

1. Replace the words in italics in each sentence with the correct form of a phrase from the box. 

dominate the conversation

put your foot in

entertaining story

make small talk

put sb at ease

establish shared interests

have a row

1. She tends to *do too much talking* and doesn't give others a chance to speak.

2. I hate *having conversations* about unimportant things with people I don't know at parties.

3. I *did a really silly and embarrassing thing* when I asked Meg about the party. It turned out she hadn't been invited.

4. He told some *interesting and amusing anecdotes* in his wedding speech.

5. The examiner asked me some simple questions to *help me feel relaxed and confident*.

6. When getting to know someone new, it helps to *find out what you've got in common*.

7. The couple at the next table were *having an argument* with the waiter about the bill.

## 2. Complete the article with words and phrases from the box.



### Peaches and coconuts

It was my first dinner party in France and I was keen to make a **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ on the host couple. All was going well until I asked: 'How did the two of you meet?' There was an **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ silence, and my (French) husband shot me a look of horror. Asking a French stranger that question, he later explained, is like asking them the colour of their underpants'. I had completely **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_. But I'd learnt an important lesson about what questions are or aren't **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ to ask someone from another culture. The mistake I'd made was a classic example of what is known as the 'peach and coconut divide. This theory, popularized by culture expert Fons Trompenaars, suggests that the world is divided into 'peach' and 'coconut' cultures. Peach cultures, such as North Americans and Brazilians, are soft on the outside: they smile at strangers, share information about themselves, and ask personal questions of those they hardly know. But after a while, you may hit the hard stone" in the middle when the peach suddenly isn't willing to share any more. Coconuts, on the other hand, such as Russians and Germans, have 'a hard shell. They rarely smile at strangers, and generally listen and talk less **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ than peaches. Once you get past the shell, however, coconuts gradually become warmer and friendlier. Relationships are built up slowly, but tend to last longer. An example of a **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ between a peach and coconut happened when a Russian colleague of mine sat next to an American stranger on a flight to New York. The American gave very personal information about himself, including information about his relationship with his wife. In turn, my Russian colleague shared his personal story, thinking he had really **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ with this guy and made a new friend. After all, their conversation had been more than **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_. He felt quite **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ when, at the end of the flight, as he was preparing to swap phone numbers, the American just stood up and with a wave of his hand said: 'Have a great trip!'"

**a** appropriate

**b** awkward

**c** enthusiastically

**d** good impression

**e** hit it off

**f** misunderstanding

**g** offended

**h** put my foot in it

**i** small talk

### 3. Look at the letters in bold. Choose the word which has a different sound!

1. a establishsh      b impressssion      c offence
2. a easese      b enthussiastic      c misunderstanding
3. a entertaining      b dominate      c appropriate
4. a awkwardard      b smallll      c story
5. a loud      b talk      c row (n)

#### 1.1 Listen, check and repeat!

#### 4a. Read the article, then choose the correct options to complete questions 1-7. Match the questions to the real answers given by Siri, a-g.

Even those who don't own an iPhone or iPad know about Siri, a smart voice-powered assistant that can do everything a personal assistant would - schedule dates in your calendar, find directions, send messages or make calls. But what makes Siri different from traditional voice-recognition software is 'her' (Siri doesn't have a gender) ability to give intelligent answers to all sorts of questions. Many people find it entertaining to have conversations with Siri. See some of the most popular questions and the answers 'she' gives in the exercises.

1. What *do you look / look you* like, Siri?
2. Who *did invent / invented* you?
3. What *did you have / had you* for breakfast?
4. Why *did Apple make / Apple made* you?
5. What *do you want / want you* for your birthday?
6. What *came / did come* first, the chicken or the egg?
7. What *means 'Siri' / does 'Siri' mean*?

- a** It appears that human civilization has been awfully preoccupied with this question.
- b** I try to be satisfied with what I have.
- c** It's kind of you to ask, but I don't eat.
- d** To help you.
- e** Shiny.
- f** I, Siri, was designed by Apple in California.
- g** I don't think I can explain it in your language. Sorry.

## 5. Find the questions that are correct and correct them

1. *What did cause the fire? - What caused the fire?*
2. Who lives next door to you? -
3. At what are they staring? -
4. Who this pen belongs to? -
5. From where are you calling? -
6. What did happen at the party? -
7. Who phoned you earlier? -
8. What did make that strange noise? -
9. Who did you go on holiday with? -
10. About what are you thinking? -

## 6. Rewrite the direct questions as indirect questions.

1. What time does the lesson finish?

Do you know what time the lesson finishes?

2. Will he come to the meeting?

Do you think \_\_\_\_\_?

3. What is he talking about?

Do you have any idea \_\_\_\_\_?

4. Where did you put the keys?

Can you remember \_\_\_\_\_?

5. How does this coffee machine work?

Do you know \_\_\_\_\_