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English Practice Questions

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Introduction

This list of questions is basically a complete English speaking course, covering 15 common topics. It's perfect for 1-1 tutors and students who want to self-study, and can also be a useful tool in group classes.

Who am I and why did I create this ebook?

My first English teaching job was at a university in China in 2016. There I taught general English, academic English and IELTS to university students and staff. I have been a self-employed business English communication coach since 2020.

Through all these years I have come to learn that to improve speaking ability, students need the following...

active vocabulary practice

- To achieve C1 or higher, students must improve their active vocabulary in speaking and writing.
- Speaking practice is certainly helpful but it is limited in its effectiveness because targeting specific new words for speaking practice is both difficult and boring for both the student and the teacher.
- It's much more enjoyable and effective for students to learn and practice new words for homework.
- [This](#) is the only resource I know of that can activate vocabulary for speaking and writing.

writing and speaking practice

- Obviously this is essential for all students. Ideally, they would get some feedback from an experienced instructor because then they can get feedback on their most common mistakes and how to improve.
- However, in my experience, this isn't as necessary as people think because there is a limit to the usefulness of constant feedback (eg How many times does a student need to be told that they are misusing the present continuous?)
- Therefore, the main purpose of speaking and writing **practice** is just that: **practice** (time to use what one knows)
- To do that, it's really helpful for both teachers, students and speaking partners to have a massive list of questions.
- If students are comfortable answering the questions in this PDF, they will be ready for any question likely to come up in general conversation.

How To Use This PDF

For teachers

There are a number of ways you could use this list of questions and the best approach will vary depending on the expectation of the student.

Test-style

- Some students expect an English lesson to be like an exam.
- So the teacher asks the questions and the student answers like in a test.
- The teacher is expected to give feedback, perhaps on every question.
- You could also ask all the questions in a topic and then give general feedback on their overall performance.

Chat-style

- Use the questions as conversation topics.
- Give little if any feedback... just relax and try to have a good time.
- This kind of practice is helpful and necessary: I have seen students progress from A2 to C1 using only this approach.

Chat-style with feedback and homework

- During lesson time, find a balance between feedback and chit-chat.
- Give the most feedback possible, while still making the lesson feel like a fun, enjoyable conversation.
- Sometimes this means breaking the rules of teaching... sometimes you have to do lots of talking. For example, if your student is so focused on grammar and vocabulary they sound like a robot, it's time for a heart-to-heart discussion.
- For homework, you can have the student prepare their own answers to these questions and you can give feedback during lesson time.
- Ideally, they would have sample answers and vocabulary exercises. For that, I highly recommend [this resource](#).

Earn money promoting my courses!

The questions in this PDF were designed to be used along with [this online self-study course](#). The idea is the student does the exercises in the course for homework then in lesson time you can give feedback on homework and discuss the questions in this PDF.

If you promote my courses to your students and they sign up, **you can earn a 50% commission!**

Go [here](#) to find out how.

How To Use This PDF

For students

Treat the questions like actual conversation topics.

That is, don't think, "I'll just say something to sound smart." If you do that, your answer probably won't answer the question fully and your task achievement score will suffer.

Don't worry about being perfect

You will make mistakes and that's OK. Now is not the time to worry about being perfect. In general, you improve accuracy with homework. Speaking practice is mostly about fluency.

Practice the questions with other students

Getting feedback from a tutor is helpful, but if you can't afford it, that's OK... practicing with other students is also very helpful.

If you want help improving your vocabulary and answers, I highly recommend [this resource](#).

Earn money promoting my courses!

The questions in this PDF were designed to be used along with [this online self-study course](#). So you can do the exercises in the course then practice the questions in this PDF with a conversation partner or tutor.

If you promote my courses to others and they sign up, **you can earn a 50% commission!**

Economics & Money

For sample answers, IELTS 7+ vocabulary and practice exercises, go [here](#).

1. Why do people care too much about money?
2. Is money important to you?
3. What do people in your country spend money on?
4. Can money buy happiness?
5. Who are better at saving money: men or women?
6. What should governments spend taxes on?
7. What are the main causes of poverty?
8. How can societies stop poverty?
9. What do you think is better for a society: if people save money or spend it?
10. What are the disadvantages of consumerism?
11. What are the advantages of consumerism?

