

“QualityTime-ESL” presents...

Your English

Vocabulary Building



Your English No. 30

Getting to Know You (1)

Hi. I'm Marianne Raynaud. My goal is to help you improve your spoken English. So, let's get started.

When you meet someone new, it is important to know how to ask polite questions in correct English using “you.” “You” works for both one person and for many people. Let's imagine you are talking to a person you think is a foreign student. Two common, almost standard questions are:

“Where do you come from?”

“And where is that?”

Listen and repeat: “Where do you come from?”

“And where is that?”

With that second question you have shown your ignorance of, for instance, a small town in Poland, but you can now go on asking questions.

First, we'll practice with sentences starting with “Do you... ?” Listen and repeat.

Do you enjoy living here?

Do you live close to the university?

Do you work or are you a student?

Do you live far from the center?

Do you like studying here?

Next you will ask the questions. Start each question with “Do you...?” Listen to the examples.

I say: ... enjoy living here

I say: ... work or are you a student?

You say: Do you enjoy living here?

You: Do you work or are you a student?

Now, you go on in the same way.

... enjoy living here?

Do you like studying here?

Do you enjoy living here?

... live close to the university?

... work or are you a student?

Do you live close to the university?

Do you work or are you a student?

... live far from the center?

... like studying here?

Do you live far from the center?

Next we'll practice with “Have you ...?” Listen and repeat.

Have you been here for a long time?

Have you ever lived in England?

Have you studied English for many years?

Have you visited many countries?

Have you ever been to the USA?

Have you made many friends here?



Your English No. 30 Simple Questions 2

Now, you ask the questions. Start each question with “Have you...?” Listen to the examples.

*I say: ... been here for a long time?
You say: Have you been here for a long time?*

*I say: ... studied English for many years?
You say: Have you studied English for many years?*

Now you go on in the same way.

*... been here for a long time?
Have you been here for a long time?
... studied English for many years?
Have you studied English for many years?
... ever been in the USA?
Have you ever been in the USA?*

*... ever lived in England?
Have you ever lived in England?
... visited many countries?
Have you visited many countries?
... made many friends here?
Have you made many friends here?*

Let’s work on some questions starting with “What” and ending in “like.” As a model, we will use the sentence “What is your country like?” which means in fact “Please describe your country for me.” A sentence with “What is... ?” plus a noun and then “like” is a question asking you to describe something. Listen and repeat.

*What is your country like?
What is your town like?*

*What is your home like?
What is your school like?*

Now, you ask the questions. Start each question with “What is... ?” Listen to the examples.

*I say: ... your country like?
You say: What is your country like?*

*I say: ... your town like?
You say: What is your town like?*

Now, you go on in the same way.

*... your country like?
What is your country like?
... your town like?
What is your town like?*

*... your home like?
What is your home like?
... your school like?
What is your school like?*

Finally listen and repeat.

Now when I meet new people, I am able to ask some polite questions. I can say, “Where do you come from?” “Where is that?” “Do you enjoy living here?” “Do you work or are you a student?” “Have you been here for a long time?” “Have you studied English for many years?” “Have you ever lived in the USA?” Or even “What is your country like?” Now, I’m ready to make new friends. And so are you – I hope.

That’s the end of our podcast. For more oral practice, you can try our other series “QualityTime-ESL” for grammar and “5 Minute TOPs” to have fun with quotes and song lyrics. Bye for now, and don’t forget to keep smiling.