

# Conversation Questions

## Money & Shopping

A Part of [Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom](#).

Please remember that some questions about money may be considered too personal to ask anyone who is not a very close friend or a family member.

- About how much did you spend on presents last year?
- About how much do you usually spend each day?
- Are you a price conscious shopper?
- Are you good at saving money?
- Are you saving money to buy something?
  - If so, what are you planning to buy?
  - How much will it cost?
  - How much longer will you need to save before you can buy it?
- Do banks pay a higher percent of interest here or in your country?
- Do you compare prices at different stores when you shop?
- Do you enjoy shopping?
- Do you ever buy second-hand things? ("used things")
- Do you ever give money to charity?
  - How often do you give to charity?
  - How much do you give?
- Do you gamble?
- Do you give tips at a restaurant in your country? How about to taxi drivers?
- Do you haggle when you shop ?
- Do you have a credit card?
- Do you have a credit card? If so, do you have more than one?
- Do you have more than one bank account?
- Do you have to pay a sales tax in your country?
- Do you invest in the stock market?
- Do you often put money in the bank?
- Do you sometimes buy things that you don't need?
  - If so, give some examples.
- Do you sometimes give money to charities?
- Do you think that money can buy love?
- Do your parents give you an allowance? (Did your parents give....?)
  - How much? (Maybe not a good question to ask.)
  - What do you use it for?
  - How often do they give it to you?
- Have you ever been in debt? (Have you ever owed money to people?)

- Have you ever bought a lottery ticket?
- Have you ever found any money? If so, what did you do with it?
- Have you ever given money to a beggar?
- Have you ever given money to a homeless person?
- Have you ever had any money stolen from you?
- How important is money to you?
  - If you had no money, do you think you could be happy?
- How many different kinds of coins are there in your country? What are they?
- How much did you spend last week?
- How much did you spend yesterday?
- How much do you have to spend to eat a good meal at a restaurant in your country?
- How much do you spend on food each week?
- How much do you think it costs to fly to Guam?
- How much do you think it costs to stay at a hotel in London?
- How much do you usually spend each month on entertainment?
- How much do you usually spend each month on food?
- How much do you usually spend each month on transportation?
- How much does it cost to get a haircut in your country?
- How much does it cost to ride a bus in your country?
- How much is a liter of gasoline in your country?
- How much money did you make on your first job?
  - (How much money do you think you will make on your first job?)
- How much money did you spend yesterday?
  - Where did you spend it?
  - What did you spend it on?
  - Do you often spend that amount in one day?
- How much money did your parents give you for an allowance when you were ten years old?
- How much money do you have on you now? (Maybe not a polite question to ask.)
- How much money do you have with you now? (Maybe not a good question to ask.)
- How much time did you spend the last time you went shopping?
- How often do you go shopping?
- If someone gave you a lot of money, what would you do with it?
  - If someone gave you a million dollars, what would you do with it?
- Some people say that "money makes the world go around." Do you agree? Why or why not?
- What bank do you use?
- What do you need to buy next?
- What do you spend most of your money on?
- What do you spend the most money on each month?
- What do you want to buy next?
- What is something that you have bought recently that cost a lot of money?
- What is something that you have bought recently that was a good bargain?
- What is something that you have bought recently?
- What is something that you want to buy, but don't have enough money to buy.

- What is something that you want to buy, but think you never will.
- What is the average salary in your country?
- What is the most expensive thing you've ever bought?
  - How much did it cost?
- What is your opinion of discount stores?
- What kind of things do you often shop for?
- What kinds of things are you saving your money for?
- What store did you like best and what store did you like least?
- What was the last thing you bought for someone else?
- What was the last thing you bought for yourself?
  - Where did you buy it?
  - why did you buy it?
- What was the last thing you spent money on?
- What's the most expensive thing you have ever bought?
- What's the most expensive thing you've ever bought?
- What's the most money you have spend on one thing?
- What's the most money you have spent on something to eat?
- What's the most money you have spent on something to wear?
  - What did you buy?
- What's your favorite place to shop?
- What's your favorite shopping area or store?
- Where did you buy \_\_\_? (your shoes / your watch / etc.)
  - How much did you pay?
  - When did you buy it/them?
- Where do you keep your money?
- Where do you usually buy food?
- Where is your favorite shopping area?
- Which costs more, a hamburger in America or a hamburger in your country?
- Which costs more, your telephone bill or your electric bill?
- Which do you prefer, large stores or small stores?
- Which do you think is more important, love or money?
- Which store do you go to the most often?
  - Where is it?
  - Why do you like to go there?
- Who do you often go shopping with?
- Who do you spend money on?
- In a marriage, do you think one person should handle the finances, or both?
- How do you think money helps make us happy?
- Do you think money is more important than love?
- How much money do you want to earn each month?
- What qualities must a person have to make BIG money?
- Should children get an allowance (pocket money) from their parents?
- When do you get your allowance?

- How long does it last?
- Is it enough money?
- How do you usually spend your money? What do you usually buy?
- How much should you give to your children?
- How much do you give to your children?
- Do you ever give money to beggars on the street? Why or why not?
- Do you ever give money to charity? Why or why not?
- If you found 100,000 won (or local currency) in a bag on the street, what would you do? Keep it?
- What are you saving your money for?
  - Do you want to buy something special?
- Who takes care of the money in your house?
- When you buy something, do you "shop around" and go to many stores to compare prices?
- When you buy something, what is most important to you: price, quality, fashion trend, status/image?
- Explain these proverbs: What do they mean? Say them in other English words.
  - The best things in life are free.
  - Time is money.
  - Save your pennies for a rainy day.
  - Money talks.
  - You can't take it with you when you go.
  - Money doesn't grow on trees
- Your rich uncle just died and gave you 50,000,000 won. (or local currency)
  - How would you spend it?
  - What would you buy?
  - Would you spend it on yourself, put it in the bank or buy something for your family?
  - Would you spend it all?
- What is the most you have ever spent on a gift?
  - What was it?
  - Who did you give it to?
  - What was the occasion?
- If you had to save money, what can you do without?
  - I would stop spending money on \_\_\_\_.
- If you needed to earn some extra money, how would you do that?
- What do you do if you can't get the clerk's attention at the store?
- Is it easier to return items in the U.S. or in your country?
- If you can't find an item at the store, do you find a clerk and ask for help, or do you leave and go somewhere else?
- If you don't want help when the clerk asks if you need help, what do you say?
- Is it OK to bring children to the market or the department store?
- Is it bad if one person or company controls the market that it specializes in?
  - For example, is it wrong for Microsoft to control most of the operating system software in the world?
  - Do you consider companies like Microsoft and people like Bill Gates smart and shrewd?

- Some questions about Taxation.

In New Zealand at the moment the government is thinking of imposing a "flatulence tax" on farmers for the livestock they own, as the flatulence contributes to Ozone depletion (supposedly).

- What is the most ridiculous tax in your country, past, or present?
- Do you think taxes in your country are too high/low?
  - What about New Zealand Taxes? / What about taxes here?
- What is the effect on the economy of high taxation?
- What is the effect on the economy of low taxation?
- What are some of the different kinds of taxes your country has?
- If you were the ruler of your country, what would you do to change the taxation system?
  - What is the funniest tax you can think of to introduce?

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If you can think of another good question for this list, please [add it](#).

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