Work & Career

1. What do you do for a living?
2. How much time do you spend at your job?
3. How long have you been working?
4. Do you like your job?
5. What do you do in a typical day at work?
6. What responsibilities do you have?
7. Why did you choose that kind of work?
8. Is there anything you don't like about your job?
9. Did you have to do any training or study for this job?
10. Which jobs would you say are most respected in your country?
11. What changes in employment have there been in recent years in your country?
12. What are some of the important things a candidate should find out before accepting a job?

Technology

1. Do you use any electronic devices on a daily basis?
2. How often do you use Internet?
3. Do you think we need to know much about computers?
4. What is the most impactful piece of technology in our lives?
5. How effective is the use of computers in the classroom?
6. What are the dangers of continued development of technology?
7. What are the risks of using internet?

Media

1. Where do you usually get the news from? (Why do you choose that medium?)
2. Do you regularly read any magazines? (What kinds of topics do they cover?)
3. Do you often read a newspaper? (Why/ Why not?)
4. In which kinds of circumstances do you usually listen to the radio? (Would you like to listen more often? Why/ Why not?)
5. Do large media organizations have too much influence? (What makes you say that?)
6. What is the most important medium for people in your country? (What about people your age?)
7. Do people in your country generally listen to the radio? (What kinds of things?)
8. How important are newspapers? (What is their future in the age of the internet?)
9. What could be the consequences of the decline of newspapers? (How important is it?)
10. How reliable are newspapers, television news and the Internet as news sources, do you think? (Which do you trust most?)
11. How much do you think the government should get involved in making sure the media are well balanced? (What could they do?)

Crime

1. What do you think the most common crime in your country is?
2. Should police in your country be stricter or less strict?
3. Is your country safe?
4. Have you ever seen a crime?
5. Do you think criminals can change?
6. Is shoplifting common in your country?
7. What kind of people shoplift and what kinds of things do they steal?

Health

1. Do people in your country have a healthy diet?
2. Do people in your country have a healthy lifestyle?
3. Do people in your country often exercise?
4. Is it easy to keep fit where you live?
5. Do you have a healthy diet?
6. Do you have a healthy lifestyle?
7. Do you often exercise?
8. On a scale of 1-10, how proud are you of your answers?
9. Why?
10. What should you do differently?
11. Why don't you do that?
12. Do you think it's important to have a healthy diet? Why?
13. Do you think it's important to have a healthy lifestyle? Why?
14. Do you think it's important to exercise? Why?
15. Is it possible to be too healthy?
16. Do people in your country have healthier diets now than in the past? Why?
17. Do people in your country have healthier lifestyles now than in the past? Why?
18. Do people in your country exercise more now than in the past? Why?
19. What do you think is more important, eating healthy or doing exercise?

For sample answers,
IELTS 7+ vocabulary and
practice exercises, go
[here](#).

Education

1. Describe the school you went to as a child.
2. What was your favorite subject?
3. Who was your favorite teacher?
4. Describe the school you went to as a teenager.
5. What was your favorite subject?
6. Who was your favorite teacher?
7. What is (or was) your university like?
8. What is (or was) your major?
9. How are education priorities today different from those in the past?
10. Is a good education more important to a boy or a girl? Why?
11. How well do you think schools should prepare young people for working life?
12. Is higher education too expensive in your country?
13. Should all students pay for their university education?
14. What advantages do universities bring to society?
15. Which is more important, research or teaching?
16. How should students spend their summer vacations?

1. Do you prefer the city or the countryside?
2. Do you often visit the city?
3. If so, who do you visit in the city?
4. Do you have family or friends living in the city?
5. What are the advantages of living in the city?
6. What are the disadvantages of living in the city?
7. What kinds of people live in the city?
8. What do people living in the city like to do?
9. How has life changed over time in the city?

The Environment

1. Do you often visit the countryside?
2. What do people in your country do in the countryside?
3. Do you like the countryside?
4. What could be the consequences of deforestation?
5. Do you think your government is doing enough to save endangered species? (Why do you think that?)
6. What can be done to stop global warming, do you think?
7. How important is recycling, in your opinion?
8. Are people your age in your country interested in vegetarianism, do you think?
9. Do you believe that people your age in your country live ecologically friendly lifestyles?
10. Do you think that banning plastic bags is a good idea?
11. What are the advantages and disadvantages of hybrid cars?
12. In what ways do alternative fuels benefit society?
13. Why do some people do resist nuclear energy?
14. Do you think there is a danger that the hole in the ozone layer will grow?
15. How has people's awareness of green issues changed over the last 50 years in your country?
16. What are your predictions for the state of the environment in your country in the next few years?

