

100 ESL Warm-Up Questions by CEFR Level (A1–C2)

Fast, quick-fire questions for the first five minutes of class — recall and quick reactions, not extended discussion. Pick a handful from your class's level and go round the room; each one is designed to be answered in a breath, not a monologue.

A1

1. What day is it today?

Quick factual recall

2. What is your favourite colour?

Quick factual recall

3. How many people are in your family?

Quick factual recall

4. What did you eat for breakfast?

Quick factual recall

5. What is the weather like today?

Quick factual recall

6. What is your favourite animal?

Quick factual recall

7. What time did you wake up today?

Quick factual recall

8. What is your favourite food?

Quick factual recall

9. Can you name three colours?

Quick recall list

10. What is your teacher's name?

Quick factual recall

11. How old are you?

Quick factual recall

12. What is your favourite number?

Quick factual recall

13. Name a fruit you like.

Quick factual recall

14. What season is it now?

Quick factual recall

15. Name three days of the week.

Quick recall list

16. What is your favourite sport?

Quick factual recall

17. Where do you live?

Quick factual recall

A2

18. What did you do yesterday evening?

Quick past-tense recall

19. Where did you go last weekend?

Quick past-tense recall

20. What was the last film you watched?

Quick past-tense recall

21. What is your favourite way to travel?

Quick preference

22. Name a place you would like to visit.

Quick preference

23. What did you have for lunch yesterday?

Quick past-tense recall

24. What's your favourite subject at school?

Quick preference

25. Name something you did this morning.

Quick past-tense recall

26. What music do you listen to?

Quick preference

27. Who is your best friend?

Quick factual recall

28. What did you buy last time you went shopping?

Quick past-tense recall

29. Name a hobby you enjoy.

Quick preference

30. What time did you go to bed last night?

Quick past-tense recall

31. Name an animal you saw this week.

Quick past-tense recall

32. What's your favourite type of weather?

Quick preference

33. Where did you have breakfast today?

Quick past-tense recall

34. Name a country you would like to visit.

Quick preference

B1

35. Is it better to read a book or watch the film? Why?

Quick opinion

36. Do you prefer coffee or tea? Why?

Quick opinion

37. Is your hometown a good place to live? Why?

Quick opinion

38. Would you rather have more time or more money?

Quick opinion

39. Do you think it's important to exercise every day?

Quick opinion

40. Is it better to work alone or in a team?

Quick opinion

41. Do you prefer mornings or evenings?

Quick opinion

42. Is social media good or bad for teenagers?

Quick opinion

43. Would you rather travel alone or with friends?

Quick opinion

44. Do you think homework helps students learn?

Quick opinion

45. Is it better to live in a city or the countryside?

Quick opinion

46. Do you prefer cooking or eating out?

Quick opinion

47. Would you rather be famous or rich?

Quick opinion

48. Is it important to learn a second language?

Quick opinion

49. Do you think it's easy to make new friends?

Quick opinion

50. Would you rather have a big family or a small one?

Quick opinion

51. Is it better to plan ahead or be spontaneous?

Quick opinion

B2

52. "Money can't buy happiness." Agree or disagree?

Quick agree/disagree

53. "Technology makes life easier." True or false, and why?

Quick agree/disagree

54. "Everyone should learn to cook." Agree or disagree?

Quick agree/disagree

55. "Social media does more harm than good." Your view?

Quick reaction

56. "Success is mostly about luck." Agree or disagree?

Quick agree/disagree

57. "Cities are better than small towns." True or false?

Quick agree/disagree

58. "Working from home is better than an office." Your view?

Quick reaction

59. "Old traditions should always be kept." Agree or disagree?

Quick agree/disagree

60. "Everyone should try living abroad once." Your view?

Quick reaction

61. "Competition brings out the best in people." Agree or disagree?

Quick agree/disagree

62. "Advertising is mostly manipulation." Your view?

Quick reaction

63. "Children today have it easier than in the past." Agree or disagree?

Quick agree/disagree

64. "The internet has made people less patient." Your view?

Quick reaction

65. "It's better to specialize than to be a generalist." Agree or disagree?

Quick agree/disagree

66. "Public transport should be free." Your view?

Quick reaction

67. "First impressions are usually accurate." Agree or disagree?

Quick agree/disagree

68. "Failure is more useful than success." Your view?

Quick reaction

C1

69. One word for "freedom" — what comes to mind first?

Rapid word association

70. Is ambition always a positive trait? Quick take.

Rapid opinion

71. Does true objectivity exist in the news? Quick take.

Rapid opinion

72. One sentence: is nostalgia helpful or harmful?

Rapid opinion

73. Quick take: is competition or collaboration more valuable?

Rapid opinion

74. Is privacy a right or a privilege today? Quick take.

Rapid opinion

75. One word for "progress" — first thing that comes to mind?

Rapid word association

76. Quick take: does wealth change a person's character?

Rapid opinion

77. Is it possible to be completely unbiased? Quick take.

Rapid opinion

78. One sentence: is tradition an asset or an obstacle?

Rapid opinion

79. Quick take: is silence ever more powerful than words?

Rapid opinion

80. Does language shape how we think? Quick take.

Rapid opinion

81. One word for "justice" — first thing that comes to mind?

Rapid word association

82. Quick take: is compromise a strength or a weakness?

Rapid opinion

83. Is curiosity more valuable than discipline? Quick take.

Rapid opinion

84. One sentence: does art need to have a message?

Rapid opinion

C2

85. Can you be free and equal at the same time? Quick take.

Rapid paradox

86. Is certainty ever fully justified? One sentence.

Rapid paradox

87. Does more choice mean more freedom, or less? Quick take.

Rapid paradox

88. Can a lie ever be more honest than the truth? One sentence.

Rapid paradox

89. Is objectivity a myth? Quick take.

Rapid opinion

90. Does absolute power corrupt absolutely — always? One sentence.

Rapid opinion

91. Can silence be a form of violence? Quick take.

Rapid paradox

92. Is neutrality itself a kind of position? One sentence.

Rapid paradox

93. Does knowing more make decisions harder? Quick take.

Rapid paradox

94. Can a paradox ever be resolved, or only accepted? One sentence.

Rapid paradox

95. Is it possible to think without language? Quick take.

Rapid opinion

96. Does the observer change what is observed? One sentence.

Rapid paradox

97. Can something be both true and false at once? Quick take.

Rapid paradox

98. Is doubt more productive than certainty? One sentence.

Rapid opinion

99. Does absolute freedom lead to chaos? Quick take.

Rapid opinion

100. Can identity exist without memory? One sentence.

Rapid paradox