

QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATIONAL ICEBREAKERS AND GET ACQUAINTED EXERCISES

NOTES

Many icebreakers require questions that are the basis of the information exchange. The very simplest of these is asking each group member to answer the same question for the group: *Where were you born?* An uncomplicated icebreaker for the start of every meeting of a group is to ask the group each to answer a question.

This is a list of questions that are suitable for use in icebreakers that use questions.

PROCESSES

Varying the process by which the answers to a questions are elicited and exchanged has the effect of varying the icebreaker itself, even though the result—the sharing of personal information—is identical. Some processes that are powered by the answering of a question include:

EFFORTLESS ICEBREAKER: A question is asked and each group answers individually

TALKING 'BOUT MYSELF: Groups are broken into pairs or trios and a question is answered among the partners

TOSS OFF: A ball is tossed among group members and the catcher must answer the question

HAVE YOU EVER: Like Musical Chairs, group members must vacate a spot if the answer to a question is true

IN THE MIDDLE WITH ME: Group members huddle with those who have the same answer to a question

NAME TAG ICEBREAKER: Group members write brief answers to questions printed on a separate name tag as they arrive

ASK ME ABOUT: Group members select a sticker identifying an issue they're willing to address (Ask me about my conspiracy theory, my pet, my best sports moment, my pet peeve, my most embarrassing moment)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

What's always by your bed?
What are you reading now?
What have you added to your iPod lately?
What book have you read the most times?
What movie do you watch repeatedly?

What is your favorite place in your home?
What gadget can't you live without?
What career did you want when you were 16?
What's your best recent purchase?
What's your worst recent purchase?
What do you never ever scrimp on?
What's your favorite memento?
What's always in your fridge?
What's your favorite sport to watch or play?
What do you dread?
What person would you most like to meet?
What talent do you covet?
What's your preferred procrastination technique?
What's the household chore you're most fastidious about?
What's the household chore you're least fastidious about?
What do you collect?
What broken item do you own you can't part with?
What do you drive and what does that say about you?
What web sites do you click on every day?
What style of art do you or would you collect?
With what fictional character do you identify?
What's your lucky charm or lucky number?
What's your indispensable clothing item?
What possession of yours really says a lot about who you are?
If you had the best possible day, what would that day look like?
What's your morning routine?
What's the story on that nagging injury?
Who's your personal hero? Why?
If you could create the perfect weekend, what would it look like?
What's the hardest thing about your job?
What's the greatest misconception about your job?
Who or what is your inspiration?
Describe a time when you felt like an outsider.
Describe a time when you think you probably hurt someone's feelings.
What's the best thing about this city?
What's the worst thing about this city?
What do you believe with your whole heart?
What do you refuse to believe?

RESOURCES

Many books and web sites are devoted to lists of interesting questions and conversation starters. One among many is *The Complete Book of Questions: 1001 Conversation Starters for Any Occasion*, by Garry Poole.