I'm not a bot

A Part of Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom. Have you ever appreciated a sunset?Were you alone or with someone special? Have you ever been a guest at a surprise party?Has anyone ever thrown a surprise party for you? Have you ever been in a fist fight? Have you ever been on TV? Have you ever been to a theatre? (Also spelling "theater.") Have you ever broken a bone? Have you ever broken up with someone? Have you ever called your boyfriend or girlfriend by the wrong name? Have you ever called your girlfriend/boyfriend "Honey?" Have you ever changed your appearance a lot in a short time? (For example, hair style, hair color or weight) Have you ever cheated on an exam? Have you ever cried in public and embarrassed yourself?Have you ever cried for no reason and felt good because of it? Have you ever dated someone from another race, culture or religion?Have you ever dated someone who didn't like you?Have you ever dated a relative by accident? Have you ever done something silly that you wish you had not done? Have you ever driven a sports car?Have you ever driven a truck? Have you ever eaten in a restaurant and realized you have no money with you? Have you ever finished eating in a restaurant, and you realized you forgot your wallet? Have you ever eaten something that you thought you wouldn't like, but found out that you actually liked it? Have you ever eaten frog legs?Have you ever eaten horse meat?Have you ever eaten French food? (Substitute other countries' food, too.) Have you ever fallen asleep and forgotten where you were? Have you ever fallen asleep while taking a bath? Have you ever fallen down the stairs? Have you ever fallen in love at first sight? Have you ever fallen or stumbled in front of others. Have you ever forgotten your mother's birthday?Father's?Girlfriend's?Boyfriend's?Husband's?Wife's? Have you ever given a false excuse to get out of something you didn't want to do? If so, tell us about it. Have you ever given a ring (or other jewelry) to your girlfriend/boyfriend? Have you ever gone mountain climbing? Have you ever gone skiing? Have you ever gone surfing? Have you ever dreamt of a ghost being in your bedroom and then waking up and finding yourself looking around for the ghost? Have you ever gone to greet a friend or family member then noticed it was someone else? Have you ever gotten sunburnt at the tanning saloon and gone back the next day? Have you ever had a Deja Vu experience? Have you ever made cheesecake?Have you ever made Chinese food? Have you ever roasted a turkey?Have you ever baked bread? Have you ever met a celebrity? Have you ever played a joke on one of your teachers?How about one of your classmates? Have you ever raised your hand to answer a question, then forgot what you were going to say? Have you ever received a present that you really hated?What was it?Why did you hate it?Who gave it to you? Have you ever regretted saying I love you? Have you ever ridden a horse? Have you ever ridden a motorcycle? Have you ever said yes when you meant no? Have you ever slept in a cave? Have you ever slept in a tent? Have you ever swum in the ocean? Have you ever talked to a famous person?Who was the person?How long did you talk?What did you talk about? Have you ever thought of something funny and started laughing out loud in the presence of others? Have you ever told a big lie to someone you love? Have you ever tried in-line skating? Have you ever tried riding a skateboard? Have you ever guessed someone's age wrong (younger or older)? How did the person respond? Have you ever been in the shower when there was an earthquake? Have you ever ripped off your pants while dancing? Have you ever kissed somebody by mistake? Have you ever laughed until tears came from your eyes? Have you ever fallen asleep while talking on the phone? Have you ever sprained your ankle/wrist? How did it happen? Have you ever written an article for a newspaper?If so, when was it and what was the article about? Have you ever seen a car accident? Have you ever called your school's principal? Have you ever received more than 10 cards on Valentines day? Have you ever been on the radio or television? Have you ever ridden on an ostrich? A camel? A cow? Have you ever shaken hands with a monkey? Have you ever received a love letter? Have you ever seen a tornado? Have you ever had an electricity blackout while taking a shower? Have you ever picked you're nose in public? Have you ever been on the radio? T.V? Have you ever ridden on an ostrich? Have you ever milked a cow? Have you ever built an igloo? Have you ever tried any extreme sports? Have you ever shot a gun at a tree or a target? Have you ever played an instrument in public? Have you ever sung in public? Have you ever talked "baby-talk" to your pet? Have you ever given special nicknames to your pet that were completely different than their first given name? Have you ever kept special treats for your pet? Have you ever kept a special blanket or bed for your pet to sleep on? Have you ever let your pet sleep in or on your bed with you? Have you ever hitchhiked? Have you ever fainted? Have you ever been mugged? Have you ever played in a movie? Have you ever called a female teacher "mum" by mistake? Have you ever wanted to eat toothpaste? Have you ever been to a funeral? Have you ever been to a wedding? whose was it? Did the bride wear a white dress or a traditional clothing? Have you ever been trapped in an elevator? Have you ever made somebody cry? Have you ever seen your mother / your father cry? Have you ever fired a gun? Have you ever been inside a police car? Have you ever had to dial 911/111/119... (emergency services)? Have you ever fainted in a public place? Have you ever wondered why Asians can't speak English? Have you ever walked into a window because it was just that clean? Have you ever met someone who has six fingers? Have you ever cook for more than 20 people? Have you ever traveled without paying for the ticket? Have you ever sung in public? Have you ever been outside your comfort zone? How