

Interviews are a powerful way to capture people's stories and experiences. But asking great questions and creating meaningful conversations takes practice.

In this activity, you'll step into both roles: the interviewer and the interviewee. This will help you discover, from both sides, what makes an interview feel comfortable, interesting, and engaging. You'll gain a better understanding of how to ask thoughtful questions, listen closely, and adjust your interview style to create stronger and more impactful interviews.

Step 1 – Interview Preparation

Answer the following questions about a trip you took.

1. Where did you go on your vacation?
2. When did you go (time of year, how old you were, etc.)?
3. Who did you go with?
4. What was the purpose of the trip (relaxation, vacation, visiting family, celebrating something, etc.)?
5. What were some of the main activities you did?
6. Describe one memorable moment from the trip and what happened.
7. What was your favorite part of the vacation? Why?
8. Did anything challenging or unexpected happen?
9. Did you learn anything new or have a new experience?
10. Why is this vacation meaningful or memorable to you?

Step 2 – Interview

Review the interview guidelines. Then use questions from Step 1 to practice interviewing your classmate about their trip. You do not need to ask all of the questions, but choose which questions you want to ask before you begin the interview. Interview your partner for three minutes and then switch roles.

Interview Guidelines

- Make eye contact and look at your interviewee when they are talking.
- Ask open-ended questions (not yes/no or one-word answer questions).
- Do not interrupt the interviewee when they are speaking. Let them finish answering before you ask another question.
- If the interviewee says something interesting that you want to ask about, you can ask follow-up questions.
- Use a notepad to take notes and to write down any other questions you want to ask.