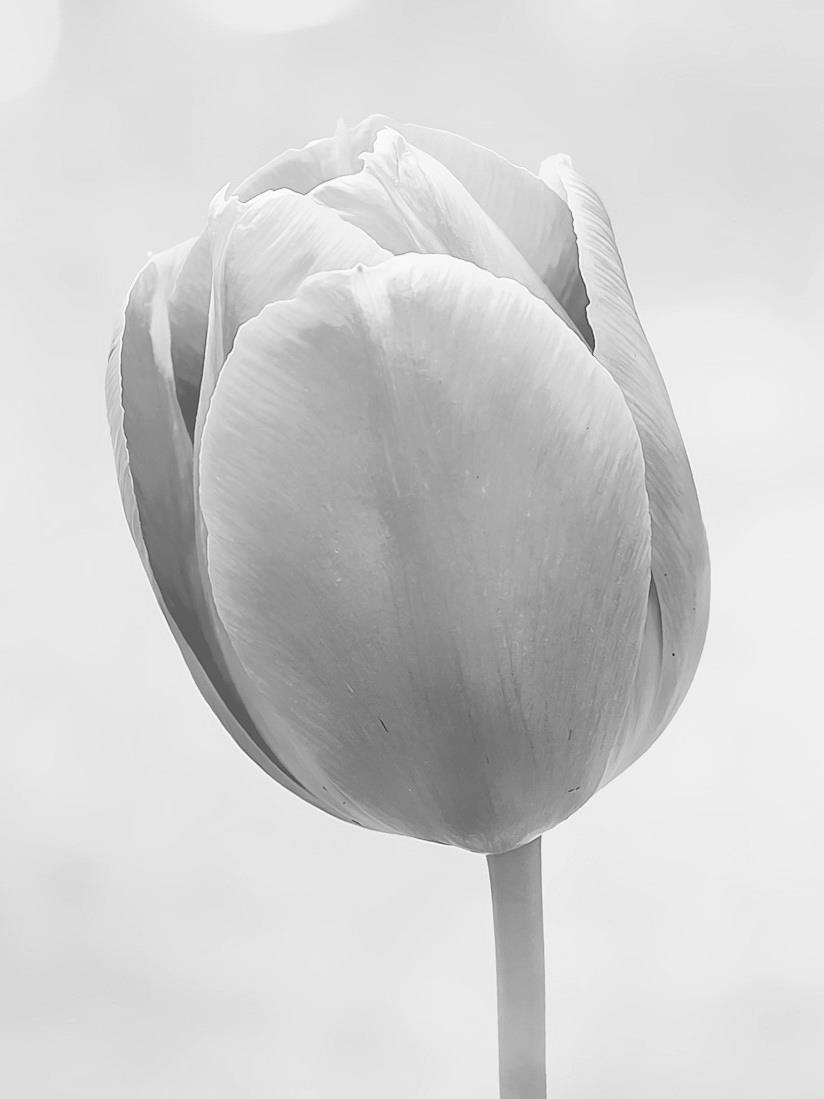
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#### by Matt Purland

**All Levels**

**Discussion Questions**

# for English Classes



#### PurlandTraining.com

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##### Introduction

Hi there . . . !

“Let’s have a discussion. OK, find a partner. Yes, you can work in a small group. How small? Er, three or four? Three would probably be better. OK. Could you hand out these, er, handouts for me, please? OK. You’ve got ten minutes. After that I’ll stop the lesson and everybody change partners. OK? Any questions? Er, have a quick look at the handout. That’s it. Any new words? OK? Check your dictionaries. I’ll be walking around having a listen to, er, each pair or group and trying to help out as best I can. So. OK? Ready? So, let’s start…”

So begins another discussion class – at a language school, a state school, a conversation club – anywhere where English is being studied. Why do it? It’s free practice, so students get the chance to practice what they are learning, without every error being jumped on. It gives you the teacher the chance to step down from the front and ~~maybe make a cup of tea~~, I mean listen to your students and help to correct their errors. Students also have the opportunity to get to know one another better. It’s fun having a conversation with another person – even in a foreign language!

This book is a photocopiable collection of all the discussion question sets that I have written over the past twelve years, from the ones in *Talk a Lot Elementary Book 1* to the very latest questions written for my current website *PurlandTraining.com*. There are more than 2,000 discussion questions and follow-up questions in total. You can use them in a class setting; with large classes divided into groups, as above; with small classes; with individual one-to-one classes; with online classes. You could even set some of the questions as written homework. The questions are really designed to provoke discussion. It doesn’t mean you have to slavishly ask and answer each one. The question sets are listed in alphabetical order and are aimed at the general English language student, from Beginner to Elementary (p.22) to Intermediate to Advanced (p.33).

Most of the pages contain straightforward discussion questions (What…? Why…? When…? etc.) but there are also fourteen pages of *Agree or Disagree?* statements, where students have to say whether they agree or disagree with a proposition and, most importantly, why.

Notes for teachers:

* + While it is fairly straightforward to simply photocopy question sets and hand them out – or get a student to do it – there are further instructions for running a discussion question activity on p.9 and for running an *Agree or Disagree?* session on p.12.
  + The question sets can be freely adapted to make them suitable for any level. For example: To adapt the questions for a lower level: To adapt the questions for a higher level:

select a handful of questions to focus on use more of / all the questions on the handout shorten the questions to the relevant point use the whole question, as printed

simplify the language use synonyms and more complex grammar

use explanatory pictures no pictures, or use diagrams / data create cards with one question on each include your own or students’ questions use a larger font and / or a ‘fun’ font use a smaller, more ‘serious’ font

##### Introduction

* + It might be necessary to pre-teach how to form questions in English. As a brief reminder: Forming WH- questions:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| wh- question word or phrase | auxiliary verb | subject | main verb |

*Find out more here: https://purlandtraining.com/free-lessons/elementary-english-course/unit-4-0-family/lesson-4-1-wh-questions/*

Forming Yes / No questions:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| auxiliary verb | subject | main verb |

*Find out more here: https://purlandtraining.com/free-lessons/elementary-english-course/unit-4-0-family/lesson-4-2-yes-no- questions/*

* + The words in bold on each page are **keywords** that students should know before attempting the discussion question set. You could either pre-teach them or get students to look them up in their dictionaries or online. Also draw students’ attention to the **idioms** and **phrasal verbs** used throughout the book, e.g. the idioms ‘think on your feet’, ‘look good on paper’, and ‘selling yourself’, and the phrasal verbs ‘show up’, ‘come across’, and ‘fill out’ – are all on p.49.

But here’s the secret –

You don’t really need this book!

There are 73 different question sets in this book covering 56 distinct topics that I believe are of general interest to English language students. However, if your students create their own question sets based on the topics that interest them, the number and range of potential questions will be limitless.

While it is nice to have this book to rely on – and you are more than welcome to do so! – it will be more beneficial for your students if they practice creating their own discussion questions. They could do this during class time or for homework. The theory is that the more the students have to do in class, the more they will learn. You could give them a discussion questions template to fill out, either with prompts (p.10) or without (p.11).They need to choose a topic (there are 200 suggested topics on p.17) but any topic will do. In fact ANY WORD will do. Students can literally conjure a word out of thin air or close their eyes and place their finger on any page of the dictionary and set that word as their topic. “What is the first thing that comes to mind?” “Apple pie.” “OK. That’s your topic.” “How much is an apple pie at your local supermarket?” And so on. Or find a piece of realia, e.g. a furniture catalogue from the UK, and use it as the basis for your questions.

There is a list of classic discussion question starters on p.18 (with a pocket version on p.19), and a more detailed list on p.20. When creating questions for discussion the same kind of question appears again and again, for example: “What’s your favourite…?” “Have you ever…” and “Do you agree that…” etc. As students become proficient at creating their own questions, they will learn these devices and their dependence on lists like these will diminish. One technique for quick-starting a discussion question class without any materials or prep is to elicit the topic from the group, then get students to work in pairs or threes and write 5, or 8, or 10 words that come to mind when they think of that topic. For example, if the topic is trains:

##### Introduction

* + ticket
  + passenger
  + conductor
  + journey

and so on.

They base their questions on the words they have written, for example:

* + How much does a train ticket to … cost?
  + Do you like being a passenger on a train? Why? / Why not?
  + Imagine a day in the life of a train conductor.
  + What was the last train journey you took?

Or, students think of a colour and write down a number of things which are that colour; the resulting words are then used to form the questions. Students could add a twist by role-playing the Q&A conversation ‘in character’ – e.g. as a favourite character from a book or film – or perhaps by playing the alien game (p.15). Or, what about deliberately arguing the opposite side to your true personal opinion? Students love to be involved in making the lesson, rather than just having handouts thrust at them. Although it will be sure to take up more lesson time, the learning experience will be richer.

The discussion questions in this book have been tried and tested over the years. This is a collection of work. The beginner- and elementary-level question sets are taken from the previously published books *Talk a Lot Elementary Books 1 and 2*, while most of the material for the intermediate-advanced levels comes from *Talk a Lot Elementary Book 3* and *Talk a Lot Intermediate Book 1*. There is also some later material taken from the *PurlandTraining.com* website, some of which has itself been included in my recent book *PhotocopiaBRILL!* All of these resources are now available to download free from PurlandTraining.com. Although I have written plenty of other material for practising speaking skills, my aim in compiling this book is to collect together only the discussion question material: material that gives students the chance to sit down and talk together for extended periods. By the way, the **pink tulip** (on the cover) is thought to be a symbol of **friendship**, so what could be a more appropriate cover image for this book – a resource that will, I hope, bring people together, get them talking, and kindle… **friendship**.

In any case, I hope you and your students will enjoy using this book. If you have any comments or questions, I would love to hear from you. You can contact me via the website *PurlandTraining.com*. However you use this book, I hope it will prove beneficial.

Kind regards

Matt Purland *Ostróda, Poland, 29th November 2019*

##### Discussion Questions – Instructions

Method:

1. SS (student/s) work in pairs or small groups. T (teacher) asks every SS to think of one discussion question based on a particular topic. SS could use a topic from the list on p.17 or choose their own.

*Or* – T gives them 10 minutes to write eight discussion questions.

SS could use the templates provided on pp.10-11 and / or the sample questions on pp.18-20.

1. T (or a SS) writes questions from each group on the board until there are a certain number, e.g. 6 or 8. The more questions there are, the longer the activity will last. The person writing the questions should choose the best ones from the many that SS have come up with.
2. The writer (or T) elicits the meaning of any unfamiliar words.
3. SS discuss the questions on the board in pairs or small groups. One could ask the questions and the other answer – then change roles. SS should write down their partner’s answers in brief note form. T monitors, checks, and corrects. After a certain period, e.g. ten or fifteen minutes, SS could change partners and either continue discussing the question they were on, or go back to the beginning.
4. Group feedback – T asks different SS for responses to each question. SS recall their partner’s answer as well as their own. T writes errors on the board and discusses corrections with the group.

Tips:

* + SS should use wh- questions, which require a longer answer, rather than yes / no questions which require only a one-word answer.
  + Whoever asks the question should try to get a long answer from their partner by asking follow- up questions such as, “Why?” “...for example?” “Can you tell me more about that, please?” and so on.
  + Encourage SS to write different kinds of discussion question. For example, there are more than forty different kinds of question listed on p.20. There are further examples of discussion questions in the first four *Talk a Lot* books1.
  + Encourage SS to work with partners they do not know very well. This will help everybody get to know one another better.
  + Getting SS to write their own discussion questions, rather than reading from a book or worksheet, will encourage them to engage with their learning more deeply, as well as make them more confident with question forms.
  + You could ask SS to write up their answers to a set of questions for homework.

1 *Talk a Lot Elementary Book 1*, *Talk a Lot Elementary Book 2*, *Talk a Lot Elementary Book 3*, and *Talk a Lot Intermediate Book 1* are all available for free download: *https://purlandtraining.com/free-books/*

##### Topic:

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. What 2. Tell me about | ?  . |
| 3. Why | ? |
| 4. Do you agree that | ? |
| 5. Who | \_? |
| 6. Compare | . |
| 7. Which | ? |
| 8. Have you ever | ? |
| 9. When | ? |
| 10. If you could | ? |
| 11. How | ? |
| 12. Rank | . |
| 13. Where | ? |
| 14. What different kinds of | ? |
| 15. How many | ? |
| 16. Will | ? |
| 17. Should | ? |

1. How would it be possible to ?
2. Could ?
3. Invent your own .

##### Topic:

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

##### Agree or Disagree? – Instructions

Method:

1. SS work in pairs or small groups. T asks every SS to think of one agree / disagree statement based on a given topic. These are statements with strong opinions, for example:
   * A strong statement about something: *x* is... because...
   * A strong statement about yourself, e.g. I like / hate *x* because... Or, I would like... / I want...

*Or*, I would be good at... *Or*, I’m scared of...

* + A statement about your experience: I have never tried... / I would like to try... because...
  + *x* is the most / best /worst / (other superlative) because...
  + Comparative statements: *x* is better / easier / worse than *y* because... Or, *x* is like *y*

because...

*Or*, I prefer *x* to *y* because... *Or x* is different from *y* because...

* + Adverbs of frequency: I often / always / sometimes / rarely / never...
  + Feelings: I feel / believe that... / *x* is *y* (e.g. boring / interesting) because...
  + Moral issues: it is right / wrong to... Or, it is better to... than... Or, there should / shouldn’t be... because...
  + Hypothetical statements with 2nd conditional: If... would... etc.
  + A statement about a different past with 3rd conditional
  + A prediction about the future
  + A quotation from a famous person

*Or* – T asks each group to write a set number of statements (e.g. 8) in a given period (e.g. 10 minutes).

1. T (or a SS) writes statements from each group on the board until there is a certain number, e.g. 6 or 8. The more statements there are, the longer the activity will last. The person writing the statements should choose the best ones from the many that SS have come up with.
2. SS discuss the statements on the board in pairs or small groups. They should say whether they agree or disagree and *why*. It is not enough to simply say: “Agree; disagree; agree; agree...” etc.! One could read the statements and the other answer – then change roles. SS should write down their partner’s answers in brief note form. T monitors, checks, and corrects. After a certain period, SS could change partners and either continue discussing the statement they were on, or go back to the beginning.
3. Group feedback – T asks different SS for responses to each statement. SS recall their partner’s answer as well as their own. T writes errors on the board and discusses corrections with the group.
4. If there is a particularly contentious statement that splits the group, it could be used as the proposition in a group debate.

##### Agree or Disagree? – Instructions

Tips:

* Whoever reads the statement should try to get a long answer from their partner by asking follow- up questions such as, “Why?” “...for example?” “Could you tell me more about that, please?” and so on.
* Encourage SS to write different kinds of agree / disagree statements. See the examples above and in *Talk a Lot Elementary Book 3*1, e.g. p.179, for inspiration. T might allow SS to use reference books or the Internet to find relevant quotations.
* SS do not have to agree with their own statements to be able to write them. They could make statements that are deliberately provocative and completely outrageous, for example: “Money is the most important thing in life.” The point is to stimulate plenty of discussion – either for or against the statement. Of course, the ultimate goal is speaking practice in English.
* SS may find it harder to write agree / disagree statements than discussion questions. You could give them time to prepare for this task by asking them to write *x* statements for homework.
* Encourage SS to work with partners they do not know very well. This will help everybody get to know one another better.
* Getting SS to write their own material, rather than reading from a book or worksheet, will encourage them to engage with their learning more deeply, as well as give them more confidence with making statements.
* You could ask SS to write up their responses to one or more of the statements for homework.

