

A large, solid red triangle is positioned on the left side of the page, pointing towards the bottom right corner.

LGBTQ+ Canadians

Small Talk in Canada

What is “small talk”?

Discuss with a partner:

1. What topics are **easy** to talk about?
2. What topics are **hard** to talk about?

Then, answer question 2 on your worksheet.

RISKY QUESTIONS

Risky questions are maybe uncomfortable to answer. Some risky questions are about:

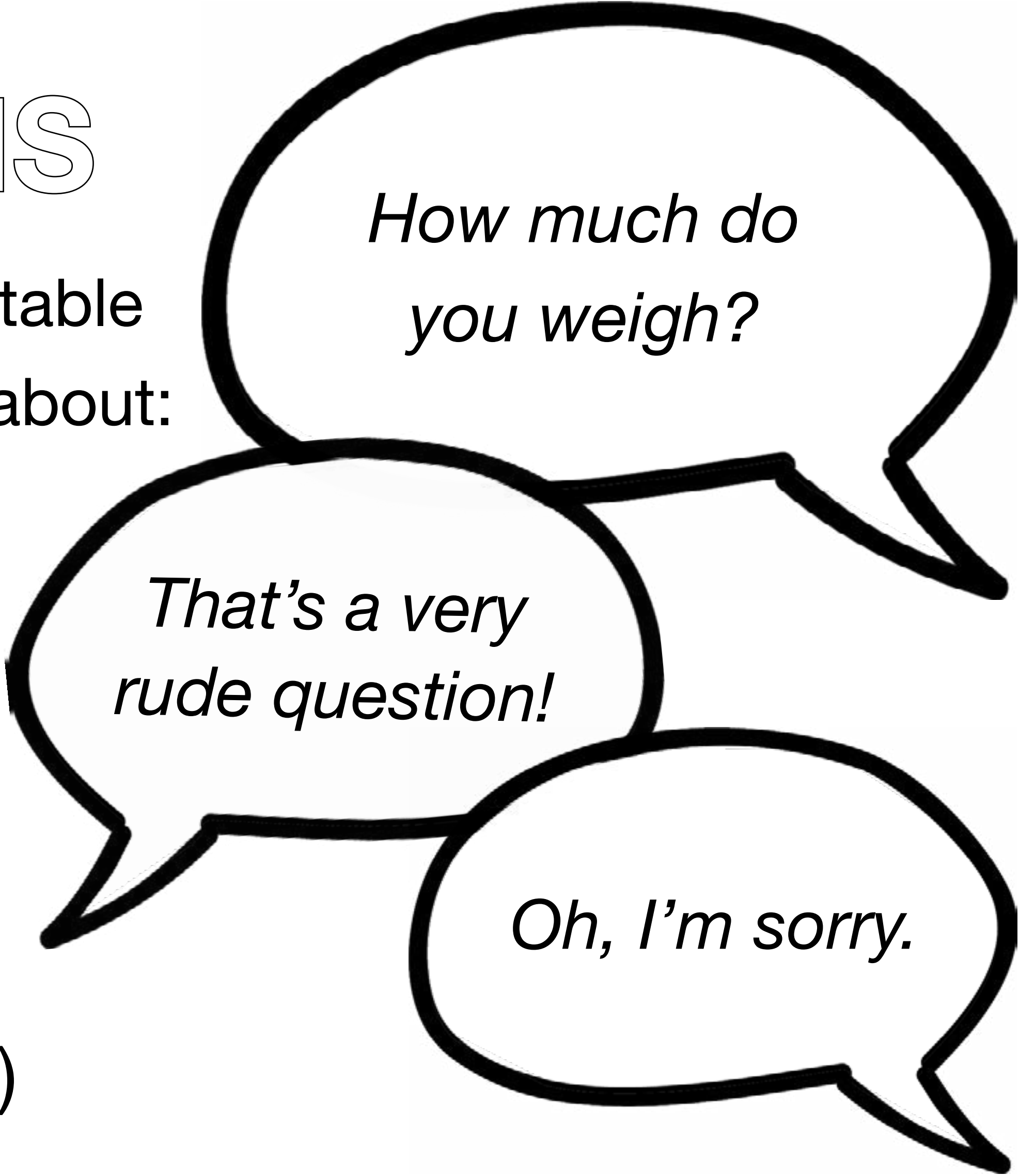
Money

Religion

Politics

Family

Bodies (weight, age, gender, etc.)



How much do you weigh?

That's a very rude question!

Oh, I'm sorry.

Asking Personal Questions

Remember: some things are just not your business!

Do you mind if I ask
a personal question?
You don't have to
answer.

Sure, go ahead.

How old are you?

I'd prefer not to answer.
OR
I'm 52 years old. Why do
you ask?

If you need to know something, you can **ask politely:**

***Do you mind if I ask a personal question?
You don't have to answer.***

If you don't want to answer, you can say:

I'd prefer not to answer.

Speaking Practice:

Ask your partner two (2) personal questions.
Your partner can answer or decline to answer.

ACTIVITY

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.

ACTIVITY

DIALOGUE PRACTICE 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.

ACTIVITY

DIALOGUE PRACTICE 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.

Sam: Sure, go ahead.

Emma: What are your pronouns?

Sam: My pronouns are they/them.

Emma: Thank you!

ACTIVITY

DIALOGUE PRACTICE 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!

Discussion Questions

- 1. Who can you use small talk with?**
- 2. What is the most interesting thing you learned today?**