40+ Check-In Questions for Meetings

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Check-In Questions for Daily Stand-Ups

Daily stand-up meetings, also known as a <u>daily scrum</u>, huddle, or roll call, are very short meetings (usually kept under 15 minutes) where each team member shares critical, high-level information about their work for the day.

These quick morning meetings prevent important knowledge from slipping through the cracks and help maintain forward motion on projects. They're especially popular with development teams.

The three check-in questions for daily stand-ups most organizations use are:

- What did you do yesterday?
- What will you do today?
- Is there anything blocking your progress?

In our own <u>stand-up meeting template</u>, we include one more question about comfort level: How close are we to hitting our goals?

Project Check-In Questions

When managing a project, the right questions can mean the difference between identifying potential hurdles during initiation and planning, or tripping right over them in execution. Once a project is off the ground, progress check-ins ensure they run as smoothly as possible.

Some project check-in questions for meetings during the early stages of planning include:

- How will you measure success for your part of the project?
- Do you foresee any obstacles to producing your deliverables?
- What concerns do you have about the project?
- What excites you about this project?
- What do you need from me as a project manager in order to successfully complete this project?

According to research, the more you ask questions, the better you get at asking them

Once a project moves into execution and beyond, consider changing the line of questioning to:

- What is working as expected? What is not?
- Is there anything we should not do, stop doing, or change?

- What are you doing that wasn't planned? How does that affect your workload?
- How are changes you've implemented affecting the overall strategy?
- What can we do differently next time we have a project like this?
- What do you need to ensure this project's continued success?

Check out our <u>project check-in meeting template</u> for more ideas.

Team Check-In Questions

The best <u>team meetings</u> celebrate wins, provide data and updates, and produce useful action items. The right team check-in questions can bring the team together and draw out important information at the same time in a 2-for-1 meeting win.

Here are some check-in questions for <u>weekly team meetings</u> and even bigger meetings where the whole team comes together:

- Using a percentage, how full is your plate right now?
- What's going well at work right now? What isn't?
- How is your work-life balance this week?
- What's something that brought you joy this month?
- Who is someone that inspired you this week?
- What's a talent you have that you don't use at work?
- What's something that you do to relieve stress?
- What's one thing you'd change about our organization?
- What's your favorite thing about our team?
- If you could spend one workday a week working on whatever you wanted, what would it be?

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One-on-One Check-In Questions

Quality <u>one-on-one meetings</u> strengthen relationships, identify blocks to team members' success, and maintain ongoing realignment with priorities.

While these meetings must be carefully conducted so they don't fall into the trap of becoming casual and/or unproductive, good <u>one-on-one meeting questions</u> can ensure you get the information you need.

Questions like that may include:

- What have you been working on since we last met?
- What takes up most of your time?
- What milestones have you hit?
- What's in your way to being more productive?

- How can I better support your work?
- What excites you about your work? What has you worried?
- How does your work here align with your career goals?
- How do you feel about your team?
- Do you have time to get the rest you need?
- Do you feel supported by leadership?

Check out our <u>one-on-one meeting template</u> for some more ideas.

Fun Questions to Use as Icebreakers

<u>Icebreakers</u>, good ones at least, are everyone's favorite way to start a meeting off on the right foot. If you're looking to leverage your icebreakers in a way that doubles as a check-in, we've got your back.

Here are some fun check-in questions that double as icebreakers:

- If you could only talk to one person for a whole week, and it had to be one of your colleagues, who would it be?
- If you had to work full-time for a month while located in the last place you vacationed, could you do it?
- What superpower would allow you to complete your work ten times faster?
- If you could invent an app that would help our organization in any way you want, what would your app do?
- If you listen to music while working, what kind of music is it?
- What's something that made you laugh while working?

Whether breaking the ice or checking on project status, check-in questions have their place when used well. Make sure your meetings have a larger purpose, and let these questions draw out new levels of nuance about team dynamics and productivity.

Why You Need Check-In Questions

Check-in questions can feel like small talk about the beginning of meetings, but they don't have to be meaningless. When collaborating remotely, these questions can help build rapport within your team and can provide an outlet for connection if people are feeling lonely working from home.

Check-In Questions Can Reset Everyone

The people joining you in your meeting have just finished a long or stressful meeting. Asking a quick question at the beginning of your meeting can help reset and focus on your meeting.

Check-In Questions Give Context

If you discover in check-in questions that someone is having a rough week, it may help guide decisions later in your meeting. Having this extra context can help improve the productivity of your meetings.

Check-In Questions Can Build Connections

Quick check-ins at the beginning of the call can help just remind everyone that they are working with other humans, and can build connections if people have similar answers. When you're leading a call and you ask check-in questions, it can show your attendees that you care about them as people, and not just as employees.

Check-In Questions Allow Everyone to Be Heard

It's easy, especially with video calls, for people to remain silent for most of the meeting. When everyone gets to answer a quick question at the beginning of the call, it can help everyone establish their presence in the meeting.

What Makes Great Check-In Questions?

Great check-in questions have a few things in common. Here are a few ways to make sure your questions are impactful and productive:

- Your questions should spark conversation, but ideally should be answered quickly. The attendees of your meeting should be able to answer in less than 15-20 seconds.
- Your questions should be inclusive. If you're in a meeting with people from all different backgrounds, ask a question that everyone can relate to.
- Your questions should reveal something new or interesting about the people you're meeting with.
- Avoid political or divisive questions. The goal is to build connection, so keep the questions relatively lighthearted.