1 Purland, Matt. *Talk a Lot Elementary Book 3*. Ostróda: 2010. Hardback. Available for free download:

*https://purlandtraining.com/free-books/*

##### Agree or Disagree? – Topic:

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

##### The Alien Game – Instructions

Method:

1. SS work in pairs or small groups. One of them pretends to be an ‘alien’ who knows nothing about Earth and the people who live there. They discuss a given topic, e.g. Sport, or Food and Drink. The ‘alien’ asks many really obvious questions and the other SS has to answer in as much detail as possible, describing everything that the ‘alien’ wants to know. For example, the ‘alien’ could ask the following questions, as repetitively as possible: “What does *x* mean?” “Why?” “What is a *x*…?” and so on. A sample conversation might run as follows:

‘Alien’: How did you get to class today? Student: By car.

‘Alien’: What’s a car?

Student: It’s a metal object that has four wheels and we use it to get around. ‘Alien’: What does ‘wheel’ mean? *or* What is ‘get around’?

Student: It’s…

…and so on. Another name for this fun game is ‘Obviousness’. The ‘alien’ provokes their partner(s) to state the obvious and pushes them to produce spoken English – which is, of course, the goal of this activity. T monitors, checks, and corrects, maybe making note of errors, which can be explored briefly on the board towards the end of the class.

1. After a short time, SS change roles and start again – either with a different aspect of the same topic, or a new topic.
2. Whole group version: one SS is the ‘alien’ and the others have 20 seconds each (or longer) to answer their questions. Or, one SS is a ‘normal’ person and the rest are ‘aliens’, who have 20 seconds each (or longer) to try to get answers to their (many) questions about this strange new planet. This can be very funny with SS enjoying role playing in front of the whole group.
3. T asks SS what they have learned from this activity. Optional: T outlines grammar, usage, and pronunciation errors with the whole class and elicits corrections.

Tips:

* This is a good activity to use at the beginning of a lesson. It gets SS thinking about a topic and will hopefully activate most or all of the target vocabulary in a natural way.
* *Variation #1:* instead of being an ‘alien’, the questioner could be an inquisitive toddler who loves to ask “Why?” to whatever has been said. Of course, the aim is still to get the other person talking!
* *Variation #2:* SS could play this game in pairs as a card game, using the cards on p.16. One SS is the ‘alien’ while the other describes things. The ‘alien’ does not need to speak, just point at one of the cards. (SS could even practise with these cards on their own, if they are motivated enough. They just shuffle the cards, begin speaking about a topic, then when there is a pause, turn over the next card and follow the instructions. They could record their work for T or other SS to mark and give feedback.)

##### The Alien Game – Cards

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| what does that mean? |   describe it | and … |
| tell me more | why? | so … |
| for example … | return to the topic | change topic |

200 Interesting Topics to Discuss during an English Class

*Here are 200 interesting topics to discuss. Topics in this book are shown in boxes below. You could also choose your own discussion topic – the only limit is your imagination!*

Radio

Reading Religion

Internet

Raw Materials

India Innovation Insects

Jokes Journalism

Accidents Acronyms Adventure

Africa

DNA

Driving Drugs

Railway Station

Amazon American English

Airport

Animals

Equal Rights

Languages

Europe European Union Exams

Law

Ethical Issues

Laughter

Englishness Environment

Keeping Fit Kitchen

Role Models Russia

Restaurants

Robot Vacuum Cleaners

Earth

Education Emergencies Engineering English Accents

Life Events

Sleep

Social Networks

Fame and Fortune

Mathematics

Sugar

Mythology

Coffee

Communication Competition Consumerism Cooking

Great Journeys Greek Myths

Colours and Numbers

Getting a Job

Graffiti and Street Art

Clothes

Games Garage Gardening Geography

Childhood Chocolate Christmas Climate Change

Friendship

Future Global Challenges Future Hopes

NATO

Trains

Transport

New Year

Noise

North America

Nature

Town

Tea Teaching Technology Teenagers Television Tigers

Music

Free Time

Morning Museums

Football

British History Building a House Business

Food and Drink

Breakfast

Media Money

Summer

Brazil Bread

Fishing Flying

Books

Sport

Fast Food Films

South America Space Travel Spam

Farming Fashion

Life in the UK Literature Loanwords Losing Weight Love

Family

Backpacking Bathroom Beauty Biology Birthdays Bonfire Night

Shopping

Singing

Libraries Lies

Learning English

Sailing Science

Sea Creatures Shakespeare

Australia

Animation

Antarctica Archaeology Architecture Art

Asia

United Kingdom United Nations United States

Cars

Vet

Oceans Office Opinions

War

Planets

Plastic Surgery Poetry

Wedding Weekend Wildlife

Places in the UK

Health Centre Heroes Hobbies

Health

Creepy Crawlies Crime

Water Weather

Philosophy Photography

Parenting

Happiness Having a Baby

Zoo

Housing

World History

Pronunciation Psychology Public Transport Publishing

Problems

Deserts Design Dieting Disease Divorce DIY

Prison

Dentist

Politics

Windmills and Turbines Work

World Cruise

Holidays Home Hospital Hotel

Dancing Danger Dating

Human Body

Your Country

Human Rights

Immigration



Discussion Questions for English Classes

##### Discussion Questions Starters – Pocket Version







#### 19

Discussion Questions for English Classes

***Follow-up questions:***

Why? Why not? Who?

What? Where? When? Which? How?

##### Discussion Question Starters – Cheat Sheet

*Choose a topic and off you go!*

General:

* What is … ? Tell me about …
* Why do we have … ? What do you know about … ?
* What do you think of when you hear the word … / see … ?
* Have you ever considered … ?
* What are the main problems with … ?
* What are the three most important facts about … ?
* How many different ways to … are there?
* What different kinds of… are there?

Opinion:

* Do you agree or disagree that … ? / with this quotation … ?
* Do you believe that … ?
* How important is … to you?
* What are the advantages / disadvantages of … ?
* What is your favourite / least favourite … ?
* What do you like / dislike the most about … ?
* What do you think about … ?
* Would you support a proposal to … ?
* Would you like to … ?
* What is the future for … ?

Comparison:

* Compare … / Rank …
* Name five differences between … and …
* Do you prefer … or …?

Experience:

* Have you ever … ? Do you ever … ?
* Can you … ? When did you first … ?
* What do you usually do when … ?
* Describe a typical day for … / at …
* What happens when / if … ?
* When did you last … ?
* What experience do you have of … ?
* What is / are … like in other countries, e.g. … ?

Hypothetical:

* How would your life be different if … ?
* If you were … what would you be?
* If you could be … for one day, what would you do?
* What would life be like without … ?
* What would life / the world be like if *x* hadn’t happened?
* What would happen if … ? What would you do if … ?
* How would you feel if … ?
* How would you convince somebody who … ?
* If money were no object … Will it ever be possible to … ?
* How could we improve … ? Invent your own …

Time perspective:

* How has … changed over the years?
* What are your earliest memories of …?
* How will … be different in the next ten / twenty / fifty years? Why?

#### 20

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beginner to elementary level

##### Animals

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is your favourite… a) animal, b) bird, c) fish, d) insect, e) **reptile**? Why? What is the most

**delicious** animal? What is the most **boring** animal?

1. What animals, birds and insects can you see where you live – in your garden and in your area?
2. Have you got any pets? Tell me about them. Are you planning to get any more? Why? / Why not?
3. What would you do if you found an **injured** animal or bird by the side of the road?
4. What should we do about **endangered species** such as the blue whale, the **cheetah**, and the **snow leopard**?
5. Have you ever seen wild animals **up close**, such as lions, tigers, elephants, giraffes, bears, etc.? Where? Describe them.
6. Is it **cruel** to lock up animals and birds behind bars in zoos and safari parks? Why? Are there any

**benefits** for them and for us? Tell me more.

1. If you could be any animal, bird, fish, insect, or reptile in the world for a day, what would you be? Why? What would you do?

##### 

Cars

1. Do you drive? What kind of car do you drive? How often do you drive?
2. How did you learn to drive? How many lessons did you have? What was the name of your teacher? Describe them. Did anything funny or **dangerous happen** to you while you were learning to drive?
3. Have you ever **suffered from road rage**? Do any of your friends or family suffer from it? What do you / they do? How do you feel about it? How can we **avoid** road rage? What kind of road users do you dislike? Why?
4. How well do you know the **Highway Code**, or the rules of the road in your country? Tell me…

a) three things that you **must** do whilst driving, b) three things that you **mustn’t** do whilst driving. Describe three different **road signs**, and tell me what they mean.

1. Describe your car (or a friend’s car) inside and out. Tell me your history with it. Where did you get it from? Why did you buy it? How many miles / km have you **done** in it? What is the furthest you have travelled in it? Imagine that you wanted to sell it. How would you **advertise** it?
2. What other **vehicles** can you drive? What would you like to learn to drive?
3. Do you wear a **seatbelt**? Why? / Why not? Is it **compulsory** in your country?
4. What is the future for drivers? Will we all still be driving cars in 30 years’ time? Will we still be using petrol and gas? If not, how will we **get around**?

##### Clothes

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is your favourite **item of clothing**? Why do you like it? Where did you get it from? How long have you had it?
2. Which item of clothing do you hate the most? Why? When are you going to get rid of it?
3. What do you wear to feel: a) **smart**, b) comfortable, c) fun?
4. Have you ever bought something, worn it once, then taken it back to the shop for a **refund**? What happened?
5. Who is the best dressed / worst dressed person… a) **in the public eye**, b) that you know?
6. If you were given £4,000 to spend only on clothes and shoes, what would you buy and where would you go shopping?
7. Do you **follow fashion**? Who and what is **in / out of fashion** at the moment? Have you ever been to a fashion show? Describe what happened.
8. Where do you usually shop for clothes and shoes? What are the best shops in your town or city? Have you ever shopped **online** for clothes or shoes? Do you ever buy **second-hand** clothes or shoes?

##### 

Colours and Numbers

1. Which number is the most difficult to spell in English? Which numbers are the most difficult to

**pronounce** in English? Why? How can you practise them?

1. What is your mobile number? Do you know it **by heart**? If not, why not? What are the three most important numbers in your phone book? Why?
2. What is your favourite colour? Why? What colour clothes and shoes do you prefer? Does wearing clothes and shoes with different colours **affect** how you feel? Tell me more.
3. Do you have a **lucky number**? What is it? Why is it lucky for you? What other numbers or dates are important to you? Why?
4. How many people do you know? How many are **close friends**? How many are **best friends**? Tell me about them. How many people are there in your… a) **immediate family**, b) **extended family**?
5. Which colours make up a **rainbow**? When do rainbows **appear**? How do you feel when you see one? What does a rainbow **symbolise** to you?
6. How far can you count in English? How did you first learn to read and say numbers in English? Do you know **ordinal numbers**, e.g. first, second, third, etc.? When do we need to use ordinal numbers?
7. Do you prefer colour or black and white films and photographs? Why? What are the good points of each kind?

##### Crime

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Think of ten different crimes and make a table like the one below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Serious Crimes:* | *Petty Crimes:* |
|  |  |

1. Which crime(s) are you most afraid of? Why? What can **society** do to fight crime?
2. Would **capital punishment** solve the problem of **prison overcrowding**? Why? / Why not?
3. Have you or a friend / family member ever been a **victim of crime**? What happened? How did you / they feel? Was **justice** done in the end?
4. Which activities are **illegal** in your country but **legal** in other countries?
5. How should society help victims of crime?
6. Do you enjoy watching TV programmes and films about crime, or reading books about crime? Which ones? Why is crime such a popular subject for **entertainment**? Should it be?
7. What would you do if you were **accused**, **tried**, **found guilty**, and sent to prison for a crime that you didn’t **commit**?

##### 

Family

1. Tell me about your family…
2. Is there anyone in your family that you don’t like or don’t **get on with**? Why not?
3. Who is the **funniest** member of your family? Why?
4. Have you ever lived **far away** from your family? Would you like to in the future? How did / would you feel?
5. Do you have children? Tell me about them. If not, would you like to have children **in the future**? Why? / Why not?
6. Which member of your family are you **closest** to? Why?
7. Have you ever tried to make your **family tree**? Tell me about it. If not, would you like to start making one? Why? / Why not?
8. How important is your family to you? Are families important to **society**? Why? / Why not? What would society be like without families?

##### Food and Drink

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is your favourite food? Why do you like it? How often do you eat it? What is your favourite drink? Why?
2. What is your least favourite food? Why don’t you like it? What is your least favourite drink? Why?
3. Where do you shop for food and drink? Do you enjoy **food shopping**? How long does it take you normally?
4. What do you think about **vegetarians**? Are you a vegetarian, or do you know anyone who is? What do you / they eat? What about **vegans**?
5. What do you eat for… a) breakfast, b) lunch, c) dinner, d) a snack?
6. Are you **hungry**? Are you **thirsty**? When did you last eat and drink?
7. Do you watch **cookery** programmes on TV? What do you think of them? Have you ever **followed** a

**recipe** from one of them? Tell me more.

1. Who is your favourite film star? If they asked you to make them a sandwich, what would you put in it? Why?

##### 

Free Time

1. How much **free time** do you have? When do you usually have free time?
2. What sports do you enjoy watching or playing? What sports would you like to try that you haven’t tried yet? What sports would you never try?
3. Tell me about a **memorable** holiday. Where was it? Who did you go with? Why did you decide to go there? What happened?
4. Do you enjoy going on **scary** rides at **amusement parks**? Why? / Why not?
5. How often do you go to the cinema / theatre? What is your favourite film / play / musical…?
6. Do you like reading? What do you read? Tell me about your favourite newspaper / magazine / book / website…
7. Describe a **typical** weekend. What do you do?
8. Do you regularly **surf the ’net** or play computer or video games? Tell me more. If you don’t, why not?

##### Health

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Have you ever been to **hospital**? Tell me about it.
2. What would you do if a member of your family, or your **best friend**, had an **accident**?
3. How **healthy** are you? How often do you get ill? Do you go to the **gym** or exercise regularly?
4. What is the name, address and phone number of your **dentist**?
5. Do you know anyone who is a **hypochondriac**? Are you one? Tell me more.
6. How would you make an **appointment** with your doctor – in English?
7. Do you take **vitamin supplements** or **natural remedies**? Do they have any effect?
8. Who is the **unhealthiest** person you know? Have you tried to encourage them to be healthier? Tell me more.

##### 

Home

1. Do you live in a house, flat, or **bungalow**? Describe where you live. Now describe it in three words.
2. Describe your dream home. Where would you like to live if you could live anywhere? Talk about location, type of home, number of rooms, **furniture**, **swimming pool**, **garden**, **staff**, etc.
3. Do you have a garden? Do you enjoy **gardening**? Why? / Why not?
4. What would you do if you lost your home and became **homeless**? What are some of the reasons that people become homeless?
5. If there was a **fire** at your home, what would you **rescue** first? Why?
6. Is your home **tidy** or **messy**? How tidy is it on a scale of 1 = very messy to 10 = very tidy? How often do you clean your home? Describe what you do. Do you have any friends with either very messy or very tidy homes?
7. What is your favourite room in your home? Why? How much time do you **spend** there? What do you do there?
8. What are your **neighbours** like? Describe them. Do you **get on well** with them? Why? / Why not?

##### Human Body

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What do you like the most / the least about your body? What would you change, if you could?
2. Would you ever **consider** having **plastic surgery**? If yes, what would you have done, and how would you pay for it? If no, why not?
3. How often do you get your hair cut? Where do you get it cut? How much does it cost? Would you recommend your **hairdresser**? When did you last have a new **hairstyle**? Have you got any **tattoos** or **body piercings**? If yes, where? Why do people have them?
4. In your opinion, who are the most **attractive** people in the world? Why are they attractive? What makes a person attractive? Is **beauty** only **skin deep**?
5. How would you feel, and how would you handle it, if you lost your… a) hair, b) **sense of taste**,

c) **sight**, d) hearing, e) arms, f) legs, g) speech?

