



GETTING TO KNOW SOMEONE



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:

1BAJ-47NB-EILQ



1

Warm up

It's fun meeting new people at parties or business events, but it can be difficult to know what to talk about. Which three of these topics would you most enjoy discussing with someone who you're meeting for the first time? Mark them with a tick and then compare your ideas with a classmate.

why you're at this event	work or study	hobbies and interests
food and drink	travel	books, films, TV and music
weather	hometown	family and pets

1. Which topic do you think is the most boring to discuss?
2. Are there any other topics we could include?





2

Listening



Part A: Liz and Noah meet for the first time at Becca's party. Listen to their conversation and choose the best option to complete each statement.

1. Liz and Noah are standing **in the kitchen / in the garden**.
2. Liz and Becca are **cousins / colleagues**.
3. Liz is visiting from **Malaga / Madrid**.
4. Noah is a **teacher / journalist**.
5. He has just returned from **Korea / Kenya**.
6. Liz is **very keen on cooking / not good at cooking**.
7. Noah thinks that good cooking starts with **the right ingredients / the right teacher**.

Part B: Listen to the conversation again and write the missing words in the gaps.

- Noah: So, this is a good party, _____¹ it?
- Liz: Yeah, it's so lovely to be outside. We've been lucky with the weather too, haven't _____²?
- Noah: Yeah. _____³ you work with Becca?
- Liz: No, we're cousins. I'm just visiting for the holidays. I live in Spain.
- Noah: Oh, _____⁴ in Spain?
- Liz: In Madrid. Have you ever _____⁵ there?
- Noah: No, I haven't, but I've always wanted to visit. What do you do for a _____⁶?
- Liz: I work at a bank. And _____⁷?
- Noah: I'm a journalist.
- Liz: _____⁸ a journalist? Do you enjoy your _____⁹?
- Noah: Yes, I do, because I get to travel a lot. I've just returned from a trip to Korea.
- Liz: Korea? Wow, that sounds really interesting.
- Noah: Yeah, it was absolutely _____¹⁰. And the food was amazing.
- Liz: I bet. I love Korean food, but I'm afraid I'm not much of a cook myself.
- Noah: _____¹¹ you? Well, authentic Korean food isn't so hard to make at home, but you need the right ingredients.
- Liz: _____¹² what?
- Noah: Well, first you need a kind of chilli paste ...

How do you think the conversation will continue?



3

Language point

A social conversation with someone you're meeting for the first time is like a game of tennis when you try to keep the ball moving back and forth between players for as long as you can. To do this, we ask several different types of questions.

Read the examples from the dialogue and choose the best answer in 1-11 to complete the information about each type of question.

Yes-no questions

These can be answered with the words *yes* or *no*. The speaker can then add some extra information to their answer.

Example: Do you work with Becca? / Have you ever been there? / Do you enjoy your work?

We **1) can / can't** make yes-no questions with *to be* verbs.

In English, yes/no questions have a **2) falling / rising** intonation.

Question-word questions

These begin with *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, *who*, *how*, etc.

Example: What do you do for a living?

To make questions like these, remember to use the correct **3) auxiliary / active** verb and word order.

Question-word questions have a **4) falling / rising** intonation.

Short questions

These don't have a verb.

Examples: Oh, whereabouts (in Spain?) / I work at a bank. And you? / Like what?

These questions tend to have a **5) falling / rising** intonation.



Echo questions

We use these to respond and show interest in something the other person has said.

Example: I'm a journalist. ... You're a journalist? / I've just returned from a trip to Korea. ... Korea? / I'm afraid I'm not much of a cook myself. ... Aren't you?

To form an echo question, you simply repeat a key piece of information that you heard - a positive verb is repeated as **6) positive / negative**.

Echo questions have a **7) falling / rising** intonation.

Question tags

We use these to show we are finished speaking and invite the other person to speak.

Example: So, this is a good party, isn't it? / We've been lucky with the weather too, haven't we?

A question tag has **8) the same / a different** subject and tense as the main verb in the sentence. If the main verb is positive, the verb in the question tag is also **9) positive / negative**.