Friends and Family

1. Tell me about your family.
2. What do you like to do with your family?
3. Tell me about your friends.
4. What do you like to do with your friends?
5. In what ways have families in your country changed in recent years?
6. Should husbands and wives have different roles within the family? Why (not)?
7. What kind of people do you like to have as friends?
8. What do you think the most important quality in a friend is?

Culture & Globalisation

1. How did you learn the languages that you know?
2. What kind of places have you visited in your life?
3. When you visit new places, what do you like to do?
4. Do you prefer traveling alone or in a group?
5. Do you think learning languages is important?
6. What are the hardest aspects of learning English?
7. Is tourism good for a country?
8. How does globalization impact society?
9. What problems does globalization bring to a city?

Part 1

Sports

For sample answers,
IELTS 7+ vocabulary and
practice exercises, go
[here](#).

1. Do you like sport?
2. What's your favorite sport?
3. Do you often watch sport on TV?
4. Is there a lot of sport on television in your country?
5. Did you play sports as a child?
6. What sports do children normally do at schools?
7. What is the most popular sport in your country?
8. How do most people in your country keep fit?
9. Do you think people do enough sport these days?
10. Why are some sports fans so passionate?
11. Is there any violence at sporting events in your country?
12. Should athletes be better role models?
13. What benefits do international sporting events bring?
14. Is it important for a country to win lots of medals?
15. Do you think the types of sport that are popular will change in the future?
16. How can sports bring people from different countries closer together?
17. The money professional sportsmen earn is significantly higher than that the earning of other professionals. Is it justified?
18. Why are some international sports more popular than others?

Music

1. Do you like music? Why / why not?
2. What kind of music do you listen to? Why?
3. Has the music that you listen to changed since you were young?
4. Do you think older and younger generations prefer different types of music?
5. Can you play any musical instruments?
6. What kind of music is popular in your country?
7. At what age can people go clubbing in your country? (Is that the right age limit?)
8. What do old people like to listen to?
9. Do you think it is possible to judge someone's personality from their taste in music?
(Why/ Why not?)
10. Do you play any musical instruments?
11. What might be the best age to start learning to play a musical instrument?
12. Do you think it is true that anyone can sing with the right training? (Why?)
13. Do you think pop stars can be a bad influence on young people? (Can you give some examples?)
14. Do you think that allowing more buskers in this city is a good idea? (Why/ Why not?)

Part 1

1. Do you like art?
2. Do you think art classes are necessary? (Why?)
3. How do you think art classes affect children's development?
4. Are you good at art?
5. What kind of paintings do people like? (whatever you talk about, make sure it can be any kind of art)
6. What benefits can you get from painting as a hobby?
7. How often do you visit art galleries?
8. What kinds of things do you like to draw?
9. Is it easy to learn how to draw?
10. Describe the general purpose of art. And say why do people enjoy art?
11. Do you think that art is as important as academic subjects when it comes to educating children?
12. What are the advantages and disadvantages of art education?
13. Why do you think some people enjoy looking at paintings and sculptures and others do not?
14. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being an artist?
15. Do you think that some people are naturally better artists than others?

For sample answers,
IELTS 7+ vocabulary and
practice exercises, go
[here](#).

Food

1. What foods do you like?
2. Are there any foods you don't like?
3. What foods do people in your country like?
4. What kind of meals do you like?
5. Do you often have dinner with your family and friends?
6. When do you usually eat dinner?
7. Are there any fruits or vegetables you don't like? Why?
8. What is your favorite cuisine?
9. How are the eating habits now in your country different from eating habits in the past?
10. How may eating habits change in coming decades?
11. What one aspect of a foreign tradition you like about their eating habits? Why?
12. Why do you think different cultures have different table manners?

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practice exercises, go
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**BSc Kingston University
CELTA Certified ESL Teacher
Teaching since 2016**

Hi, I'm Johnny....

*I help ambitious students and
professionals advance their careers.*



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