1. Would you like your body to be **cryogenically frozen** when you die so that you can perhaps be brought **back to life** in the future? Why? / Why not?
2. Do you carry a **donor card**? Would you like to give another person part of your body when you die? Why? / Why not? Should it be **compulsory** to carry a donor card?
3. If you could **swap** bodies with somebody for one day, who would it be? Why? What would you do?

##### 

Life Events

1. When were you born? What did you do to **celebrate** your last birthday? Tell me about your

**childhood**. Are you still **in touch with** your friends from school / college / university?

1. Did you enjoy school? What were your favourite / least favourite lessons? Why? Describe some **memorable** teachers. Who was your best friend at school? Who was the most popular / least popular student at your school? Why? Do you know what they’re doing now?
2. Tell me about your first boyfriend / girlfriend. How long did you **go out with them** for? Why did you

**break up**? Are you still in touch?

1. Talk about your first job. Where did you work and what did you do? How much did you **earn**? Where do you work now? Have you ever been **promoted** or made **redundant**? Why? What did you do?
2. Have you got a partner? Are you **engaged** or **married**? Describe your engagement party / wedding day. Did you have a **hen night** / **stag night**? How is **divorce** considered in your society?
3. Do you have any children? Tell me about them. How are they like you?
4. Have you ever been to a **funeral**? Whose was it? Describe the whole day. What would you like to happen to you after you die? Do you believe in **life after death**? Why? / Why not?
5. What has been the happiest time in your life? Why? What are you **looking forward to** now?

##### Music

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is your favourite…? Why? a) **genre**, b) group, c) singer, d) radio station, e) song, f) **instrument**.
2. Tell me about the best concert that you have ever been to. Why was it memorable?
3. What kind of music makes you **turn off** the radio or TV, or change channel? Why don’t you like it?
4. Can you play a musical instrument? Tell me about it. What level are you? Was it easy to learn? Do you play in a group or an **orchestra**? Tell me about it. If no, why not? Would you like to start learning to play a musical instrument?
5. What would life be like without music? Can you **imagine** it? How would you feel if you could never hear music again? What would you **miss**? Why?
6. Tell me about the different times when you listen to music during the day.
7. Do you think that pop stars and rock groups get paid too much? Would you like to be a famous **singer**

or musician? Why? / Why not?

1. What was the last piece of music that you bought? Have you ever **downloaded** music from the internet? What about streaming? Are people who download music **illegally** criminals? How would you feel if your work was being **shared** by millions of people, but you didn’t **make a penny** from it?

##### 

Nature

1. Tell me about the **seasons** in your country. How do the **countryside**, weather, and **climate** change throughout the year? How do you have to change the way you live?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in the countryside, compared to living in the city? Which way of life do you **prefer**?
3. Do you like to visit the countryside? What do you do? Have you ever… a) camped in the open air,
4. been fishing in a river, c) swum in the sea, d) **skated** on a **frozen** lake, e) **climbed** a rock face or mountain, f) ridden a horse, g) cycled a **forest trail**, h) gone for a ten mile **hike**?
5. What **dangers** can be found in the countryside? Have you ever **experienced** any of them?
6. Do you have a garden or an **allotment**? If yes, how much time do you spend there? What plants and

/ or vegetables do you grow? Would you like to become **self-sufficient** and **live off** only what you grow? Why? / Why not?

1. What things should we do when we visit the countryside, and what things shouldn’t we do? Why? / Why not?
2. Do you have **national parks** in your country? Tell me about them. Why do some countries have national parks?
3. How can we **protect** our natural **environment**? Is it important to do so? Why? Why not?

##### Shopping

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Do you enjoy shopping? Why? / Why not?
2. How often do you **buy** clothes? How much do you usually spend on… a) clothes, b) shoes,

###### jewellery?

1. Who do you usually go shopping with?
2. What are your favourite shops? Why? Which shops do you never go to? Why not?
3. Have you ever worked in a shop? Tell me about it.
4. Have you ever asked for a **refund**? What happened? How did you feel? Have you ever **bought**

something that you really **regretted**?

1. When did you last buy something nice for yourself? What was it and how **expensive** was it?
2. Do you shop **online**? If yes, how often do you shop online? What do you buy? Which websites would you **recommend**?

##### 

Sport

1. What is your favourite sport… a) to play, b) to watch? Why? What is the most **boring** sport…

a) to play, b) to watch? Why?

1. Which sport would you most like to try? Why? Which sport would you never try? Why not?
2. What is… a) the **most dangerous** sport, b) the **safest** sport?
3. Do you go out to watch live sport **regularly**? Why? Where do you go? How often? Describe the last live sporting event that you watched.
4. Do you think that **professional** sportsmen and women should have a **cap** (limit) on their wages? Why? / Why not?
5. Describe the **rules** of your favourite sport and how to play it.
6. Why don’t more young people play sport? Should it be **compulsory** in schools? Why? / Why not?
7. **Invent** your own sport! Think about: a) name, b) how to play (aim), c) **location**, d) **rules**,

e) no. of players, f) **equipment** used, g) **kit**, h) **competitions** and **trophies**, i) why people play it.

##### Town

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Do you live in a **town** or a **city**? Tell me more about where you live.
2. What do you like about where you live? What don’t you like? How could it be **improved**?
3. Who is **in charge of** your town or city? Do you think they **do a good job**? Do you vote in

###### local elections?

1. What are the best things to see and do in your town or city?
2. Describe your **journey** from home to work or school.
3. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live and why?
4. What are the main problems in your town or city (e.g. **crime**, **vandalism**, **homelessness**, **drugs**, **graffiti**, etc.)? What is **being done** about them? How can you help?
5. Have you ever lived **abroad**? Talk about your favourite towns or cities abroad (or in this country).

##### 

Transport

1. What is your favourite **mode of transport**? Why? What is your least favourite mode of transport? Why?
2. Can you **drive**? Tell me about learning to drive (or why you can’t drive).
3. If you had the **choice**, where in the world would you visit that you haven’t visited before? Why? Who would you take with you? How long would you go for?
4. Can you ride a **bike**? Tell me about learning to ride a bike (or why you can’t ride a bike).
5. Tell me about a terrible journey that you’ve taken, e.g. you had one of these problems:

**cancellation** / **accident** / **lost luggage**, etc.

1. What is the biggest problem with **public transport** in your town or city?
2. How do you think transport will be different from now in fifty years’ time?
3. Would you like to fly in a **space shuttle**? Why? / Why not? How would you **feel** if you had this

###### opportunity?

Weather

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is your favourite kind of weather? Why? What is your least favourite kind of weather? Why?
2. Tell me about a time when the weather made you change your **plans**.
3. What is the weather usually like where you live in… a) **spring**, b) **summer**, c) **autumn**, d) **winter**?
4. Which countries do you **associate with**… a) **flooding**, b) **drought**, c) **forest fires**, d) **tsunami**?
5. What do you wear **outdoors** / take with you when it is… a) hot, b) snowing, c) **sleeting**,
6. wet and windy?
7. Do you listen to / read the **weather forecast**? Do you think it’s **accurate**? Why? / Why not? What different ways are there to find out what the weather will be like?
8. What’s the weather like at the moment? What will it be like tomorrow? Why do people like talking about the weather?
9. What is the worst weather you have ever seen? Have you ever experienced **extreme weather**, such as **hurricanes**, **cyclones**, tsunami, flooding, etc.? What happened?

##### 

Work

1. What is your job at the moment? Tell me about it. What do you like about it? What don’t you like? Why do you work? Why did you choose your **current career path**? What do you **value** in your job? Tell me about your **colleagues**.
2. Tell me about your **role** in the company. Does it offer you **status**, **job security**, **job satisfaction**, and **promotion opportunities**? What are the **working conditions** like? (Hours, **salary**, **leave**, **perks**, etc.) If you could change one thing about your job, what would it be?
3. Tell me about the best and worst jobs that you have ever had. What did you **gain** from them?
4. What is your **ambition**? Where would you like to be in five years’ time? If you could do any job in the world, what would it be? Why? If you could take on any job from history, what would it be? Why?
5. Who is the **laziest** person at your workplace? Do you think that they should **get the sack**? Why? / Why not? Who do you think has got the easiest / hardest job in the world? Why?
6. If you won £10 million on the **lottery**, would you still go to work? Why? / Why not? If you didn’t have to work, what would you do every day?
7. Have you or somebody you know ever been **unemployed**? How did you / they feel? How did you / they find a job? What other ways are there to find a job?
8. Is it harder to be a **manager** than an **employee**? Why? / Why not?

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##### Airport

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. How often do you fly? Do you need to travel by air? Why? / Why not? What are the **advantages** and

**disadvantages** of travelling by plane, **compared with** other forms of transport?

1. How do you prefer to **book** a flight, e.g. online or by phone? How do you make sure that you get the best price for the flight? Do you ask for **priority boarding**? Why? / Why not? Do you think that air travel is good **value**?
2. Do you like to get to the **airport** a few hours before your flight, or do you always arrive **at the last minute**? Have you ever **had your name read out** at the airport because the plane was waiting for you? Have you ever missed a flight? If yes, what happened?
3. Tell me about the first time you visited an airport. Did you know what to do? Have you ever lost your **luggage** at an airport – or got lost? What is the longest you’ve ever been **delayed** at an airport? What did you do to **kill time**?
4. Do you enjoy flying? How do you feel when the plane is **taking off** – **nervous**, or **relaxed**? Have you ever **witnessed** an **air rage** incident?
5. Should more be done to make air travel **greener**? Should cheap air travel – e.g. **budget airlines** – be banned, because of the **harm** it is doing to the **environment**? What **impact** would it have on **tourism** and **the global economy** if it were? What **impact** would it have on your life?
6. What do you think about **environmental protestors**, who hold **demonstrations** at airports and **disrupt** flights? How would you feel if a company got **planning permission** to build a new airport near your home?
7. What is… a) the most beautiful, b) the strangest sight you have ever seen from the window of an aeroplane **in flight**?

##### Airport

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. Air travel is **irresponsible**.
2. An airport is the **gateway** to a world of adventures.
3. I usually buy something in the **duty-free** shop.
4. **Climate change** will cause the death of cheap air travel.
5. “The airplane became the first World Wide Web, bringing people, languages, ideas, and values together.” *– Bill Gates*
6. I would love to work as a **flight attendant**.
7. I’m afraid of flying.
8. It’s so **confusing** at an airport! I never know what to do first.
9. I always worry that my luggage will be too heavy when I **check in**.
10. Airports are **generally** safe places to visit.
11. “The desire to fly is an idea handed down to us by our **ancestors** who... looked **enviously** on the birds **soaring** freely through space, at full speed, above all **obstacles**, on the **infinite highway** of the air.” *– Wilbur Wright*
12. If an airport was built near my home, I would be really **pleased**.
13. I hate **hanging around** at airports. It’s such a waste of time.
14. People who hold demonstrations at airports are dangerous **fanatics**.
15. I would prefer to travel by car, train, or boat, than plane.
16. **Pilots** do a very difficult job **under intense pressure**.

##### Australia

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Have you ever been to Australia? If yes, tell me about it. If no, would you like to? What do you think of when you hear the word ‘Australia’?
2. Australia is the only country in the world that is also a whole **continent**! The **landscape** and **climate** are very varied, ranging from **tropical** in the northeast, to **desert** in the centre, and **urban** / beach at the **coastal** resorts. Tell me about the landscape and climate in your country. How does it compare?
3. Australia has some of the strangest animals in the world! Because of its island location, it was a **closed ecosystem** for **millennia**, and many **exotic** creatures developed there which are unique to Australia, such as the **duck-billed platypus**. Tell me about the **weird and wonderful wildlife** in your country.
4. Australia is home to some of the world’s most famous people, including actors, like Cate Blanchett and Russell Crowe, and sports stars, such as Shane Warne. Tell me about famous people from your country.
5. One of the biggest **issues** facing Australia today is **climate change**. How has your country been affected by this **phenomenon**, and what are you doing to help **reduce** the **impact** of climate change?
6. When you go on holiday are you a **tourist** or a **traveller**? What are the main differences between each kind of **visitor**?
7. In Australia there is a **tradition**, handed down by Aboriginal Australians, to ‘**go walkabout**’ – which means to go travelling for an **extended** period of time. Would you give up your education or work for a year and go travelling? Why? / Why not? Where would you like to visit? How would you **kill time**?
8. Are you a fan of Australian culture? Have you ever had any problems understanding the Australian

**accent**? Do you know any Australian **slang**?

##### Australia

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. Australia is a great country.
2. My country is very different from Australia.
3. “My favourite thing is to go where I’ve never been.” *– Diane Arbus*
4. I’ll never be able to visit Australia, because it’s too far away.
5. Australia is a land of **incredible contrasts**.
6. Tourists **do more harm than good** to the places that they visit.
7. Australia is ‘**the promised land**’ for many **foreigners**.
8. “Travelling makes a man wiser, but less happy.” *– Thomas Jefferson*
9. I wish I lived in Australia.
10. I would be too scared to ‘**go walkabout**’ in the Australian Outback.
11. “The **traveller** sees what he sees, the **tourist** sees what he has come to see.” *– G. K. Chesterton*
12. Flying to Australia would be really bad for my **carbon footprint**!
13. “The whole **object of travel** is not to **set foot on** foreign land; it is at last to set foot on one’s own country as a foreign land.” *– G. K. Chesterton*
14. When I go on holiday, I’m more of a traveller than a tourist.
15. If you’re **prepared** to work hard, you can **do alright** in Australia.
16. Australia is just a great big **desert**.

##### Books

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is your favourite book? Why? What is it about? When did you read it? Why were you first attracted to it? Have you read any other books by the same **author**? What is the worst book that you’ve ever read? Why? Did you finish it?
2. Who is your favourite author? Why do you like them? What kind of books do they **write**? Tell me about some of them. Describe how you imagine they would spend a **typical** day.
3. How important is **reading**? Should children read more often, e.g. at home as well as at school? How can we **encourage** children to read more? What **benefits** does reading give an individual?
4. Do **libraries** do a good job? What **services** do they offer? What new services should they provide? When did you last visit a library? Why did you go? Have you ever been told to be **quiet** in a library? Tell me some of the things that people shouldn’t do in a library. Have you ever done any of them?
5. Do you **have a book in you**? If you could write a book, what kind of book (**genre**) would it be? Why? What **audience** would it be aimed at? Tell me an **outline** of the **story**, or **subject matter**. What would you include in the book? Would it have any **illustrations**? If yes, what?
6. Tell me about your favourite **bookstore**. Where is it? Why do you like it? Should bookstores be friendly places with **comfortable armchairs** and coffee shops? Why? / Why not? Are books too **expensive**?
7. Are **video games** just as good for children as books? Why? / Why not?
8. Could you live in a world without books? Why? / Why not? Will books eventually be **replaced** by

###### electronic digital devices?

Books

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. Reading is boring.
2. “A bookstore is one of the only **pieces of evidence** we have that people are still thinking.”

* *Jerry Seinfeld*

1. I’m a really fast reader. I read a new book every week.
2. Books are **old-fashioned** and **outdated**. They will be **replaced** by **ebooks** and **electronic reading devices** within a couple of years.
3. I haven’t got time to read a novel.
4. I hate people who write in books and **fold over** the **corners** of **pages**.
5. We don’t need books or **libraries** any more now we’ve got the internet.
6. “I cannot live without books.” *– Thomas Jefferson*
7. A writer’s life is a **lonely** one.
8. I can’t stand listening to **audiobooks**. They make me fall asleep!
9. “The man who doesn’t read good books has no **advantage** over the man who can’t read them.”

