

ITESTL-J Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom—**Self Introduction**

Change questions to fit your partner or, if necessary, skip them. Add your own questions too.

1. What's your name?
2. What are your hobbies?
3. What country are you from?
4. What countries have you visited?
5. Do you have any pets?
6. What was the last book you read?
7. Do you like to cook?
8. What's your favorite food?
9. Are you married or single?
10. Do you have brothers and sisters?
11. Are they older or younger than you?
12. Have you ever lived in another country?
13. Have you ever met a famous person?
14. How do you spend your free time?
15. How long have you been studying English?
16. What languages do you speak?
17. Tell me about a favorite event of your adulthood.
18. Tell me about a favorite event of your childhood.
19. What do you usually do on Sundays?
20. What's something you do well?
21. Which sports do you like?
22. Who is your favorite actor/actress?
23. Who has had the most influence in your life?
24. Why did you decide to take this course?
25. Why do you want to learn English?
26. What do you think you will be doing five years from now?
27. What jobs have you had?
28. What is your best memory of the U.S.?



Adapted from <http://iteslj.org/questions/>

Many of these questions come from textbooks

ITESL-J Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom—**Sports**

Change questions to fit your partner or, if necessary, skip them. Add your own questions, too.

1. Do you play any sports? What sports are you good at?
2. Were you a member of any sports team in school?
3. Did your high school have good teams? If so, in what sports?
4. Do you watch sports on TV? Which ones?
5. Do you attend live sporting events? If so, which ones?
6. Do you like watching car races?
7. Do you think everybody should practice sports?
8. Do you think playing sports helps people work better as a team at work?
9. Do you think that parents are too involved in their children's sports activities?
10. Have you ever attended a professional sports event? What was it like?
11. Have you ever tried hang gliding, sky diving, or an extreme sport? Would you like to?
12. What is the most dangerous sport you have tried?
13. Do you know how to swim? Where do you go? Who do you go with?
14. Have you done other water sports? What are they?
15. Do you think athletes earn enough money, not enough money, or too much money?
16. Is it good that professional sports are commercialized? Why or why not? Is there a better way?
17. What do you think is the most popular sport in the world?
18. What do you think of pro wrestling? Thai kick boxing? Sumo? Tae Kwan Do? Jiu Jitsu?
19. What do you think of women as hockey players? Wrestlers? Boxers?
20. What is the most popular sport in your country?
21. What is your favorite team sport? Why?
22. Do you have a favorite team? Favorite athlete? Tell me about them.
23. What new sports would you like to try?
24. Is fishing a sport? Hunting? Have you ever done these?
25. What is the difference between sports and recreation? Sports and exercise?
26. Is there a sport that you would not let your child play? Why?



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ITESTL-J Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom—**Education**

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1. Did you enjoy elementary school? High school?
2. At what age do children begin school in your country?
3. Were you a “good” student in high school?
4. Was your education typical for your country? Explain.
5. What do you remember about your teachers?
6. Were there cliques in your high school? Gangs? Bullies? Explain.
7. Did you make friends in high school that you still keep in touch with?
8. What subjects were you good at? Bad at?
9. How was English taught in your schools?
10. Are there public and private schools in your country? What is the difference?
11. Did you attend college? If yes, where? How did you choose it? What did you study?
12. Did you work (have a job) while you were a student? If so, what kind of work?
13. What is harder in your country—getting into a college/university or completing it?
14. What is a typical class size in schools in your country? Do you prefer large or small classes? Why?
15. In your country is college harder than high school?
16. Did you study abroad? If a student wants to study in your country, what advice would you give?
17. What realistic changes would you like to make in the education system in your country?
18. What is a great university in your country?
19. Where and how do young people in your country learn job skills? In school or on the job?
20. Were grades important to you when you were young? Why or why not? How about now?
21. Do you have good study skills? If so, how did you learn them?
22. Did you ever procrastinate in studying? Did you ever pull an all-nighter? Was it effective?
23. Do you enjoy studying with other students? Are you a good study buddy?
24. Do you ever skip class? Why or why not?
25. Do you know anyone who does not know how to read or write?
26. Do you know anyone who dropped out of school? What is s/he doing now?
27. Tell me more about the schools in your country?
28. If you could study something new, what would you study? Where? Why?



