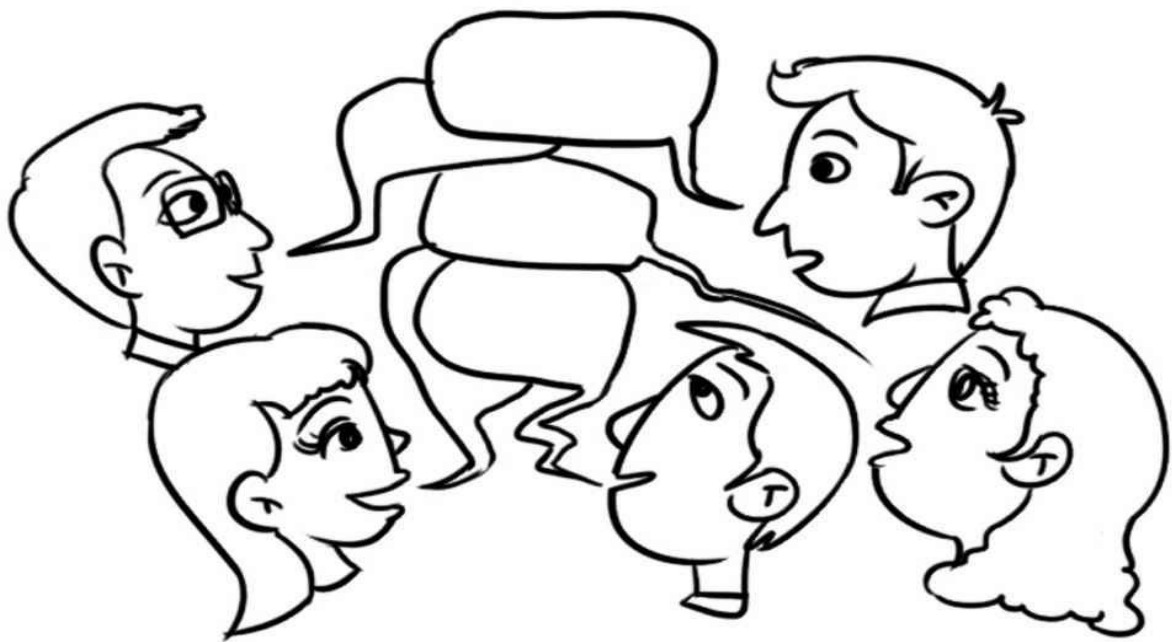


500 Conversation Questions for ESL Conversation Classes



500 Conversation Questions for ESL Conversation Classes from ESLGamesBox

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About this book

This is a slimmed down, pocket sized version of the book 50 Conversation Classes, I have removed the extra materials and what remains are the core questions about 50 different topics.

This book is designed to be something you have on your phone for when you're feeling short of inspiration and looking for conversation questions for a themed class.

I often use questions like this as warmers, throw a few up on the board and have students discuss them before going deeper into the subject.

Alternatively you can write them out on slips of paper and give them to groups to go through together in their own way.

Please visit eslgamesbox.com where there is plenty more material for conversation classes as well as ESL games aimed at adult learners.

Conversation topics

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Age

What's the best age to be?

In your country how old must you be to smoke, drink, drive and get married?

How old were you when you left home?

What advice would you give to someone half your age?

What do you think is the best age to have children?

What do you think is the best age for a political leader?

What's the retirement age in your country?

Have you ever lied about your age?

Would you like to live until you were 1000?

Do you think a large age difference is unimportant in a relationship?

Annoyances

What annoys you about the English language?

Which celebrities annoy you?

What annoys you about the town where you live?

Do any of your friends or co-workers have annoying habits?

Do you think you have any annoying habits?

When you're getting annoyed, do you bottle it up or let it out?

What really makes you mad?

Do you ever get annoyed with yourself?

Do you ever get annoyed with inanimate objects?

What annoying things do young or old people do?

Animals

Do you like going to zoos?

Do you have any pets?

Have you ever been bitten or stung by an animal?

Are you afraid of any animals?

Have you ever thought about becoming vegetarian?

What animals live in the wild in your country?

Would you like to go hunting?

Are you a cat person or a dog person?

What animals have you seen in the wild?

Do you think it's ok to wear fur?

Art

What pictures do you have on your walls?

Have you seen any famous works of art?

Do you have any artistic talents?

