

Small Talk

Some conversation questions to get you going for your first session – or the beginning and end of your regular session. These questions are meant to start conversations, so ask follow-up questions, get off topic and share your own thoughts and answers, too!

NOTE: These questions may need to be adapted, reworded and/or simplified, depending on the student's comprehension levels.

Getting to know you:

- What city do you live in?
- How long have you been in Canada?
- Have you always been in ____ (city) ____? Do you like it?
- What is your home country? / Where are you from? Tell me a bit about it?
- Do you have family in Canada?
- Do you work? Are you a student?

Fun questions:

- What is something that has made you happy today?

General small talk and life in Canada

- What is the weather today? Do you like this weather? What weather do you like best?
- Do you like the weather in Canada? Do you like the snow?
- Tell me about your family.
- What do you like about Canada?

Your neighbourhood and your home

- What kind of home do you live in – a house or an apartment?
- Do you like your home? What do you like most about your home? How long have you lived there?
- Do you like your neighbourhood? Tell me a bit about it.
- What are your favourite places in your neighbourhood? Tell me more. (Give details)

Hobbies and Interests

- What are your hobbies?
- Do you like sports? (Playing? Watching? What sports?) ***note – you may need to specify, instead of saying "sports": basketball, baseball, etc.*
- Do you listen to music? (What kind? What's your favourite?)
- Have you seen any good movies or tv shows this week?

- How long have you studied English? Do you study anything else?
- What is easy about English? What's hard?
- Do you like learning English?
- Why do you want to learn English?
- Where do you study? Does anyone help you study?

Past experiences

- What job did you want to do when you were a kid?
- Did you like school when you were a kid?
- Where did you live before you moved here? What are the biggest differences?
- Do you have any hobbies that you've stopped doing?

Weekends

- What do you like to do on the weekends?
- What's your favourite thing to do around here on the weekends? / What was your favourite thing to do on the weekends in *<country previously lived in>*
- Do you like to keep a strict schedule on the weekends? (Do you plan your weekends?)
- What do you wish you had time to do on the weekends?

TV & Movies

- Do you like watching TV or movies? Why? (or Why not?)
- What are your favourite kind of movies (or TV shows)?
- Do you have any movie stars that you like?
- Do you watch movies and TV in English? (Do you use the subtitles, too?) Why?/Why not?

Social Media

- What social media do you use? Why?
- How do you talk or message with your friends and family?
- Are there any popular social media apps that you don't like?
- In the country you came from, what are the most popular social media apps?
- Do young people use social media differently than older people?