LGBTQ+ Canadians

Small Talk in Canada

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You want to know:</th>
<th>Your neighbour wants to know:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- What their pronouns are</td>
<td>- If you have a partner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A: 

B: 

A: 

B: 

A: 

B: 

A: 

B: