

Vocabulary to pre-teach

interview

interviewee

open question

closed question

Lesson 11

Preparing an interview

Learning objective

To prepare for and carry out an interview

Journalist training school

Interviews help journalists find out more information about a story, and add interesting details to their news reports. Journalists must try to get the best information they can when they interview people.

Interviewing the three little pigs

The big bad wolf has blown down some houses belonging to the three little pigs.

- You are going to interview one of the three little pigs using the questions on the board.
- You need to find out as much information as you can.
- Think about: Which questions are the most useful?

Your group...

PERSON A

You are one of the three little pigs. Answer the questions how you think they would.

PERSON B

You are the interviewer. Ask the questions as clearly as you can.

PERSON C

You are the observer. Listen to the answers and think about which questions are the best.



The questions...

1. Were you scared when your house blew down?
2. What happened when the big bad wolf arrived?
3. Do you like chocolate?
4. How did you feel when the wolf tried to blow down your house?
5. What would you like the wolf to do now?

Which questions were most useful?

- How long was the answer?
- How much information did you get?
- Was there only one possible answer?
- Were there lots of different ways to answer the question?
- Were the question and answer about the right topic?

Different types of questions

OPEN QUESTIONS

Questions that can be answered in lots of different ways.

FOR EXAMPLE

How did you feel when you found out that there might be a lion in the city?

What makes you disagree with the decision to ban e-scooters from Paris?

CLOSED QUESTIONS

Questions that can be answered in just one way (often 'yes' or 'no').

FOR EXAMPLE

Was there a lion free on the streets of Berlin?

Did the mayor of Paris support the ban on e-scooters?

When might it be useful or not useful to use these types of questions?

TYPES OF QUESTIONS

Match the example to the type of question. The first one has been done for you.

OPEN QUESTION

There are many different ways of answering. That means you can get lots of information and detail.

CLOSED QUESTION

There is only one answer. Sometimes it may be just one or two words like 'yes' or 'no'. These are useful for checking you have the right information.

What is your name?
What is the most interesting thing about your job?
Can you describe what happened?
Have you ever been to Australia?
Why did that happen?
What could be done to make the situation better?
How did that feel?
Do you like football?

News
WISE

Different types of questions

Work with your partner to match each example question with its type.

News
WISE

Writing your own questions

All good interviews need to be planned carefully.

Think about:

- Who are you interviewing?
- What do you want to find out?



Writing your own questions

Remember that questions:

- Begin with a **capital letter**
- End with a **question mark**

**What made you
think that the video
showed a lion?**

Writing your own questions

Remember that questions:

- Begin with a **capital letter**
- End with a **question mark**

What made you
think that the video
showed a lion?**?**

MY INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Interviewee: _____

(The person I am
interviewing)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

News
WISE

Your turn

Write some questions that will get some interesting answers to use in your broadcast script.



News.
WISE

What should you do?

You are interviewing your head teacher for the school newspaper. They have just decided that all children should have homework set every night. A lot of people disagree. You are about to ask them a tricky question, and you think it might upset them. What should you do...?

Don't ask the question. You don't want to upset them, and you can always write a different story for the newspaper.

Ask the question and do it in a way that will upset them. An angry reaction will make the story even better!

Ask the question but make sure you do it in a respectful way. They will probably give you a really interesting answer.

What should you do?

You are interviewing your head teacher for the school newspaper. They have just cancelled all after school clubs because they think teachers need a rest. A lot of people disagree. You are about to ask them a tricky question, and you think it might upset them. What should you do...?

Don't ask the question. You don't want to upset them, and you can always write a different story for the newspaper.

Ask the question and do it in a way that will upset them. An angry reaction will make the story even better!

Ask the question but make sure you do it in a respectful way. They will probably give you a really interesting answer.

What should you do?

You are interviewing your head teacher for the school newspaper. They have just decided to make the school day one hour longer. A lot of people disagree with the decision. You are about to ask them a tricky question, and you think it might upset them. What should you do...?

Don't ask the question. You don't want to upset them, and you can always write a different story for the newspaper.

Ask the question and do it in a way that will upset them. An angry reaction will make the story even better!

Ask the question but make sure you do it in a respectful way. They will probably give you a really interesting answer.