did you feel? What is your comfort zone? When do you feel the most comfortable? Have you ever walked into a lamppost? Have you ever wondered why some people want to be alone but never seem to be lonely? Why do you think this is so? Have you ever tried to eat food without first spitting out your chewing gum? Have you ever saved a piece of chewed chewing gum and started chewing it again later? Have you ever called a 'he' she or a 'she' a 'he?' What was the response? Have you ever called a women sir or a Man "ma'am?" Have you ever asked a woman when she was "due" and she wasn't even pregnant? If you can think of another good question for this list, please add it. Thanks to Erica Box who suggested this topic and contributed the first 17 questions in February 2002. Copyright © 1997-2010 by The Internet TESL Journal The Internet TESL Journal David Dockhornddtraveller [at] yahoo.comSarakhampittyakhom High School (Mahasalakham, Thailand) This is a conversation activity that focuses on making invitations and requests in the context of dining at a restaurant. My Thai students are normally very shy to speak but they love to do this activity. The students play the roles of customers, waiters/waitresses, and managers in a restaurant. This gets the students speaking spontaneously and all at the same time. It's something they really like and you can do it again and again and add to it and really refine their language until they are quite fluent in making requests and invitations. It also gives them an understanding of the vocabulary surrounding restaurants and the cultural context of dining in an English speaking country. Step One If your students are unfamiliar with requests language then teach the language of making requests.Would you like...?Do you want...?Yes, I would.Yes, I do.Then after drilling and going through some examples like "Would you like to go to the movies?" and "Would you like some french fries?", etc.Step Two Run your students through the process of dining in a restaurant in an English speaking country. I simplify it a bit for my 12-13 year olds and tell them to do the following. order drinks.order an appetizerorder food (the main course)order desertask for the checkExplain the language associated with these steps for the waiter and customer. For example, Waiter: "Welcome to Dave's Restaurant. Tonight the special is monkey brains. Can I start you off with something to drink?"Customer: "Why yes, I'd like some milk."Teach the students about problems at restaurants as well such as; bad or slow service, rude waiters, cold food, a fly in the food, a rat in the restaurant, etc.Also, explain some language regarding forgetting to bring your money or not having enough money to pay the bill. This is the most fun part for the students, complaining about the restaurant and not having enough money so this is an important part to make sure they understandxs.Step Three Write down the name of the restaurant on the whiteboard, the daily specials, and some menu items and prices.Choose an assistant manager and ask them to pick some waiters.Give your waiters a quick reminder on their initial greeting to give guests and send them out to their tables.Have your assistant manager help with any slow or bad service complaints and wander around to make sure the students are participating and help pacify customers who are upset with the cold food and bad service. My students love this activity because they love to complain about the bad service, etc. and see the manager reprimand the waiter for being rude or slow. Also, most of the tables end up not having money to pay for the bill and have to wash dishes or the police have to be called.This activity may degenerate if some of the tables have gotten their checks and these students start to play or kick-box with their waiters. At this point you can promote your best waiter to be the assistant manager and pick some new waiters. Usually I let the assistant manager pick but I also pick students who aren't participating or are causing a ruckus.Repeat Then run through it again. The students also enjoy outrageous menu items like monkey brains, buffalo steak, human pizza, etc. and extremely high prices. The Internet TESL Journal, Vol. IX, No. 10, October 2003 A Part of Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom. Related: Fruits and Vegetables, Vegetarian, Diets, Food & Eating, Tipping How often do you eat out? Where do you usually go when you eat out? How much do you usually pay when you eat out? Who do you usually go with when you eat out? Do you like western food? Can you name restaurants in this area that serve food from other countries?What kinds of foods do these restaurants serve?Have you ever eaten at any of them? Do you ever eat greasy food? Do you know how to order food in English?Have you ever done so?If so, was it easy to do so? Do you ever eat at McDonalds? KFC? Other fast food restaurants? What is your favorite appetizer? Do you ever drink alcoholic beverages when you eat out?If so, what do you drink? Do you know what a Caesar salad is? Buffalo wings? Nachos? Chicken fried steak? Did you enjoy eating out in other countries you have visited?Which country had the best food?Which foods did you enjoy the most?Did you think the cost was high or low? Do you know anyone who has owned a restaurant? Have you ever worked in a restaurant?If so, what kind of restaurant?How long did you work there?Did you enjoy your job? How many different types of salad dressing can you name? Do you worry about calories and fat content when you eat out?How about cholesterol ?How about insecticides and other chemicals in your food? Would you send a dish back if it did not taste good or if you received the wrong food? Do you ever leave a tip at a restaurant? How much? In what ways have people's eating habits changed over the years?How have your eating habits changed over the years? Have your eating habits change this last year? Do you think western food is too expensive? Why or why not? Have you ever had a restaurant cater a party at your house?If