SPEAKING CARDS

AUTUMN VIBES



Take a card and answer it. Your partner asks you one follow-up question before you take another.

What changes in your home when autumn arrives?

Which month do you think autumn really starts, and why?

What is the best thing you have eaten since September?

How does the shorter daylight affect your week?

What do you wear in autumn that you would never wear in summer?

Which is worse, wind or rain? Say why.

What do people in your country do when the weather turns?

What are you looking forward to before the year ends?

ESL LAB

THIS OR THAT

AUTUMN EDITION

Choose one from each pair. Where you and your partner disagree, the better reason wins the point.

wellies and a muddy walk	OR	slippers and the radiator
soup you made	OR	soup from the shop
the first fire of the year	OR	an extra jumper
a market on Saturday	OR	a lie-in
walk in the drizzle	OR	wait it out in a cafe

Phrase bank

I would go for ... every time.
That depends on the weather.
I used to pick ..., but not any more.
Nobody actually enjoys ...
Fine, you win that one.
We agree on everything except ...



ESL LAB

Six Unfinished Sentences

Finish each sentence out loud. Your partner asks you one question about your answer before you move on.



The last time it rained properly, I ...



Every October I end up ...



If this winter is as bad as the last one, I ...

I used to ... in autumn, but now I ...





By the end of November I will have ...



The one thing I would never do in cold weather is ...

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK BACK:

Why that one?
How long has that been true?
What happened after that?
Do you still?
Who else was there?
Would you do it again?

ESL LAB

TAKE A CANDLE YOU NEED TODAY

Pick your candle and say what happened this week that made you choose it. Your partner decides whether the reason is good enough.



A candle to make the evening last longer



A candle to keep the dark outside



A candle to make soup feel like dinner



A candle to slow everything down



A candle to make the flat smell like October



A candle to take the edge off a gray day

Phrase bank

1. I would light the candle to … because …
2. The one I need today is …
3. I nearly chose …, but …
4. It has been that kind of week.
5. I do not need … this week, although I did in September.
6. Honestly, I could use all six.

ESL LAB

TALK FOR A MINUTE

Pick a card and talk for a full minute.
Your partner times you and counts how many times you stop.

What does autumn smell like where you live?	Describe your walk to work or school in October	What is in your bag now that was not there in July?
What do you do on a rainy Sunday?	Talk about a meal you only eat when it is cold	Describe the view from your window today
What is the best month of autumn, and why?	Talk about something you do less of in autumn	Describe your perfect autumn evening at home

Phrase bank

Where I live, ...
The main thing is ...
Another thing I should mention is ...
It is difficult to explain, but ...
I suppose it is similar to ...
That is about it, really.

ESL LAB

TAKE A DRINK YOU NEED THIS AUTUMN

Choose the drink you need this week and tell your partner why. Then choose one for them, and see whether they agree.



A cup of tea to slow the morning down



Coffee to get through a dark Monday



A flat white for the cafe window seat while it pours



Ginger tea to fight off whatever is going round the office



Mulled apple juice to warm your hands on the way home



A cup of tea for the first properly cold morning



ESL LAB

Five Things People Say in October

Mark your own answer on each line. Then mark where you think your partner sat. Compare, and start with the one you got most wrong.

A dark morning is harder than a cold one.



Autumn is a mood people perform, not a season they feel.



The year really starts in September, not January.



Wanting to stay in is a decision, not a weakness.



Anyone who says they love the rain has never commuted in it.



ESL LAB

One Day, Two People

You are spending one day together. Agree on one option per row. You may not both have your first choice in any row.

MORNING



Sleeping until it is light



Out before anyone else is up



A slow breakfast someone else makes



Straight to a desk with coffee

AFTERNOON



A walk that gets muddy



A gallery and a long lunch



Nothing at all, on a sofa



The thing on your list since August

EVENING



Cooking for six



A table booked somewhere warm



A film you have already seen



A bath and an early night

NIGHT



Talking until two



Asleep by ten



The last forty pages of something



Driving home in the dark with the heating on

ESL LAB