

Icebreaker Ideas

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Question Activities

Sometimes all you need to break the ice is a couple good questions! Below you'll find our list of the **best 100 icebreaker questions** on the planet (no exaggeration whatsoever 😊).

You can just take turns answering these questions in the group, use any of the ideas below to spice things up, or come up with your own variations. **Even if your group's been together for quite a while, still take time to just talk and have fun through things like this!**

- **M&Ms**—Bring a giant bag of M&Ms (or Skittles) and have everyone grab a handful. For each color, come up with a question the person will answer. Everyone takes turns answering.
 - For example:
 - Red – favorite food(s)
 - Orange – favorite TV show(s) or movie(s)
 - Yellow – favorite place(s) you've been
 - Green – word(s) to describe yourself
 - Blue – favorite thing(s) to do
 - Brown – embarrassing moment(s)
 - *If someone had 3 red M&Ms, 2 green M&Ms and 1 brown M&M, they'd share 3 favorite foods, 2 words to describe themselves, and 1 embarrassing moment.*
- **Dice**—Create a numbered list of questions based on however many sides your die has. The person answers the question based on the number they rolled. Pick 6 of the questions from the list below!
- **Beach Ball**—Write numbers on a beach ball with a permanent marker and have a corresponding numbered list of questions. Throw the ball around the group. Each time a person catches the ball, they say their name and answer the question corresponding to the number that their left thumb is closest to.
- **Question Jar**—Give everyone 3–4 index cards and have them write an icebreaker question on each card, ranging from silly and light to deep and thoughtful. Fold them up and put them in a jar. Pass the jar around and have each person pull a question and either answer or pass and put the question back in the jar. Based on how much time you have, you can go around once or multiple times. Keep the jar and bring it to each meeting for a ready-made ice-breaker!

Top 100 Icebreaker Questions

1. What's your favorite food/restaurant?
2. Describe the best vacation you've ever had.
3. What's the strangest thing that's ever happened to you?
4. What do you think your life will be like five years from now?
5. What makes you feel most cared for? Gifts, encouraging words, cards, quality time, etc.?
6. If you could see someone you haven't seen in a long time, who would it be and why?
7. What did you brag about in high school?
8. What goal have you recently achieved?
9. What's your greatest fear?
10. What do you do or where do you go when you need to get away?
11. What's the best thing that could happen to you in the next year?
12. What day do you wish you could do over again? Why?
13. What is your best memory from childhood?
14. What is your favorite movie line?
15. If you were to treat yourself to the "finer things," what would you do?
16. If your life was being turned into a feature length movie, who would play you? Why?
17. Where is the worst place you've ever been stuck waiting?
18. What was your "15 minutes" of fame?
19. What one object in your home are you most embarrassed about owning?
20. What song reminds you most of a past or present relationship?
21. Approximately how many books have you read in the past year for fun?
22. Fill in the blank: When I dance, I look like _____.
23. If you could be a famous actor, writer, athlete, artist, or musician, what would you be?
24. What's the worst job in the world?
25. Which celebrity irritates you the most?
26. If you owned an enormous yacht, what would you name it?
27. What is your lifelong dream?
28. What's something you're just not good at?
29. What's the scariest movie you've ever seen?
30. On a scale of 1 to 10, how cool are you?
31. How many minutes does it take you to get ready in the morning?
32. What hobby have you always wanted to pick up?
33. If you could be a member of a TV sitcom family, which one would it be?
34. What animal would you be?
35. What event or technological breakthrough do you think will revolutionize the future?
36. What do you need more of right now?
37. What is the most beautiful word you can think of?
38. What beverage do you find nauseating?
39. What three adjectives best describe you?
40. If you were on a deserted island, what two books would you want with you?
41. What's the first thing you notice when you meet someone?
42. If you were running for mayor, what would your slogan be?
43. What was your favorite book growing up?
44. What's the most common compliment people give you?
45. What's the best purchase you've ever made?
46. What commercial product would you refuse to endorse?
47. If you were flying in a plane about to crash, who would you want sitting next to you?
48. What American president do you know the most about?
49. What's the longest road trip you've ever been on?

