

Asking Questions 1

Here are some good reasons to ask questions during a conversation:

- to show you are interested in what the other person is saying
- to expand the conversation topic
- to make sure you understood what the person said

Remember not to interrupt the speaker by asking a question. Save your question until the speaker pauses or it's your turn to be the speaker.

If you don't understand something and you don't want to interrupt the speaker, use your facial expression to signal "I don't understand." If you are speaking and your partner looks puzzled, find out why the person gave you that signal. You could ask, "Do you understand what I'm saying?" or "Do you know what I mean?"

Check each box that describes a good reason for each question in the conversations below. There may be more than one good reason for a question.

1. "The sad thing was that poachers killed her gorilla."
"What are poachers?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand
2. "I can't wait to leave for the Grand Canyon."
"When are you going?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand
3. "I just got the expansion pack for my favorite video game."
"What do you like best about video games?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand
4. "My cousin is going to live with us for a while."
"How long do you think your cousin will stay with you?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand
5. "She blames me, but I'm not the one who blabbed her secret."
"Why does she blame you?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand
6. "It was a great hike because it wasn't hot and the trail wasn't crowded."
"Where are your favorite places to go hiking?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand

Asking Questions 2

Check each box that describes a good reason for each question in the conversations below. There may be more than one good reason for a question.

1. "That social studies test was really hard."
"How do you think you did?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand
2. "My exercise equipment is suffering from neglect."
"What do you mean?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand
3. "The new cheerleaders did a great job at the rally."
"What do you think about our school spirit this year?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand
4. "Brad broke his leg again yesterday."
"How did it happen this time?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand
5. "I'd like to be a fashion icon someday."
"What is a fashion icon?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand
6. "We painted over the graffiti on the bathroom wall."
"How long did it take you?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand
7. "I'm waiting for a bus."
"Which bus?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand
8. "I almost forgot my lines in the last scene of the play."
"How did the audience like the play?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand
9. "Then you chop a bulb of fennel."
"Chop a bulb of what?"
 to show interest to expand the topic to understand

Asking Questions 3

Practice asking good questions during a conversation. Pretend a friend says the comments below. Say or write a good question after each comment.

1. "I don't know where I left my book."

2. "She's the best example of conspicuous consumption I ever saw!"

3. "I still have some of the stories I wrote in fourth grade."

4. "I thought I saw your brother in the store."

5. "I just heard the great news about you!"

6. "I think I'll get an A this quarter."

7. "I wish our school had an atrium with hammocks."

8. "It's easy to see what you think about him."

9. "Amir collected money for the tsunami victims."

10. "I'm almost finished building my model."
