

# Asking Questions

## Part 1: Asking questions to socialize:



Think about going to class on a typical day. You walk to the classroom, you see your classmates and you start chatting while you wait for your professor to arrive. What kinds of questions do you ask to keep the conversation going? Write down a few of them:

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## Part 2: Asking questions to learn:



Go back in time and think about your years in school in your home country.

1. If you wanted to know something, when was it appropriate to ask questions? During class or after class? Who did you ask for help? Your classmates? Your professors?
2. Do you think there's any difference in the way you are expected to ask questions in this country and in yours?

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# Asking Questions in the Classroom



It is very important to ask questions when you don't know how to go ahead in class. The following situations happen to everyone. What would you say in these situations to get the information you need?

1. You don't understand something the professor said.

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2. You would like to ask the professor to explain something in a different way.

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3. You would like to know how to pronounce a word in English.

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4. You don't know how to spell a word in English.

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5. You don't know how to say a word in English.

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Other useful expressions:

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# Asking Questions When Preparing for Tests in College



## How to review for an exam in a study group?

In college, many students form study groups to prepare for tests. When a study group meets, the students discuss the material that they have to learn for tests, and they quiz each other on it too. The way a study group works is the following:

1. Students read the material at home.
2. As they read the material, they take notes, or make up 'flash cards'.
3. Students get together and discuss the material.
4. Students ask each other questions about the 'details' of the material and also about the 'big picture'.

## Form your own study group:

In your book, *Early Childhood Education Learning Together*, read the section 'Confronting biases' in chapter 1 on pp. 11-13. Take notes on a sheet of paper about the chapter. Then, write down 5 questions for your study group. These questions can be about specific details in the text, or they can be similar to the ones you think your professor may ask on a test. When you are ready with your questions, get together with your study group and ask each other the questions that you each prepared.

Here are some examples for starting your questions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Who, what, when, where, how ...?</li> <li>○ How would you define .... (a term).</li> <li>○ How would you describe .... (a process).</li> </ul>	There questions ask about facts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How would you retell in your own words...</li> <li>○ What is the main idea of...?</li> </ul>	There questions make you explain what you understood of what you read.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How is ... an example of ...?</li> <li>○ How is ... related to ...?</li> <li>○ Why is ... significant?</li> </ul>	There questions ask you relate what you read in the book to what you know about the world.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What are the parts or features of ...?</li> <li>○ How would you classify ... according to ...</li> <li>○ How does ... compare/contrast with ...?</li> <li>○ What evidence can you give (list) for ...?</li> </ul>	There questions ask you to analyze something

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ What would you predict/infer from ...?</li><li>○ What ideas can you add to ...?</li><li>○ How would you create/design a new ...?</li><li>○ What might happen if you combined ... with ...?</li><li>○ What solutions would you suggest for ...?</li></ul>	There questions ask you to synthesize
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Do you agree ...?</li><li>○ What do you think about ...?</li><li>○ What is most important ...?</li><li>○ How would you decide about ...?</li><li>○ What criteria would you use to assess ...?</li></ul>	There questions ask you to evaluate what you read

(Table adapted from <http://faculty.bucks.edu/specpop/question.htm>)

My questions:

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