

Conversation Questions for Secondary 1



A collection of conversation questions centered on a topic to develop Competency 1: Interacts orally in English

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Instructions for teachers

Choose one of the topics listed in the table of contents. Read over the questions for that topic. Add or change the questions according to your students' needs.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO USE THE CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

- Give one sheet of questions to each student in a group of four. Students decide who is Student A-B-C-D and take turns asking the questions.
- OR
- Create stations around the classroom and place a different handout (topic) at each station. Students spend 15 minutes at each station asking and answering the questions on the handout.
- OR
- Place several conversation topic handouts on the wall around the classroom. Count to five and ask the students to line up in front of one topic (maximum 4 students per topic). Students take turns asking and answering questions until you give the signal to move on to a different topic.

Be sure to provide functional language posters or other prompts to encourage interaction. As some of the questions may have short answers, teach students functional language necessary to maintain the conversation, e.g. *What do you think? Do you agree with that? I'm surprised by your answer. I agree except for ...*

SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

- Ask students to brainstorm ideas and vocabulary about the topic before you give them the conversation questions handout;
- Inform students about how much time they will have for each topic;
- Establish a signal to indicate when time is almost over and a final signal when time is up;
- Use talking chips to ensure equal participation among students in a group;
- Ask students to complete a self-evaluation sheet at the end of each topic.

EVALUATION

Use the appropriate rubric for C1 oral interaction.

Self-evaluation: see Annexe 1

LIKES AND DISLIKES

STUDENT A

- 1) What kind of music do you like?
 - 2) Who are your favourite performers or bands?
 - 3) Do you like music or musicians from other countries as well? If so, who or what kind?
 - 4) What kinds of music don't you like?
 - 5) Can you name some singers or groups that you dislike?
 - 6) Do you like to watch TV?
 - 7) Do you like movies?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) What are your favourite kinds of programs or shows?
 - 2) What are your all-time favourite TV programs?
 - 3) Who are your favourite actors?
 - 4) Do you like programs or shows from other countries as well? If so, what kind?
 - 5) Do you like actors from other countries as well? If so, who?
 - 6) What kinds of programs or which actors don't you like?
 - 7) Do you like movies?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) What are your favourite kinds of movies?
 - 2) What are your all-time favourite movies?
 - 3) Who are your favourite actors?
 - 4) Do you like movies from other countries as well? If so, what kind?
 - 5) Do you like actors from other countries as well? If so, who?
 - 6) What kinds of movies or which actors don't you like?
 - 7) What are your favourite kinds of sports?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Who are your favourite athletes?
 - 2) Do you like sports from other countries as well? If so, what kind?
 - 3) Do you like athletes from other countries as well? If so, who?
 - 4) Which athletes don't you like?
 - 5) What are your favourite kinds of books?
 - 6) What are your favourite book titles?
 - 7) Who are your favourite authors?
-

DOGS AND CATS

STUDENT A

- 1) Have you ever had a dog or cat for a pet?
 - 2) Which do you like best, dogs or cats?
 - 3) What are some good names for dogs or cats?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Why would you keep a dog instead of a cat?
 - 2) What can cats do that dogs can't?
 - 3) Can you think of some reason why people don't keep dogs or cats?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) How many breeds of dogs can you name?
 - 2) How many breeds of cats can you name?
 - 3) Which dog breed do you think is the most intelligent and which is the least intelligent?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) What is the role of an Alpha Dog in a pack?
 - 2) How do you build a dog house?
 - 3) Can you name some countries that eat dogs or cats?
-