Who's your favourite artist?

What kind of art do you like?

How often do you visit museums or art galleries?

Who are the most famous artists from your country?

What do you think of modern art?

Describe an interesting photograph you've seen?

Do you own any original pieces of art?

Birthdays

Have you ever been invited to a surprise birthday party?

Do you share your birthday with anyone famous?

How many people's birthdays do you know off by heart?

What's your star sign? Does your personality match your star sign?

What did you do for your last birthday?

How would you spend your perfect birthday?

Have you ever celebrated your birthday in another country?

Do you know what time of day you were born?

How do people celebrate birthdays in your country?

Do you know anyone who has their birthday on or near a big celebration day?

Books

What was the last book you read?

If you don't like a book, do you still try to finish it?

Who is your favourite author?

What kind of books do you like to read?

Have you ever read a book that had a big effect on your life?

Do you have an e-reader?

Do you sometimes reread your favourite books?

Can you judge a book by its cover?

Have you read a book that you thought was overrated?

How do you decide what books to read?

Business

What's the biggest company in your country?

Have you ever worked for a big company?

Are there any companies you would like to work for?

Do you have a business card?

Are there any state owned businesses in your country?

Would you like to start your own company?

What kinds of businesses might have trouble surviving in the future?

Are there any companies you don't like but which you have to use?

Are there any companies you wouldn't work for?

Do many people own stocks and shares in your country?

Cars

Do you prefer to drive or to be a passenger?

Which classic car would you like to own?

Do you prefer sports cars or luxury cars?

What's the best car you've ever driven or had a ride in?

What do other car drivers do that makes you angry?

What's the most important factor when choosing a car?

How do you think cars will change in the next 20 years?

What was your first car?

Do you think there are too many cars on the road? What's the solution?

Did you pass your driving test first time?

Clothes

Where do you like to shop for clothes?

Do you have a favourite item of clothing?

Where did you get the clothes you're wearing now?

Have you ever bought something quite expensive but only worn it once or twice?

What kind of clothes suit you?

Do you like to wear bright and colourful clothes?

Can you judge someone by the clothes that they wear?

Is there a dress code at your workplace?

Do you ever buy clothes online?

What is something that you would never wear?

Controversial opinions

Cigarettes should be banned
Cannabis should be legalized

The internet should be regulated to protect children

Nobody should be allowed to earn more than \$1,000,000 a year

English grammar is not important as long as people understand you

National Service should be introduced / abolished

Keeping animals in zoos is cruel

Children should learn about sex at school

Pirating movies and music isn't a big deal

Old or sick people should have the right to take their own lives

Current affairs

Do you think it's important to stay up to date with current affairs?

In your opinion, which are the best and worst newspapers?

How do you get your news?

What's the biggest story in the news at the moment?

Do you think there will still be newspapers in five years?

What annoys you about news reporting in your country?

Have you ever been in a newspaper?

What would you like to see more of in the news?

What would you like to see less of in the news?

What headline do you wish you could see one day?

Eating out

How often do you eat out?

How often do you get takeaway food?

What's your favourite restaurant?

How much do you usually tip?

Have you ever worked in a restaurant?

Do you prefer home cooked food or restaurant food?

What's your favourite dish?

Do you usually have a starter and a dessert when you eat out?

Have you ever eaten in a very expensive restaurant?

When you eat in a restaurant do you try something new or something you know you like?

The environment

What do you recycle?

How worried are you about global warming?

How do you try to save energy?

Have environmental concerns changed the way you travel?

Are you worried that we might run out of oil sometime soon?

How do environmental concerns influence what you buy?

What technologies could help to solve some environmental problems?

What do you think future generations will think about how we treat the environment today?

What do you think about nuclear power?

Have you noticed changes in the climate in your lifetime?

Fame

Who is the most famous person you've met or seen?

Who is the most famous person in the world?

Who is the most famous person from your country?

What would you like to be famous for?

What are the downsides of being famous?

What are the benefits of being famous?

If you could have dinner or a drink with any living person, who would you choose?

Which famous people living today might still be remembered in 100 years?

If you were rich and famous, how would you spend your time?

Which famous person would you be happy never to see again?

Food

Are you a fussy eater?

Do you care where the food you eat comes from?

What national dishes from your country would you recommend?

What do you think of genetically-modified (GM) food?

How has your taste in food changed over time?

What are your guilty pleasures?