not, would you consider it?If so, were you happy with the service?Would you do it again?What kind of food did they serve? Who pays when you go out for dinner? What's the worst experience you ever had at a restaurant? What's the most disgusting food you ever ate in a restaurant? Do you like eating at buffets? Why or why not?Where was the best buffet you've ever eaten at?What kinds of foods were there? Have you ever eaten at an all you can eat restaurant?Did you eat too much?Do you think it was a good value?Was the taste as good as a regular restaurant? Why do you think westerners are usually heavier than Asians? Do you ever order out from a restaurant? Do you think this area has a good variety of foreign restaurants?What other kinds of restaurants would you like to see opened? Can kids eat free at any of the restaurants you go to?Do senior citizens get a discount?Are there times of the day when anyone can get a discount? Have you ever been to a restaurant with valet service? Do you like to try new restaurants, or do you prefer to go to those you have already been to? Why? Do you care what a restaurant looks like, or is the food the only thing you care about? What types of take out food do you enjoy eating? What do you think about children crying in a restaurant when you are trying to eat? What do you think about people smoking in a restaurant when you are trying to eat?What would you think if you saw the cook at the restaurant smoking while he is cooking your food? Do you prefer fresh ingredients prepared by a chef as you order or do you prefer pre-cooked food? If you can think of another good question for this list, please add it. Copyright(C) 1997-2005 by The Internet TESL Journal The Internet TESL Journal Emma de Dios Álvarezdediose [at] lia.uva.es of Valladolid (Valladolid, Spain) Students' inadequate knowledge of the world is reflected not only in their lack of foreign language skills, but also in their general ignorance of basic information about other peoples and nations. One of the important problems language instructors face is the teaching of a foreign culture. The Internet is an excellent way to approach the issue due to following reasons: The texts are written for native speakers and not adapted to the students' level.The students are the center of attention, and not the instructor.The gathering of information is dynamic. After first introducing the students to the basics of computers and the Internet, the following three-part lesson provides practice in the classroom. In class, teach the most important vocabulary related to food in English speaking countries. Also, do not forget to deal with different habits or beliefs.The second part of this lesson is practical, allowing the students to surf the Web with the instructor's guidance. Students are provided with several exercises aimed at pointing out differences between the two cultures.The third part requires the students to get involved in cooking food. After studying English for a long time, you finally have the opportunity to go to New York City with your class. One of the first things you would like to do is taste the local cuisine. Thus, you are going to read one of these two web pages of restaurants in New York City in order to know what kind of food you are going to find. Before reading the web page, think of the kind of information you are likely to find. Answer yes or no to the following statements. Talk to a classmate and find out what he/she thinks. Then, ask your instructor. ____ You usually leave 10 to 15% of the total bill as a tip for the waiter/waitress.____ Lunch and dinner take place from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. respectively.____ Very frequently people say grace before they begin to eat.____ You need not make reservations to dine at a restaurant on weekends.____ Men usually sit down at the table before women do.____ People ask for permission before leaving the table.____ The host serves himself first and then he serves his guests.____ It is considered polite to leave the table before everyone else is done.____ Desserts are never eaten.____ The most important meal is lunch. Choose one of the web addresses provided below. this out with the information you have found on the page. Name of the restaurant _____Postal address _____Telephone number _____E-mail address _____Schedule _____Fill this out with what you plan to eat. LunchAppetizer _____Soup _____Pasta _____Fish _____Meat _____Dessert _____DinnerAppetizer _____Soup _____Pasta _____Fish _____Meat _____Dessert _____ Write a list of the differences you can find when comparing American and Spanish restaurants (opening hours, prices or kind of food for example). You will compare your list with the rest of the class later on. For next week, choose one of the recipes you can find on the following page. For this purpose, go to the "most recent recipes" section. Click on one. Read it carefully and look up any words you may not know. Cook it at home. Then, bring it to class so that we can know whether you are a good cook or not! The Internet TESL Journal, Vol. VII, No. 3, March 2001 First click Restaurant Row to get to the home page. Then, in the upper left hand corner of the restaurantrow.com page type Chicago into the city or zip window. Then click GO. There are three cities called Chicago. Click Chicago, IL. There are more than 1500 restaurants in Chicago, IL. Go to the All Cuisines window, click the arrows on the right side of the window, choose Japanese, and click go. Now we can see the names, addresses, and the telephone mumbers of more than ten Japanese restaurants. We can click to see menus, photos, maps, directions, and reviews of each restaurant. First click Restaurant Row to get to the home page. Then, from the left side of the page under OTHER SEARCHES click NEIGHBORHOOD. Then click on San Francisco. On this page there are a lot of things to select and click. In the Select your neighborhood window select Japantown. In the How many miles will you travel? window select 1. (One mile is about a twenty minute walk.) In