

LGBTQ+ Canadians

Small Talk in Canada

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Discuss with a partner.

1. Easy to talk about (example: weather): _____

2. Hard to talk about: _____

2. Answer the questions with a partner.

What is "small talk"? **Circle 1 answer.**

- a) Very short sentences.
- b) Very short conversations.
- c) Conversations that are very important.
- d) Conversations that are not so important.

Why is small talk important? **Circle all the correct answers.**

- a) It's important for being friendly and building relationships.
- b) It's an important part of Canadian politeness
- c) You can talk about your deepest secrets
- d) It is a good way to practice English

3. Personal questions (*risky (adjective): not safe*):

What are some **Personal questions**?

Example: How much do you weigh?

4. How can you ask personal questions politely if you really need to know?

Do you mind _____?

You don't have to _____.

5. How can you decline to answer a question politely?

I'd _____.

DIALOGUE PRACTICE

1. Emma is at the community centre. She wants to know if the teacher has a girlfriend or a boyfriend.

Emma: Excuse me, do you mind if I ask a personal question? You don't have to answer.
Teacher: Sure, go ahead.
Emma: Do you have a partner?
Teacher: Yes, I've been married to my wife for six years.
Emma: Great! Thank you for answering my question.

2. Emma is at the community centre. She wants to know if the teacher has a girlfriend or a boyfriend. **The teacher doesn't want to answer.**

Emma: Excuse me, do you mind if I ask a personal question? You don't have to answer.
Teacher: Sure, go ahead.
Emma: Do you have a partner?
Teacher: Oh, I'd prefer not to answer that question.
Emma: Of course, no problem.

3. Emma is at a party. She doesn't know if Sam is a man or a woman. She decides to ask about Sam's pronouns, because it is rude to ask if Sam is a man or a woman.

Emma: Excuse me, do you mind if I ask a personal question? You don't have to answer.
Cass: Sure, go ahead.
Emma: What are your pronouns?
Cass: My pronouns are they/them.
Emma: Thank you!

4. Emma is in English class, and there is a new student. She wants to know if the new student goes to church.

Emma: Excuse me, do you mind if I ask a personal question? You don't have to answer.
Yong: Okay, go ahead.
Emma: Do you go to church?
Yong: No, I do not go to church.
Emma: Thank you for answering my question!

DIALOGUE PRACTICE - Community BBQ

You are at a community BBQ. You are talking to one of your new neighbours. Write an 8-10 line dialogue asking and answering risky questions.

You want to know:
- What their pronouns are

Your neighbour wants to know:
- If you have a partner

A:

B:

A:

B:

A:

B:

A:

B:

A:

B:

A:

B:

A:

B: