ICEBREAKER 3 OF 15

Find a Classmate Who ...

A1-B1 · the whole group · 15 minutes · a pen

1. Read each square and make the question. The grey words help you start.
2. Walk around and ask. Your classmate says **yes**? Write their name, then ask one more question and write the answer in **More**.
3. One square per classmate, so talk to as many people as you can. Online, ask in breakout rooms and type the names in the chat.

FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... speaks three languages** *Do you speak ...?* NAME MORE	FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... works from home some days** *Do you work ...?* NAME MORE	FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... has lived in another country** *Have you ever lived ...?* NAME MORE	FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... drinks more than three coffees a day** *How many coffees ...?* NAME MORE
FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... can cook a dish from another country** *Can you cook ...?* NAME MORE	FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... has a birthday this month** *When is your ...?* NAME MORE	FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... came here on foot or by bike today** *How did you ...?* NAME MORE	FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... has a pet** *Do you have ...?* NAME MORE
FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... used English at work this week** *Did you use ...?* NAME MORE	FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... plays a musical instrument** *Do you play ...?* NAME MORE	FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... gets up before 6 a.m.** *What time do you ...?* NAME MORE	FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... has met a famous person** *Have you ever met ...?* NAME MORE
FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... reads the news in English** *Do you read ...?* NAME MORE	FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... has changed jobs in the last two years** *Have you changed ...?* NAME MORE	FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... can't live without their phone** *Could you live ...?* NAME MORE	FIND A CLASSMATE WHO **... wants to learn another language after English** *Do you want to ...?* NAME MORE

ASK ONE MORE When? Where? Why? How often? What kind? Really? Tell me more.

ICEBREAKER 4 OF 15

Two Truths and a Lie

A2-C2 · groups of 3 to 5 · 15 to 20 minutes · one half card each

1. Write three sentences about you: two true, one false. Use a starter from your level. Circle T or L for each one and don't show anybody.
2. Read your sentences to your group. Your group asks up to three questions. Answer every question as if all three were true.
3. Everybody votes for the lie. Each wrong guess is a point for you. Then tell the true story behind your best sentence.

A2
I have ...
I can ...
I don't like ...
My favorite ... is ...

B1
I have never ...
When I was a child, I ...
I once ...
I'm really good at ...

B2 AND UP
I've always wanted to ..., but ...
I used to ...
The strangest job I've had was ...
I'd never ... again.

1 _____ T / L

2 _____ T / L

3 _____ T / L

YOUR GROUP GUESSES Ask up to three questions: *When was that?* *Who were you with?* *How did you feel?* *Why did you do that?* *Can you show us?*

CUT HERE

A2
I have ...
I can ...
I don't like ...
My favorite ... is ...

B1
I have never ...
When I was a child, I ...
I once ...
I'm really good at ...

B2 AND UP
I've always wanted to ..., but ...
I used to ...
The strangest job I've had was ...
I'd never ... again.

1 _____ T / L

2 _____ T / L

3 _____ T / L

YOUR GROUP GUESSES Ask up to three questions: *When was that?* *Who were you with?* *How did you feel?* *Why did you do that?* *Can you show us?*

ICEBREAKER 5 OF 15

The Answer Is ...

A2-B2 · pairs · 10 to 15 minutes · one half card each

1. Write **only the answer** in each box, in one to three words. No sentences, and don't explain.
2. Swap cards. Your partner guesses the question for each answer. Answer **Yes!**, **Close!** or **No, guess again.** and tick a box for every guess.
3. After three guesses, tell the real story. *Example: Daniel wrote 2011. Lucía asks: Was 2011 the year you moved here? Daniel: Close! It was the year I started my first job.*

MY NAME _____

A number that is important to you _____ ☐☐☐ guesses	**A place** you know well _____ ☐☐☐ guesses	**A name** of a person in your life _____ ☐☐☐ guesses
A year when something big happened _____ ☐☐☐ guesses	**A thing** you can't live without _____ ☐☐☐ guesses	**A time of day** that you love or hate _____ ☐☐☐ guesses

GUESS WITH *Is it ...?* *Was it the year you ...?* *Is that where you ...?* *Is ... your ...?* *Does it mean ...?*

CUT HERE

MY NAME _____

A number that is important to you _____ ☐☐☐ guesses	**A place** you know well _____ ☐☐☐ guesses	**A name** of a person in your life _____ ☐☐☐ guesses
A year when something big happened _____ ☐☐☐ guesses	**A thing** you can't live without _____ ☐☐☐ guesses	**A time of day** that you love or hate _____ ☐☐☐ guesses

GUESS WITH *Is it ...?* *Was it the year you ...?* *Is that where you ...?* *Is ... your ...?* *Does it mean ...?*

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ICEBREAKER 6 OF 15

The Interview, then Introduce Your Partner

B1-C1 · pairs, then the group · 20 minutes · a pen and a phone timer

1. Tick five questions you want to ask your partner. Take five minutes each to interview. Write key words only, not sentences.
2. Plan your introduction: choose the three most interesting things you heard.
3. Introduce your partner to the group in one minute. Your partner can say **That's right** or **Not exactly!** after each sentence.

