

## TOPICS SUGGESTED for **CHAT AWAY: TAKING ENGLISH OUT OF THE CLASSROOM**

### All levels – Junior High and High

Do you have a pet?

Your hometown or village

Your hobbies and interests

Celebrities and football stars.

The best holiday you ever had

A book, movie or TV series that really impressed you

Your ideal school (Subjects you would add or take away)

A school trip that you enjoyed

Your favourite Jewish festival

### Suitable for High school

Your views on vegetarianism or veganism

Your views on advertising

Bullying (or shaming) on social media

A person (not a celebrity) who you really admire – why?

Causes you care about (climate change, preserving natural spaces, traffic accidents)

Your volunteering experience (מחויבות אישית)

A job in your spare time

If you won a big amount of money, what would you do with it?

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

Best friends (why are they important? Do you think you are a good friend – why/why not?)

Women as political leaders

### Asking questions

*Do you...? Did you ....? Have you .... ?* Are questions that elicit yes/no answers.

**They should be followed up with WH questions (including how?)**

*Why ...? What happened...? How did that happen, How was it ...?*

**and** *Tell me about ....., describe that to me ....*

**SUGGESTED CLIPS TO SCREEN SHARE OR SEND TO STUDENT IN ADVANCE** (all just a few minutes long)

**1. ... because of a teacher** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UtCgZZeUeI>

#### QUESTIONS

Do you have a favourite teacher?

Have you had a teacher who really made a difference to your life?

What would be your ideal teacher?

If you had to be a teacher, what would you like to teach?

#### **2. COMPARING LIFE THEN AND NOW**

[Coca Cola UK: Grandpa: Living a Healthy Lifestyle - YouTube](#)

How have things changed?

Use the structure: People used to ..... but now they ....

#### **3. WOMEN'S FOOTBALL**

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/uk-now/video-uk/womens-football>

#### **4. FOR HARRY POTTER FANS** (and who isn't!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-H1-LzWcIs>

Great to get learners started on this popular topic!

#### **5. TALKING ABOUT PETS**

Do you have a dog? Tel me about it/him/her

Watch clip. [Pip | A Short Animated Film - YouTube](#)

Where is this dog?

What does it want?

what do you think about guide dogs

What are other things dogs can do to help humans?

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/video-zone/can-dogs-sense-emotion>

[https://www.ted.com/talks/tony\\_buffington\\_why\\_do\\_cats\\_act\\_so\\_weird#t-38415](https://www.ted.com/talks/tony_buffington_why_do_cats_act_so_weird#t-38415)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/eva\\_maria\\_geigl\\_the\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_world\\_according\\_to\\_cats#t-265383](https://www.ted.com/talks/eva_maria_geigl_the_history_of_the_world_according_to_cats#t-265383)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/alexandra\\_horowitz\\_how\\_do\\_dogs\\_see\\_with\\_their\\_noses/](https://www.ted.com/talks/alexandra_horowitz_how_do_dogs_see_with_their_noses/)

## 6. ... and OTHER CREATURES

[https://www.ted.com/talks/emma\\_bryce\\_should\\_we\\_eat\\_bugs](https://www.ted.com/talks/emma_bryce_should_we_eat_bugs)

A bit gross (but kids love that) and a way to get started on what they like to eat!

[https://www.ted.com/talks/gillian\\_gibb\\_why\\_can\\_t\\_some\\_birds\\_fly](https://www.ted.com/talks/gillian_gibb_why_can_t_some_birds_fly)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/carl\\_zimmer\\_how\\_did\\_feathers\\_evolve#t-197435](https://www.ted.com/talks/carl_zimmer_how_did_feathers_evolve#t-197435)

## 7. SAVING THE PLANET AND CLIMATE CHANGE

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/video-zone/insect-extinction>

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/video-zone/greta-thunberg-and-george-monbiot-on-the-climate-crisis>

[https://www.ted.com/talks/balsher\\_singh\\_sidhu\\_are\\_we\\_running\\_out\\_of\\_clean\\_water#t-288343](https://www.ted.com/talks/balsher_singh_sidhu_are_we_running_out_of_clean_water#t-288343)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/emma\\_bryce\\_what\\_really\\_happens\\_to\\_the\\_plastic\\_you\\_throw\\_away](https://www.ted.com/talks/emma_bryce_what_really_happens_to_the_plastic_you_throw_away)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p076w7g5> David Attenborough on climate change.

## 8. SCIENCE FOR KIDS

[https://www.ted.com/talks/alexandra\\_horowitz\\_how\\_do\\_dogs\\_see\\_with\\_their\\_noses](https://www.ted.com/talks/alexandra_horowitz_how_do_dogs_see_with_their_noses)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=sU\\_X70Y49zQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sU_X70Y49zQ) (Botany for kids)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/eldridge\\_adams\\_can\\_animals\\_be\\_deceptive#t-291143](https://www.ted.com/talks/eldridge_adams_can_animals_be_deceptive#t-291143)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYO3tOqDISE> I pencil. On economics – simplified (for age 15 and up)

## 9. FABULOUS QUESTIONS TO STIMULATE CHAT

<https://burbble.buzz/>

## FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

### **10 KEEP TALKING SITE** (Ministry of Education, English Inspectorate)

<https://sites.google.com/view/keep-talking/videos-for-speaking-practice>

Click Video Bank.

**Go to No. 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 for Junior High and High**

Mixed topics to stimulate responses.

**For football fans** Watch the full drama of the penalty shoot-out at Wembley in the 1996 semi-finals as Germany overcame England!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EiE7eLWI\\_M&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EiE7eLWI_M&feature=player_embedded)