



“Break the Ice”

a Conversational ESL Lesson

To **'break the ice'** means to relieve the tension, or to ease the *awkwardness* or silence (you can also say, 'the awkward silence') in a room, classroom, on a date, in any social situation where more than one person is present, group function. For example; have you been to your first day of class and because you do not know anyone, you don't know what to say, you don't know who will talk first. This is the "Ice" everyone feels the same, not just you. When the "Ice" is broken, everyone feels more comfortable and conversation starts to flow better and it is more fun.

The same applied to a date, for those of you beginners in the dating world. Once you have some ideas to break the ice, you can take any social situation to the next level, you can become the "life of the Party" or a "social butterfly".

"Ice Breaker Samples"

What's your name? Do you have a nickname? Where are you from?

What's your sign?

My nickname is _____, what's yours?

Do you have a New Year's Resolution?

Yes, I want to quit smoking.

I want to save more money.

I want to speak English very well.

What time do you get up in the morning?

I usually get up at ____.

And you?

Where do you live?

I live in Halifax. How about you?

I am from Mexico, but I have been living in Dartmouth for the last 8 months.

What do you like to do on weekends?

Me, I like to go salsa dancing at Club Caliente, it's a great Latin dance club in Halifax.

I like to play sports and then meet my friends for a few drinks.

How often do you eat out?

I dine out lots on weekends.

About twice a week.

Where do you like to eat out at?

I like to go to Your Father's Moustache on Spring Garden Road in Halifax.
I like to go to the Outback Steakhouse.

What do you do?

I am a student.
I work for the government, I am a civil servant.

What do you like to do?

I like to cook.
I enjoy traveling.
I play sports a lot, I love rugby.

How long have you been studying English?

Not long enough.
Since I was in middle school.
For 3 years.

What kind of food do you like?

I like everything.
I like spicy food.
I love Mexican food.

****This ice breaker activity was to get the conversation started, now you have to keep it going!**** This is also a great instant messenger keypal activity.

Make your own questions now and continue!

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