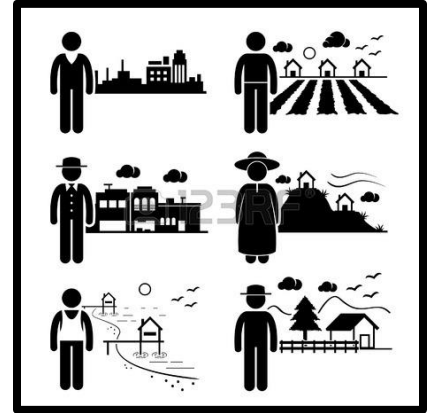
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ITESTL-J Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom—**Hometown**

Change questions to fit your partner or, if necessary, skip them. Add your own questions, too.

1. Where is your hometown?
2. Do you like your hometown? Why or why not?
3. Do you miss your home country? What do you miss the most?
4. Does anyone famous come from your hometown?
5. Does your hometown have any festivals? Tell me about one.
6. How long does it take to get from your hometown to here?
7. Has your hometown changed since you were young? If so, how?
8. Is your hometown famous for anything?
9. What is the population of your hometown? of your country?
10. What are some things in your hometown that are part of history?
11. What does your hometown produce? What does it grow?
12. What is the best thing about your hometown? the worst thing?
13. What is something fun to do in your hometown?
14. When is the best time to come to your hometown?
15. What are the main attractions in your hometown?
16. What are the main economic activities in your hometown? Agriculture, industry? What kinds?
17. Can you describe the main geographical features of your hometown?
18. What is the best season in your hometown?
19. If you could live anywhere, where would you like to live?
20. Is your hometown growing? Is this a good or a bad thing?
21. Tell me why I would enjoy visiting your hometown.
22. Does your hometown have a good college or university? Shopping? Antique stores?
23. Where is the best place to get a reasonably priced, but delicious meal in your hometown?
24. How long have you lived in your hometown?
25. Do any of your family members (still) live in your hometown?
26. Did your maternal and paternal grandparents live in the same town?
27. If you could change one thing in your hometown, what would you change and why?
28. Is your hometown a safe place to live? What crimes are most common?



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ITESL-J Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom—**Culture**

Change questions to fit your partner or, if necessary, skip them. Add your own questions, too.

1. What defines a culture? For example, music, language?
2. What do you think is interesting about your culture?
3. What do “foreign” people usually think of your culture?
4. What is something polite or impolite in your culture?
5. What do you like about your culture?
6. What is changing in your culture? How do you feel about it?
7. If you could change one thing about your culture, what would it be?
8. What has surprised you when you meet people from other countries?
9. Are there people of different cultures in your country? Are you friends with any?
10. Have you ever felt confused by the actions of someone from another culture? If so, explain.
11. Who, from your country or culture, do you admire the most? Teach me about him/her.
12. Would you ever consider marrying or dating someone from another culture? Why or why not?
13. Would you ever consider living permanently in another country? Why or why not?
14. What is something in American culture that is considered rude (or polite) in your culture?
15. If a group of people just came to your country from overseas, what advice would you give them?
16. What culture besides your own do you admire and why?
17. If aliens visited your country, what might surprise them?
18. How do you feel when you leave your home culture and enter into a completely new culture?
19. What is the best/most important thing your culture has given to the world?
20. Is language an important part of culture for you? Explain?
21. Have you adapted any customs from other cultures to be your own? Explain
22. What is something you have learned from a classmate or friend from another culture?
23. What do you think is important when visiting another culture?
24. What countries (or cultures) would you like to learn more about? Why?
25. Have you ever experienced culture shock? Or everse culture shock?
26. Who is a famous legendary or mythological character in your culture?
27. Can you tell me about art, crafts, special foods, or music in your culture?