the What cuisine would you like? window select Seafood. In the What Ambience would you prefer? window select Great Views. In the Any special features you'd like? window select Credit Cards. In the How about entertainment? window select Live Music. Finally, click search. We have found at least one restaurant. If we want to find more we could go back and click a bigger number for the How many miles will you travel? window. Tell Me More - Teacher's Notes Teaching aims: Input: "Food" vocabulary "Containers" vocabulary Restaurant language Recycle: Free Talking: Comments: Students begin the second half of the course. Hopefully they will have things to report that can become the subject of casual conversation in English. Because this is the second half of the book, a number of functions will be 'recycled' in addition to new ones being introduced. Spoken language contains a good deal of repetition and reuse of speech patterns and formulas, so it is important to recycle these and the formats in which they appear, in a Conversation course. Students can also gain confidence when they recognize activities or formats, since they know at once that they can perform them, despite minor alterations. There is more emphasis on role play and use of dialogues in this second part of the book, since it is hoped that students will be more confident , and will even be able to produce some extended assignments and activities This chapter looks at "Restaurant language" (survival English) and food-related vocabulary Page 95 2) "How many food names?" Groups/Whole Class (20 minutes)Pages 96 & 97 This is another brainstorming activity in which groups attempt to write down as many foods as they can for a chosen category. Members then change groups and share their information. This continues until the students have filled up all four categories on their worksheets. 3) "Food games" (plus Teachers' Resource) Groups (30 minutes)Page 98 A number of games are suggested for the "Food Cards." In the first, students perform a simple "Match" game, with the cards face down on the table. There are a lot of foods represented, so this can in fact take some time. In the second game, students play a version of "UNI" which has been likened to "Go-stop" in the student instructions. "Word-cards" are not used. Instead. everyone has five "picture cards", and the remaining pictures are put face down in a pile on the table. The top card is turned over, and the next student must lay on top of it a picture card that fits into the same category or starts with the same letter. The category name or the letter must be (loudly) stated when laying down the card. The third game shares all the cards ("picture" and "word" cards) amongst group members. Each person then asks to "borrow" something from a member of the group. That member must be named, along with the item that is being "borrowed". Thus if a student has a "carrot" picture, s/he can ask someone if s/he can borrow a carrot (i.e. the "word-card" "carrot"). Students attempt to match "picture cards" and "word cards". The student with the most matches is the winner. Game 4 uses "Container Cards", thus introducing what can be a confusing topic for students - the various different names for the way in which food is packaged. Game 4 is a simple "Match" game, concentrating on the vocabulary rather than the method of playing. Game 5 asks students to add any new vocabulary to the "How many food names" brain- storming activity. Finally Game 6 encourages students who have progressed this far to design their own game, and to show other students (in English) how to play it. This might be an opportunity for a more creative use of the "Container Cards". 3) "Food games" - Teachers' ResourceFor page 098 Pages 99 & 100 Information-transfer. Students "dictate" the pictures to each other. Student A's picture has some relevance here, in that it is a place setting, and will be useful for the Restaurant dialogues later in the chapter. Chapter 10 - "Smile, please" looks at the language of this activity in more detail. Meanwhile this will be a chance to identify the problems in giving such information, and to practise the comprehension gambits of the Classroom Language studied in Chapter 1. "Left of ... " "Right of ... " "Top left corner" "Bottom right corner" "Where?" "How big?" "Like this?" "Is this O.K.?" "What did you say?" "What was that?" "One more time, please." "Say it again, please." 5) "Fast food" Pairs (15 minutes)Page 101 Students will be familiar with model dialogues, which they will have studied in school, learning them by heart, but with little practice in learning how to apply them in situations. The use of such dialogues in this book is therefore mainly as preparation for the role plays which follow, giving the students something to start from. For students who find it difficult to do lots of talking in lesson time, dialogues such as this one can be a convenient resting point, giving them a chance to consolidate. Such students should therefore be allowed to take time on these "non-threatening" activities if they so wish. 6) "I like kimch'i" Whole class (20 minutes)Page 102 This activity is similar to "Me too" "Me neither" in Chapter 4. The language however, while looking at the same function of expressing likes, is expanded to include some other terms: "I love ..."; "I hate ... ". Having written their five likes and five dislikes, students now have to find someone who "agrees with you 100%!". In Step 5, students write 5 foods, then ask people in the class their opinion of these foods, using the expanded vocabulary for likes/dislikes. A final Step can be to report their findings to the group or the class. 7) "Food Crossword" Groups of three (20 minutes)Pages 103, 104 & 105 As mentioned with relation to the "Food Cards", there is a lot of vocabulary in this chapter, and this exercise reviews and reinforces that lexis. This time there are three crosswords, and three participants. Student A explains his/her crossword to Student B, who explains his/her crossword to Student C, who explains his/her crossword to Student A. There is obviously much scope for confusion (!) and discussion in this format, so not only will the vocabulary be reinforced and meanings agreed upon, but there will be a need for use of Conversation Skills such as turn-taking, interrupting, checking comprehension, and agreeing/disagreeing. 