* *Mark Twain*

1. I don’t like buying **second-hand** books.
2. All teenagers should have to read **Shakespeare** at school.
3. Books are too **expensive**.
4. “You will find something more in **woods** than in books. **Trees** and **stones** will teach you that which you can never learn from **masters**.” *– St. Bernard*

##### Breakfast

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What do you usually have for breakfast? What time do you usually have breakfast?
2. What is your favourite breakfast **cereal**?
3. What does the word ‘breakfast’ mean?
4. What did you have for breakfast this morning?
5. Where do you usually eat breakfast? Do you ever eat breakfast ‘**on the go**’?
6. Do you prefer a quick breakfast or a **leisurely** breakfast?
7. What is the most you would pay for breakfast in a restaurant?
8. Can you describe a **full English breakfast**? Have you ever tried it? Do you like it?
9. Has anybody ever made you breakfast in bed? How did you feel about it?
10. Do you know how to make **traditional porridge**?
11. Could you **manage** without breakfast each morning?
12. **Peanut butter**, **honey**, **jam**, or **Marmite on toast**? Why?
13. Some people call breakfast the most important meal of the day. Do you agree? Why? / Why not?
14. What do you think I like to eat for breakfast?

##### Creepy Crawlies

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Do you like **insects**? Why? / Why not? What is your favourite insect? Why? What is the **scariest**

insect? Why are you afraid of it?

1. Have you seen any insects today? When and where do you **encounter** insects?
2. Why do people dislike insects so much? Is it with **good reason**?
3. What is the point of **creepy crawlies**? Which insects are the most useful for **humankind**? What do they do? What would we do without them?
4. Do all insects have a useful **function**? What about wasps and mosquitoes?
5. Do you have any **irrational fears** of insects, e.g. spiders? What would happen if insects could grow to the same size as humans – or bigger?
6. Creepy crawlies can do things that humans can only dream about, e.g. a fly’s **ability** to fly, or a spider’s ability to spin a web. Describe three insects and say what their ‘**super powers**’ are. What would you do if you had these powers?
7. What did you learn about insects as a child that has since turned out to be untrue, e.g. that **centipedes** have one hundred legs? (Centipedes can have between fewer than 20 to 300 legs, but always an odd number.)
8. Which insects are lucky or unlucky in your culture? Do you believe it? Why? / Why not? How do you

**tend to** interact with these creatures?

1. **Pretend** to be an insect, and I’ll **guess** which one you are!
2. Insects make up an **estimated** 90% of all animal life on earth. It is estimated that the average square metre of garden contains more than a thousand insects. Do you ever feel **anxious** about insects’ **numerical advantage** over **humankind**?
3. What is the best way to kill an insect? Should we get rid of them? What do you do when you see the following in your home or garden: a) a fly, b) a spider, c) a **colony of ants**, d) a bee,
4. a **daddy-long-legs**, f) a **gang of slugs**, g) a **moth**.
5. What is the best way to get rid of **head lice**? Have you or your children ever had them? What did you do? How did you feel?
6. If you could be any insect for the day, what would you be, and what would you do? Describe your

**adventures**. Would you be happy to make the change **permanently**?

1. Do humans share **characteristics** with insects? For example, are you sometimes: a) **sluggish**,

b) **waspish**, c) a **bookworm**, d) **single-minded** like the bee or ant, etc.?

##### Dentist

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. When did you last go to the dentist? Why did you go? What happened? How much did you have to pay? How did you feel before and **afterwards**?
2. How often do you usually go to the dentist? Do you tend to **put off** going to the dentist? Do you think you should go more often?
3. Describe your dentist. How long have you been going to see them? How did you find out about them? Why do you visit them and not a different dentist?
4. Describe your dentist’s **surgery**. What **equipment** do they have? What is the **décor** like? What is the **atmosphere** like?
5. What do you like most about going to the dentist? What do you like least?
6. Would you like to be a dentist? Why? / Why not? Why do you think people **train** to become dentists? What are the **benefits** and **drawbacks**?
7. Do you **take good care of** your teeth? Why? / Why not? What do you do to **protect** them? Do you use **dental floss** or **mouthwash**? How many **fillings** do you have?
8. Have you ever had **cosmetic whitening**? Would you like to have **veneers** on some or all of your teeth? Why? / Why not?
9. Do you know anybody who has **dentures**? How easy are they to wear?
10. Does your dentist ever **carry out** work which you believe to be unnecessary? Have you ever been surprised at the **charges** after visiting the dentist?
11. Do you prefer to have an **anaesthetic** when you visit the dentist? Why? / Why not?
12. What would you say if you were phoning to make an appointment at the dentist?
13. Are you afraid of going to the dentist? Why? / Why not? Do you know anybody who is? Tell me about them. Do you have any other **phobias**?
14. How **hygienic** is your dentist? Do they wear a **mask**, **gloves**, and **tunic**? Do you feel safe in your dentist's hands? Are you confident that they **have your best interests at heart**?
15. What happens in your culture when a child’s tooth **falls out**? Do they put it under their **pillow** at night and wait for the **tooth fairy** to take it, leaving money or a gift? What **traditions** do you have about teeth and dentists in your **culture**?
16. What kind of **toothbrush** do you have? How often do you change your brush?

##### Englishness

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What do you know about English people? Do you know many English people? Do they **live up to** your **expectations** of Englishness? What do you think are the **essential characteristics** of English people? Is it even possible to **define** a whole nation of people with a few characteristics, or do we just end up with **unrepresentative stereotypes**?
2. How do English people differ from people in your country? What differences can you list – both positive and negative? Have you ever been to England? If yes, what differences did you notice? How did you feel living there? Did you find it easy or difficult to **get used to** English people? Why? If no, would you like to visit England – or live there **temporarily** or **permanently**? Why? / Why not?
3. Do you have a good **sense of humour**? Do you think that the English deserve their great **reputation** for humour? Which English **comedy** shows / films / **comedians** / books, etc. do you find funny? What do you like about them? Is there anything about them that makes them **typically English**?
4. What is your experience of English food and drink? Do you like it? Why? / Why not? How does it compare to food from your country? What English food and drink **brands** are available to buy where you live? Do you ever buy them?
5. What examples of Englishness do you see in the media that you have access to, e.g. music, films, TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, websites, etc.? Which people best define what you think of as Englishness?
6. Would you like to be English? Why? / Why not? What do you think would be the advantages and disadvantages? Would there be more positive points than negative ones? What problems can you imagine **encountering** that you don’t normally have in your culture?
7. Are you easily **embarrassed**? What is the most **embarrassing** thing that you have ever done? What happened? Why was it embarrassing? How do you usually avoid embarrassing situations? How successful are you? Why do you think English people feel embarrassed so often?
8. Are you a **straight-talker**? Do you say what you mean and mean what you say? What about the English people that you know? Could your friends possibly describe you as **two-faced**? What would happen if one day all English people suddenly began speaking **directly** and acting in a **confident manner**?

##### Ethical Issues

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Do you think that the **death penalty** is **justified** for some crimes?
2. Do you believe that **abortion** is right?
3. Do you believe in **life after death**?
4. Do you believe in a person’s ‘**right to die**’ (**euthanasia**)?
5. Do you think that parents should be allowed to **smack** their children?
6. Do you think that being a **democracy** is the most effective way to organise society?
7. Which is preferable for a country: **monarchy** or **republic**?
8. Should any **couple** be allowed to **get married**?
9. Should any couple be allowed to **adopt** children?
10. Do you think that **journalists** should be free to say whatever they want?
11. Should students pay for their education?
12. Is it possible to buy happiness?
13. Should ‘**soft**’ **drugs** be **legalised**?
14. Should all countries in the European Union adopt the Euro?
15. Should all **SPAM** (junk email) be **banned**?
16. Should we be able to live and work **freely** in any country in the world?
17. Should **smokers** have to pay more than **non-smokers** for health care?
18. Is it wrong for a couple to have sex if they are not married?
19. Which is more important – money or friendship?
20. Should children be allowed to have a laptop, tablet, TV, and mobile phone in their bedrooms?
21. Should **millionaires** pay more tax than people earning the average wage?
22. Should **churchgoing** be made compulsory for all people living in a Christian country?
23. Should smoking be banned in all public places?
24. Should we be able to **hunt** and **fish** any creature in the world?

##### Fast Food and the Environment 1

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is **fast food**? Do you like fast food? Does fast food **satisfy** you? Why? / Why not? What are the **pros and cons** of fast food? Is pizza fast food? Why? / Why not?
2. Do you live near a fast food restaurant? How often do you use it? What’s the difference between a fast food restaurant and a normal restaurant? Was there fast food 100 years ago? How did people **manage** without it?
3. Do we need fast food? What does it offer that other kinds of food cannot?
4. How do **fast food chains impact on** the environment? Consider: a) land, b) **agriculture**, c) animals,
5. transport, e) **warehousing**, f) energy, g) water, h) **pollution**. What is their carbon footprint, compared to other kinds of business? What are fast food chains doing to reduce their carbon footprint / impact on the environment?
6. How many fast food restaurants are there… a) in your town, b) in your country, c) in the world?
7. Why does the human body **crave** sugar and fat? Is it possible to be addicted to fast food? What happens if we **avoid** junk food?
8. How many **solar panels** does it take to power one fast food restaurant?
9. Do you think the world would be a better place with more people and fewer trees? Why? / Why not? Is it a good thing that hot food is always **freely available** in our society? Has it always been that way? Is that true in every society?
10. Should there be **stricter rules** for corporations when it comes to impacting on the environment?
11. Which is better: **localism** or **globalism**? Why? What are the pros and cons of each?
12. Do humans need to eat meat… a) more than once a day, b) every day, c) every week, d) at all? Why?
13. Have **vegetarians** or **vegans** got it right when it comes to the environment? Why? / Why not? Have you ever seen a fast food **outlet** selling only healthy food? Would it be possible?
14. Would you like to work for a fast food chain? Why? What kind of **salary** would you receive?
15. Is **deforestation** ever a positive thing? Why? / Why not?
16. What is the difference between fast food and **junk food**?
17. When you eat at a fast food chain, do you **segregate** your rubbish after your meal? Should customers have to work or should an **employee** do this? Should we be able to take our own **crockery** and **cutlery** to fast food restaurants, to **dramatically cut down on** waste paper, card, and plastic – or should **dishwashers** be used? What would be the added cost of that?
18. Do fast food restaurants cause a **litter** problem? What can be done about it?
19. Do you believe that **recycling** makes a difference to the environment? Why? / Why not? Why do we give our household recycling for free to companies which then **sell it on** to make a profit?

##### Fast Food and the Environment 2

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Which option do you prefer and why? a) restaurant food vs. **home-cooked** food, b) supermarket **vs. farmers’ market**, c) farmers’ market vs. **home-grown** food, d) **thermos flask** vs. **plastic drink cup**,
2. new fast food **place** opening in your town vs. new library / school, f) to do something yourself vs. to

**have it done** for you, g) to cook for yourself vs. to have food cooked for you.

1. What does the phrase **carbon neutral** mean? What is the cost of **recycling**? Is it carbon neutral?
2. What is a **carbon footprint**? Do you know yours? If yes, how did you find out? If not, why not? Do you think it is necessary to know? Why do some businesses have bigger carbon footprints?
3. Which companies **consume** the most resources in the world? Why do they do it? Do we need them to?
4. What is the connection between fast food and **deforestation**? What is the solution?
5. In the future, will we be able to grow meat in a lab? Will this solve the problem of cutting down trees in order to make farmland for animals that are **destined** to be eaten as fast food?
6. Why are some people **apathetic** when it comes to the environment?
7. Are **wind turbines** effective in **generating** enough **green power** – or are they rather a **blot on the landscape**?
8. What effect does fast food have on… a) our societies, b) our town centres, c) our **waistlines**,

d) our health, e) our wallets, f) the weather?

1. Is fast food **harmful**? Why is it legal to buy products that are bad for you? Should it be illegal to sell harmful products? Why do fast food companies target children in particular?
2. Does fast food need to be **uniform** (the same) all over the world? Is it?
3. What’s the point of eating a healthy meal / salad at a fast food **chain**? Do you do that? Why?
4. Does fast food tell us anything about the **decline** of Western culture in the 21st century? What?
5. What would happen if half of the fast food restaurants in the world closed down **voluntarily**?
6. Agree or disagree? “Why should I separate my rubbish at a fast food restaurant? I don’t want to feel like a member of staff. That’s their job! They should do it. I paid for my food.”
7. Why do people leave their used fast food **wrappers** in **places of natural beauty**, e.g. forests?
8. What are the dangers of consuming too much… a) salt, b) sugar, c) fat, d) meat, e) **caffeine**?
9. Agree or disagree? “You should never take more than you give.” *– Tim Rice (‘Circle of Life’*)
10. Agree or disagree? “When the last tree has been cut down, the last fish caught, the last river

**poisoned**, only then will we realise that one cannot eat money.” *– Native American* ***saying***.

##### Films

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Do you like watching films? Why? / Why not? How often do you… a) go to the cinema, b) **rent** DVDs,

c) buy DVDs, d) watch films on TV, e) **stream** films?

1. What’s your favourite film? Why do you like it? Who **stars** in it? Who **directed** it? How many times have you seen it? Does it hold any special **memories** for you? Can you tell me the **plot** in thirty seconds? What **genre(s)** of films do you… a) love, b) hate? Why?
2. Have you got a video camera? What do you use it for? Why do people make **home movies**? Which is more special, a home movie or a photograph? Why?
3. Who is your favourite… a) actress, b) actor, c) director? Why? Tell me three films that each person has been involved with. What’s the difference between an actor and a **movie star**?
4. Would you like to work in the **film industry**? Why? / Why not? Which job(s) do you think are the most

**rewarding**? Why? Do you prefer to watch films made in your country, or Hollywood movies? Why?

1. Have you ever **downloaded** a film from the internet – either legally or illegally? Tell me about it. How do you prefer to watch films, and why? Have you ever watched a film on… a) a 4K (Ultra HD) TV,

b) a very large **IMAX** screen, c) a mobile? Compare these experiences to watching films on a normal TV.

1. If a film was made of your life, who would star as you? Who would direct it? Would it be a drama, a comedy, an action adventure, or a horror film? What would be the most important events in the plot? Why?
2. Do **special effects**, e.g. **CGI**, improve films, or make them worse? Which films have... a) good special effects, b) poor special effects? Describe them.

##### Films

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. I want to be a rich and famous **movie star**.
2. “Everything I learned I learned from the movies.” – Audrey Hepburn
3. I never read the **reviews** before watching a film.
4. I hate going to the cinema.
5. **Documentaries** are more interesting than dramas.
6. **Animated movies** are just for kids.
7. All the best films have already been made.
8. Black and white films are old and boring.
9. I prefer watching films at home to going to the cinema.
10. Working in a cinema looks really fun.
11. “Film is one of the three **universal** languages, the other two: mathematics and music.”

– Frank Capra, director

1. At the cinema I love to **text** my friends and talk on the phone during the film.
2. The best films all have great **special effects**.
3. The **screenplay** is the most important part of a film.
4. I find **complicated plots** difficult to **follow**.
5. I often fall asleep **halfway through** a film.

##### Getting a Job

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Are you **looking for** a job at the moment? Where do you usually look for a new job? What is the best way to find a job, in your experience?
2. Which **skills** and **personal qualities** does a **candidate** need when… a) looking for a job,

b) **applying for** a job, c) **attending** job interviews? How well do you usually do? What could you do to increase your chances of success?

1. If you were an **HR manager** reading different applications for the same job, what would make you…

a) **invite** an **applicant** to interview, b) **reject** an applicant, c) **screw up** the application form and **propel**

it towards the bin?

1. What are your **key skills**? What do you have to offer a **potential employer**? What kind of information do you need to **play down** on your **application form** and at **job interviews**? Have you got a **CV**? How did you **put it together**? How **effective** do you think it is?
2. Tell me about… a) your most successful interview, b) your worst interview. Have you ever completely **messed up** at a job interview? Why? What happened? Have you ever had to interview anybody? How did it feel? If you had to interview yourself for your **current** job, would you get the job?
3. How should a candidate prepare for an interview **beforehand**? How could they **reduce nerves** and **ensure** that they **stand out** on the big day? How important is **body language** and **eye contact** when attending a job interview? Why are interviews so **stressful**? Do they need to be?
4. Do you need to work? What would happen if you didn’t work? What **motivates** people to look for work? Is it important to you to have **goals** to **achieve**? Why? Why not?
5. How can we avoid **discouragement** and keep positive while looking for a job, when **disappointment**

is **part and parcel** of the process?