50. What was your favorite Halloween costume?
51. If you were a teacher, what subject would you teach?
52. What's the biggest indication that someone is a nerd?
53. What latest trend simply baffles you?
54. If you were an evil dictator, where would you rule?
55. What is the worst grade you ever received? What class was it for?
56. What would you like your nickname to be?
57. What's your nicest feature or character trait?
58. If you could bathe in a vat of any drink or food item, what would you choose?
59. What song do you have on repeat?
60. What accomplishment are you most proud of?
61. What is the worst piece of clothing someone can wear?
62. How many keys do you have on your key ring?
63. Which hair style are you most embarrassed about?
64. What's the best advice you've ever received?
65. If you could change one thing about the way you look, what would it be?
66. What's the grossest thing you've ever done in public?
67. What song reminds you most of the 80s?
68. What do you think is the most repulsive form of music?
69. If you could have an endless supply of any food, what would it be?
70. What's one goal you'd like to accomplish during your lifetime?
71. Who's your favorite superhero and why?
72. Who's your real-life hero? (Like a parent, celebrity, or mentor)
73. What's your favorite thing to do in the summer?
74. What's your favorite season?
75. If you were an ice cream flavor, which one would you be and why?
76. What's your favorite cartoon character and why?
77. If you could visit any place in the world, where would you go and why?
78. What's your dream job?
79. Are you a morning or night person?
80. What are your favorite hobbies?
81. What are your pet peeves or interesting things you dislike?
82. What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?
83. Name one of your favorite things about someone in your family.
84. What's one of your quirky habits?
85. If you could be anyone else, who would you be?
86. What thought or message would you put in a fortune cookie?
87. If you had to give up a food, what would be the most difficult to give up?
88. What food do you never want to taste again?
89. What would you do with a million dollars?
90. If you had a time machine, what would you do?
91. What superpower would you want?
92. What award would you love to win and for what achievement?
93. If you could transport yourself anywhere instantly, where would you go and why?
94. What's your favorite animal?
95. What's one thing that you really should throw away but probably never will?
96. What were your favorite toys as a kid?
97. Mac or PC? Android or iPhone?
98. What climate would you want to live in?
99. What's your favorite movie?
100. What's your favorite color?

Active Games

There's a special kind of bonding that happens when you do something ridiculous together. So check out these fun group games and activities!

- **Name that Celebrity**—Write the names of a bunch of famous people (movie and book characters, athletes, historical figures, etc.) and put them in a bowl. Have everyone pair up (a group of three is fine) and tape names to each other's foreheads. Don't let the person see who it is. Then have them guess the person on their forehead by asking questions. You can make it more interesting by limiting them to yes or no questions.
- **The Human Knot**—The goal of this game is to be the first team to untie the knot. Split your small group into two or more teams. Everyone in the team circles up very close to one another and reaches across the circle with their right hand and holds the hand of the person across from them. Then they reach their left hand across and join hands with someone else. The group then starts the game and have to work together to untangle themselves without letting go of the hands they are holding.
- **Photo Scavenger Hunt**—Make a list of 10+ things people have to go take a picture of. These could be things like something orange or the biggest tree you can find. Divide the small group in roughly equal teams and give them a time limit. Each team gets a point for successfully finding the object.
- **Wikipedia Scavenger Hunt**—The goal of the game is to get from one word or phrase provided to the next by clicking on blue hyperlinks used throughout a Wikipedia page. You want to get there as quickly as possible or by using the least amount of links. If the goal was to get from "Marilyn Monroe" to "waterfall," you would start on Marilyn Monroe's Wikipedia page and click on the blue hyperlink for "Niagara." Once there, you would go to "Niagara Falls" then to "Waterfall." Here are some terms to try out:
 - "Tulip" to "Quentin Tarantino"
 - "Easter Egg" to "Lithuania"
 - "Cadbury" to "To Kill A Mockingbird"
 - "Cherry Blossom" to "Brad Pitt"
 - "Mother's Day" to "Summer Olympic Games"
 - "Lemon" to "Seattle"
 - "Pastel (Color)" to "JC Penney"
 - "Gardening" to "Suez Canal"

Get to Know You Activities

Every person has a ton of quirks and foibles. Part of getting to know one another is discovering those things. It can be a blast and help everyone feel more connected to each other.