8) "At the restaurant" Pairs (15 minutes)Page 106 Similar in format to "Fast food", this dialogue presents language more applicable to eating in a restaurant, in preparation for the following activity: "Making a Menu". A final Step can be to report their findings to the group or the class. 9) "Making a Menu" Groups (30 minutes)Page 107, 108 & 109 This is an extended activity, and can be developed to take up however much time the teacher and the students wish. Students role-play the situation of owning a restaurant, for which they first of all decide upon the food (and prices) on the Menu. The next step is to role-play a "restaurant" scene, with customers entering, ordering a meal, having a conversation (see next activity), paying the bill, etc. This is an opportunity for students to interact in the designing as well as the performing of a mini-drama, and this interaction (suggesting, agreeing, confirming, giving opinions) will have obvious benefits if performed in English! Finally groups can perform the finished product to the class, and these role-plays can be videoed by the teacher, for use either as reference material when assessing the students, or as feedback to the students on their present levels of oral English. A follow-up activity can be to report their findings to the group or the class. 10) "I agree ... " Pairs (15 minutes)Page 110 The third of the "model" dialogues in this chapter looks at the sort of conversation that might occur during, or after a meal in a restaurant, though other scenarios are also used. Students can refer to this as well as the other dialogues if they are short of ideas for the role play "In the restaurant". 11) Free Taking: "Kimch'i" Pairs/Groups (15 minutes)Page 111 Continuing the theme of being able to talk about one's culture, this Free Talking activity focuses on the National dish - kimch'i. Three of the kimch'is shown here are from North Korea, and will probably not have been eaten by the students. The top-right kimch'i is from Kyongsang Province (Andong is in Kyongsangbuk-do), but nevertheless might not have been tried by students, since it is not a normal restaurant or dish. There should therefore be plenty to talk about in terms of food as culture and tradition, in addition to the given questions. 12) Culture page 7 Pairs/Groups (15 minutes)Page 112 Next Chapter of the Teacher's Notes Links to the Students's Book Contents | 1 | Skills | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Extra Tell Me More - Task-based Conversation Activities By Andrew Finch and Hyun Tae-duck A Part of Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom. Related: Restaurants, Fruits and Vegetables, Vegetarian, Diets, Tipping About how many different color foods did you eat for dinner last night?Do you think about color when you are preparing a meal? Are there any foods that you wouldn't eat as a child that you eat now? Are you a good cook? Are you a vegetarian? Are you concerned about your daily calorie intake when choosing something to eat? At what times do you usually eat your meals? Can you cook well? Did you drink coffee this morning? Did you eat lunch today? Do you always eat dinner with your family? Do you always eat vegetables? Do you cook? If yes, what food do you cook the most often? Do you drink milk every day? Do you drink tea every day? Do you eat beef? Do you eat bread every day?f Do you eat breakfast every day? Do you eat fruit every day? Do you eat lunch at school every day?How much does lunch usually cost at school? Do you bring your lunch to school? Do you eat rice every day? Do you ever skip breakfast? If so, how often and why? Do you have a favorite cafe? If so, where is it? Why do you like it? Do you have coffee for breakfast? Do you know someone who struggles with an eating disorder? Do you like Thai food? Chinese food? Spanish food?American food?Mozambican food?French food? Italian food?f Do you like Japanese food? What kind of Japanese food do you like? Do you like deep fried food? Do you like food from other countries? If yes, which do you like the most? Do you like peas and carrots? How about spinach? Do you like to cook? Why or why not? Do you like to eat a lot of food every day? Do you like to eat at fast food restaurants? Do you like to eat cakes? Do you like to eat junk food? Do you like to eat some desserts after dinner? Do you like to eat? Why or why not? Do you like to have breakfast each morning? Why or why not? Do you like to try new food and drinks? Do you often eat out? Do you prefer fish or meat? Do you prefer to eat at a restaurant or at home? Do you prefer your own country's food or other kinds of food? Do you read the nutritional information on the foods you buy? Do you take vitamin pills? Do you think a vegetarian diet is better than a diet that includes meat? Do you think fast food, soda and sweets should be sold in school cafeterias? Do you usually want to eat dessert after dinner? Have you ever been a diet? If so, how long did you stayed on it? Have you ever eaten dog meat? How long do you take to eat lunch? How many calories do most people need every day? How many meals do you usually eat every day? How much do you eat when you are sad or happy? How much does it cost to eat dinner at a hotel in your country? How much rice do you eat? How often do you eat at a fast-food restaurant? How often do you eat bread? How often do you eat fresh fruit? How often do you eat in a restaurant? (How often do you eat out?)Where do you usually go?Who do you usually go with?About how much do you spend?Do you ever go to an Indian restaurant? How often do you eat steak? How often do you go drinking? What's your favorite drink? How often do you go shopping for food? If you are living abroad, what