##### Getting a Job

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. I never **prepare** before a **job interview**. I prefer to **think on my feet**!
2. Looking for a job is too boring for words.
3. I haven’t got a **CV**.
4. “Eighty percent of **success** is **showing up**.” *– Woody Allen*
5. A job interview is a **marvellous opportunity** to **showcase** your **talents**.
6. I’m always **scared stiff** the night before an important interview.
7. I’m not very good at **selling myself**.
8. “Work saves us from three great evils: **boredom**, **vice**, and **need**.” *– Voltaire*
9. It’s really hard to find **job security** these days.
10. I **look good on paper**, but I don’t **come across** well at interviews.
11. **Voluntary work** is a great way to gain **valuable work experience**.
12. I can always **rely on** my **referees** to give me a good **reference**.
13. “Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” *– Confucius*
14. I usually add a few ‘extra’ **qualifications** when **filling out forms**.
15. In my opinion, the **interviewer** will decide whether you’ve got the job within fifteen seconds of first

**clapping eyes** on you (seeing you).

1. When it comes to actually getting a job, it’s **not what you know, but who you know**.
2. Without **rejection** and **failure**, it is hard to **appreciate acceptance**.

##### Graffiti and Street Art

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is **graffiti**? What is a ‘**tag**’?
2. What is **street art**?
3. What is the difference between graffiti and street art? Is there a difference?
4. Is street art better than graffiti? Why? / Why not?
5. Do you like graffiti? Why? / Why not? What kind of art do you like the best? Who is your favourite artist? What do you like the most about them?
6. Have you ever been involved in **creating** graffiti or street art? How did you feel?
7. Would you like to be a graffiti artist? What would your tag be?
8. Can you draw your name or **initials** in the style of graffiti?
9. Is there graffiti in your town? What do you think of it?
10. Does street art or graffiti improve an **environment** or make it worse?
11. Are graffiti artists **criminals**? Should they be **punished**, e.g. **fined** or **put in prison**? Why? / Why not?
12. Does anybody **have the right** to **paint** on somebody else’s **property**?
13. Are graffiti artists just people who can’t draw? Do they have talent? How do they compare to

**traditional** artists?

1. How would you feel if somebody painted graffiti on your property?
2. Do you know any graffiti artists? Describe them.
3. What **causes** graffiti?
4. Have you ever been to a street art exhibition? Would you like to? What would it be like?
5. Is graffiti “the worst kind of art”, as some people think? Why? / Why not?
6. Are graffiti artists **selfish** and **inconsiderate** towards other people? Why? / Why not?
7. Are graffiti artists generally male? If so, why?
8. Why do people feel the need to write their name on things, e.g. a book, a table at school, or a wall in town? How is this connected with feelings of **possession** and **belonging**?
9. Who is the best artist… a) in the world today, b) in history, c) that you know personally? Are you a good artist? Is artistic talent **innate**, or can it be learned?
10. Is graffiti always **political**? What is the **point** of graffiti? What is the point of street art? What do the artists want to say about their lives or **society**?
11. Who owns graffiti? If somebody paints on your property, can you **legally claim** the **artwork** as your own?
12. Is graffiti **threatening** to people? What kind of people feel threatened by graffiti?
13. Should we remove graffiti and street art? What is the cost of **removing** it? Who has to pay for it?
14. Would your school director be happy if you wrote graffiti on the school building? Why? / Why not?
15. What would the world be like without graffiti or street art?

##### Holidays

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Tell me about your last holiday. Where did you go? What kind of holiday was it? Why did you choose it? Did anything funny or **unusual** happen?
2. Where are you planning to go for your next holiday? Why?
3. Where would you go on holiday **if money were no object**? Who would you take?
4. What kind of **accommodation** do you prefer? How do you feel about **camping**?
5. What is the... a) most expensive, b) cheapest, c) most fun, d) most boring holiday?
6. Which kind of holiday offers the best **value for money**, in your opinion?
7. Would you like to work in the holiday **industry**, e.g. as a **travel agent**, **rep**, hotel manager, **guest house owner**, etc.? Why? / Why not? What do you think would be the **challenges** and **rewards** of the job?
8. Have you ever lost your **luggage** while travelling? If yes, tell me about it. If no, what would you do if it happened to you?
9. Why do we have holidays? Do you know anybody who hates holidays?
10. What is the... a) funniest, b) saddest, c) strangest, d) most amazing thing that has ever happened to you on holiday?
11. Tell me about your holidays as a child. How are your holidays different now?
12. Do you pay attention to **reviews** when you **book** a holiday? Why? / Why not?
13. Where would you like to go (or where did you go) on your **honeymoon**? How was it different from a normal holiday?
14. How do you apply for a **passport** in your country? Describe the **process**.
15. Would you like to spend three months abroad as a **volunteer**, working on a project in an **exotic**

location? Why? / Why not? How would you **raise** the **necessary funds**?

1. What do you usually pack in your **suitcase** and **hand luggage** when you go on holiday? Have you ever had to **repack** your bags at an airport? What happened?
2. Have you ever been on a **pilgrimage**? Would you like to go on one? Why do people make pilgrimages? Where can you go on a pilgrimage in your country?
3. What do you normally do on **public holidays** in your country? Tell me about them.

##### Hospital

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Have you or any member of your family ever been to hospital? Why did you / they have to go to hospital? What happened? How long did you / they stay in hospital for? How did you / they feel about the stay?
2. Who works in a hospital? Tell me about the different jobs in a hospital. Who works the **hardest**? Who has the **easiest** job? What is the **worst** job? If you could work in a hospital, which job would you do? Why?
3. Do you have to **pay** when you go to hospital? If yes, do you think it’s good **value for money**? Do you believe that all **health care** should be free? Why? / Why not? Is it better to pay for health care by…

a) **monthly subscription**, b) **general taxation**, c) when we use it? Why? What are the **benefits** and

**drawbacks** of each method of payment?

1. Why do people need to go to hospital? Which groups of people need to use hospitals the most often? Would you ever consider going to hospital for **non-essential treatment**, like **cosmetic surgery**? Why? / Why not?
2. If a close friend or **relative** needed you to **donate** a kidney for a **kidney transplant**, would you do it? Why? / Why not?
3. Have you ever **given blood**? What happened? How did you feel afterwards? Why do people give blood? What are some of the reasons why people don’t give blood? Do you carry a **donor card** so that somebody could use parts of your body after you have died? Why? Why not?
4. Do you think it’s right for **terminally ill** people to **take their own lives** (**euthanasia**)? Why? / Why not?
5. Tell me five ways in which you would improve your local hospital if you had an **unlimited** budget. Give reasons for your decisions.

##### Hospital

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. I’m **scared** of going into hospital.
2. I would never **give blood**, because it’s too **dangerous**.
3. **Health care** is too **expensive** – it should be free.
4. The best thing about being in hospital is the food!
5. “A doctor, like anyone else who has to deal with human beings, each of them **unique**, cannot be a **scientist**; he is either, like the **surgeon**, a **craftsman**, or, like the **physician** and the **psychologist**, an **artist**.” *– W. H. Auden, poet*
6. I would love to be a **nurse**.
7. I always get lost when I go and visit somebody in hospital.
8. Hospitals smell **funny**.
9. I prefer to pay for **private health care**.
10. I’m **allergic** to **pain**. Even a **blood test** makes me **cry**!
11. “A hospital is no place to be sick.” *– Samuel Goldwyn, mogul*
12. There shouldn’t be male and female patients on the same hospital **ward**.
13. Hospitals are too **dirty**.
14. Hospital parking is a **racket**! It should be free!
15. I would rather **get better** at home than in hospital.
16. Mobile phones should be **banned** from hospitals.

##### Hotel

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Do you like staying in hotels? Why? / Why not? Think about different places that you’ve stayed in. Tell me about… a) the best, b) the worst, c) the most **exotic**, d) the **dirtiest**, e) the **poshest**,

f) the strangest, g) the cheapest. Which would you recommend? Have you been back?

1. What kind of **guest** are you when you stay in a hotel? How does your behaviour **differ** from when you are at home? Do you **tidy** your room before the **maid** comes to clean it? Do you leave **generous** tips for hotel staff? Do you **steal** the towels or little **shampoos** from the bathroom? Give examples.
2. Would you like to work in a hotel? Why? / Why not? If yes, which job would you like to do? Which job(s) would you never try? Why not?
3. Describe a typical day’s work for each of these people: a) a maid, b) a waiter, c) a receptionist,

d) a **bouncer**, e) a **duty manager**, f) a **head chef**. Which job do you think is… i) the easiest,

ii) the hardest, iii) the most fun? etc.

1. Define **hospitality**. Are you a **hospitable** person? Do you enjoy having friends and family to stay at your house? Do you often have **dinner parties** and / or **barbecues**? Why? / Why not? Have you ever had to give hospitality to somebody when you didn’t want to? What happened? Tell me more.
2. Compare the advantages and disadvantages of having a holiday… a) at a **B&B**, b) at a four-star hotel, c) at a campsite, d) at **self-catering accommodation**, e) at home, etc. List the places **in order of preference**.
3. If you were the manager of a **grotty two-star** hotel that was **in danger of closure**, how would you try to **boost the morale** of your **fretful** staff team?
4. Do you use the **spa** and **leisure facilities** when you stay at a hotel? Have you ever had a **massage**, or tried **alternative therapies**? What happened?

##### Hotel

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. A hotel is a place where I feel I can completely relax and **chill out**.
2. I like to use the same hotel when I visit a place again.
3. I believe the saying is true: **the customer is always right**.
4. In general, hotel **staff** have to work really hard for very low wages.
5. “**Hospitality** is making your guests feel at home, even though you wish they were.” *–* ***Anonymous***
6. I would rather **go self-catering** than pay for a hotel.
7. Hotel staff should all have excellent **communication skills**, and be **multilingual**.
8. I love having guests to stay at my home.
9. “A hotel isn’t like a home, but it’s better than being a house guest.” *– William Feather*
10. **Home-cooked** food generally tastes much better than hotel food.
11. I tend to lose my **swipe card** or key within a few hours of **booking in** at reception.
12. “I’ve always thought a hotel **ought to** offer **optional** small animals. I mean, a cat to sleep on your bed at night, or a dog of some kind to act **pleased** when you come in. You ever **notice** how a hotel room feels so **lifeless**?” *– Anne Tyler*
13. When I **host** a **dinner party** I’m always **the life and soul of the party**.
14. Hotel staff should always smile and be **polite** – even if they don’t mean it.
15. “There’s no place like home!” *– Dorothy in ‘The Wizard of Oz’*

##### Internet

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. How often do you use the internet? What do you do online? What are your favourite websites? Why? Do you spend too much time **surfing the ’net**? Do you know anyone who doesn’t use the internet? Why don’t they?
2. What are the **benefits** of the internet? What can you do now that you couldn’t do before? What are the **disadvantages** of the internet?
3. Can you remember life before the internet? How did you **communicate** with your family and friends? Do you communicate with people more often now, as a result of the internet? Can you imagine life without the internet? What **impact** would it have on your everyday life?
4. How often do you visit **social networking** sites? Which ones? Why are they so popular? Do you feel that your personal information is **safe** online? If no, what **steps** could you take to **protect** yourself?
5. Have you got your own **website** or **blog**? If yes, tell me about it. How did you create it and why? How easy is it to **build** and **maintain** a website? What factors do you need to consider?
6. How has the internet changed in the last ten years? How do you think it will change and develop in the next ten years?
7. Are you happy with your **ISP**? Is your **internet connection speed** fast enough? How much does it cost per month? Is it good value for money? Should everybody in the world have free access to the internet? Why? / Why not? What positive benefits could result? Who would pay for it? How would it be achieved?
8. Do you think that the internet should be controlled by your **government**, or by an **international agency**? Why? / Why not?

##### Internet

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. I spend my whole life **online**.
2. The internet is the most important **invention** since the telephone.
3. Children and young people under the age of eighteen should be **banned** from using the internet for their own **safety**.
4. “The internet is just a world passing around notes in a classroom.” *– Jon Stewart*
5. Getting internet access is like **attaching** a **raw sewage pipe** to your home.
6. I’ve never tried shopping on the internet.
7. Illegal **downloading** is **killing** the **creative industries**.
8. “The internet isn’t free. It just has an **economy** that makes no sense to **capitalism**.” *– Brad Shapcott*
9. I feel more confident **posting** my opinions online than I do talking about them in the real world.
10. I’m happy to **share** personal information about my life and my family with **strangers** on the internet.
11. I’m worried that somebody will steal my **identity**.
12. “The internet is the world’s largest library. It’s just that all the books are on the floor.”

* *John Allen Paulos*

1. There is too much **advertising** on the internet.
2. It isn’t safe to bank online.
3. The government should do something about **offensive** websites.
4. I would prefer to receive a **letter** or card than an email.

##### Laughter 1

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is **laughter**? Can you spell it? Can you **pronounce** it? How do you write laughter in your language, e.g. ‘ha ha!’ in English, but ‘jaja!’ in Spanish?
2. When did you last laugh? Who or what made you laugh? How often do you laugh? What would I need to do to make you laugh right now?
3. Do you like laughing? What is the difference between laughing and **smiling**?
4. How do we laugh? What happens to our bodies, especially: a) mouth, b) eyes, c) chest,

d) **diaphragm**, e) heart, f) breath? What does laughter: a) sound like, b) look like, c) feel like?

1. Where do you usually laugh? Why? What effect would laughter have on the **atmosphere**:

a) at a party, b) at a business meeting, c) in church, d) at a comedy club, e) at a **funeral**, f) in an exam,

g) at a family dinner, h) at the doctor’s?

1. Are you **self-conscious** about laughing in front of: a) friends, b) family, c) **strangers**? Why?
2. Is it easier to laugh in a big group e.g. at a **comedy club** or at the theatre? Would you laugh as much if you were the only person in the **audience**? If no, why not?
3. Is laughter ever wrong? When is laughter **inappropriate**? Can it be **illegal** to laugh?
4. How would you feel if you couldn’t stop laughing? Is it possible to **die laughing**?
5. What is the point of laughter? Is there any **evolutionary advantage**? Does laughter send out useful

**signals**, e.g. that the one laughing is not a **threat**?

1. Do animals laugh? Do animals find things funny? If not, why not – and why do we?
2. Can **robots** laugh? Do you think machines will enjoy our **sense of humour** in the future?
3. Have you ever laughed till you cried? Have you ever laughed until you couldn’t **breathe** and thought you might **black out**? What were you laughing at? Do you like that **sensation**? Why? / Why not?
4. Can laughter be **subversive**? Can it be used as a **weapon**? Does **satire** make you laugh?

##### Laughter 2

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Is there anything that you wouldn’t laugh at? What? Is it possible to laugh even though you don’t really find something **funny**?
2. Do you know anybody who doesn’t laugh very often – or who never laughs? Why is that?
3. Are you **good at** making people laugh? What are the best ways to make other people laugh? How do you feel when a group of people are laughing: a) because of you, b) at you?
4. What are the benefits of laughter? Is laughter ‘**the best medicine**’, for example?
5. How would you describe your laugh? Are you a loud, **moderate**, or quiet **laugher**?
6. Describe the difference(s) between these different kinds of laughter: a) **chuckle**, b) **giggle**, c) **cackle**,

d) **guffaw**, e) **snigger**, f) **sneer**, g) **chortle**, h) **hoot**, i) **titter**, j) **snicker**, k) **roar**, l) **snort**, m) **howl**,

n) **fall about laughing**? Do you laugh in all these ways? In what situations? Give me some examples.

