

Meeting People and Small Talk Yes/No Questions Games

Take turns asking and answering questions below, with a mix of positive and negative responses. Make sure all responses are a suitable length (not too short and not too long).

Starting conversations

- (Excuse me) I'm supposed to meet John Smith. Is that you, by any chance?
- (Excuse me), (are you) John?
- (Excuse me.) Is anyone sitting here?
- (Sorry.) Is this seat free?
- (Excuse me/ Sorry) (I'm a bit lost) do you know where the restroom/ night market/ nearest bank/ taxi rank/...is?
- (Hi.) You must be John.
- (Sorry) do you speak English?
- (Sorry,) is this the right place/ room for...?
- (Sorry,) is this where... is being held?
- (Sorry/ Excuse me.) Are you (also) waiting for...?
- (Sorry/ Excuse me.) Do you have a light?
- (Sorry/ Excuse me.) Do you have the time?/ Do you know what time it is?
- (Sorry/ Excuse me.) Do you know what time... starts/ ends/ leaves/ arrives/...?
- Are you lost?
- Are you looking for...?
- Going up?
- Going down?
- Hi, I'm here to see John Smith. (I'm guessing that's you.)
- Is it okay to smoke here (do you know)?
- Sorry, have you been waiting long?

Meeting again after a long time

- It's John, right?
- I don't know if you remember me, but we met last year/ we worked together.../ we...
- Have we met before?

Small talk when meeting for the first time

- Have you (ever) heard of ABC Limited/ of ... city/ of us/ of...?
- Do you do much business in... prefecture/ in the... region/ in South(east).../ in...?
- Is this your first time here?/ Is this your first time in...?
- Are you from (around) here?
- Are you travelling far?
- Are you going all the way to...?
- I've met your colleague... (a few times)./ I know... Does (s)he work with you?

Small talk with people you've met before

- Are you (still) in touch with Jane?/ Are you (still) in contact with Jane?
- Did you enjoy your break/ the conference/...?
- Did you go anywhere (nice) on holiday/ for the long weekend/ over the holiday/ at the

weekend/ last night/ for lunch/...?

- Did you have a good/ nice weekend?/ Did you do anything (special/ interesting/ nice) at the weekend?
- Did you hear (the rumour/ the gossip/ the news) about...?
- (I know you like/ support...) Did you see the game/ match (between... and...)/ Did you see... (last night)?
- Do you (still) work with John?
- (Have you) been busy (lately/ recently/ today/ this week)?
- Have you changed your hair?/ Have you had your hair cut?/ Have you lost weight?/ Have you...?
- (Wow/ Oh dear/ Oh my goodness!) Have you had an accident?/ Have you broken your arm?/ Have you got hay fever?/ Have you caught a cold?/ Are you alright?
- Have you heard from John (recently)?/ Have you been in touch with John (recently)?
- Have you read any good books/ seen any good movies/... any good... recently?
- (I know you're interested in...) Have you seen/ read/ heard (the new/ the latest)... (yet)?
- I guess you have been really busy since.../ with.../ because of...
- You're looking good/ healthy/ tanned/.... Have you been on holiday/ Have you been working out?/ Have you lost weight?/ Have you...?

Small talk when meeting for the first time or again

- Are you coping with the heat/ the crowds/ the traffic/ the taxis/ the subway/ travelling around/ the beggars/...?
- Are there any (good)... near here?/ Can you recommend... near here?/ Is there anywhere good to eat/ to get a coffee/ to... around here/ near here?
- Are you planning to visit.../ to... (during your stay)?
- Did you have any problems getting here?/ Did you have any trouble finding us?
- Did you hear the weather forecast (for today/ for tonight/ for this weekend/ for...)?
- Do you follow any (football/ Spanish/ Premiership/ J League/ baseball) team(s)/...?
- Do you have any plans for the weekend?
- Do you know John Smith?
- Do you know where the restroom/ night market/ nearest bank/ taxi rank/...is?
- Do you live near here?
- Do you need any recommendations for restaurants/ foods to try/ hawkers to try/ things to see/ things to do/ nightlife/... (while you are here)?
- Have you been watching Game of Thrones/ the Champions League/...?
- Have you come far (today)?
- Have you ever been to...?/ Have you ever visited...?
- Have you ever read/ seen...?
- Have you had a chance to visit.../ try.../ see.../ meet.../... (yet)?
- Have you tried... (food)?
- I guess it's (a bit/ much)... er/ much more... (than this) (back) where you come from (now).
- Is it going to rain/ snow/...?/ Is it going to stop raining/ stop...ing, do you think?
- Is it usually this rainy/ snowy/ cold/ hot/ humid/... (do you know)?

- Is that a...?/ the (new)...? (Is it any good?)
- Is the weather usually like this (in...)?
- Is... popular in your country?
- It's (a bit/ rather/ quite/ really/ so) humid/ cold/ hot/ grey/ crowded/ busy/..., isn't it? Is it usually like this (at this time of year)?
- It's so... round here./ I'm surprised how.../ I expected it to be more... Is this typical?
- Was the map (that I sent) okay?
- Are you staying near here?/ Is your hotel near here?

Offers/ Helping (making a guest comfortable, etc)

- Would you like something to drink?/ Can I get you anything to drink (before we start)?/ Tea or coffee?
- (Do you take) milk or sugar?
- Can I take your bag(s)/ your coat(s)/ your...?
- Do you need any help (with...)?/ Do you need a hand (with...)?
- Would you like to freshen up first?
- Shall I take that (for you)?
- Let me take that for you./ Let me get you a/ some.../ Let me...
- You can leave your coat/ bag/ stuff/... here/ over there/... (if you like).

Discussing business cards

- Do you have a business card (on you)?/ Perhaps we should exchange business cards.

Moving to another place/ Directing people/ Giving directions/ Leading people somewhere

- Shall we make a move?
- Shall I take you to...?
- Shall I walk you to the elevator?
- Can you remember the way out?
- Are you okay getting back to your hotel?
- Shall I call you a taxi?
- Do you need a ride to the station?
- Would you like me to take you to the airport?

Introducing other people

- Have you met...?
- Have you two met?
- You probably know (my colleague)...

Small talk at the end of a conversation

- Are you finished/ Have you finished (for the day/ for the day/ for the week)?
- Do you have (m)any more meetings (today)?
- Do you have to go straight back to your office?
- Do you have any plans for this evening?
- Do you have any plans for the weekend?

Brainstorming stage

Without looking above, write as many suitable Yes/ No questions as you can in each gap below. Many questions not above are also possible.

Starting conversations

Meeting again after a long time

Small talk when meeting for the first time

Small talk with people you've met before

Small talk when meeting for the first time or again

Offers/ Helping (making a guest comfortable, etc)

Discussing business cards

Moving to another place/ Directing people/ Giving directions/ Leading people somewhere

Introducing other people

Small talk at the end of a conversation

Take turns asking and answering Yes/ No questions, this time with your own ideas for questions and flipping a coin to see if your response should be positive (heads) or negative (tails).