is the food that you miss most from home? Is there any food that you really dislike to eat? What are some foods that are considered unhealthy? What are some foods that you know are healthy for your body? What country's food do you like the most? What did you eat for lunch yesterday? What did you eat the last time you ate at a restaurant? What did you have for breakfast this morning? What did you have for supper last night? What do you eat for breakfast every day? What do you eat when you feel sad? What do you like to drink? What do you like to eat for your dinner? What do you think of Thai food? Chinese food? English food? What do you usually eat for lunch? What do you usually like to drink when you go out? What food can you cook the best? What food do you hate? Why do you hate it? What foods do you hate? What foods do you love? What foods have you tasted which you will never forget for the rest of your life? What fruit do you eat the most often? What have you eaten so far today? What is a typical meal from your country? What is one of your favorite foods? What is the cheapest place to eat that you know?About how much is a meal?Where is it?How often do you go there? What is the food you like about your country. What is the last meal you cooked for someone else? What is the most expensive meal you have ever eaten? What is the most expensive restaurant that you have ever been to?What did you eat there?When did you go?Who did you go with? What is the most unusual thing you've ever eaten. Did it taste good or bad? What is the strangest thing you have ever eaten? What is your favorite food?Please describe your favorite food. What is your favorite dessert? What is your favorite fast food restaurant? What is your opinion of Chinese food? American food? British food?India food? Greek food? What kind of beverages do you usually drink? What kind of desserts do you like to eat? What kind of food do like to eat when you are angry? What kind of food do you eat between meals? What kind of food do you like the most? What kind of food do you like to eat? What kind of food does your mother make? What kind of food that you think is the least healthy? What kind of food that you think is the most healthy? What kind of food you usually eat? What kind of fruit do you like the best? What kind of restaurants you like? What kind of vegetables do you like? What kinds of food do you usually eat for lunch? What restaurant in this city do you recommend?Why is it a good place?About how much does a meal cost? What special foods do you eat on holidays? (Christmas, New Year's Day, etc.) What time do you usually eat breakfast? How about lunch and supper? What vegetable do you like best? What's the best restaurant you've ever been to? What's the best restaurant you've ever been to? Why did you like it? What's the strangest food you've ever eaten? What's your favorite dessert? What's your favorite drink in the summer? What's your favorite fish? What's your favorite food? What's your favorite fruit? What's your favorite junk food? What's your favorite kind of ethnic food? What's your favorite kind of food? What's your favorite kind of meat? What's your favorite restaurant? Why do you like it? What's your favorite snack? When was the last time you ate at a restaurant? When was the last time you ate dinner with your mother? Where do you usually eat dinner? Breakfast? Lunch? Dinner? Which country's food do you like the most? Which do you eat more often, rice, bread or potatoes? Which fast food restaurants do like? Which fast food restaurants do you eat at the most often? Who do you usually eat dinner with? Why are diets usually short? Why can't people stop eating? Why do you think obesity is becoming such a problem in the United States and throughout the world? What do Chinese people eat for lunch?(Substitute the nationality of your students.) Do you know the nutritional value of the things you eat every day? Do you believe that "we are what we eat?" How many meals a day do you think should be eaten? Do you usually eat at home or eat at a restaurant? Can you name a spice or flavoring that is good for your health? If you were on death row, what would you request for your last meal? Do you pray before each meal? Have you ever eaten something that made you ill? How many calories are in one hamburger?If you don't know, can you make a guess? Is it more or less than an ice-cream cone? Have you ever had pot-luck? Have you ever tasted African food? Does your family have any special recipes that are passed down from generation to generation? What would you bring to a pot-luck lunch? Do you like brunch? How much should you tip the server in a restaurant? What type of restaurants would you not tip in? Have you ever found something disgusting in your food? Have you ever sent food back in a restaurant? Have you ever left a restaurant without paying ("dined and dashed")? Do you like trying new foods? What new foods have you tried this month? What is the strangest food you have ever tried? Do you have any food allergies? Which food from this country do you like the least? What do you think about super-sizing? Should fast food restaurants serve healthier food? Are food portions too big for our health? What food would you like to see in a restaurant in this country? Do you think it is good to count calories when you are eating? Which food is overpriced? What differences do you notice in the preparation of American/British/Australian and Chinese/Japanese/Korean foods? Do the utensils we use to eat affect the kind or way we prepare the foods we eat? Do you think that food defines a culture? If so, how? Do you notice any differences in the way food is served at the table when you travel? Do you enjoy eating intestines? (Substitute in other foods that students are not likely to enjoy.) How does the etiquette of eating together in your country differ from other countries? Are there any foods that bring back special memories for you? What are they? What can you do when a fishbone is caught in your throat? If you were invited