1. Do you know the meaning of these **idioms** about laughter? a) **to have a laugh**, b) **to have the last laugh**, c) **to get the giggles**, d) **to be laugh-a-minute**, e) **he who laughs last laughs longest**,

###### f) to laugh your head off, g) to burst out laughing?

1. Do adults laugh at different things to children? Do women laugh at different things to men? Do you agree that **the couple who laugh together, stay together**? Is it important for married couples to have the same sense of humour? Why? / Why not?
2. Is it possible to change your **mood** from angry to happy by **forcing** yourself to laugh, thus releasing the **feel-good** chemicals **endorphins** in the brain?
3. Do the things you laugh at change as you get older, or remain **broadly** the same? Why?
4. How would you feel if you were walking down the street and heard the following people laugh?
5. a baby, b) a group of women, c) a group of teenage boys, d) a **lone** man, e) a lone woman? Why?
6. Do you agree with this **quotation** from the famous poem ‘**Solitude**’ by Ella Wheeler: “Laugh, and the world laughs with you; **weep**, and you weep alone”? What does it mean?

##### Learning English

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Why are you learning English? Have you got any **qualifications** in English? Would you like to

**achieve** a qualification? Which one(s)? Are you **self-motivated**, or do you have to study English?

1. When did you start learning English? Who was your first teacher? What did you do in your first lesson? How did you feel about it?
2. Who is your favourite English teacher, past or present? Why? How have they helped you? Describe a **typical** lesson.
3. Have you ever been to the UK? Tell me about it. Do you think you need to spend time in the UK or an **English-speaking** country to learn English well? Why? / Why not?
4. What kind of learner are you? Are you a **kinetic** learner, who learns by **physically** doing something **practical**; a **language-orientated** learner, who thinks in words and enjoys reading and listening; a **visual** learner, who thinks in pictures, and learns best by **visualising concepts**; or a **logical** learner, who thinks in terms of **patterns** and **sequences**, and enjoys puzzles and maths?
5. Do you use English outside the classroom? Do you… a) speak in English with friends and **relatives**,
6. watch English-language TV shows with subtitles, c) listen to music with English **lyrics**, d) use the internet in English, e.g. **social-networking** sites, Skype, etc.? If not, why not?
7. Tell me about the other students in your English class. Who is your best friend in the class? Describe them. Who don’t you get on with? Why not?
8. What do you think about your level of English? Are you happy with it? What do you need to **improve**? Why? How will you achieve your **goal**?

##### Learning English

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. English is the most important language in the world.
2. Learning English is boring.
3. My English is getting better all the time.
4. “The **roots** of education are **bitter**, but the fruit is **sweet**.” *– Aristotle*
5. I don’t like my English teacher.
6. I’m one of the best students in my class.
7. “Education is the **movement** from **darkness** to **light**.” *– Allan Bloom*
8. I prefer group discussion activities to working on my own.
9. It’s easier to learn English than my language.
10. I never forget to do my homework.
11. “The **foundation** of every **state** is the education of its **youth**.” *– Diogenes*
12. I feel **confident** enough to speak to **strangers** in English.
13. Life would be easier if everybody spoke the same language.
14. I will never get beyond this level of English!
15. “Education is what **survives** when what has been learned has been **forgotten**.” *– B. F. Skinner*
16. English **grammar** just doesn’t **make sense**!
17. I find it easy to learn new English words.
18. **Vocabulary** is more important than grammar.
19. I know more than two thousand English words.
20. I try to learn at least forty new words **per week**.
21. I use a **vocab notebook** in lessons to **record** new words.
22. I’ve got a good dictionary that I take with me everywhere.
23. I’m interested in finding out the **origins** of words (**etymology**).
24. My first language has a large vocabulary – like English.

##### Media 1

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is your favourite… a) radio station, b) DJ, c) TV channel, d) TV programme, e) newspaper,

f) **magazine**, g) website, h) **podcast**, i) **gadget**, j) technology **brand**? Why? Which do you dislike? Why?

1. Radio is over a hundred years old. Why hasn’t it ever been **replaced** by a more **modern** form of media?
2. Do you approve of the actions of the **paparazzi**? How do they manage to **make a living**? Do certain celebrities invite **prying eyes**? If yes, who…, how…, and why?
3. Would you prefer to be able to receive over a thousand **mediocre** TV channels, or just four really

**brilliant** ones?

1. Why is **social networking** so popular? Are you part of a social network? How did we use to keep in touch before the arrival of social networking?
2. Who is your favourite **TV presenter**? Would you like to become one? Why? / Why not? What **qualifications** and skills do you think you’d need to be successful?
3. What would happen if the media just stopped production? How would it affect your life?
4. How do **freesheets** (free newspapers) make money? Is it a good **business model**?
5. Which TV shows get you and your friends and family talking, producing ‘**water cooler moments**’? How do they achieve such an **effect**?
6. Should the internet be **censored** so that it contains only **material** that everybody agrees with?
7. Do you **subscribe** to any magazines? If yes, why? What do you like about them?
8. Is it possible to access an **unbiased** source of news? Why? / Why not?
9. Why is it much cheaper to buy a radio than a television or mobile? Which form of media offers the best value for money?
10. Do you know anybody who is a complete **Luddite** or **technophobe** (**fearing** and rejecting new **technology**) – or are you one? What effect does this have on their (or your) life? Should we always gratefully **embrace** new **technological advances**, or should we be more **cautious**?
11. Describe what you think the next popular form of **mass media** will look like.

##### Media 2

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. If you could keep only one **form** of media, which would you choose? Why?
2. Do you listen to **drama** on the radio? How does it differ from drama on TV or in films?
3. Are newspapers becoming **obsolete**? If yes, why? Do you think they’ll still be around in ten years’ time? If not, what will replace them? Will it be a **change for the better**?
4. Why do **technology** companies continue to produce more and more new **gadgets**, and updates for existing gadgets? Haven’t we got enough **devices**?
5. How can students use different parts of the media to improve their language skills?
6. Who controls the **remote control** in your home? Why? How did they **gain** this power? How do you feel about this situation?
7. Are these things too **expensive**: a) magazines, b) internet connection, c) **satellite TV packages**,

d) newspapers, e) **TV licence**? What media is available to you **for nothing**?

1. Imagine that you could be a top radio DJ and present your own two-hour show. What kind of music or **speech content** would you **broadcast**? What **guests** would you book? Imagine the **running order** for the show.
2. Do you think of the planet when purchasing new **consumer goods**, such as mobiles, MP3 players and flat screen TVs? What kind of **natural resources** are required to produce these products? Where do these resources come from? What happens to the consumer goods that we **throw away**? How do you **dispose** of **waste generated** by using the media?
3. Why do newspapers contain so many **articles**? Nobody can possibly read them all!
4. How **influenced** are you by the media? How does it **affect** your **decisions**?
5. How is the media **funded**? How much do you pay towards it? How much should we have to pay? Do you pay to surf the internet? What do you think about **adverts** in the media, e.g. on TV or on the radio / internet? How far do they **dictate** your spending habits?
6. Do you like hearing and reading about **celebrities** in the media? Why? / Why not?
7. Should the government **control** the press? Why? / Why not?
8. If you could choose *anybody*, who would you most like to **interview** for a newspaper / magazine article? Choose one living person and one dead person. Why would you choose them? Think of three questions to ask each. Invite your partner to **imagine** their answers.

##### Media

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. I really need a new **mobile**.
2. “Radio is a **medium** of **entertainment** which **permits** millions of people to listen to the same joke at the same time, and yet remain **lonesome**.” *– T. S. Eliot*
3. We have so many TV channels, but there’s never anything to watch.
4. I set aside ‘**me time**’ especially to read my favourite magazine.
5. The media is too **invasive**. I feel I’m being **overwhelmed** by the **constant flow** of new information.
6. I’ve never listened to a podcast in my life. I don’t see **the point**.
7. Online news and **blogging** is sounding the **death knell** for **traditional** newspapers.
8. I love reading the latest celebrity **gossip**.
9. I hate people who give away free newspapers in the street. They’re always **getting in my way** – and they **won’t take no for an answer**!
10. The media continually **distracts** us from what is important in life.
11. “Where **ignorance is bliss** it’s foolish to borrow your neighbour’s newspaper.” *– Kin Hubbard*
12. I wouldn’t **recognise** any of the artists in the **Top 40**, **I’m afraid**!
13. I’m in charge of the **remote control** in my home.
14. “I find television very **educating**. Every time somebody turns on the **set**, I go into the other room and read a book.” *– Groucho Marx*
15. Most of what the **news media** produces is either **speculation** or **downright lies**, with very little information that is actually true.
16. Children and teenagers should not have the internet in their bedrooms.

##### Money

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Are you **rich**? How much money have you got with you at the moment? What are you going to **buy** today? Have you got any **loans** or **credit card debts**, etc.? If yes, why did you need to take the credit? If no, why not? Would you consider it in the future?
2. Would you like to be a **millionaire**? Why? / Why not? What would be the advantages and disadvantages of having **bags of money**?
3. Have you ever been a **victim** of **theft**? What happened? Tell me about it.
4. How **generous** are you? Do you like to **share** what you have? Do you give to **charity**? Why? / Why not?
5. How much money do you usually spend… a) on food and drink **per month**, b) on **accommodation**

per month, c) on your partner’s birthday present, d) on Christmas presents?

1. Do you think that people should have to pay **tax**? What would happen if nobody paid tax?
2. Tell me about your bank. Which bank are you with? How long have you been with them? Why did you choose them? What **benefits** do they offer? Would you **recommend** them?
3. What is the **easiest** way to make money? Have you ever tried it? Tell me about it. What is the **hardest**

way to make money?

##### Money

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. If I found £50 in the street, I would **hand it in** at a police station.
2. You’re nothing unless you’ve got **cash**.
3. It is **unsurprising** that men **earn** more than women.
4. We should help people who don’t have a lot of money.
5. “What’s money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night and in between does what he wants to do.” *– Bob Dylan*
6. If everybody simply **shared** everything they had, the world’s problems would be solved.
7. My parents didn’t give me enough **pocket money** as a child.
8. It’s better to spend than to save. Enjoy each day and don’t worry about the **future**!
9. “**Charity begins at home.**” Giving to charity is a waste of money. People should **help themselves**.
10. Having a million pounds would cause more **stress** than having a normal **salary**.
11. It’s better to keep your money at home under the bed, than to **trust** a bank!
12. I always **lend** my money to friends, if they ask me.
13. “A wise man should have money in his head, but not in his heart.” *– Jonathan Swift*
14. I’ve never thought about **stealing** anything – even a pen from work.

##### Parenting

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Do we need parents? Why? / Why not? Tell me about your parents. What do / did you call them,

e.g. mum / mother, dad / father, etc. What are / were they like? If you could **sum them up** in one sentence, what would it be? What about in one word?

1. Do / did you **get on well** with your parents? Why? / Why not? Are / were they the best parents in the world? Why? / Why not? Do you love them? Do you love them both equally? Tell me about times when they have **embarrassed** you.
2. What **advice** from your parents do you always follow? What advice from them have you **discarded**? What was the result? What **genetic** gifts have they given you, e.g. skills, interests, appearance, etc. How like them are you? Do you ever try to avoid being like them? Why? What **traditions** do you always follow that your parents began?
3. Are you a parent? If yes... why did you want to become a parent? How easy is it to be a parent? What are the **highs and lows**, the **joys** and **sorrows**? How has it changed your life? Would you rather you weren’t a parent? Why? As a parent, what are you **missing out on**? How did you feel when your first child was born? If you could **erase** mistakes you have made as a parent, what would they be?
4. If you are not a parent… would you like to be a parent? When do you think it will happen? How will it change your life? What are you doing to **make it a reality**?
5. What **rules** do parents make? How effective are they? What **training** do parents have in your country? Do you think it is **sufficient**? Do you think people should have to **pass a test** before they become parents? Would you like somebody to **judge** *your* parenting skills? Have you ever been on a **parenting course**? Would it be useful? Can we learn to be parents from a stranger?
6. What laws do parents have to follow in your country? What is the right number of children to have? Would you like being told how many children you can have? Why do some couples choose to have many children and others have just one or two? What would be the difference, in your opinion?
7. Should parents **discipline** their children? If yes, how? What form(s) of discipline work the best? Is it right for the government to **ban smacking**?
8. Is it a parent’s job to give their child whatever they want to make them happy? Why? / Why not?
9. How do you celebrate **Mothering Sunday**, Father's Day, **Grandparents**’ Day? Are they valuable traditions or just for the benefit of **card companies**?
10. Tell me about your grandparents. What are / were they like? Do you remember your **great-grandparents**? Would you like to be a grandparent? Do you think you could ever be a great-grandparent? What are the main differences between being a parent and a grandparent?
11. Why are some people **taken into care**? How would it feel not to have parents and be… a) in care,
12. in **foster care**, c) **adopted**? How would it feel to… a) foster a child for six months, b) adopt a child? Compare them.
13. Compare the different roles and responsibilities: a) mother / father, b) mother / grandmother,
14. father / grandfather, d) mother / mother-in-law, e) parent / foster parent / adopted parent, etc.
15. Why are some people unable to become parents? Why do some people not want to be parents? Why are some people **not suited to** being parents? Should everybody have the **opportunity** to be a parent? Is it a **basic human right**?

##### Places in the UK

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Have you ever **visited** the UK? Why did you go? How did you get there? How long did you stay? If no, would you like to go?
2. Tell me about some **famous** places in the UK… a) a city, b) a **tourist attraction**, c) a **place of cultural interest**, d) a **place of outstanding natural beauty**, e) an **historic site**. What is your favourite place in the UK? Why?
3. Have you ever worked or studied abroad? If yes, where did you go? Tell me about something funny that happened there. If no, would you like to? Is it **beneficial** to work or study in another country? Why? / Why not?
4. Have you ever had any problems understanding **native speakers** of English with accents that differ from **Standard Pronunciation**, e.g. people from Liverpool, Australia, or Scotland? What differences did you notice?
5. Do people from each country in the UK – England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland – have **characteristics** that are **particular** to their country? What are they?
6. Are there **stereotypes** associated with people from each country? Discuss them. Is there such a thing as a **typical** British person? What is the main characteristic of people from… a) your **region**,
7. your country?
8. How do you usually feel when you visit a **foreign** country? Do people there make you **feel welcome**, or do you think that they **look down on** you?
9. How popular is British culture – music, TV programmes, fashion – in your country? Are there any British songs in your **music charts**? Does culture from English-speaking countries generally **enhance** or **damage** the native cultures of other countries?

##### Places in the UK

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. I would love to live in the UK for either work or study.
2. Britain is a cold, wet, windy country where it’s difficult to get a **tan**.
3. “Coffee in England is just **toasted** milk.” *– Christopher Fry*
4. Everybody in Britain is rich.
5. London is a great place to **visit**, but I wouldn’t want to live there.
6. “England and America are two countries **separated** by a **common language**.”

* *George Bernard Shaw*

1. English food is **terrible**!
2. I prefer watching British TV shows to those made in my country.
3. English people are too **shy**.
4. “England has forty-two **religions** and only two **sauces**.” *– Voltaire*
5. The UK is really four **separate** countries. The people of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland have got very little **in common**.
6. The best football teams in the world come from Britain.
7. People in the UK have too many different **accents**!
8. “The English are not happy unless they are **miserable**.” *– George Orwell*
9. British **politicians** can’t be **trusted**.
10. The English can be **proud** of their history.

