

A2-B1 English Worksheet

Personal Questions and Social Etiquette: Age, Money and Privacy

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Article

A recent etiquette column asked if it is rude to ask an adult's age. In some places this question is common, but elsewhere it may seem impolite. People feel differently about privacy, so even a simple question can make someone uncomfortable.

Salary can be sensitive, and people choose whom to tell. Some people discuss pay with friends but not with colleagues. Relatives may ask about marriage or children, but this can create pressure. You can be honest without answering everything: 'I'd rather not say.'

Social rules change over time. Some people share important details online but keep other things private. A question that seems normal between close friends can seem rude between strangers. Good conversation means listening, respecting an answer and knowing when to change the subject.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

No.	Statement	T / F
1	The same question may be acceptable in one place and unwelcome in another.	
2	The article says asking about age is always offensive.	
3	Some people tell friends what they earn but avoid discussing it at work.	
4	Questions from relatives about marriage or children never make people feel pressured.	
5	A person can be truthful without answering every personal question.	
6	People may reveal some information online while protecting other details.	
7	Close friends and strangers usually follow identical rules of conversation.	
8	The writer advises asking repeatedly until somebody answers.	

Synonym Match

Match the words (1-10) to their synonyms (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. common	A. significant
2. rude	B. select
3. salary	C. query
4. choose	D. impolite
5. simple	E. alter
6. honest	F. reply
7. question	G. easy
8. important	H. usual
9. answer	I. truthful
10. change	J. pay

Use the New Language

Choose 5 words from the worksheet and write your own sentences.

No.	Your sentence
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Discussion Questions

Student A	Student B
1. Which personal question bothers you most?	1. Should people ask before discussing private topics?
2. Would you tell a close friend your salary?	2. Does talking about pay make work fairer?
3. When have you avoided asking a question?	3. Is politeness better than direct honesty?
4. What do you tell friends but not family?	4. Can family questions about children hurt?
5. How do you refuse a personal question?	5. Is changing the subject a polite refusal?
6. What do you post online but not say aloud?	6. Does social media encourage people to share too much?
7. How personal are your chats at work?	7. Should bosses ask about family plans?
8. What manners have changed since childhood?	8. Do age groups disagree about good manners?

Answer Key

Exercise	Answers
True/False	1=T, 2=F, 3=T, 4=F, 5=T, 6=T, 7=F, 8=F
Synonym Match	1=H, 2=D, 3=J, 4=B, 5=G, 6=I, 7=C, 8=A, 9=F, 10=E

Example Sentences

No.	Example sentence
1	It is common to ask someone how their day has been.
2	It can be rude to interrupt somebody who is speaking.
3	She prefers not to discuss her salary with colleagues.
4	You can choose which questions you want to answer.
5	A simple greeting can help start a conversation.
6	You can be honest without telling everyone everything.
7	That question made him feel uncomfortable.
8	It is important to respect other people's privacy.
9	She gave a polite answer and changed the subject.
10	Social rules often change over time.