	QUESTION	KEY WORDS
☐	**Where did you grow up, and what was it like?**	
☐	**What do you do, and what do you like about it?**	
☐	**What does a good weekend look like for you?**	
☐	**What is something you are proud of?**	
☐	**Where do you use English, or where would you like to?**	
☐	**What is a place you would love to visit, and why?**	
☐	**What is something most people don't know about you?**	
☐	**What do you do to relax after a long day?**	
☐	**What is the best advice anyone has given you?**	
☐	**What would you like to be able to do in English by next summer?**	

Introduce your partner

This is _____ . *She / He told me that* _____

What surprised me was that _____

One more thing: _____

REPORTING WHAT YOU HEARD

"I <u>live</u> near the sea." → *She told me she <u>lives</u> near the sea.* (still true)

"I <u>was</u> a chef." → *He said he <u>had been</u> a chef.* or simply *He used to be a chef.*

ICEBREAKER 7 OF 15

Speed Friending

A2-C1 · the whole group in pairs · 20 minutes · cut on the dashed lines, a phone timer

1. Cut out the cards and put them face down in a pile. Sit in two rows, facing a partner.
2. Take the top card. You both answer it, then ask one question of your own. Use the phrases below to keep going.
3. After three minutes, the timer rings: one row moves one seat to the left. Take a new card with your new partner.

EVERYDAY LIFE **What does your morning look like?**	WORK AND STUDY **What was your first job?**	FREE TIME **What do you do on a free Sunday?**	A BIT DEEPER **What makes a good friend?**
EVERYDAY LIFE **Coffee, tea or neither?**	WORK AND STUDY **What does your workday look like?**	FREE TIME **What was the last series you loved?**	A BIT DEEPER **What is a small thing that makes you happy?**
EVERYDAY LIFE **What is the best thing about your street?**	WORK AND STUDY **What did you want to be at age ten?**	FREE TIME **Which app do you use most?**	A BIT DEEPER **What did you learn last year?**
EVERYDAY LIFE **What do you always carry with you?**	WORK AND STUDY **What is the most useful thing you've ever learned?**	FREE TIME **What's a hobby you'd like to try?**	A BIT DEEPER **Which place feels like home to you?**
EVERYDAY LIFE **What's for dinner tonight?**	WORK AND STUDY **Who was your favorite teacher, and why?**	FREE TIME **Beach, city or mountains?**	A BIT DEEPER **What is something you changed your mind about?**
EVERYDAY LIFE **Early bird or night owl?**	WORK AND STUDY **What job would you never do?**	FREE TIME **What's the best concert you've been to?**	A BIT DEEPER **What are you looking forward to?**

KEEP IT GOING

- Really? How come?
- Me too! / Me neither.
- What was that like?
- Tell me more about ...
- Wait, so you ...?

ICEBREAKER 9 OF 15

Common Ground

A2-B2 · groups of 3 or 4 · 15 minutes · one sheet per group

1. Find five things that **everybody** in your group has in common. Ask questions until you find them.
2. Obvious ones don't count: ~~We all study English.~~ ~~We all have a phone.~~
3. Score each one: 1 = a bit surprising, 2 = surprising, 3 = nobody would guess. The group with the most points tells the class its best one.

STUCK? TRY food · sleep · childhood · family · phones · travel · sports · music · your city · fears

	WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON	THE QUESTION THAT FOUND IT	SCORE
1	*We all* _____	_____	1 2 3
2	*We all* _____	_____	1 2 3
3	*We all* _____	_____	1 2 3
4	*We all* _____	_____	1 2 3
5	*We all* _____	_____	1 2 3

EXAMPLE

Do you all hate cold coffee? Pablo: *I do!* Amara: *So do I.* Kenji: *Me too.* → *We all hate cold coffee.* (Score: 1)

AGREE IN ENGLISH

So do I. / So am I. Neither do I. / Neither can I. Me too. / Me neither. Not me!

Bonus: things only one of us has done

Only _____ *has* _____

Only _____ *has* _____

ICEBREAKER 11 OF 15

Human Bingo of Firsts

A2-C1 · the whole group · 15 minutes · a pen

1. Walk around and ask about the firsts on the card: *Do you remember your first concert? Who did you see?*
2. Your classmate remembers and tells you one detail? Write their name and the detail. One square per classmate.
3. Four squares in a row, a column or a diagonal: say **Bingo!** Then tell the group the best story you heard.