What was the last meal you cooked?

What's your perfect breakfast?

Is anyone in your family vegetarian?

How healthy is your diet?

The future

Would you like to live for 1000 years?

What might your mobile phone be able to do in ten years' time?

Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future?

Would you like a car that drives itself?

What possible future invention do you wish existed now?

What do you think people will do for entertainment in the future?

Do you think people will work more or less in the future?

What could be some important political issues in the next decade?

What laws do you think could change in the future?

If it was possible to time-travel, which time period would you like to visit?

Getting to know each other

What object would you rescue if your house was on fire?

What kind of music do you listen to?

What do you watch on TV?

What was the last book you read?

Do you play any sports?

Where did you last go on holiday?

Do you have a favourite sports team?

What countries have you visited?

Have you lived in another city or country?

Who would you most like to meet?

Halloween

Do people celebrate Halloween in your country? How?

Do you believe in ghosts?

What's the scariest movie you've seen?

Do you like watching horror movies or reading horror novels?

What were you afraid of when you were a child?

Have you ever experienced something you couldn't explain?

Do you have any phobias?

Who would you like to put a curse on?

How superstitious are you?

Have you ever dressed up for Halloween as an adult?

Health

Do you have a healthy diet?

Do you get enough exercise?

What food or drinks do you avoid for health reasons?

Do you take vitamins or other supplements?

Do you try to take care of your brain as well as your body?

What's the biggest thing you could do to improve your health?

How often do you go to the doctor for a check-up?

Do you think people today are healthier or unhealthier than 50 years ago?

Are you allergic to anything?

How much sleep do you usually get? Is it enough?

Holidays

Have you ever stayed at a really nice hotel?

Where did you go for your last holiday?

What would be your dream holiday?

What kind of souvenirs do you bring back from your holidays?

Have you been or would you like to go on a cruise?

Do you try to learn a little of the language before holidaying abroad?

Would you like to live somewhere that you have visited for a holiday?

What tips would you give holidaymakers who came to visit your town?

What was your worst holiday?

Do you know where your next holiday will be?

Home

Is it better to buy than to rent?

How would you describe the style of your home?

What pictures do you have on your walls?

What's more important, comfort or style?

What's your favourite item of furniture?

Where and what would be your dream home?

What's your favourite spot in your home?

How many different places have you lived?

Do you get on well with your neighbours?

How long have you lived in your current home?

Humour

What makes you laugh?

Can you think of a funny film you have seen?

Do you like to tell jokes?

Have you ever laughed at an inappropriate time?

Do you ever go to stand-up comedy shows?

Have you ever played a prank on anyone?

Have you ever read a book which made you laugh out loud?

Are there any English words which you find funny?

Who is the funniest person you know?

What's the funniest TV show?

The internet

What websites do you visit the most?

How much time do you spend on the internet?

When did you first get on the internet?

How worried are you about giving websites your personal information?

Have you ever created your own website?

How has the internet affected your work?

Do you think the internet should be more regulated?

How do you think the internet might develop in the future?

Do you ever shop online?

What annoys you about the internet?

Jobs

What was your first job?

What would be your dream job?

What's the worst job you've had?

What do you like about your job?

How will your job change in the future?

Do you know anyone with an interesting or unusual job?

If you won a lot of money, would you give up work?

How long have you had your current job?

What kind of job would you hate to have?

What do/did your parents do?

Law

Which law should be abolished?

Is it ok to break the law sometimes?

What law would you like to introduce?

Have you ever got into trouble for breaking the law?

How much do you agree that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor?

What would you do if you found out that your company was breaking the law?

Would you like to be a police officer?

Do you think there should be more or less laws?

Have you ever visited a court?

Have you ever needed a lawyer?

Love and marriage

What's the best thing about being in a relationship?

What's the best thing about being single?

Have you ever been on a date that didn't go well?

If you have a partner, how did you meet them?

Do you like weddings?

How romantic are you?

Would you ever use an online dating site?

What kind of people are you attracted to?

What are weddings like in your country?

Do you think couples should live together before getting married?

Money

What professions are overpaid and underpaid?

What do you enjoy spending money on?

What have you bought today?

If you won a lot of money, what would you spend it on?

How many currencies can you name?

Do you prefer to pay by cash or plastic (credit/debit card)?

Did you get pocket money when you were a child?

What do you do with your small change?

Are you a saver or a spender?