EDUCATION

STUDENT A

- 1) Where did you go to kindergarten?
 - 2) Where did you go to elementary school?
 - 3) Do you plan to go to Cegep or university?
 - 4) Did you enjoy going to elementary school?
 - 5) What is the age that children begin school?
 - 6) How old are students when they graduate?
 - 7) What is the name of your high school?
 - 8) What subjects are you good at?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) What subjects are you bad at?
 - 2) Do you know anyone who attends a private school?
 - 3) Do you prefer small classes or big classes? Why?
 - 4) What advice would you give an elementary student who is about to go to high school?
 - 5) Are good grades important to you? Why?
 - 6) Do you study with other students?
 - 7) Do you think your teachers give too much homework? How much homework should teachers assign students?
 - 8) Do you ride a bus or walk to school?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) Does education guarantee a good job?
 - 2) What are the qualities of a good student?
 - 3) What are the qualities of a good teacher?
 - 4) Should people go straight from school to a university, or do something different?
 - 5) Do teachers sometimes teach things that are not important?
 - 6) Are school uniforms good to have? Why or why not?
 - 7) Would you ever want to learn a third language?
 - 8) Do you think it is necessary that there are windows in the classroom to provide for a proper learning atmosphere?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Do you think a person can become a genius, or are they just born that way?
 - 2) Do you enjoy going to school? Explain why or why not.
 - 3) Are there any subjects/classes you want to study but they are not available at your school?
 - 4) Do you have difficulty with school work?
 - 5) Do you think your school is a good one? Why/why not?
 - 6) How can we improve our classroom?
 - 7) What are some good ways to learn English?
 - 8) What is your favourite class?
-

FAVOURITES

STUDENT A

- 1) What is your best friend's name?
 - 2) What is your favourite animal? Why?
 - 3) What is your favourite city in Canada?
 - 4) What is your favourite colour? Why?
 - 5) What is your favourite country? And why?
 - 6) What is your favourite day of the week? Why?
 - 7) What is your favourite food?
 - 8) What is your favourite holiday? Why?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) What is your favourite kind of book?
 - 2) What is your favourite kind of ethnic food?
 - 3) What is your favourite kind of movie?
 - 4) What is your favourite kind of music?
 - 5) What is your favourite kind of pizza?
 - 6) What is your favourite magazine?
 - 7) What is your favourite childhood memory?
 - 8) What is your favourite pastime?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) What is your favourite radio station?
 - 2) What is your favourite season? Why?
 - 3) What is your favourite sport?
 - 4) What is your favourite television program?
 - 5) What is your favourite time of day?
 - 6) What is your favourite vegetable? Why?
 - 7) What is your favourite web site?
 - 8) What is your favourite subject in school?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) What's your favourite smell? Why?
 - 2) Who is your favourite actor or actress? Why?
 - 3) Who is your favourite athlete?
 - 4) Who is your favourite author?
 - 5) Who is your favourite musician?
 - 6) Who is your favourite singer?
 - 7) Who is your favourite superhero? Why?
 - 8) Who is your favourite TV star?
-

FOOD AND EATING

STUDENT A

- 1) Are there any foods that you wouldn't eat as a child that you eat now?
 - 2) What is a vegetarian?
 - 3) At what times do you usually eat your meals?
a. Breakfast? **b.** Lunch? **c.** Dinner?
 - 4) What did you eat today?
 - 5) Do you always eat dinner with your family?
 - 6) Do you always eat vegetables?
 - 7) Do you drink milk every day?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Do you eat beef?
 - 2) Do you eat bread every day?
 - 3) Do you eat breakfast every day?
 - 4) Do you eat fruit every day?
 - 5) Do you eat lunch at school every day?
 - 6) How much does lunch usually cost at school?
 - 7) Do you bring your lunch to school?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) Do you eat rice every day?
 - 2) Do you like: **a.** Thai food? **b.** Chinese food? **c.** American food?
 d. French food? **e.** Italian food?
 - 3) Do you like food from other countries? If yes, which do you like the most?
 - 4) Do you like peas and carrots? How about spinach?
 - 5) Do you like to eat at fast food restaurants? Which ones?
 - 6) Do you like to eat cakes? What kind?
 - 7) Do you like to try new food and drinks?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Do you prefer fish or meat?
 - 2) Do you prefer to eat at a restaurant or at home?
 - 3) Do you read the nutritional information on the foods you buy?
 - 4) Do you think fast food, soda and sweets should be sold in school cafeterias?
 - 5) How often do you eat in a restaurant?
a. Where do you usually go?
 - 6) Is there any food that you really dislike to eat?
 - 7) What are some foods that are considered unhealthy?
-

