

Hot Seat

ESL Materials: Speaking Skills

Ask and answer questions quickly!

Are you shy when it comes to speaking English? Try leading the conversation! If **you** ask the questions, you don't need to be nervous. The spotlight is on the *other* person, not you!

Hot Seat is an English classroom activity. One student sits on a chair at the front of the room and the other students ask as many questions as they can to the person in the "hot seat". It's called "hot seat" because the student needs to answer quickly. The temperature rises with all the excitement!

Start with a greeting

<p>A</p> <p>How are you today?</p> <p>How are you doing today?</p> <p>I'm good, thanks.</p>	<p>B</p> <p>I'm good, thanks. And you?</p> <p>I'm fine thanks. And you?</p> <p>I'm not so bad, thanks. And you?</p> <p>I'm okay. And you?</p> <p>I'm a bit tired. And you?</p>
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How was your day?

Ask your partner about their weekend using the questions below, then change roles. Next, try changing the underlined phrases. It's okay to **use your imagination!** :)

<p>A</p> <p>So, how was your weekend?</p> <p>Who did you go with?</p> <p>How did you get there?</p> <p>How long did it take?</p> <p>How long were you there?</p> <p>What did you do there?</p> <p>Did you buy anything?</p> <p>What did you buy?</p> <p>Did you have a good time?</p>	<p>B</p> <p>Oh, it was good. I went to <u>Tokyo</u>.</p> <p>I went <u>with a friend</u>.</p> <p>I got there <u>by train</u>.</p> <p>It took <u>about an hour</u>.</p> <p>I was there for <u>three hours</u>.</p> <p>I went shopping.</p> <p>Yes, I did.</p> <p>I bought <u>a new jacket</u>.</p> <p>Yeah, it was fun.</p>
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TIP: While you are thinking of an answer, try to keep speaking. You can repeat the question ("How was *my* weekend?") or use phrases like: **Let me see...**, **Let me think...**, **That's a good question...**, **If I remember right...**

Here are some questions you can ask someone after they finish work.

<p>A</p> <p>So, how was your day?</p> <p>Where was your training?</p> <p>Who did you do it with?</p> <p>What else did you do?</p> <p>How long did it take?</p> <p>What time did you finish?</p> <p>Did you have time for lunch?</p> <p>What did you eat?</p> <p>Did you get the message I sent you?</p> <p>Why didn't you reply?</p>	<p>B</p> <p>Oh, the same as usual, but I had training.</p> <p>It was <u>in the conference room</u>.</p> <p>I did it with <u>Tom, Bob and Isabella</u>.</p> <p>I had to <u>finish a report</u>.</p> <p>It took <u>about 3 hours</u>.</p> <p>I finished at <u>about 6</u>.</p> <p>Yes, I did.</p> <p>I ate <u>a cheese sandwich</u>.</p> <p>Yeah, thanks.</p> <p>Sorry, I didn't have time.</p>
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You could ask someone these questions to learn about their evening.

<p>A</p> <p>So, what did you do last night?</p> <p>And what did you do?</p> <p>Who did you have dinner with?</p> <p>What did you eat?</p> <p>How was it?</p> <p>What else did you do?</p> <p>What did you watch?</p> <p>Was it any good?</p> <p>What time did you go to bed?</p> <p>Did you sleep well?</p>	<p>B</p> <p>Oh, the same as usual, I just stayed in.</p> <p>I had dinner.</p> <p>I had dinner <u>with my family</u>.</p> <p>I ate <u>a cheese sandwich</u>.</p> <p>It was <u>good!</u></p> <p>I watched TV and <u>played on my phone</u>.</p> <p>I watched a documentary about <u>carpets</u>.</p> <p>Yeah, it was okay.</p> <p>I went to bed at <u>midnight</u>.</p> <p>Not really, I had a dream about <u>carpets</u>.</p>
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Challenge!

You can do this by yourself: Set a timer for one minute and try to ask as many questions as you can without looking at this PDF. Don't answer them. Just ask questions **aloud**. *Where did you go? How did you get there? How long did it take? What did you do there?* Etc. Practise and practise until the questions become natural.

Future Questions

Now, practise using *be going to + verb* to ask about someone's evening plans.

<p>A</p> <p>What are you going to do tonight?</p> <p>What are you going to watch?</p> <p>Where are you going to watch it?</p> <p>Who are you going to watch it with?</p> <p>Are you going to have any snacks?</p> <p>What are you going to do afterwards?</p> <p>What time are you going to go to bed?</p> <p>What are you going to dream about?</p>	<p>B</p> <p>Oh, I'm going to watch a movie.</p> <p>I'm going to watch <u>E.T.</u></p> <p>I'm going to watch it <u>at home</u>.</p> <p>I'm going to watch it <u>with my kids</u>.</p> <p>Yeah, I'll probably have <u>some popcorn</u>.</p> <p>I'll probably <u>go to bed</u>.</p> <p>I'll probably go to bed <u>at 11</u>.</p> <p>I might dream about <u>aliens!</u></p>
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Now, try asking about their weekend plans.

<p>A</p> <p>What are you going to do this weekend?</p> <p>Who are you going to go with?</p> <p>How are you going to get there?</p> <p>How long is it going to take?</p> <p>What are you going to do there?</p> <p>Are you going to buy anything?</p> <p>What are you going to buy?</p> <p>Are you going to do anything else?</p>	<p>B</p> <p>Oh, I'm going to go into the city.</p> <p>I'm going to go with <u>my friend, Alex</u>.</p> <p>I'm going to get there <u>by train</u>.</p> <p>It's going to take <u>about an hour</u>.</p> <p>I'm going to <u>go to a car show</u>.</p> <p>Yeah, probably!</p> <p>I'll probably buy <u>some lunch</u>.</p> <p>Well, I might <u>test drive a car!</u></p>
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Finally, ask about their holiday plans.

<p>A</p> <p>What are you going to do over the holiday?</p> <p>Where are you going to go?</p> <p>Who are you going to go with?</p> <p>How long are you going to go for?</p> <p>What are you going to eat?</p> <p>What else are you going to do?</p> <p>Are you going to take some photos?</p> <p>Are you going to bring back any souvenirs?</p>	<p>B</p> <p>Oh, I'm going to <u>go camping</u>.</p> <p>I'm going to go to <u>Nagano</u>.</p> <p>I'm going to go <u>by myself</u>.</p> <p>I'm going to go for <u>three days</u>.</p> <p>I'll probably <u>eat noodles</u>.</p> <p>I'll probably <u>go hiking</u>.</p> <p>Yeah, I'll probably take photos of <u>bears</u>.</p> <p>Well, I might get something for you!</p>
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