

ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS

Closed-Ended Questions / Red Light Questions / Fact Questions

These kinds of questions are “yes” or “no” questions or have a specific answer. These questions help in recalling information.

Usually these questions start with these words...

Who...

What...

Where...

When...

Did you...

Do you...

Can you...

Could you...

Have you...

Are you...

Will you...

Should you...

Would you...

Is there ...

Does

Open-ended Questions/Green Light Questions/Why Questions

These kinds of questions do not have a simple answer and require understanding of ideas or concepts.

Usually these questions start with the words...

Why...

How...

What is meant by...

In what ways...

If you...

Which...

What...

Encourage Long Answers / Idea Questions and Statements

These kinds of questions and statements encourage longer answers and explain ideas or concepts
Usually these questions start with the words...

Can you tell us about...
Can you talk about...
Tell me about the best...
Tell me about the worst...
Tell me about the happiest...
Tell me about the first time...
Tell me about the most
interesting...
Tell me about the last time...
Tell me about the easiest...
Tell me about the hardest...
Tell me about the funniest...
Tell me about the saddest...
Tell me about the most
important...
Teach me how...
Show me...
Remind me about...
Introduce me to...
Describe...
Give me details about...
Explain...
Classify...
Discuss...
Is there something we should
have asked you that we
didn't?

Comparative Questions

These kinds of questions compare and contrast two situations or events related to a topic.

Usually these questions start with the words

How do you feel about ____ as compared to ____?

How do you compare...

How is _____ like/different from this _____?

What are the characteristics of...?

How is this part of _____ different from this part of _____?

Encourage Follow-Up Questions

These kinds of questions relate to a previous answer and invite more details to use information in a different way.

Usually these questions start with the words...

How will...

Why will...

Describe...

Explain...

Why...

What happened before that...

What happened next...

Can you give me more details about...

How could you use...?

Evaluative Questions

These kinds of questions help develop opinion and evaluate situations.
Usually these questions start with the words...

Why do you agree/disagree that...
How would you decide about ...
What do you think about ...
What conclusion would you make...
So why does this matter...

Opinion Questions / Affect Questions

These kinds of questions ask for an opinion or feelings, .

Usually these questions start with the words
What do you think about...
What is your opinion about...
How did you feel when...
Why did you feel that way...
What would you do if...
What would it be like...

Scale / Rating Questions

These kinds of questions put things in order of importance.
Usually these questions start with the words...

On a scale of 1 to 10,...
Would you give this an A?
What do you like the most ... what do you like the least?

Creating Questions / Idea Questions

These kinds of questions use past experiences to find out about new ideas.
Usually these questions start with the words...

What would you do if...
Imagine...
Suppose...
Predict...
If... then...
How might...
How would you create...
What are some possible consequences...
What plan can you develop for...