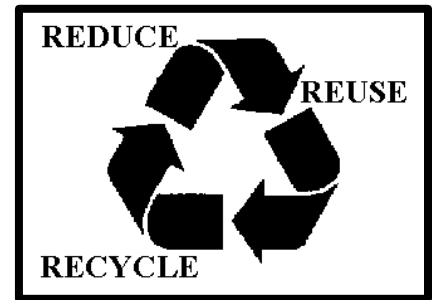
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ITESL-J Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom—**Environment**

Change questions to fit your partner or, if necessary, skip them. Add your own questions too.

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word *pollution*?
2. What different forms of pollution do you know of?
3. How bad is pollution in your hometown?
4. Do you have daily habits to help reduce pollution? Explain.
5. Do you have daily habits that add to pollution?
6. What is *littering*? How is it different from *polluting*?
7. Are there litter laws in your country? If so, are they enforced? What is the penalty?
8. What is *recycling*? What are some things that can be recycled?
9. Do you think people should be required to recycle? Why or why not?
10. Do you know how and where to recycle in Honolulu?
11. Do you think pollution will be a bigger issue in 50 years than now? Why or why not?
12. Do you think cars should be banned from city centers? Why or why not?
13. What is your country's greatest natural resource? What natural resource is most lacking?
14. What is your opinion about smoking? Is smoking a form of pollution?
15. Honolulu now bans smoking on the beaches. Do you think this is fair for smokers? Is it useful?
16. Buildings in Honolulu are often very cold to SAVE energy. Do you know why?
17. Protecting the environment is expensive. How can a developing country afford it?
18. Who is more responsible for protecting the environment? Individuals or government? Why?
19. How important is environmental protection compared to other "big" issues today?
20. Do you know about any anti-pollution programs in your community? If so, tell me about them.
21. What fuels are most common in your native country? For cooking? For electricity? Other?
22. Do you have any experience with alternative or sustainable energy? If so, explain.
23. Which form(s) of alternative energy do you think have the greatest potential? Why?
24. What are some ways water/energy is wasted in your country? How about here?
25. Is overpopulation is an environmental issue? Why or why not?
26. Is global warming caused by people or a natural process? What is our responsibility about it?



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ITSL-J Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom—Immigration

Change questions to fit your partner or, if necessary, skip them. Add your own questions too.

1. What is *immigration*? *Emigration*? *Migration*? Why do people migrate?
2. Are large numbers of people immigrating to your country? From where? Why?
3. Are large numbers of people emigrating from your country? To where? Why?
4. Are immigrants are treated well in your country?
5. Is immigration a local or a global problem? Explain.
6. Do you think there is a correlation between immigration and crime?
7. Should governments limit the number of immigrants? Why or why not?
8. Is local culture threatened by immigration? Explain and give examples??
9. How far should immigrants retain their culture?
10. Should immigrants have the same rights as native citizens? Why or why not?
11. Is there a difference between political and economic immigration? Explain.
12. Should immigrants have the right to vote? In which elections?
13. What should be done with the illegal immigrants entering a country?
14. Should the country of origin of illegal immigrants be held responsible? Why or why not?
15. Do immigrants have a good or bad reputation in your country?
16. Do you know any people who have emigrated from your country? What were their reasons?
17. Would you ever think of emigrating? Why?
18. What would be some of the issues that would concern you about emigrating?
19. Do immigrants in your community isolate themselves into a certain area? Explain.
20. Should immigrants be required to learn the local language? Why?
21. How would you help an immigrant learn the local language?
22. Should immigrants be educated in their original language or the local language? Why?
23. To what extent should official documents be written in several languages for immigrants?
24. What should be the requirements for naturalization?
25. How does an immigrant become a citizen in your country?
26. How does immigration affect the economic situation in your country?
27. To what extent has the culture of your community become richer by immigrants?



