

Eat, chat and make friends

Come along to a sociable and stimulating evening of conversation that goes beyond the normal 'What do you do?' or 'Did you see last night's TV?' You'll have a number of different conversation partners during the evening, and have a menu of interesting topics to get you started. There will be Turkish mezé dishes on the tables and coffee or other drinks are available. Some of our most recent conversation topics include:

- ✦ When do you feel most alive?
- ✦ Which three adjectives might people use to describe you?
- ✦ What was the last photo you took on your phone?
- ✦ Where do you feel most 'at home'?
- ✦ What three ingredients would you look for in an ideal job?
- ✦ Would you prefer to live with a view of the ocean or of a city?
- ✦ What three questions would you ask a potential flatmate?
- ✦ What do you always have in your wallet or handbag?
- ✦ What music do you have on your phone or MP3 player?

SPEAKING

- 1 A Work in pairs. Write three things that people talk about when they meet for the first time.
- B Read the text above about a conversation evening and discuss the questions.
 - 1 What is special about the conversations?
 - 2 Which four conversation topics mentioned would you be the most interested in discussing?
 - 3 Are there any conversation topics which you would avoid asking in your culture/country?

LISTENING

- 2 A 1.1 Listen to people at the conversation evening. Which two topics from the text above do the speakers discuss? What can you remember from each conversation?
- B Listen again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.
 - 1 The woman would like someone very sociable.
 - 2 She is at her best in the mornings.
 - 3 She is quite tidy.
 - 4 She would ask a flatmate about their salary.
 - 5 The man has a lot of original ideas.
 - 6 He thinks carefully before making a decision.
 - 7 He works for an outdoor adventure school.
 - 8 He agrees with the three adjectives.
- C Work in pairs and discuss the questions.
 - 1 What examples do the speakers give about being: antisocial, tidy, reliable with money, creative, adventurous and non-judgemental?
 - 2 Which of the two topics would you prefer to talk about? What would your answers be for this topic?

VOCABULARY

PERSONALITY

- 3 A Complete the extracts from the conversations with words and phrases from the box.

a people person a computer geek
keep yourself to yourself witty
down-to-earth a good laugh
spontaneous a morning person

- 1 For me an important question is 'Do you _____ or do you tend to be around a lot?'
- 2 I like having friends around. I suppose I'm _____.
- 3 I'm not _____ - I can't stand people who are all bright and cheerful first thing.
- 4 Well, at least you're _____. You're quick and you make me laugh.
- 5 I get an idea and I do it, no hesitation. So I'm _____.
- 6 Well, people say I'm fun to be with, _____. If you know what I mean.
- 7 I'm very practical and _____.
- 8 I'm not _____. I don't sit in front of my computer for hours.

- B Work in pairs and discuss. Which words or phrases would you use to describe yourself or someone you know?

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