Do you ever gamble?

Movies

What was the last film you saw?

Who is a famous actor from your country?

Can you remember the first film you saw at the cinema?

What film have you seen the most times?

Do you like old black and white movies?

Have you ever cried watching a movie?

What kind of films don't you like?

Have you ever walked out of a movie?

Do you have a film collection?

Who are your favourite actors?

Music

Who is a singer that you like?

What kind of music do you like?

How has your music taste changed as you've got older?

Are there any types of music you don't enjoy?

What's the best concert you've been to?

What was the best decade for pop music?

What was the first single or album that you bought?

Do you like modern pop music? Who do you like?

How often do you buy music? Where do you buy it from?

How do you discover new music?

Politics

How long is a political term in your country?

Do you think you would be a good politician?

Do you think it's important to vote?

Who are the main political parties in your country?

What makes a good politician?

Are you interested in politics?

Do you have similar political views to your parents?

How much influence does the media have on people's political views?

Do you have friends with different political views to you?

If you were elected leader of your country, what law would you change first?

School days

What were your favourite subjects at school?

Who was your favourite teacher?

Were any of your teachers a bit strange?

How did you get to school?

Do you agree that “school days are the best days of your life”?

What did you use to do at break time?

Were you a good school pupil or a bit naughty?

Did you have to wear a school uniform? What was it?

Was bullying a problem at your school?

What should children be taught at school to help prepare them for “the real world”?

Shopping

Do you have a favourite shop?

What do you enjoy shopping for?

Do you shop online?

Have you ever suffered from buyer's remorse?

Do you prefer to shop alone or with friends?

What's the best place for shopping in your town or city?

How often do you buy clothes?

Where do you buy your groceries?

Have you ever worked in a shop?

What's the worst thing about shopping?

Sleep

How many hours sleep do you need? How many do you normally get?

Do you or your partner snore?

How long does it take you to fall asleep?

What do you do if you can't sleep?

Can you usually remember your dreams?

Are you a heavy or a light sleeper?

Do you spring out of bed in the morning or do you need more time to wake up?

What's the first thing you do when you wake up?

What position do you like to sleep in?

Do you read or watch TV in bed?

Sport

What sports do you like to watch?

Do you play any sports?

Which sportsmen and women do you admire?

If you could play any sport professionally, which sport would you choose?

Do you ever go to watch live sporting events?

If you could watch any sporting event live, which event would you choose?

Do you support any sports teams?

Are there any sports you don't enjoy watching?

What are the most popular sports in your country?

Do you ever gamble on sporting events?

Technology

What's the most advanced piece of technology that you own?

Are you excited by new technology?

Do you think people rely too much on technology nowadays?

Do you find any modern gadgets frustrating to use?

What modern gadget could you not live without?

Would you like to own a robot that did most of the housework?

What do you think is the most important invention in your lifetime?

Do you own any technology that is now obsolete?

Are you an early adopter or do you like to wait until something has been tried and tested before buying it?

Are you concerned about any new or imminent technologies?

Television

What was your favourite TV show when you were a child?

What TV channel do you watch the most?

Do you watch any reality TV shows?

What are the most popular TV shows in your country?

Do you ever stream or download shows from the internet?

Do you watch any soap operas?

In your opinion, what are some of the best TV shows ever made?

How do you decide what to watch on TV?

Can you remember being shocked by a television programme?

Who are your favourite and least favourite TV presenters?

Time

Do you wear a watch?

If you could freeze time, what would you do?

If you had more free time, how would you spend it?

Are you good at managing your time?

What do you consider to be a waste of time?

What time-saving gadget do you wish someone would invent?

When does time go quickly or slowly for you?

When was the best time of your life?

Are you usually on time for events and appointments?

If you had a time machine which period would you visit?

Towns and cities

If you had to give some visitors a tour of your hometown, what would you show them?

What do you like to do when you visit a new town or city?

What do you like about the town or city where you live now?

What would improve your town or city?

If you could live in any city, where would you choose?

Would you prefer to live in a city or in the country?

Are there “good” and “bad” parts of your town?

What is your hometown famous for?

Is your town changing? In what ways?

What’s your favourite part of town?

Travel

What's your favourite city or country?

What countries have you visited?

What kind of places do you like to visit?

How do you use the internet when making travel plans?

What's the best or worst hotel you've stayed in?

