

ESL Topics: Transitions

Sample Questions & Answers:

Beginner:

1.) What would you change in your life if you had an opportunity?

*I would love to change my job. I feel it's going nowhere, and there is no **room for growth**. I wish I had a career with more opportunities.*

2.) What's your biggest regret?

*I'd have to say my biggest regret was not taking my education seriously. You know what they say, **hindsight is 20/20**.*

3.) When did you realize you were an adult?

When I was 16 and got my first speeding ticket. I had to go to court to appeal my ticket. I lost and paid my first fine.

4.) What's your earliest memory?

Playing the original Nintendo when I was nine years old with my older brother at Christmas. Childhood seems so long ago.

5.) Have you ever lived alone? What was the transition like from being dependent to becoming independent?

*Yes, I've been living alone since I was 18 years old. The transition was extremely **laborious**. I had to **juggle** school, work, and house chores, all while living on a frugal budget.*

Intermediate:

1.) What were some struggles you faced transitioning from high school to university?

The biggest struggle was managing my own time. During high school you always have someone keeping an eye on you. However, in university it's up to you to stay on top of things.

2.) What do you think the biggest transition people in your culture face?

As a Canadian, I'd argue that having and raising children is the biggest transition people in my culture face. Having children forces people to grow up and take responsibility for their lives and those of their children.

Advanced:

1.) Has your company implemented any serious transitions to improve?

Recently, our company made the transition to offer our products not only through retail but also online within Canada and overseas. The transition has been costly. However, over the long-term our company remains optimistic about our decisions.

2.) When you transition from being a working adult to retirement, how will you take advantage of your newly acquired free time? Do you have any ideas? Or is that too far away to even think about?

I would love to renew my passion for music and I would love to take up art. I would also consider living in a different country for a while to really experience a new culture and way of life!

Match:

Match the words from column 1 with the best-suited answer in column 2.

Column 1	Column 2

Column 1	Column 2
1.) room for growth	a.) to balance many things at once.
2.) hindsight is 20/20	b.) to watch over someone.
3.) laborious	c.) opportunity to make more money, or improve in an area of your life.
4.) juggle	d.) It is easy to be knowledgeable about an event/idea after it happened.
5.) keep an eye on you	e.) expensive
6.) implemented	f.) to put into effect.
7.) costly	g.) to have a positive outlook.
8.) optimistic	h.) requiring considerable time and effort.

Questions:

- 1.) What is a decision you made that in hindsight was a mistake? At the time, why did you feel it was a good decision?
- 2.) What was a job or project that you found to be very laborious?
- 3.) What is taking up most of your time in life? How many different things are you trying to juggle lately?
- 4.) What is your outlook on life? Are you optimistic about your future?
- 5.) Is it costly being a student in your culture?
- 6.) Have you implemented any big changes in your life or at work?

Vocabulary:

- **"room for growth"**: This expression refers to a company or individuals ability to expand to higher levels of success. The expression "room to grow" is similar, but usually means to find yourself emotionally or spiritually. *"I like my job. However, the room for growth is limited, especially in regards to salary."*
- **"hindsight is 20/20"**: This expression means that looking back it is easy to notice where or how we made a mistake. Especially since all the information is made available. *"I can't believe I invested in oil companies right before oil collapsed, all the signs were there, but I guess hindsight is 20/20."*
- **laborious**: An activity or job requiring lots of time, energy and difficulty. *"Starting your own company can be incredibly laborious."*
- **juggle**: To balance many different responsibilities at once. *"Parenthood has been stressful. I'm forced to juggle work, family, and house keeping. My hands are full."*
- **you faced**: Means a challenge or difficulty you do not avoid instead try to solve it. *"I was faced with many difficulties while trying to find a job. However, I persisted and never gave up."*
- **keeping an eye on ____**: To watch something or someone to make sure they don't make a mistake, hurt themselves or cheat. *"It's not easy raising several toddlers at once. It's hard keeping an eye on all of them."*
- **implemented**: To put something into effect, such as a new law, or idea. *"The government will be implementing the new smoking ban in restaurants at the end of the month."*
- **costly**: Very expensive. *"Purchasing a new smartphone is costly. Especially if you want the latest model."*
- **optimistic**: To have a positive outlook about life or a situation. *"I'm very optimistic about the success of our newest product."*

Daily Expressions, Phrasal Verbs & Idioms:

- 1.) **"bring down"**: To make someone unhappy.

"I don't know why they are together. She is always bringing him down."

"School has really been difficult for Daniel. I've noticed it's starting to bring him down quite a bit."

2.) **"call around"**: To check with many different places or people.

"The hotel is \$100 dollars a night. I think it's best if we call around to find a better deal."