

# **100 Warm-Up Questions for ESL Students**



**by [roadtogrammar.com](http://roadtogrammar.com)**

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# How to use these questions

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All too often, teachers start off the lesson by saying, 'Turn to page 65...' It's important to get the students warmed up and in the mood for English with a short activity, and what better way than giving them a discussion question to get their teeth into. Encourage them to be good conversationalists!

There are 100 questions here, and they include easy and advanced topics. Some of them could be answered in one word or, if the mood takes everyone, could be an hour-long discussion. However, for most of the questions here, three to five minutes is recommended, plus another minute or two for the teacher to do a round-up. The questions here are suited to discussions in pairs or groups.

## What-If Questions

If you could have lunch with anyone in the world, who would you choose?

If money was no problem, where would you like to travel on holiday?

If you could address the whole world, what would you say?

Would you rather be a big fish in a small pond or a small fish in a big pond?

What would you do if a genie gave you three wishes?

What would you do differently if there were 30 hours in a day?

Would you like to live in America?

Would you like to live in Japan?

Would you like to travel in space?

If an alien came to Earth, where would you show it around?

# Learning English

Do you enjoy speaking English?  
What is the best way to improve your speaking?  
What is the best way to improve your listening?  
What is the best way to improve your vocabulary?  
What is the best way to improve your writing?  
What is the most difficult part of learning English?  
How is English different from your language?  
How can you be a good conversationalist?

## Motivational

Which person in your life has motivated you the most?  
Who do you admire the most?  
What is your definition of happiness?  
Name three things that make you happy.  
What are your strengths?  
Think up three ways to spice up your life and share them with your partner.  
What is your favorite saying?

## Superlatives and Comparatives

What is the funniest thing you have ever seen?  
Who is the rudest person you have ever met?  
Who was the best teacher that you have ever had?  
Do you think life was better or worse in the past?  
Do you think that computers will be smarter than humans one day?  
Who do you think is the greatest person in history?  
What is the greatest problem facing the world today?  
Are men better than women in any way?

# Likes and Dislikes

What Western dishes do you like to eat?  
What is your dream job?  
Tell your partner about your dream car.  
What phobias do you have?  
What is your favorite song?  
What is the best modern invention?  
Which is more important: love, money or health?  
Describe your ideal partner.  
Are you a pet lover?  
Would you like to be a celebrity?  
Who is your favorite celebrity?  
What was your favorite subject at school?  
What is your favorite time of the day?  
Are you a romantic person?  
What gets you really angry?  
Tell your partner about your dream house.

# Business English

Talk about a company that offers good customer service.  
Talk about a company that has poor customer service.  
How can you do well at an interview?  
What do you like most about your job?  
What do you like least about your job?  
Describe the ideal boss.  
What is your idea of a good work environment?  
Are you able to read the business pages in the newspaper?  
Do you think we should have a four-day work week?  
Would you like to own your own business one day?  
Do you think it is safe to buy things online?  
Do you enjoy traveling on business?  
Is it better to work in a large or small company?  
What makes a good boss?  
What makes a good presentation?

# Social Issues and Opinions

Do you think life is too fast-paced today?  
Are you an optimist or a pessimist?  
How has the Internet changed our lives?  
Do you agree that money is the root of all evil?  
What is the biggest threat to the environment in your country?  
What can we do to help the environment?  
Are you afraid of ghosts?  
Do you believe in the supernatural?  
Do you think people are basically cruel or kind?  
Do you believe that war is ever justified?  
Do you believe in the use of capital punishment?  
Is there justice in the world?  
Why do so many people stay single these days?  
What problems do celebrities face?  
Do you think smoking should be totally banned?  
Why do you think people smoke?  
Why do you think people gamble?  
In what cases is divorce justified?  
Is there ever an excuse for crime?  
Why do you think people carry out acts of terrorism?  
What stories have been in the news recently?  
Would you marry someone from another culture?  
Are you knowledgeable about other cultures?



# Health and Fitness

- Do you consider yourself to be healthy?
- How often do you exercise?
- Are you scared of going to the doctor?
- How long would you like to live to?
- Name some healthy foods and some unhealthy foods.

# Miscellaneous

- Tell your partner about a time something good happened to you.
- Tell your partner about a time something terrible happened to you.
- Tell your partner about the last movie that you saw.
- Give some tips on how to save money.
- What do you think the world will be like in 100 years?
- Tell your partner about your country/hometown.
- Tell your partner about the last time you went on holiday.
- If you found a wallet on the street, would you return it to its rightful owner?
- What are your plans for the weekend?
- Tell your partner about a time you were surprised.
- What personality trait do you respect in others?
- What is your country famous for?

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