##### Politics

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Do you **vote**? Which **party** do you usually vote for in… a) **local elections**, b) **general elections**? Why? If you don’t vote, why not? Should it be **compulsory** to vote in general elections?
2. Would you like to **get involved** in local politics – either by joining your school or **town council**, or by joining a political party and **running for election**? Why? / Why not? If yes, what would you try to change? How easy would it be to get what you wanted?
3. What is the biggest **decision** you have ever had to make? How did you **tackle** the problem? Did anybody help you? What happened?
4. Does your country have a **monarchy**? Do you think that a **royal family** is an **asset** to a country, or a **waste of money**? Why?
5. Who is the **leader** in your family? How do you know that they are **in charge**? What kind of leader are they? Is there a **hierarchy of power** in your family that everybody **follows**? Where do you **fit in**?
6. What is the **political system** in your country? How well does it work? Why do some political systems work in some countries but fail in others? Is **democracy** the best **political model** for all countries? Why? / Why not?
7. Do you hold any **positions of authority**, or have you in the past? What kind of leader are you? How do / did you make decisions within the group? How do / did you deal with people who **disagreed** with you? Do you like power? Would you rather have a lot of money or a lot of power? Why?
8. How **free** is your country? If your family’s **civil liberties** were **threatened** by your **government**, how would you **react**? Have you ever had to **resist** state **oppression**? What happened? How far would you **stand up against** authority for something that you believed in **passionately**?

##### Politics

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. **Politicians** are generally **trustworthy** people.
2. I would like to **get into** politics.
3. **Monarchies** are **undemocratic** and therefore should be **abolished**.
4. We should all try to get involved in the **decision-making processes** in our **communities**.
5. My **political views** tend to be more **right-wing** than **left-wing**.
6. “A week is a long time in politics.” *– Harold Wilson*
7. Beware **idealists**!
8. “Whoever you **vote** for, the **government** always gets in.” *– Anonymous*
9. The people we most need to get involved in politics are the very people who are least likely to do so.
10. The leader of the country is merely a **spokesperson**. The real power lies with **unelected civil servants**.
11. “Power tends to **corrupt**; absolute power corrupts **absolutely**. Great men are almost always bad men.” *– John Dalberg-Acton*
12. It doesn’t matter who is in power, as long as **the economy prospers**.
13. The media should always **support** the government in its aims.
14. My country is more **democratic** than it was twenty years ago.
15. **Social justice** will never work, because people are by nature **selfish**.
16. Once in power, most governments **tend to** do whatever they want.

##### Problems

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is the biggest problem you have **faced** so far in your life? How did you **deal with** it? Who helped you? If you had the same problem again, would you **tackle** it in the same way? Has it helped you become stronger? How?
2. Who do you usually go to for **advice** when you don’t know what to do? Have you ever had **counselling** or **therapy**? Is it easier to trust a **stranger** than somebody close to you? Would you ever write in to a magazine for advice?
3. Tell me about a problem that you’ve got at the moment. What caused it? How serious is it on a scale of 1 (not serious) to 10 (very serious)? How are you planning to **handle** it? Who will be the best person to **lend a hand**?
4. Given the choice, would you rather have ten **niggling** problems or one big problem? Why?
5. When did you last help somebody with their problems? What was the problem? What did you **propose** as a solution? What was the **outcome**? Would you **recommend** the same **course of action** if it happened again?
6. Talk about **troubles** that your family and friends are facing at the moment. What are they and how are they **coping**? Are you part of the answer?
7. Are you a **caring** person? Would you consider training to become a counsellor, and helping people for a living? Why? / Why not?
8. What **social problems** do you notice each day? What **impact** do they have upon your life? Is **education** the key to **reducing** problems in **society**? Why? / Why not? What **programmes** should be run to teach people how to make more **informed choices** about their lives? Do most people **bring their problems upon themselves**? What **steps** can be taken to prevent problems **occurring in the first place**? What other ways are there to tackle **social ills**?

##### Problems

*Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Say why. Ask your partner or small group:*

1. My life is **trouble-free**.
2. My friends **consider** me a really helpful person.
3. Problems are all **in the mind**! **Live life to the full** and you won’t feel any problems.
4. “A problem shared is a problem halved.” *– English Proverb*
5. I like to give **advice**, but I don’t always take my own advice.
6. Each person’s individual problems are more **pressing** to them than the problems of all their friends and family **combined**.
7. I need to talk to somebody about my problems.
8. I would **make** a really good **counsellor**.
9. “There is no human problem which could not be **solved** if people would simply do as I advise.”

* *Gore Vidal*

1. I’ve **been through** a lot in my life.
2. “If you can **solve** your problem, then what is the need of **worrying**? If you cannot solve it, then what is the use of worrying?” *– Shantideva*
3. I always try to avoid thinking about difficult things.
4. Adults **tend to** have more problems than children, but teenagers have to **handle** the most problems.
5. “No problem is so **formidable** that you can’t walk away from it.” *– Charles M. Schulz*
6. **Weak-willed** people will always have more problems than **strong-minded** people.
7. Any problem in life can be solved by money.

##### Radio

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Do you listen to the **radio**? If yes, when do you usually listen and for how long? Where do you listen? What do you do while you are listening to the radio? What are your **listening habits** on a typical day? How many different ways are there to listen to the radio? What’s the most **convenient** way? How do you usually listen? Do you use different ways at different times? If no, why not? Did you use to listen to the radio? What changed?
2. Who is your favourite DJ or DJs? What **station** are they on? When are they on? Why do you like them? What kind of **show** do they do? What kind of music do they play? What **features** do they have on their shows that you enjoy? Have you ever **interacted** with them, e.g. requested a song or **tweeted** them? What happened? Do you ever listen to **specialist** music shows, e.g. classical or folk music? How important is **speech radio** to you?
3. What are your memories of listening to the radio in the past, e.g. as... a) a child, b) a teenager,
4. a student, d) an adult? Did your parents listen to the radio? Did they **encourage** you to? How have your listening habits changed over the years? Do you **associate** any important life events with what was on the radio?
5. Name your top five **presenters** – from the past up to now. Describe them and their shows. Who is your least favourite radio presenter of all time? Why do / did they make you switch off? What kind of **voice** is better for radio – male or female? **Gentle** or **brash**? Quiet or loud? With an **RP** (**Received Pronunciation**) accent or with a local accent? What presenters can you think of with different kinds of voices?
6. Would you like to be a **DJ**? Why? / Why not? Have you ever thought about getting involved with

###### community radio / internet radio / hospital radio, etc.?

1. The first radio programme was broadcast in 1920. The basic **format** of a DJ, pop music, and features has remained unchanged for **decades**. Why is radio still very popular today, when we have more modern forms of media, like TV, smartphones, and the internet? What is the future for radio? Will it still be around in twenty years’ time? Who will listen? Will you?
2. Describe the differences and state which you prefer, with reasons and examples: a) radio **vs. podcasts**, b) music radio vs. **music streaming** services, e.g. Spotify and Apple Music, c) music radio vs. your own CDs/MP3 collection, d) **digital radio** vs. **analogue radio**, e) national radio vs. local radio,

f) music radio vs. speech radio, g) **phone-ins** vs. **non-stop** music, h) BBC radio vs. **commercial radio**,

1. radio **broadcast** in English vs. radio broadcast in your native language, or a foreign language,
2. **pirate radio** vs. licensed radio, k) DJ vs. presenter?
3. a) Design your own ideal radio **schedule** – for 12 hours – with a minimum of four different shows.

b) Design your own three-hour radio show; what would you include? Music, chat, features, guests, etc. Role play an **extract** from it. Record it and post it online!

##### Raw Materials 1

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Which **raw materials** do we need to make... a) a mobile phone, b) a pen, c) a **Sunday roast**,
2. an **ironing board**, e) a guitar, f) a spoon, g) a carpet, etc.?
3. Which raw material could you... a) easily live without, b) live without but it would be hard, c) not live without? Why?
4. Which materials do we **waste** the most? Why? How could we better **save**, **manage**, **reuse**, and **recycle** these materials, e.g. reuse old scrap paper as notebooks?
5. Why are some raw materials more **expensive** than others? Which raw materials are the **cheapest**? Which are the most **valuable**? Why?
6. Which raw material is the most used? List the top five most used raw materials in the world today. Discuss why they are the most useful. Which are the least useful?
7. Should we use **sentient beings** (e.g. animals) as raw materials for food, clothing, shoes, entertainment, sport, etc.? Would you be happy to **trap**, **catch**, kill, cook, and eat your own **meals**? Why? If no, why not?
8. Should we use animals for our entertainment, e.g. **bullfighting**, **cock fighting**, **dog fighting**, in **circuses**, etc.?
9. What things can you do **from scratch**? Can you... a) build a fire outdoors, b) catch, kill, and cook your own food, c) make clothes, d) **knit** a jumper, e) make furniture, f) write and perform an entertaining show, g) build a car from a **kit**, etc.? What would you like to be able to do that you can’t do at the moment?
10. How often do you think about the raw materials in the products that you buy? Do you ever wonder how many thousands of **miles** the materials in your hand have travelled to be there? Does it make any difference to your life? Why? / Why not?
11. Which raw materials have been used to make the things around you where you are now? Are they

**natural** or **processed**? How have they been processed?

1. How important is **recycling** to you? Do you recycle regularly? Why do other people want us to recycle materials? Is it a good idea? Why? / Why not? What can we make from recycled... a) paper and card, b) plastic, c) glass, d) metal, e) **fabric**, etc.?
2. Can you make something useful or beautiful out of... a) wood, b) metal, c) glass, d) paper,
3. fabric, f) **wool**, g) **clay**? If not, why not? Would you like to learn one or more of these **crafts**? How could you learn them?
4. How does **intensive mining** for raw materials affect **local communities** across the globe? Does it affect *your* community? If yes, how? If no, how would you feel if it did?
5. What are the raw materials of your life? What is your life **made up of**, e.g. **friendship**, love, work, etc. What are the raw materials of... a) a successful life, b) a happy life, c) a happy marriage, d) a happy family, e) a good friendship, f) a great **career**?

##### Raw Materials 2

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Do we need to **continually** buy new ‘**must-have**’ **gadgets**? How often do you **upgrade** your…

a) mobile phone, b) laptop, c) tablet, d) car? Do you need to upgrade them so often? What happens to your old **devices** and gadgets? Can they be fully **recycled**?

1. Why is the earth so **rich** in useful **natural resources**? Have you ever held in your hand…

a) **raw gold**, b) wool from a **freshly shorn** sheep, c) fresh rainwater, d) fresh milk from an **udder**,

e) newly fallen snow, f) natural cotton, g) a **fossil**, h) coal?

1. Will the planet’s raw materials ever **run out**? Which raw materials have already run out? Which are close to running out? What will happen when all the raw materials have been used? Which raw materials used for **fuel** are running out? Should we be **concerned**? Which raw materials are **infinite**, if any?
2. Could you live in the wild? Could you gather raw materials? How and where? Do you agree with the **hypothesis** that **humankind** is the only **species** that is not **naturally adapted** to life on earth? For example, we need clothes, tools, heating, etc. while other species do not. How do we make life more **comfortable** for ourselves?
3. Would you like to work as a... a) **miner**, b) **sheep shearer**, c) **fisherman**, d) **metalworker**,

e) **butcher**, f) **lumberjack**, g) **cotton picker**, h) **JCB driver**? Why? / Why not? Are they well paid jobs? Is the work easy and comfortable? Imagine a typical day in the life of one or more of these people.

1. Why are people who collect raw materials often so badly paid? Why can it be so difficult to collect the **fruits of the earth**? How do you feel about **child labour** being used to bring us raw materials...

a) in the past, b) today?

1. How long have you had your mobile phone? How long will you keep it for? How long could it last **potentially**? How will you get rid of it? What will happen to it? What is its **life cycle**? How could you possibly extend it?
2. Could you live on only natural medication, i.e. **homeopathic remedies**? Why? / Why not? Since mankind has **existed** for more than two hundred thousand years without modern medicine, why couldn’t you? What raw materials are humans made of?
3. Why do we **rely on** plastic to make so many products? Could we ever get rid of plastic completely? Will plastic end when the **oil** runs out? Since plastic is in the **food chain** due to plastic waste in our oceans, are we **part-plastic**?
4. Research then describe to your partner: find out how to make... a) paper, b) glass, c) steel,

d) leather, e) honey, f) a diamond, g) a tin can, h) a beef burger, i) wine.

1. Which countries do raw materials come from? Why are countries which are so rich in raw materials often among the **poorest** on earth?
2. Compare two different materials, e.g. wood and glass. What is different / similar about them, their uses, how they are **harvested** and then changed in **production**?

##### Restaurants

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is your favourite restaurant? Why do you like it? How often do you go there? Who do you usually go with?
2. What do you like to **order** at a restaurant? Do you always order the same thing?
3. Do you leave a **tip** for the waiter / waitress when you pay? If yes, how much do you leave? If not, why not?
4. Have you ever worked in a restaurant? Would you like to? Why? / Why not? Imagine what a normal

**shift** would be like.

1. Are you an easy customer or a **difficult customer**? Give examples.
2. Has anything **funny** or **surprising** ever happened to you in a restaurant? Tell me about it.
3. Would you like to own a restaurant? Do you think it would be a good **investment**? Why? / Why not? Why do people **set up** or buy restaurant businesses?
4. Is restaurant food better than **home-cooked** food? Are you a good cook? Do you prefer home-cooked food? Why?
5. Have you ever had **food poisoning** or **felt sick** after visiting a restaurant? What happened? Tell me about it.
6. Do you like to visit different restaurants while on holiday, or do you **stick to** the hotel restaurant?
7. Why do we need restaurants? What **social / cultural functions** do they have?
8. What would happen if there were no more restaurants from next week?
9. Do you prefer small and **cosy** restaurants to large busy ones? Why? Give reasons.
10. Have you ever **complained** about the food or **service** at a restaurant? Tell me about it.
11. If you could have a meal at a restaurant with five famous people (alive or dead), who would you **invite** and where would you **dine**? What do you think you would talk about? Who would be the most fun? Who would **refuse** to pay **the bill**? Why?
12. Is it better to work in a restaurant than a shop? Why?
13. Can you guess what my favourite restaurant is?
14. Do you think restaurants should play **background music** or have a quiet **ambience**? Why?
15. What is the **oddest smell** you have ever experienced at a restaurant?
16. Have you ever **popped into** a restaurant just to use the toilet? Why? Did you **get caught**? What other funny or **forbidden** things have you done at a restaurant?

##### Robot Vacuum Cleaners

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Do you do the **vacuum cleaning** in your home? Do you like doing it? When do you do it? How long does it take? Do you find it a **chore**? What would you do with the time if you didn’t have to do it? If not, who does it? How well do they do it?
2. Tell me about your vacuum cleaner. What kind is it? What **make** is it? When did you buy it? Where did you buy it? How much was it? Why did you choose it? How efficient is it at cleaning different kinds of floor? Are you planning on **replacing** it soon? Why? / Why not?
3. Do you have a **robot vacuum cleaner**? If yes, tell me about it. Why did you buy it? If not, why not? Are you planning to buy one? Do you think they look cool? Do you think your friends, family, and **colleagues** would be **impressed** if you had one?
4. Compare a robot vacuum cleaner to your current vacuum cleaner. Do you think it would work better than your current regular vacuum cleaner? Why? / Why not?
5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of robot vacuum cleaners? Do you think that the **benefits** outweigh the potential problems / costs? Is it worth spending up to £1,000 to buy a **top-of-the- range** robot vacuum cleaner? Why? / Why not? Can it be better than a human doing the job, when it can’t pick up and move anything, or reach high places?
6. If you bought a robot vacuum cleaner would you keep your old cleaner? Do you think you need both kinds of cleaner to do a good job? How could a robot vacuum cleaner **tackle hard-to-reach** areas?
7. Would you feel **embarrassed** to let a robot do the housework, when you feel that you should do it? Would you feel embarrassed about a robot doing a better job than you? Wouldn’t it be **healthier** to be active and move around doing your own cleaning, than resting?
8. How do you **define** a robot? Do you have any other robots in your home? How do you think robot vacuum cleaners could be **improved**? How will they develop and get better in the next… a) five years,
9. ten years? Do you think that every home will have a robot vacuum cleaner **in time**?
10. Can you think of any other ways in which robots improve your life at present? What jobs would you like a robot to do for you, in an **ideal world**?
11. Do you believe a robot could do your job? Could you be replaced by a robot? Why? / Why not? What about **robot cars**? Will they become popular? Why? / Why not?
12. What is your favourite **household appliance**? If you had to keep only one, which would it be? Why? How long have you had it? What **value** does it add to your life?
13. Do you think that robot vacuum cleaners are vital for **disabled people**? How could they help?
14. Could we use robot vacuum cleaners to save money on cleaning staff at places like **office blocks**

and hotels, which have large areas for cleaning? Why? / Why not?

