

Introduction Questions

Bored of asking the same old questions to get to know delegates at the start of a session? Here's a selection of questions that you can use to get the conversation started, and some alternatives too.

1. Favourite holiday
2. Most surprising meal
3. Best day out
4. Place you'd recommend other people visit
5. Oddest present you ever had
6. Best theatre you saw
7. Favourite film
8. Author (or book) to recommend
9. First job (obviously not so good with school-leavers!)
10. First holiday without your parents
11. Favourite toy as a child
12. Favourite TV programme as a child
13. What would be your specialist subject on Mastermind?
14. If you went on a quiz/reality TV show, which would you choose and why?
15. Band/singer you'd most like to see that are no longer going
16. If you could swap places with someone for a day, who would it be and why?
17. Favourite quality street
18. Food to ban forever
19. Song that will always get you dancing/make you smile
20. Who would you like standing on your doorstep covered in chocolate?
21. What was a lovely thing that happened to you this week?
22. What is something you are looking forward to this week?
23. What are you pleased you achieved this week?
24. If you could go back in time and relive a moment in your life what would it be and why?
25. If you didn't live NOW, which era in history would you like to have been born in?
26. Who would you have a conversation with, of anyone in the world?



27. If you had no ties and could live ANYWHERE – where would you choose?
28. Who do you not always agree with, but respect (esp good if your course concerns listening/persuading -- you can draw on it later)?
29. If you had a robot to whom you could delegate any one task (work or home) and they would do it uncomplainingly forever, which task would it be?
30. Most embarrassing thing you're prepared to admit to in front of strangers? (beware with this one you may get more than you bargained for).
31. Who would you most like to meet and why?
32. Who has been your best boss so far and why?
33. Who nicely surprised you recently with what?
34. 'What's your spirit animal?' (Much better than favourite animal, because it gets people to reflect on what animal they behave similar to. You often get some good self-deprecating humour, e.g. why I'm like a sloth or chicken).
35. Who would play you in a film of your life?
36. Use 3 words (that begin with your initial) to describe yourself
37. What do people who know you well always associate you with?
38. What song describes how you're feeling today?
39. What's the most random/unexpected compliment you've ever had?
40. Who's the most famous person you've ever met?
41. Which famous person comes from where you live?
42. If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?
43. What would be your 'last meal'? (OR – if you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?)
44. What's your signature dish?
45. What's made you smile today?
46. What's your favourite item of clothing and why?
47. Which piece of tech/gadget couldn't you live without? (to make it harder, you could say you can't repeat what someone else has already said)
48. Most used app on your phone
49. Share the last picture you took on your phone (no need to upload – just show to camera)
50. Share a little known fact about yourself

Alternatives

Ask people to come up with their own icebreaker questions by asking them to frame one or two questions to find out something about other members of the group. They need to remember that they will have to answer their own questions so it makes people be a little bit sensitive! It can take a while but is worth it if time is available because you get to know loads about people not just from their answers but also from their questions!

In our virtual world this could be a question on the pre-questionnaire - e.g. "what's one thing you'd like to ask fellow participants?" And then you can use some or all of their questions and they'll be anonymous.

Physical Exercises – e.g. you have 2 minutes to bring something that....

Pictionary – get people to use pen and paper to draw something about themselves and hold it up to the camera.

Charades – ask people to mime a fact about them (give them a theme though – like hobbies). Only good for small groups though!!!