to a fancy dinner with the president or a celebrity, what would you do to prepare? Name a spice or flavoring that is good for your health? What to do when you cut your finger preparing food? Have you ever thought food was your only friend? What types of foods do Japanese people eat? What types of foods do Chinese people eat? How often do you have unhealthy food? When you are alone do you always cook a meal. Pizza Do you like pizza? What is your favorite pizza topping? How often do you eat pizza at a restaurant? How often do you order pizza to your home? Are there pizzerias near your home that deliver pizzas? What do you like to drink with your pizza? Do you know how to make a pizza? Do you know who invented the pizza? Why is pizza popular? Have you ever called for pizza delivery? How do you make pizza at home? If you can think of another good question for this list, please add it. of these questions come from textbooks Copyright © 1982-2000 by Charles Kelly & Lawrence Kelly (Used by Permission) Copyright © 1997-2010 by The Internet TESL Journal A Part of Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom. Is it always necessary to complain? When is it appropriate to complain in a restaurant? What do you think of the saying, "The customer is always right."? What do you say to someone to complain about bad service in a store or restaurant? Have you ever gotten angry at a worker in a store or a restaurant? What are some reasons why we might need to complain in a store or restaurant? What are some reasons why you would not complain about bad service? Do you prefer to make a complaint over the telephone or in person? When is it necessary to write a letter of complaint? Is it common in your country to complain about bad service? If you can think of another good question for this list, please add it. © 1997-2010 by The Internet TESL Journal Teachers often use jokes in the ESL/EFL classroom to teach culture, grammar and vocabulary. If you know a joke that works well with ESL/EFL students, please submit the joke. Home | Articles | Lessons | Techniques | Questions | Games | Jokes | Things for Teachers | Links | Activities for ESL Students Newest Jokes | Short Jokes | Riddles | Puns | Long Jokes | Misuse of English (This is guaranteed laughs in the Chinese classroom. It was originally a bit in a Pink Panther movie). A man walks into a shop and sees a cute little dog. He asks the shopkeeper, "Does your dog bite?" The shopkeeper says, "No, my dog does not bite." The man tries to pet the dog and the dog bites him. "Ouch!" He says, "I thought you said your dog does not bite!" The shopkeeper replies, "That is not my dog!" Submitted by Rick Bell There were three restauraunts on the same block. One day one of them put up a sign which said "The Best Restaurant in the City." The next day, the largest restaurant on the block put up a larger sign which said "The Best Restaurant in the World." On the third day, the smallest restaurant put up a small sign which said "The Best Restaurant on this Block." Submitted by Jim J. Johnson A lorry driver is driving 200 penguins to London Zoo when his lorry breaks down on the motorway. The driver gets out of the cab and is looking at the engine when a second lorry driver stops in front of him and asks if he needs help. The penguins' driver explains that he is taking the penguins to the zoo and asks if the other man would take the penguins there. He agrees. Some hours later, the 2nd lorry driver drives past the first one, who is still waiting on the motorway. The penguins are still on the lorry, and look happy. "I thought I asked you to take those penguins to the zoo," shouted the first driver. The second replied, "I did, but I had some money left, so we're going to the cinema now." (Present continuous / just for fun) Submitted by Jeremy Hookway One day a student was taking a very difficult essay exam. At the end of the test, the prof asked all the students to put their pencils down and immediately hand in their tests. The young man kept writing furioulsy, although he was warned that if he did not stop immediately he would be disqualified. He ignored the warning, finished the test 10 minutes later, and went to hand the test to his instructor. The instructor told him he would not take the test. The student asked, "Do you know who I am?" The prof said, "No and I don't care." The student asked again, "Are you sure you don't know who I am?" The prof again said no. So the student walked over to the pile of tests, placed his in the middle, then threw the papers in the air. "Good" the student said, and walked out. He passed. Submitted by Mary Cobb Neighbors A woman got on a bus, holding a baby. The bus driver said, "That's the ugliest baby I've ever seen." In a huff, the woman slammed her fare into the fare box and took an aisle seat near the rear of the bus. The man seated next to her sensed that she was agitated and asked her what was wrong. "The bus driver insulted me," she fumed. The man sympathized and said, "Why, he's a public servant and shouldn't say things to insult passengers." "You're right," she said. "I think I'll go back up there and give him a piece of my mind." "That's a good idea," the man said. "Here, let me hold your monkey." Submitted by Abu Abdulaziz (Kuwait) James was walking down the road one morning when he met his friend Danny. "Morning, Danny. Er ... Danny, you're wearing a glove on one hand and none on the other. Did you know?" "Yes, well I heard the weather forecast this morning, you see." "The Weather forecast?" "Yes, the weather forecast. the forecaster said on the one hand it might be fine but on the other hand there might be some rain." (Cantonese students have problems with "on the other hand" because there is a similar expression in Cantonese that means "in addition". This joke helps highlight the contrast implied.) Submitted by Dick Tibbetts, Macau This worked fine with my level 200a on up. A man got a parrot which could already talk. It had belonged to a sailor and had a big vocabulary. However, the man soon discovered