Do you take a lot of luggage when you travel or do you travel light?

What's a memorable place you've visited?

Do you like traveling alone?

Which country or city would you most like to visit?

What do you like about traveling?

The unexplained

Have you ever seen or experienced something you couldn't explain?

Have you ever been hypnotised?

Have you ever felt that you had a telepathic link with someone?

What conspiracy theories do you believe could be true?

Do you think humans have already made contact with extraterrestrial beings?

What mysteries are connected with your town or country?

Have you ever had a dream that came true?

Do you think someone's star sign can affect their personality?

What do you think about alternative medicines like acupuncture or homeopathy?

How superstitious are you?

The weather

What's your favourite season?

What's your favourite kind of weather?

What do you like to do on a rainy Sunday?

Have you ever experienced extreme weather conditions?

Is it normal in your country to make small talk about the weather?

How many different words or phrases can you think of to describe rain in English?

What's your least favourite type of weather?

Have you ever thought about moving to a country with a different climate?

What are the hottest and coldest temperatures you have experienced?

Do you prefer winter clothes or summer clothes?

Xmas

What is a typical Christmas Day for you?

What do you like to eat at Christmas time?

Do you usually go to church at Christmas time?

Do you like Christmas music?

What do you dislike about Christmas?

Do you do your Christmas shopping nice and early or at the last minute?

Do you wish it could be Christmas every day?

Do you enjoy buying presents for other people?

What Christmas traditions do you enjoy?

Are there any special films or TV shows that you like to watch at Christmas?

Future with will

Where will you be this time tomorrow?

What will the world be like in 50 years?

Who will win the next football (soccer) World Cup?

How will you spend your time when you retire?

Will people work more or less in the future?

What will be your next big purchase?

What features will the iPhone 10 have?

Who will be the next President of the USA?

Will people still carry cash in 20 years?

When will flying cars be invented?

Past simple: childhood

What games did you play in the school playground?

Who were your best friends where you lived?

What did you enjoy doing at school?

What was your favourite toy?

What did you use to spend your pocket money on?

What TV shows did you enjoy?

What pictures did you have on your bedroom walls?

What's the first film you remember seeing at the cinema?

What food didn't you use to like?

What was it like where you lived?

Past simple: recent past

What did you have for breakfast this morning?

What was the last film you saw?

Who did you last talk to on the telephone?

What did you last read?

What time did you go to bed last night?

What did you watch on TV last night?

What was the last photograph you took?

When did you last see the sea?

What did you buy yesterday?

What was the last meal you cooked?

Present continuous

Are you reading a good book at the moment?

What are you having for dinner tonight?

What are you looking forward to?

What is a friend of yours probably doing at the moment?

What projects are you working on at home or at work right now?

What's happening in the news at the moment?

Where are you going after this class?

What are you wearing today?

How are your English classes going?

Why are you learning English?

Present perfect: have you ever ...?

Have you ever seen or met a celebrity?

Have you ever ridden a horse or other animal?

Have you ever locked yourself out of your house or car?

Have you ever got lost on holiday?

Have you ever walked out of a movie before it finished?

Have you ever been on TV?

Have you ever dreamt something that later came true?

Have you ever eaten an insect?

Have you ever missed a plane flight?

Have you ever had a bad haircut?

Present perfect: life history

What's the most disgusting thing you've eaten?

What's the longest journey you've ever been on?

What's the nicest hotel you've ever stayed at?

What's the most exciting activity you've ever done?

What's the nicest car you have ever travelled in?

What's the most exciting sporting event you have watched?

Which film have you watched the most times?

What's the worst job you've had?

How many places have you lived since you were born?

Have you ever bought anything and regretted it later?

Present simple

Where do you live?

Where do you work?

What do you do at the weekends?

Who do you talk to the most?

How often do you go to the cinema?

How far from here do you live?

How many pairs of shoes do you have?

What time do you go to bed during the week?

Why do you think English is important?

How often do you get your hair cut?

Second conditional

What country would you like to visit?

What would you do if you had more free time?

What would you do if you could turn invisible?

Where would you live if you could live anywhere?

If you could meet anyone alive or dead, who would you like to meet?

If you could change any law, what would you change?

If there were a pill that enabled you to live to 1000, would you take it?

If you had \$1,000,000 to invest, how would you invest it?

How would you feel if the internet stopped working?

If you had to change jobs, what would you do instead?