

■ ■ ■ Warming up! ■ ■ ■

Twenty Questions

Form groups of 6-8. One person (leader) chooses one item – a picture, a paragraph or a lesson from any one of the 9th standard textbooks and writes the reference on a slip of paper and folds it. Others ask him/her questions and try to guess what it is, from his/her answers. Follow the rules given below.

- The maximum number of questions the rest of the group can ask is 20.
- You cannot ask a direct question like 'What do you have in mind?'
- You can ask 'Wh-' questions or 'Yes/no' questions.
- The leader has to give truthful answers.

Agreements and Disagreements

Form pairs. List the things on which you have the same opinion and also the ones on which you have different opinions. Prepare a list of ten things in all and see how far you agree or disagree with your friend. Some useful phrases are given alongside.

You could talk about:

- Clothes, latest fashion
- Performance of sportsmen and women
- Traffic/Transport in your area
- Cleanliness and hygiene in your area
- Future occupations/Careers
- Latest news items
- TV programmes
- Mobile Apps
- Any subject of your choice

Agreement

- I totally agree with you.
- Exactly/Absolutely!
- You are right.
- I don't know, I need to think about it. (partial agreement)
- I suppose so.

Ask for your friend's opinion:

- Do you think ...?
- Do you agree ...?
- ◆ What do you think?
- ◆ What is your opinion?
- ◆ How do you feel about that?

Disagreement

- No, I don't think so.
- I totally disagree.
- Not necessarily.
- I'm not sure about that.
- Let's agree to disagree!

Please Listen!

When I ask you to listen to me
and you start giving me advice,
you have not done what I asked.

When I ask you to listen to me
and you begin to tell me why
I shouldn't feel that way,
you are trampling on my feelings.

When I ask you to listen to me
and you feel you have to do something
to solve my problem,
you have failed me,
strange as that may seem.

Listen! All I ask is that you listen.

Don't talk or do - just hear me.

Advice is cheap; 20 cents will get
you both Dear Abby and Billy Graham
in the same newspaper.

And I can do for myself; I am not helpless.
Maybe discouraged and faltering,
but not helpless.

When you do something for me that I can
and need to do for myself,
you contribute to my fear and
inadequacy.

But when you accept as a simple fact
that I feel what I feel,
no matter how irrational,
then I can stop trying to convince you

- ◆ What's the difference between 'hear' and 'listen'?

Think, guess and answer :

- ◆ How old is the speaker in the poem?
- ◆ Who is he/she talking to?
- ◆ What must have happened before the speaker says all this?



'20 cents ... newspaper' – This is a reference to the columns in newspapers where people write about their problems and the columnist offers advice. See if your local papers have it.

Think, discuss and answer :

- ◆ Is the speaker aware of his shortcomings?
- ◆ Does he/she want to improve?
- ◆ Is he/she confident that he/she can improve?
- ◆ How does he/she want to work it out?
- ◆ Is the poet willing to listen to others?

Discuss how you can be a good listener.

- irrational : illogical, without any reason or base

and get about this business of understanding what's behind this irrational feeling.

And when that's clear, the answers are obvious and I don't need advice.

Irrational feelings make sense when we understand what's behind them.

Perhaps that's why prayer works, sometimes, for some people – because God is mute, and he doesn't give advice or try to fix things.

God just listens and lets you work it out for yourself.

So please listen, and just hear me.

And if you want to talk, wait a minute for your turn – and I will listen to you.

– Author Unknown

■ ■ ■ ENGLISH WORKSHOP ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

1. The poet uses a free, conversational style in his poem. It is also called Colloquial style.

Pick out and write down such lines or expressions that support the above statement.

- (a) you have not done what I asked.
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)
- (f)

2. Put the following expressions in a table of Dos and Don'ts as expressed by the poet.

(a) Please listen.	(e) Just hear me.
(b) Give me advice.	(f) Accept as a simple fact.
(c) Tell me why.	(g) Contribute to my fear.
(d) Solve my problem.	(h) Wait a minute.

	Dos	Don'ts

3. Write in your own words :-
 - (a) What does the listener do when the poet asks him to just listen ? Give 3 points.
 - (b) Why does the poet remark that advice is cheap ?
 - (c) Which two facts show that the poet is confident of overcoming his irrational feeling ?
4. According to the poet, how does God help people, when they pray to him for help ?
5. Why should one learn to tackle one's problems by one's own self ?
6. Why should seniors not over-protect or over-pamper juniors ?
7. Find out and write down some proverbs / axioms / quotations that convey a message similar to 'Self-help is the best help.'
8. Maintain **a diary** at least for a week. Write about your interactions with other people in your surroundings in 3-4 lines. Also write whether you find the interactions happy-unhappy, satisfactory-unsatisfactory, enjoyable-stressful, etc.
9. Write **an informal letter** from a teenager to his/her parent, expressing a few thoughts from the poem.
(My dear/Dearest/Hi! Are you surprised to see this letter? I wanted to talk to you about this, but then I thought I will be able to express myself better in a letter.... Love,/Yours lovingly/Yours)
10. Read aloud a couple of stanzas of the poem 'Invictus' and 'Please Listen'. In what ways do they differ? Think and fill up the table with 'Yes' or 'No'

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- (1) Rhyming lines
- (2) Steady rhythm
- (3) Uniformity in length of lines
- (4) Uniformity of number of lines in each stanza
- (5) Figurative language

‘Invictus’

10 of 10

100

1000

1000



‘Please Listen’

100

100

1000

1000

‘Invictus’ is an example of Traditional Poetry. ‘Please Listen’ is an example of Free Verse.