YOUR **first job** NAME DETAIL	YOUR **first trip abroad** NAME DETAIL	YOUR **first phone** NAME DETAIL	YOUR **first concert** NAME DETAIL
YOUR **first car or bike** NAME DETAIL	YOUR **first salary: what you bought** NAME DETAIL	YOUR **first time on a plane** NAME DETAIL	YOUR **first apartment** NAME DETAIL
YOUR **first English teacher** NAME DETAIL	YOUR **first pet** NAME DETAIL	YOUR **first time you cooked for friends** NAME DETAIL	YOUR **first time you spoke English abroad** NAME DETAIL
YOUR **first day at a new job** NAME DETAIL	YOUR **first best friend** NAME DETAIL	YOUR **first time on a stage** NAME DETAIL	YOUR **first video game** NAME DETAIL

ASK	THEN THE STORY	ANSWER
Do you remember your first ...?	*How old were you?*	*My first job <u>was</u> in a bakery.*
What was your first ...?	*Where was it?*	*I <u>was</u> sixteen.*
Have you ever ...?	*What happened?*	*I <u>bought</u> a bike with my first salary.*

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ICEBREAKER 12 OF 15

Who Wrote This?

A2-C1 · groups of 5 or more · 15 minutes · cut on the dashed lines

1. Take one slip. Complete it with true answers. Don't write your name, and don't let anybody see. Fold it and put it in a pile.
2. Take turns: one student takes a slip and reads it to the group. Everybody guesses who wrote it and says why.
3. The writer stays quiet until the end of the guessing. Then the writer says **It was me!** and answers one question.

A food I can't stand: A **A job I wanted at age ten:** **Something I'm surprisingly good at:**	**A skill I'd love to learn:** B **A place I'd like to live for a year:** **My favorite way to spend a Sunday:**	**The last thing that made me laugh:** C **A song I know all the words to:** **Something I collect, or used to:**
A food I can't stand: A **A job I wanted at age ten:** **Something I'm surprisingly good at:**	**A skill I'd love to learn:** B **A place I'd like to live for a year:** **My favorite way to spend a Sunday:**	**The last thing that made me laugh:** C **A song I know all the words to:** **Something I collect, or used to:**
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A food I can't stand: A **A job I wanted at age ten:** **Something I'm surprisingly good at:**	**A skill I'd love to learn:** B **A place I'd like to live for a year:** **My favorite way to spend a Sunday:**	**The last thing that made me laugh:** C **A song I know all the words to:** **Something I collect, or used to:**

GUESS WITH It must be … because … | It might be … | It can't be … because … | I bet it's …

ICEBREAKER 14 OF 15

Desert Island

B1-C2 · groups of 3 or 4 · 20 minutes · cut on the dashed lines

1. Your group is on a desert island for one month. The boat comes back on day 30. You can keep **three** of these sixteen things.
2. Alone, tick your top five. Then agree on three as a group. Every choice needs a reason everybody accepts.
3. Present your three to the class in one minute. The class votes for the plan most likely to get everybody home.

1 ☐ **a sharp knife**	2 ☐ **a solar phone charger (no signal)**	3 ☐ **a fishing net**	4 ☐ **a guitar**
5 ☐ **a first-aid kit**	6 ☐ **a big plastic sheet**	7 ☐ **a cooking pot**	8 ☐ **10 liters of water**
9 ☐ **a mirror**	10 ☐ **a book of your choice**	11 ☐ **a box of matches**	12 ☐ **20 meters of rope**
13 ☐ **a sleeping bag**	14 ☐ **a photo of your family**	15 ☐ **5 kilos of rice**	16 ☐ **a snorkel and mask**

LANGUAGE FOR AGREEING ON THREE

We'd need … because … Without a …, we couldn't … If we took …, we could …

I see your point, but … That's true, although … Can we agree on …? OK, I'll give up the … if we take the …

Our three, and why

1 _____ _____

2 _____ _____

3 _____ _____

ICEBREAKER 15 OF 15

My English Story

A2-C1 · alone, then pairs · 15 minutes · a pen

1. Complete the sentences about you and English. Short answers are fine.
2. Tick one box for each skill: how do you feel about it today?
3. Compare with a partner. Find one thing you both find hard and one thing you both enjoy. Then give this page to your teacher.

The first English word I remember is

I use English at or for

The hardest thing for me in English is

A time English helped me:

I learn best when

By the end of this course, I'd like to be able to

How I feel about my English today

	I'm nervous	It's OK	I'm confident
Speaking	◯	◯	◯
Listening	◯	◯	◯
Reading	◯	◯	◯
Writing	◯	◯	◯
Grammar	◯	◯	◯
Vocabulary	◯	◯	◯

ONE THING I DON'T WANT IN THIS COURSE

WITH YOUR PARTNER

We both find _____ *hard. We both enjoy* _____ .

MY NAME _____ DATE _____

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