- **Two Truths and a Lie**—Have everyone write down two truths about themselves and a lie. The more outrageous and unexpected the truths are, the better! Then go around and have everyone share the three “facts” (people can get sneaky here by reading all three in a monotone or cracking up over one that ends up being one of the truths). Have the rest of the group try to guess which one isn’t true.
- **Camera Roll Intros**—Have everyone share two photos from their phones: 1) the most recent photo they’ve taken and 2) a photo that reflects something about their life or how their week is going.
- **I’m Like...**—Put a bunch of random objects in a bag (stapler, tape, mirror, whatever you have at the bottom of your purse/backpack, etc.) and tell people to pull one object out. Then go around introducing yourselves and explaining how you’re similar to that object (this can be serious or silly).
 - For example: “Hi I’m Jen, and I’m like this spatula because I have a strange fascination with peeling off things, like stickers, kinda like a spatula with an omelet.”
- **“Speed Dating”**—This is basically taking the concept of speed dating—meeting a bunch of people in a relatively short time—and applying it to your small group without the romantic pressure/awkwardness. Have each person come up with some questions (some serious and some fun) and put them all together in a presentation that everyone can see. Set a timer for five minutes and have students pair up to start talking through the questions. You can repeat this several rounds, so students have a chance to talk to quite a few people they might not have known well before.
- **Dum-Dum Sharing**—Pass out Dum Dum lollipops to the group. For every letter that appears in the flavor, the person shares something about themselves with the group. (Just hope you don’t get blue raspberry, or you’ll basically be sharing your life story! 😊)
 - For example: grape
 - G—good at baseball
 - R—read 30 books this semester
 - A—acted in a Shakespearean theater
 - P—pretended to be Leonardo DiCaprio at Disney World
 - E—ejected from a hockey game for obnoxious clapping
- **My Weirdest Day**—Ask each person to write a few sentences about the weirdest day of their life (that they’re comfortable sharing). Place the stories in a jar and then pull them out one at a time and read aloud. The group then tries to guess who said it.
- **“I Am From...?” Poems**—Invite your group members to write a poem based on George Ella Lyon’s 1993 poem [“Where I’m From.”](#) Use [this template](#) to create original poems that share some key details about your life and background. Give 5-10 minutes for each person to compose their poem and then give each person a few minutes to recite their poem. You can also share poems in pairs.

- **What's in a name?**—Give everyone a blank piece of paper with art supplies: crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc. Ask them to draw a picture about their name, its meaning, and anything else about themselves. You could give them more specific prompts of what to draw/write in each corner (where you were born, cultural background, family, favorite hobbies, etc.) or keep it open-ended. After giving everyone individual time, go around and have each person explain their drawing.
- **Lifelines**—Each member draws a line on paper and creates a timeline to represent the highs, lows, significant events, turning points, etc., of his/her life to date. Each person shares their lifelines either with another person or the whole group. Other members then can ask questions about each other's lifelines and give encouragement or affirmation where appropriate. *Note: This is potentially a much more serious icebreaker and should be done only after you feel like the group is comfortable being vulnerable with each other.*
- **Values Talk**—Have members find two others who are wearing the same color as them. Have them find a spot where they can talk together. Tell them that you'll be talking about some different things you value, and you'll give them new topics every few minutes. Here are some samples, but feel free to add your own:
 - What's the most important thing you learned this year?
 - What are the easiest and hardest emotions for you to express and why?
 - What's something few people know about you?
 - What do you value in a friend?
 - What's one goal you have for next year?
 - What is the greatest challenge you're facing?
 - What do you like most about yourself?
 - What do you value most in life?
 - What has God been teaching you lately?
 - If Jesus was sitting across from you right now, what would you ask him?
- **Hot Seat**—Identify a chair as "the hot seat." Set a timer for two to three minutes and have each person take a turn on the hot seat. Once the timer begins, other people can ask the seated person any question in rapid-fire succession. The hot seat member is allowed to say "pass" for anything too personal—avoid asking questions like these since it can quickly ruin the fun. The players should be encouraged to ask good, meaningful questions that can allow the person to share significant and important things about himself or herself like:
 - What would you do if you won the lottery?
 - Describe yourself in three words.
 - What's the silliest thing you've ever done?
 - If money were no object, and you were guaranteed to be successful in whatever you did, what would you do?
 - What's a major disappointment in your life?
 - If you could have dinner with any person who ever lived, who would it be and why? What would you ask them?
 - What was your most embarrassing moment?"

Resource List

The above ideas were compiled from InterVarsity staff, as well as the following sites:

- 40 Icebreakers for Small Groups by Grahame Knox
https://www.dropbox.com/s/02if8vujkxatpr2/40_icebreakers_for_small_groups.pdf?dl=0
- We Connect Printable Card Deck
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/fdzmugd41g7raor/We%20connect%20Cards%20Printable%20Deck.pdf?dl=0>
- https://www.teampedia.net/wiki/Main_Page
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pSytHmuDt4ec4jP3T1TK0otBccglmc49XvOW2ef-bFc/edit?usp=sharing>
- <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/nsfp/icebreakers.pdf>
- <https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/inclusive-teaching/icebreaker-grab-bag/>
- <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/help-others-grow/leading-small-groups/small-group-icebreakers.html>
- <https://museumhack.com/list-icebreakers-questions/>