

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!

Getting to know you:

- What city do you live in?
- How long have you been in Canada?
- Have you been in the same city the whole time? 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 one interesting thing that has happened to you since we last spoke? / What is one interesting thing that you've done since we last spoke?
- What is something that has made you happy today?

General small talk and life in Canada

- What do you think of this weather? What kind of weather do you like best? (Why?)
- Do you like the weather here in Canada? / What do you think of the weather in Canada?
- Tell me a bit about your family.
- Do you like living in the city? Or do you prefer the countryside?
- What do you like most about living here?

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 to go in your neighbourhood? Why?
- If you could move to another neighbourhood or city, would you? Where would you move? Why?

Hobbies and Interests

- What do you do when you're not studying English?
- Are you into sports? (Playing? Watching? What sports?)
- Do you listen to music? (What kind? What's your favourite?)

- Have you seen any good movies or tv shows recently?

English/Studying

- How long have you been studying English? Do you study anything else?
- What is the easiest part about English? What's the hardest?
- Why do you want to improve your English? What areas are you focusing on right now?
- Where do you study best? Do you have any study tricks or tips?

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 kind of social media do you use? Why?
- What is best for keeping in touch with your friends and family? Why?
- Are there any popular social media apps that you don't like or don't use?
- In the country you came from, what are the most popular social media apps?
- Do you think that young people use social media differently than older people?