In conversations like these, question tags are not real questions - they invite agreement from the other person. These kind of question tags have a **10) falling / rising** intonation.

Build agreement

In this type of conversation, we also repeat information to build agreement and add emphasis in patterns like these:

Liz: Korea? Wow, that sounds really interesting. ... Noah: Yeah, it was absolutely fascinating.

The second sentence uses **11) exact synonyms / stronger synonyms**.

Practise saying all the examples with the correct intonation.



4

Practice

Complete the dialogue with the correct words according to the instructions in brackets. You may need to write more than one word in each gap.

- Will:** So, you're Ben's friend from Japan. This is your first time in the UK, _____¹?
(question tag)
- Eriko:** Yes, it is.
- Will:** When _____² get here? (question-word question)
- Eriko:** I got here on Monday.
- Will:** _____³ (echo question) And _____⁴ do you plan to stay? (question-word question)
- Eriko:** A week.
- Will:** _____⁵ (echo question) That's so short. That isn't long enough to see much of the country, _____⁶? (question tag)
- Eriko:** No, but I'm really here to see Ben. Anyway, I'll have more holiday next year and I want to visit Scotland.
- Will:** No way - I grew up in Scotland!
- Eriko:** _____⁷? (short question)
- Will:** Edinburgh mainly.
- Eriko:** I've heard it's a very beautiful city.
- Will:** It's _____⁸. (build agreement) _____⁹ interested in history? (yes-no question)
- Eriko:** Not very, I'm afraid. But I do like modern art. _____¹⁰ a good museum I should visit? (yes-no question)
- Will:** Oh yes, there are several, in fact...

Read the dialogue out loud in pairs, paying attention to rising and falling intonation.

Extra challenge: work in A/B pairs to remember and repeat this conversation. One student should cover their paper while the other student reads out loud. Then change roles.



5

Speaking

Work in A/B pairs. Follow the prompts to have a conversation with someone you're meeting for the first time.

Conversation 1 - at a work event, you work for the same company

Student A	Student B
1 yes - no question: food good / tried?	2 answer / question tag : comment on the drinks.
3 respond / question - word question : B's job?	4 give information about your job.
5 echo question : react / question - word question : where grew up?	6 give information about your hometown / short question : A's hometown?
7 give information about your hometown.	8 echo question : react / yes - no question : winter or summer weather in A's hometown.
9 repetition : build agreement in your answer.	10 say how you feel about hot or cold weather.

Conversation 2 - at a neighbourhood party, you both live in the same neighbourhood

Student A	Student B
1 question - word question : how long in the neighbourhood	2 answer / question tag : say something positive about the area.
3 repetition : build agreement / yes - no question : pets.	4 give information / short question : B's pets?
5 give information about pets and family.	6 echo question : react / give information about your partner and their job.
7 comment on A's partner's job and how tired they are.	8 repetition : build agreement / give information about your general travel plans for the summer.
9 short question : about destination	10 answer the question.



Extension: choose one of these tasks.

1. Go back to Conversation 1 or 2 and repeat the activity and try to sound more fluent. Use the right intonation for questions.
2. Write the script for Conversation 1 or 2 and check your grammar for questions. Ask your teacher to check it too.
3. Continue Conversation 1 or 2 for as long as you can.

6**Optional extension**

There are some questions that you shouldn't ask when you meet someone for the first time. Choose a word from the box to complete these awkward questions.

amazing / baby / banker / designer / election / cute / kids / name

1. Congratulations! When's your _____ due?
2. How did you vote in the last _____?
3. I can't believe you have _____. How old are you, anyway?
4. That's an interesting _____. Where do you come from?
5. Where did you get that dress - is it _____?
6. You look _____. Have you had plastic surgery?
7. You're a _____? Do you make a lot of money?
8. You're so _____. How come you're still single?

Say why these questions are awkward when you first meet someone.

If someone asks you an awkward question, you could use one of these responses. Which do you prefer?

- Why do you ask?
- I'd prefer not to say. Let's talk about something else.
- That's not really any of your business.