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

STUDENT A

- 1) Do you like to eat fruits? What's your favourite one?
 - 2) How often do you eat fresh fruit?
 - 3) In your opinion, what's the most delicious fruit?
 - 4) Do you like vegetables? What's your favourite one?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Do you think that fruits and vegetables are good for your health? Why or why not?
 - 2) How often do you drink fruit juice? What kind of fruit juice do you drink?
 - 3) Do you like to eat fruit salad?
 - 4) What kind of vegetables and fruits do you buy at the supermarket?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) Explain this expression: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."
 - 2) What are the most common fruits and vegetables in your country?
 - 3) Can fruits and vegetables help cure diseases?
 - 4) Can fruits and vegetables help you lose weight if you are on a diet?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Do you cultivate fruits or vegetables in your garden?
 - 2) Do you like to use things that have a fruit smell? E.g. Perfumes, erasers ...)
 - 3) Name 3 red fruits and 3 green vegetables?
 - 4) Name 3 fruits or vegetables with a funny shape?
-

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

STUDENT A

- 1) Do you have any pets?
 - 2) What was the last book you read?
 - 3) What's your favourite food?
 - 4) Are you good at cooking/swimming/etc.? What are you good at?
 - 5) Do you have brothers and sisters?
a. Are they older or younger than you?
 - 6) Do you like baseball?
 - 7) Do you live in a house or an apartment?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Have you ever lived in another country?
 - 2) Did you ever meet a famous person?
 - 3) How do you spend your free time?
 - 4) How old are you?
 - 5) How tall are you?
 - 6) Tell me about a favourite event from your childhood.
 - 7) What are your hobbies?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) What countries have you visited?
 - 2) What do you do on Sundays?
 - 3) What's your address?
 - 4) Describe your father?
 - 5) Describe your mother?
 - 6) What's your phone number?
 - 7) Where were you born?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Which sports do you like?
 - 2) Who has had the most influence in your life?
 - 3) Why do you want to learn English?
 - 4) Would you like to be famous?
 - 5) What do you think you will be doing five years from now?
 - 6) What is your goal in life?
 - 7) When do you feel best? In the morning, afternoon, or evening?
-

HOBBIES

STUDENT A

- 1) What is your hobby?
 - 2) How long have you had a hobby?
 - 3) Why do people have hobbies?
 - 4) Why did you start your hobby?
 - 5) Can you make money from doing your hobby?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) How many hours a week do you spend on your hobby?
 - 2) Is your hobby safe or dangerous?
 - 3) Do you spend money on your hobby?
 - 4) Does your hobby influence your choice of friends?
 - 5) Can a hobby be dangerous?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) Which hobbies are the most expensive?
 - 2) Which hobbies are the cheapest?
 - 3) Which hobbies cost nothing at all?
 - 4) Which hobbies are the most popular in your country?
 - 5) Is hunting a hobby or a sport in your country?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Which hobbies are the most popular with girls in your country? With boys?
 - 2) Did you have any hobbies when you were a child?
 - 3) Can you think of any hobbies which are popular with children and adults?
 - 4) Do you think a hobby is different from a sport?
 - 5) Are there any hobbies you would like to try?
-

CHRISTMAS

STUDENT A

- 1) Did you believe in Santa Claus when you were a child?
 - 2) Do you attend any special religious ceremonies during the Christmas season?
 - 3) Do you celebrate Christmas in a special way? How?
 - 4) Do you decorate the outside of your house for Christmas?
 - 5) Do you eat a turkey dinner for your Christmas dinner?
 - 6) Do you enjoy Christmas time?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Do you enjoy singing Christmas songs?
 - 2) Do you exchange presents with your friends at school?
 - 3) Do you go to church on Christmas day?
 - 4) Do you hang up a stocking?
 - 5) Do you have a Christmas party at school?
 - 6) Do you have a Christmas tree?
 - a. If so, how do you decorate it?
 - b. When do you put it up?
 - c. When do you take it down?
 - d. Is it real or artificial?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) Do you know the history of Christmas?
 - 2) Do you remember when you found out that Santa Claus wasn't real?
 - 3) Do you see your relatives at Christmas time?
 - 4) Have you ever made your own Christmas cards?
 - 5) How long is your Christmas vacation?
 - 6) What do you want for Christmas this year?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) What was the best Christmas present you received?
 - 2) What do you want Santa to bring you for Christmas?
 - 3) Where do you do your Christmas shopping?
 - 4) Will you go skiing during the Christmas vacation?
 - 5) Did you ever celebrate Christmas without gifts?
 - 6) What is the best gift you gave?
-