1. Is this kind of cleaner good for the **environment**? Why? / Why not?
2. If somebody gave you a robot vacuum cleaner, how would you feel? Would you try to sell it?

##### Singing

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is **singing**? Can you sing? Do you sing? What do you sing? When do you sing? Do you sing in the shower or sing along to the radio while in the car or at work? How would you describe your **voice**? Why do you sing? In what situations? Can you sing part of a **song** now? If not, why not? Is it **embarrassing** to sing **in public**? Why? / Why not? Would you be happy to sing on a **stage** in public for money? For how much? Why do people prefer to sing when they are on their own? What would happen if you sang more often – either at work or at home?
2. If you think you can’t sing, why is that? Do you sing **out of tune**? How can you **judge** that? Would you like to be able to sing? Have you ever had singing lessons? Do you believe that the ability to sing is **genetic** or can anybody learn to sing? Is there any advantage in being able to sing? Is it possible to improve your singing **technique**? Research has shown that only 2% of people do not possess the **required** skills. Do you agree?
3. Who is your favourite singer? Why? Do you prefer male or female voices? Do you prefer a **solo** singer or a group who sing **in harmony** together? Why? Who is the best singer of the past fifty years in your opinion? Who is the best **current** singer? How many different kinds of singer can you think of? What is the difference between singing and **rapping**? Do you like rap music? Why? / Why not?
4. Why do people sing? What uses does singing have, for example: to **celebrate**, to **worship**, to **mourn**, to **entertain**, and so on. Is singing a **necessary function** of life? Do we all sing **in private**? Why do children make up their own songs and sing so often? Do you believe that only humans can sing? Do birds sing, or is the sound that they make produced **mechanically** rather than **by choice**? What about plant life?
5. How do we sing? How are the following parts of the body used: a) **diaphragm**, b) **larynx**,
6. **vocal cords**, d) tongue, e) teeth, f) **chest**, g) head? Have you ever watched a very good singer and noticed how they use their bodies to sing? How do professional singers **warm up** their voices and how do they **take care of** them?
7. Do you think that it is a good job to be a professional singer? Why? / Why not? What would be the **hardships** and **pleasures** of this kind of job? How much money do you think they make? Is it worth being a **busker** – singing in the street all day? Imagine a day in the life of… a) an opera singer,

b) a pop singer, c) a busker, d) a **vocal coach**, e) a singer in a **musical**, f) a **children’s entertainer**…

1. Have you ever joined a **choir**? Tell me about it. If not, would you like to? Why do people sing in their **spare time** for free? Is **community** singing enjoyable? Why? / Why not? Have you ever sung in a foreign language? Do you sing in church, or as part of a service of worship? Does singing have a **spiritual significance** for you?
2. What is your favourite song? Who sings it? Have you ever heard it sung by another person? What is the **effect** when different people record a version of the same song? Have you ever written a song? Would you like to be a famous **singer-songwriter**? Why? / Why not?

##### Social Networks

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is the **definition** of a social network? What makes something a social network? What essential

**qualities** does it have to have?

1. Which **social networks** do you use? What do you use them for?
2. What is your favourite social network? Why? What is **unique** about it?
3. Does **peer pressure fuel** the growth of social networks?
4. Which social networks are the **coolest**? What makes them cool? Which social networks are **uncool**? What makes them uncool?
5. Do you prefer to access social networks on a laptop, tablet, or mobile phone? Why?
6. How many social networks do you belong to? What was the first social network you joined? What was the last social network you joined? Why did you **sign up** for it?
7. Which social network has the most useful functions? Have you ever sold anything on a social network? Have you ever bought **ads**? How **satisfied** were you with the **results**?
8. Which social network is the most fun? Why? Which social networks are boring? Why?
9. If you could keep only three social networks and the rest **disappeared for good**, which ones would you choose and why? If you could keep only one, which would you choose and why?
10. Can you remember a time before social networks? How did you... a) make new friends online,
11. have fun online, c) **discover** the news online, d) share photos and videos online?
12. How did people **keep in touch with** friends in the past, before social networks came along? Would you like to go back to those days? Why? Why not?
13. Which social network is best for… a) sharing photos with friends, b) making new friends,
14. listening to music, d) watching films, e) finding new **work contacts**, f) learning, g) making calls,

h) texting, i) selling your belongings. Give reasons for your choices.

1. Are social networks **essential**, or an **unnecessary distraction**? Can you imagine a world without them? Give reasons for your answers.
2. What **dangers** do social networks **pose**? Are you happy to **trade** your **privacy** in order to get free **access** to a social network? Why? / Why not? Would you **pay monthly** to get more privacy on a social network? Why? / Why not?
3. Have you ever had a problem using a social network? Tell me about it.
4. What do you do when you see something you don’t like, or don’t agree with, online?
5. Do you think that children should **be allowed** to **register** for social networks? Why? / Why not?
6. Is the number of friends or followers that you have on social networks important to you? Why? / Why not? How many friends have you got on Facebook? How many of them are real friends? What about on other social networks?
7. Do you **rely on** social networks to get… a) local news, b) national news, c) international news? How **reliable** do you think the **news sources** are?

##### Summer

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. How many **seasons** are there in your country? What is your favourite / least favourite? Why? Do you **look forward to** summer? Why? / Why not? What do you like and dislike about it?
2. How is summer different from other seasons in your country? Compare them.
3. How many days of holiday do you **normally** have in summer? Is it enough? Are you able to **switch off** and relax on holiday, or do you take your work with you, e.g. emailing?
4. Do you think school holidays are too long in your country? How long are they? Do you prefer to have a long summer holiday, or several shorter **breaks** during the year?
5. What kind of summer holiday do you prefer: seaside, lake, mountain, cruise, camping, fishing, city break, **cultural break**, adventure, desert, **jungle**, **safari**, etc.? Have you ever been on this kind of holiday? What did you think of it? Are there any that you wouldn’t like to try? Why not?
6. Where are you going on holiday this / next summer? Where would you go **if money were no object**?
7. Do you prefer to stay in your own country or go **abroad**? Why? Are you an ‘**outdoorsy**’ person? Do you like to camp? Could you survive ‘**in the wild**’ for two weeks without access to a cashpoint, shops, and restaurants? How would you **cope** if you got lost without a mobile phone?
8. What is the best summer holiday you have ever had? What has been the most memorable place you have ever visited? Why was it? Have you ever spent the night in a tent, **yurt**, cruise ship, ferry, train, **B & B**, **motel**, or five-star hotel? Tell me a story about each place.
9. Which hotel or **resort** would you **recommend**? Have you ever made friends or **fallen in love** on holiday? Did you keep in touch? Have you ever had any **disasters** on holiday? What went wrong?
10. What special events happen in your town / country in summer (e.g. cultural or sporting)? Do you usually **attend** / **take part**? If yes, describe each event. If not, why not?
11. What effect does summer have on your… a) **mood**, b) attitude, c) health, d) motivation, e) weight,

f) relationships with those around you?

1. What do you like to wear in summer? How does it make you feel? What kind of food and drink do you enjoy in summer? Is there anything you don’t eat or drink in summer? Why not?
2. Are you a good cook? Do you like to ‘**cook up a storm**’ on the barbecue with friends? Could you tell me a good recipe for a super summer **dish** and / or drink?
3. What was summer like when you were a child? What can you remember? How was summer different to now? How did you fill the long summer holidays?
4. How hot is too hot for you? When was the hottest / coldest summer you can remember? Is summer weather changing for better or worse? Is **climate change** having an effect?
5. What is your favourite summer song? Why do you like it? Can you sing it for me, please? Have you ever been to a festival? Have you ever been on a summer camp or a **school exchange**?
6. Have you ever been travelling, **hitchhiking**, or **worked your way around the world** during summer? Why? / Why not? What is your **dream trip**? What are you planning for next summer?

##### Water

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is water? Why do we need it? What do you use water for each day? How much water do you use? Where does it come from? How much does it cost? Tell me about a time when… a) you had too much water, b) you didn’t have enough water. What happened?
2. Describe and compare: a **drop**, a **trickle**, a **puddle**, a **stream**, a **spring**, a **pool**, a **fountain**, a river, a waterfall, a lake, a **glacier**, a sea, an ocean. Tell me some **containers** which can hold water,

e.g. a bucket. Is ‘water’ **countable** or **uncountable** in your language? Why is it uncountable in English?

1. What kinds of weather involve water? How do they affect your day-to-day life? Why is more than 71% of the planet covered with water? What is the **water cycle**? Describe it. Are you concerned about water **pollution**? Do you drink **bottled water**? Do you think we should **dump** plastic waste in the oceans? Why? / Why not?
2. Do you like drinking water? Why do we **consume** drinks other than plain water? Do you like ice in your drinks? What else do we use it for? Why do our bodies contain so much water – around 50-60%?
3. What leisure activities are connected with water? Which ones do you enjoy? Do you like swimming? How did you learn to swim? Tell me about your local swimming baths. How clean are they? Have you got a **paddling pool** or outdoor pool? Have you ever been ‘**free swimming**’ in a lake or river? What happened? If not, would you like to?
4. Have you ever been **scuba diving**? Why can’t **human beings** breathe **underwater**? What would the difference be if we could? What would it mean for **marine life**? Would you like to be **amphibious** like a frog or **duck-billed platypus**? Where would you go? What would you do?
5. How dangerous is water? Discuss the following: **capsizing**, **drowning**, **squalls**, **typhoons**, **tsunamis**, **marine life**, **dehydration**, **overhydration**, **hypothermia**, drinking **polluted** water, slipping over, **plastic particles** in water. Have you ever come close to danger due to water?
6. Would you like to live **beside** the ocean or go on an ocean cruise? Tell me about some of the **creatures** that live in the ocean. What is your favourite? Do you eat fish and / or seafood regularly? Have you ever caught your own meal, cooked it, and eaten it? How does that differ from buying food?
7. How is water used in business and **agriculture**? If the amount of water we have on the planet is finite, how can we **secure safe access** to it for everybody? If water is constantly ‘**recycled**’, have you ever considered that the water you drink could once have been drunk by a dinosaur or a famous figure from history like **Pocahontas** or **Boudicca**?
8. Have you ever travelled by... a) sailing boat, b) ferry, c) **catamaran**, d) motorboat, e) **barge**,

f) **canoe**, g) **narrowboat**, h) **pedalo**, i) **yacht**, j) **pleasure cruiser**, k) **steamer**, l) submarine,

m) surfboard, n) **dinghy**, etc.? Compare and contrast your experiences.

1. When is water… a) awesome, b) annoying, c) **deafening**, d) **terrifying**, e) beautiful, f) **fascinating**,

g) ugly, h) **refreshing**, i) hilarious, j) **mysterious**, k) expensive?

1. Discuss these water idioms: a) Have you ever felt **like a fish out of water**? b) Do you usually take to new things **like a duck to water**? c) Have you ever been **in deep (or hot) water**, or… d) felt like you were just **treading water**? e) Do you tend to **pour cold water** on your friends’ plans? f) Have you ever **thrown the baby out with the bathwater**? g) What **makes your mouth water**? h) Did you know that **you can take a horse to water but you can’t make it drink**… i) or that **blood is thicker than water**?

j) What does it mean if something **holds water** – or doesn’t? k) What can be **like water under a bridge**?

l) What can be **watered down**? m) Why must we try to **keep our heads above water**?

##### Windmills and Wind Turbines

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What is a **windmill**? What does it do?
2. Have you ever visited a windmill? When? Why? What did it look / feel / sound / smell like?
3. Would you live in a **converted** windmill? Would you be happy to have a **wind farm** near your home?
4. What is your favourite windmill? Why do you like it? What is your least favourite windmill? Why?
5. Do you prefer windmills or **wind turbines**? Why? What are their functions? Describe, then compare them.
6. Do **offshore** wind farms spoil the **natural landscape**?
7. Would you rather your home were powered by wind power, **solar**, gas, or **nuclear energy**? Why?
8. Why are windmills and wind turbines **designed** as they are? Can you create a completely new windmill design?
9. What would we do without windmills and wind turbines? Would the world be **better** or **worse off**?
10. What does the idiom ‘**to have a millstone around your neck**’ mean? What about ‘**it’s all grist to the mill**’?
11. If you had to choose between no more windmills or no more turbines, which would you choose? Why?
12. What does it mean ‘**to be tilting at windmills?**’ (‘*Don Quixote’)* Have you ever done that?

##### 

World Cruise

1. Have you ever been on a **world cruise**? Tell me about it. What other **water-based trips** have you made?
2. Would you like to **take a few months off** and see the world by cruise ship? Why? / Why not?
3. Which countries and cities in the world would you most like to visit? Why?
4. Which **excursions** and **overland** trips would you pay extra for? Tell me more.
5. Which parts of the world do you have **no desire** to visit? Why?
6. How would you feel being **at sea** for such a long time? Would you get **seasick**?
7. What would you do if there was an **emergency** and the ship was far from **port**?
8. How would you afford to book a cruise, including taking time off work?
9. Would you enjoy meeting other people on the ship? Would you **make friends for life**, or **get sick of**

seeing the same faces **day in, day out**?

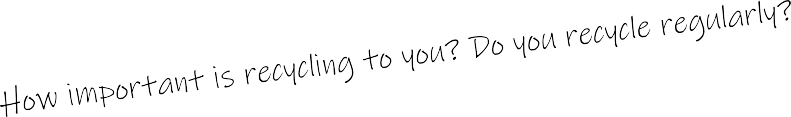
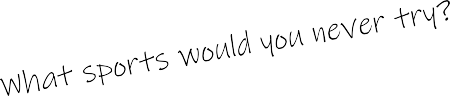
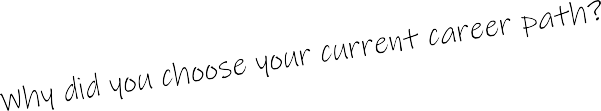
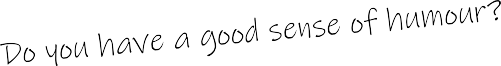
1. What would be the better **investment** – buying a new **camper van** or going on a world cruise?
2. What would you learn most from this kind of holiday?

##### Your Country

*Discuss the following questions with a partner or small group:*

1. Which country do you come from? Tell me all about it.
2. What are the people like in your country?
3. Who are some of the **famous people** in the **history** of your country? Who is famous now? What are they famous for?
4. What are the main **industries** in your country? How do people make their money?
5. Do you have a good **quality of life** in your country? Why? / Why not?
6. What are you most **proud of** when you think about your country?
7. What do you think are the main problems **facing** your country at the moment?
8. Have you ever lived in another country? If not, would you like to? Tell me more.
9. Tell me about the **natural landscape** in your country.
10. What about the different kinds of **wildlife**?
11. If I were to take a **holiday** in your country, what would be the best **places to visit**? Can you plan an **itinerary** for me?
12. What are the most famous **culinary dishes** from your country? Can you describe how to make one of them, for me, please?
13. Do you have any **unusual customs** in your country? Tell me about one of them.
14. What are the best TV shows, films, and **cultural events** from your country?

**Discussion Questions**



*… and many more!*

Pretend to be an insect, and I’ll guess which one you are!

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### All Levels