

## **Questions for Small Talk**

Some of us, especially the non-native English speakers, typically have a tough time opening up to conversations in the initial few days. Here's a compilation of questions that could help in getting the ball rolling:

### **WORK**

1. If you weren't working here, what would you probably be doing right now?
2. How did you become a [job title]?
3. What surprised you the most about your current job?
4. What's the craziest thing a boss has ever asked you to do?
5. Would you rather work four 10-hour days or five eight-hour days?
6. If you were guaranteed to be successful, what job would you want?
7. What was your first job? Did you like it?
8. What's the best career advice you've ever received? How about the worst?

### **ENTERTAINMENT**

9. Are you reading any good books right now? I'd love some recommendations. How about shows?
10. Are there any apps on your phone that you can't live without?
11. If you could only watch one genre of movies for the rest of your life, what would it be?
12. What's a book you hated that everyone else loved, and vice versa?
13. Do you have any podcast suggestions for my commute?
14. What's the last movie that made you cry? Or laugh aloud?
15. Whom would you want to be your *Amazing Race* partner?
16. Who is your favorite person to follow on Instagram?

### **FOOD**

17. If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?
18. What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?
19. What's your go-to comfort food?
20. Are there any foods that you absolutely would not eat?
21. What's something that's easy to bring in for lunch that isn't a sandwich?
22. What are the best cheap eats around here?
23. Does your family have any "secret" or famous recipes?
24. What's your favorite restaurant that other people don't tend to know about?

### **TRAVEL**

25. What's the best "hidden gem" around here?
26. If you could fly anywhere for free, where would you go?
27. What's the coolest road trip you've ever been on?
28. Where's the last place you traveled? What did you do there?
29. Do you prefer action-packed vacations or relaxing on the beach?
30. What's the next trip you have planned?
31. If you could take a workcation or sabbatical, where would you go and what would you do?
32. What's your favorite thing to do around here on the weekends?

### **LIFE STORY**

33. Where did you live before this? What are the biggest differences you see?
34. What did you think you were going to be growing up?

35. Do you have any hidden talents or surprising hobbies?
36. What was your favorite extracurricular in elementary school?
37. What was the must-have accessory or item when you were growing up?
38. What's the most unbelievable thing that's ever happened to you?
39. Who's the most important role model or mentor you've had in your life?
40. What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

## **Weather:**

- It looks like it's going to rain.
- This weather makes me think of BBQ, how about you?
- Can you believe all of this snow we've been having?
- How about this weather?
- I hear they're calling for rain all weekend. Did you order this?
- We couldn't ask for a nicer day, could we?
- Can't believe it is February, it is so hot outside

Discuss what you do and what you are interested in doing:

- Are you in the film industry, too?
- Oh, interesting. What made you go into psychiatry?
- Educators are so amazing to me, your work is so important! What's your favorite thing about teaching?
- How long have you been a weatherman?
- What do you think about the new technologies coming out in the design world?
- Where's your favorite business-trip destination?
- Can you recommend any conferences I should attend as a writer?