HALLOWEEN

STUDENT A

- 1) When is Halloween?
 - 2) Can you explain the history of Halloween?
 - 3) How is Halloween celebrated in your country?
 - 4) Do you believe in ghosts?
 - 5) Why do you think some people are afraid of ghosts?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) What are some of the symbols of Halloween?
 - 2) What kind of costume are you going to wear for Halloween?
 - 3) Do you carve a pumpkin?
 - 4) Why do you like to celebrate Halloween?
 - 5) Do you believe in magic?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) Do you think there are really witches and monsters and creatures living amongst us in the real world, or are those things just from our imagination?
 - 2) If you could choose to be any monster or creature, what would it be?
 - 3) What is your favourite magical story?
a. Character in a book? **b.** Film? **c.** Legend?
 - 4) If you could use a magical spell, like a "do all my homework" spell, on somebody, would you?
 - 5) Describe the best costume you've seen.
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Do you like to go out for trick-or-treating?
 - 2) Do you know any Halloween legends?
 - 3) Do you think Halloween is dangerous?
 - 4) Do you think it is still appropriate to celebrate Halloween today?
 - 5) Do you make your costumes or do you buy them?
-

ANIMALS AND PETS

STUDENT A

- 1) Do you have a pet? If yes, where did you get it from?
 - 2) If you don't have a pet, why not?
 - a. Would you ever consider getting a pet?
 - 3) What are the pros and cons of keeping a pet?
 - 4) What is the best pet to own?
 - 5) Are you afraid of snakes? What is the biggest snake you have seen?
 - 6) Are you frightened of spiders? What do you do if you see one?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Can you name some endangered species?
 - 2) Have you ever ridden a horse?
 - 3) Are there birds or squirrels in your neighbourhood?
 - 4) Do you know someone who owns an unusual pet?
 - 5) How do you feel about the use of animals for medical research?
 - 6) Do you think it is okay to eat meat? Do you know any vegetarians?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) Is there any kind of meat you would not eat?
 - 2) Have you ever been to a zoo?
 - 3) Do you think people should buy and wear fur coats?
 - 4) Have you ever been bitten by a dog? Have you been stung by a bee?
 - 5) Have you ever been to a farm? What animals did you see there?
 - 6) Have you ever eaten rabbit meat? Have you eaten octopus?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Have you ever seen a dog that helps people, such as one to assist a blind person or a policeman?
 - a. How do you think that dog was trained?
 - 2) What animals do you think are cute?
 - 3) What animals do you think are ugly?
 - 4) What can children learn by having a pet?
 - 5) Do you think it is right to keep wild animals in captivity all their life?
 - 6) Do you have a pet? If yes, how did you choose its name?
-

BIRTHDAYS

STUDENT A

- 1) How do you like to celebrate your birthday?
 - 2) What is your best birthday memory?
 - 3) What is your worst birthday memory?
 - 4) Have you ever had a surprise birthday party for yourself or someone else?
 - 5) What is the best birthday gift you have ever received?
 - 6) What is the worst birthday gift you have ever received?
 - 7) What are some things you like to do for your birthday?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) When is your birthday?
 - 2) Did your parents give you birthday parties when you were a child?
 - 3) In your opinion, what is the best time of year to have a birthday?
 - 4) What do you think is the best age?
 - 5) Do you like going to school on your birthday?
 - 6) Whose birthday do you always remember?
 - 7) Among your close friends and relatives, whose birthday is coming up next?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) About how many birthday gifts or cards do you send or give to people each year?
 - 2) Have you ever forgotten someone's birthday that you should have remembered?
 - 3) Do you know any famous people's birthdays?
(Are any the same as yours?)
 - 4) Do you know of any big events that happened the year you were born?
 - 5) What is the best birthday gift you have ever given?
 - 6) What is the worst birthday gift you have ever given?
 - 7) How old will you be in twenty years? What do you think you will be doing? Where will you be?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) If you could celebrate your own birthday the way you wanted, what would you do?
 - 2) Would you rather celebrate your birthday with just your relatives or just your friends?
 - 3) Do you remember what gifts you received on your last birthday?
 - 4) What would you like to get most for your birthday this year?
 - 5) Is the cost of a present important to you?
 - 6) Which is a better present, a well-chosen gift or money?
 - 7) Are birthdays really important?
-