that the parrot mostly know bad words. At first he thought it was funny, but then it became tiresome, and finally, when the man had important guests, the bird's bad words embarrassed him very much. As soon as the guests left, the man angrily shouted at the parrot,"That language must stop!". But the bird answered him with curses. He shook the bird and shouted again, "Don't use those ugly words!" Again the bird cursed him. Now the man was really angry. He grabbed the parrot and threw him into the refrigerator. But it had no effect. From inside the refrigerator,the parrot was still swearing. He opened the door and took him out, and again the bird spoke in dirty words and curses. This time, the man opened the door of the freezer , threw the bird into it, and closed the door. This time there was silence. After two minutes, the man opened the door and removed the very cold parrot. Slowly the shivering parrot walked up the man's arm, sat on his shoulder and spoke into his ear, sounding very frightened: "I'll be good, I promise...Those chickens in there.. what did they say?" Submitted by Peggy Datz I think this joke is funny and so far, all of my intermediate to advanced ESL classes have agreed with me. A duck walks into a bar and goes up to the bartender. The bartender says "What can I get you?" Duck: Umm. Do you have any grapes? Bartender (looking surprised and finding the question odd): No, I'm afraid we don't. And the duck waddles slowly out of the bar. The next day at the same time, the duck waddles into the bar, hops up on a bar stool. Bartender: Hi. What can I get for you? Duck: Umm. Do you have any grapes? Bartender (a little annoyed): Hey! Weren't you in here yesterday. Look buddy, we don't have any grapes. OK? The duck hops off the stool and waddles out the door. The next day, at the same time, the bartender is cleaning some glasses when he hears a familiar voice Duck: Umm.. Do you have any grapes? The bartender is really ticked off. Bartender: Look. What's your problem? You came in here yesterday asking for grapes, I TOLD you, WE DON'T HAVE ANY GRAPES!! Next time I see your little ducktail waddle in here I'm going to nail those little webbed feet of yours to the floor. GOT me pal? And the duck hops off the bar stool and waddles out. The NEXT day at the same time, the duck waddles into the bar, walks up to the bartender and the bartender says, "What the heck do YOU want?" Umm. do you have any nails? What!? OF course not. Oh. Well, do you have any grapes? ---- I taught my students waddle, webbed feet but you could teach What the heck do you want, pal, barkeep, bartender, etc It is also good to review "any" A man's dog has a problem so he takes him to the vet's. The vet looks at the dog and says that he'll have to take him to the examining room. In the examining room, he takes a cat out of a cage and lets the cat walk all over the dog, but the dog doesn't do anything. The doctor say "Your dog is dead." The man goes out to the receptionist and asks for his bill. "That'll be $325" says the receptionist. "What! $325? How's that possible?" "It's $25 for the consultation, and $300 for the Cat scan." NOTE: The students might not recognise the word CAT scan. Submitted by Christine MacBrien (as told to her by her brother Dave in Toronto The two beginning ESL students went to Honolulu on holiday. Soon they began to argue about the correct way to pronounce the word "Hawaii." One student insisted that it's Hawaii, with a "w" sound. The other student said it was pronounced like "Havaii," with a "v" sound. Finally, they saw an old native on the beach, and asked him which was correct. The old man said it's "Havaii." The student who was right was very happy, and thanked the old man. The old man said "you're welcome." Submitted by: Brian Madden Every day, an ESL teacher was seen coming out of the rest room with a marker, used for writing. In the rest room were expressions and graffitti written on the walls. It was very bad. Finally, the Director of the school called the teacher into the office and told the teacher that it was terrible of him to write those things on the walls. The teacher said that he was not the one writing those things. All that the teacher did was to correct the grammar. Submitted by: Brian Madden "Dad, I don't want to go to school today." said the boy. "Why not, son?" "Well, one of the chickens on the school farm died last week and we had chicken soup for lunch the next day. Then three days ago one of the pigs died and we had roast pork the next day." "But why don't you want to go today?" "Because our English teacher died yesterday!" A man was driving at 80 kph one day when he was passed by a 3-legged chicken. He accelerated and passed the chicken. Three minutes later the chicken passed him again as he was driving at 100 kph. The man tried to catch the chicken but it ran down a side road. The man followed it into a farmyard but couldn't find it anywhere. He saw the farmer and told him the story and the man asked for an explanation. The farmer said that he, his wife and his son all liked chicken legs so he bred 3-legged chickens. "What do they taste like?" asked the man. "I don't know", replied the farmer, "we haven't caught one yet" Submitted by: Alastair Rice This one will perhaps only be good for your more advanced students. A piece of string walks into a bar and asks for a drink. The barman refuses to serve him saying rudely, 'Sorry but we don't serve the likes of you. Get out!' The piece of string leaves the bar feeling glum, he walks down the road and then he sees two girls who he asks for help. 'Please,' he says to one of the girls, would you tie a knot in me?' This she does. 'Please,' the piece of string says to the other girl,'would you mind taking your comb and fluffing out the ends of my string?' so the girl obliges. 'Thank you' says the string and he turns around, goes back into the bar and immediately orders a drink again. The barman looks at him quizzically and says 'aren't you the piece of string that was in here a moment ago?' 'No' came the answer, 'I