<http://iteslj.org/questions/culture.html>

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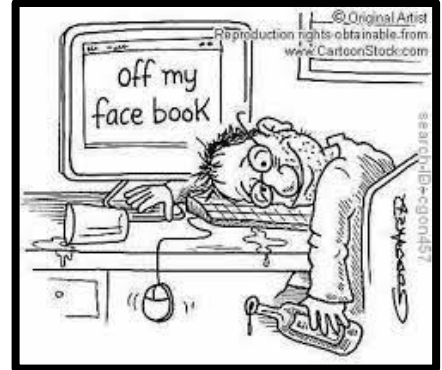
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ITSL-J Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom- Internet

Change questions to fit your partner or, if necessary, skip them. Add your own questions too.

About how many hours a day do you use the Internet?



1. What do u use the Internet for?
2. What are some security issues you must think about when you access the Internet?
3. Have you ever bought something using the Internet?
4. How can the internet help you learn English? Do you take advantage of this?
5. How can the Internet be improved?
6. Do you think our lives have been improved by the Internet? If so, how?
7. What problems does the Internet create? What problems does it solve?
8. Do you access the Internet from your mobile phone? What type of pages do you access with your phone?
9. Do you have many e-mail addresses? Why do you need more than one e-mail address?
10. Is it dangerous to meet people on the Internet? Explain.
11. Would you like to go on a date with someone you meet on the Internet? Why or why not?
12. Do you think governments have the right to censor the Internet?
13. Do you think that it is important for schools to have Internet access? Why?
14. Can you believe all the information that is published on the Internet? Why?
15. Give me a reason why you think that email is a good way for people to communicate?
16. Do you think that working at home using the Internet is good or bad? Why?
17. Are old people disadvantaged by today's usage of the Internet? How?
18. Do you think that the Internet will replace Libraries? Why?
19. Many people download songs and movies without paying any money for it. Do you think that this is a problem? Why?
20. What are some advantageous and disadvantageous of online courses?
21. Do you think that the Internet usage is an anti-social activity? Why?
22. E-commerce has become very popular. Give a reason for this?
23. Some web sites hold very dangerous information, for example how to make a bomb. How can we control these Web sites?

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ITSL-J Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom- Stress

Change questions to fit your partner or, if necessary, skip them. Add your own questions too.

1. What images spring to mind when you hear the word 'stress'?
2. What causes stress?
3. When you are stressed, how do you feel physically?
 1. Do you feel tired during the day?
 2. Can you sleep well at night?
 3. Does your stomach hurt?
4. When you are stressed, how do you feel emotionally?
 1. Do you feel nervous or worried about the stressful situation?
 2. Do you get angry easily?
5. Have you ever helped someone who was feeling stressed? What did you do? What kind of advice did you give them?
6. Do you think technology is stressful?
7. Do you think stress is ever good, useful, or necessary? Why or why not?
8. In what situations can stress be a good thing? Does stress ever make you feel more alive?
9. What are some topics that can be stressful to discuss?
10. Do you enjoy having discussions about politics with other people who have different opinions?
Explain.
11. What do you do to relax after working hard or experiencing other challenging or stressful situations?
12. Do you think life is more stressful today than fifty years ago? Why or why not?
13. Has life been more stressful for you in the US or in the country where you lived before? Explain?
14. What are some stress relieving activities?
15. Have you ever practiced yoga? If so, what was your experience like?
16. Have you ever done meditation? If so, who was the teacher and what was their instruction?
17. In what ways are mind and body connected?
18. Can you give some examples of how mind and body are connected, from your own experience.
19. Would you ever go to stress management classes? Why or why not?
20. What was the most stressful time of your life?
21. How do you interact with people when you are under a lot of stress?