CLASSROOMS

STUDENT A

- 1) What do you like about your classroom?
 - 2) Do you think the teacher should assign seats to students?
 - 3) What kind of classroom setting is the best for you?
 - 4) What are five things you like about your classroom?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) What are five things you don't like about your classroom?
 - 2) What are five things you would like to change in your classroom?
 - 3) What equipment for teaching is in your classroom?
 - 4) How much time a day do you spend in a classroom?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) How much time a day do you spend in a classroom looking out the window?
 - 2) Do you enjoy changing classrooms for different classes?
 - 3) What is the ideal seating plan or arrangement in a classroom?
 - 4) Is your classroom a nice place to study?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Do you like the location of your desk in your classroom?
 - 2) Do you think that smart students always sit down in front?
 - 3) Is it good to have only one teacher?
 - 4) What would be the perfect classroom?
-

COLOURS

STUDENT A

- 1) What's your favourite colour?
 - a. Has your favourite colour changed as you've grown older?
 - 2) Can you think of different idioms or expressions involving colour?
 - a. What does it mean to "be yellow"?
 - b. What does it mean to be "the black sheep in the family"?
 - 3) How many colours are in the rainbow? What are they?
 - 4) What colour is money in your country?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) Do you know anyone who is colour-blind?
 - a. What colours do most colour-blind people not see?
 - 2) Explain the expression "to dream in colour."
 - 3) What colour clothes do you like to wear?
 - a. What colours do you think look good on you?
 - 4) What is the colour of the bedspread on your bed?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) What is your least favourite colour?
 - 2) What colour toothbrush do you have?
 - a. Does everyone in your family use a different colour toothbrush?
 - 3) What colour towels do you use?
 - 4) What colour are the curtains in your bedroom?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) What does it mean when someone says, "I feel blue?"
 - 2) What does it mean when someone says, "I am green with envy?"
 - 3) What does it mean when someone says, "I was so mad I saw red?"
 - 4) Which colours do you have to mix to get green? Orange? Purple? Black? Gray?
-

HOME

STUDENT A

- 1) Can you describe each room of your house?
 - 2) What does the outside of your house look like?
 - 3) Where is the car parked at your house?
 - 4) Do you like the place where you are living? Why or why not?
 - 5) What is your favourite room in your house? Why?
 - 6) How long have you lived where you are living now?
-

STUDENT B

- 1) How many different homes have you lived in?
 - a. Which one did you like the best? Why?
 - b. Which one did you like the least? Why?
 - 2) How many rooms are there in your house?
 - 3) If you could change anything about your present home, what would it be?
 - 4) What changes would you like to make to your home?
 - 5) What do you like about your home? What don't you like?
 - 6) What do you think is the worst colour for a living room?
-

STUDENT C

- 1) What is in your bedroom?
 - 2) What things in your home couldn't you live without?
 - 3) Where would your dream home be?
 - 4) Which room do you spend the least time in?
 - 5) Which room do you spend the most time in?
 - 6) Who are your neighbours?
 - a. How well do you know them?
-

STUDENT D

- 1) Who lives in the same house with you?
 - 2) What is the colour of your front door?
 - 3) Are there any parks near your home?
 - 4) What do you think houses in the future will be like?
 - 5) List alternatives to a house or apartment. (E.g. igloo)
 - 6) Do you have a swimming pool in your yard? A basketball net?
A ping-pong table?
-

Name : _____

Group : _____

C1 – Oral Interaction Self-Evaluation	
<div> <div> 5 4 3 2 1 </div> <div> + - </div> </div>	
Did I listen to others in the group?	<div> 5 4 3 2 1 </div>
Did I extend the ideas of others/build on what others said?	<div> 5 4 3 2 1 </div>
Did I participate actively?	<div> 5 4 3 2 1 </div>
Did I speak English consistently?	<div> 5 4 3 2 1 </div>
Did I react to what others said?	<div> 5 4 3 2 1 </div>
What I need to improve	
<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>	
What I am good at	
<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>	

Name : _____

Group : _____

C1 – Oral Interaction Self-Evaluation	
<div> <div> 5 4 3 2 1 </div> <div> + - </div> </div>	
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What I am good at	
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