

ESL Tutoring Session 4: Asking Questions and Playing Games

Tutor Guide

This 40-minute Zoom tutoring session is designed to help develop clear English communication skills for young learners.

Remember to:

- Speak clearly at a moderate pace
- Face the camera directly when speaking
- Use visual cues and gestures alongside verbal instructions
- Provide immediate, supportive feedback
- Use the icons for visual reinforcement

Note for the tutor: This session focuses on question formation and interactive communication skills. Pay special attention to question intonation patterns - questions typically have rising intonation. The word stress section includes common vocabulary that children use daily. Encourage natural conversation flow when practicing the question-asking activities, as this builds confidence in real-world communication scenarios.

How to Use This Guide

1. Review the entire worksheet before the session
2. Follow the section order, spending about 5-7 minutes per section
3. Use the icons for visual cues:
 - 🍌 = Listening activity
 - 💋 = Speaking activity
 - 👁 = Visual observation
 - ✓ = Practice task

Section 1: Question Formation Practice (7 minutes)

💋 Making Questions from Statements

Instructions: Practice turning statements into questions. Tutor demonstrates first, then student practices.

Pattern 1: WH-questions (What, Who, When, Where, How) **Pattern 2:** Yes/No questions (Do you...? Can you...? Is it...?)

Examples:

Statement: "I saw a rainbow yesterday!" **Questions:**

- "Where did you see the rainbow?"
- "Was the rainbow colorful?"

Statement: "Today is my birthday!" **Questions:**

- "How old are you now?"
- "What will you do to celebrate?"

✓ **Student Practice - Make 2 questions for each statement:**

1. **"I go to the library to read books."**

- Question 1:
- Question 2:

2. **"My friend and I play together."**

- Question 1:
- Question 2:

3. **"This game is amazing!"**

- Question 1:
- Question 2:

🔍 **Tutor's Notes:**

Section 2: Voice Patterns & Intonation (8 minutes)

💡 Question vs. Statement Intonation

Instructions: Practice how your voice changes for different types of sentences.


Today's Focus: Rising and falling intonation patterns

1. **Yes/No Questions (Voice goes UP ↗)**



- "Can I use your pencil?" ↗
- "Do you want to come to my birthday?" ↗

2. **WH-Questions (Voice goes DOWN ↘)**

- "Where is the library?" ↘

- "What games do you like?" 

3. Statements (Voice goes DOWN)

- "Today is my birthday." 
- "I like my friend." 

4. Exclamations (Voice goes UP then DOWN)

- "Wow! That rainbow is amazing!"  

Visual Cue:

- Yes/No questions = Voice rises like asking "Really?"
- WH-questions = Voice falls like making a statement
- Exclamations = Voice jumps up with excitement then falls

✓ **Practice:** Say these sentences with the right intonation:

- "Is this your book?" (Should voice go up or down?)
- "How old are you?" (Should voice go up or down?)
- "That's incredible!" (How should this sound?)

✓ **Student accuracy:** ☐ Got it! ☐ Needs more practice  **Tutor's Notes:**

Section 3: Word Stress Practice (7 minutes)

Stressed Syllables in Common Words

Instructions: Circle the correct stress pattern, then practice saying each word.

Today's Focus Words:

1. Rainbow

- Circle one: **RAIN-bow** or **rain-BOW**

2. Birthday

- Circle one: **BIRTH-day** or **birth-DAY**

3. Library


- Circle one: **LI-brary** or **li-BRA-ry**

4. Amazing

- Circle one: **a-MAZ-ing** or **a-ma-ZING**

5. Pencil

- Circle one: **PEN-cil** or **pen-CIL**

 **Visual Cue:** The stressed syllable is like the beat in music - it's LOUDER and LONGER than the other parts.

✓ **Practice:** Make sentences using these words:

1. "I saw a beautiful **RAIN-bow** after the storm."
2. "My **BIRTH-day** party will be fun!"
3. "We read books at the **LI-brary**."

✓ **Student Practice:** ➡ **Tutor's Notes:**

Section 4: Expressing Emotions (6 minutes)

Showing Feelings with Your Voice

Instructions: Read each sentence, circle the feeling, then say it with that emotion.

Feeling Practice:

1. **"I got a new pencil!"**
 - Circle the feeling: **Happy** / Sad / Questioning
 - Practice saying it with excitement!
2. **"Please, can I have a turn?"**
 - Circle the feeling: **Polite** / Angry / Excited
 - Practice asking nicely!
3. **"My friend is not here today."**
 - Circle the feeling: **Sad** / Happy / Confused
 - Practice sounding disappointed.
4. **"That rainbow looks amazing!"**
 - Circle the feeling: **Excited** / Bored / Angry
 - Practice showing wonder!
5. **"Do you want to come to my birthday?"**
 - Circle the feeling: **Questioning** / Excited / Serious
 - Practice asking hopefully!

 **Visual Cue:**

- Happy = Bright, higher voice
- Sad = Soft, slower voice
- Polite = Gentle, respectful tone
- Excited = Fast, energetic voice

✓ **Student Practice:** ☐ Got it! ☐ Needs more practice ➡ **Tutor's Notes:**

Section 5: Minimal Pairs & Similar Sounds (6 minutes)

Hearing Different Sounds

Instructions: Practice these sound pairs that are important for clear communication.

Today's Focus Pairs:

1. Short /ɪ/ vs. Long /i/ sounds

- **pin** (sharp object) vs. **pen** (writing tool)
- **bit** (small piece) vs. **beat** (rhythm, win)

 **Visual Cue:** For short /ɪ/ (pin), mouth is relaxed. For /e/ (pen), mouth opens a bit more.

2. Past vs. Present sounds

- **red** (color) vs. **read** (past tense of reading)

3. Beginning consonant sounds

- **best** (very good) vs. **pest** (annoying bug)

4. Vowel differences

- **leg** (part of body) vs. **lag** (to be slow)

✓ **Practice Sentences:**

- "I need a **pen** to write, not a **pin** to poke."
- "That was the **best** game, not like that **pest** of a mosquito."
- "My **leg** doesn't **lag** behind when I run."

✓ **Student Sentences:**

1. Use "pin" and "pen":
2. Use "best" and "pest":

✓ **Student accuracy:** ☐ Got it! ☐ Needs more practice ➡ **Tutor's Notes:**

Section 6: Reading Practice (6 minutes)

Story Time - Reading Practice

Tutor Instructions:

1. First, ask the student to read the entire story out loud
2. Next, you (the tutor) model-read the entire story with proper pronunciation, stress and intonation
3. Then, read one sentence at a time and have the student repeat after you, correcting any pronunciation errors
4. Finally, ask the student to read the entire story again on their own

Reading Passage:

Playing Games Together

I love playing games with my friend after school. We like to build things, solve puzzles, and go on pretend adventures.

My favorite game is one where we take care of virtual pets. There are so many different animals to collect and care for!

Yesterday, we played at the library during free time. We took turns and always said "please" when we wanted to try something new.

My friend surprised me with a special gift in the game. It was amazing to see what they had chosen for me!

Playing games together is fun because we can learn new things and help each other. We always make sure to be kind and share.

The best part is laughing together when something funny happens in our games!

Reading Questions:

1. Where did they play games yesterday?
2. What do they always say when they want to try something?
3. What did the friend give as a surprise?
4. Why is playing together fun for them?
5. What's the best part of playing games together?

✓ **Student Reading:**  **Tutor's Notes:**

Section 7: Open Discussion (Remaining time)

Let's Talk About Games and Questions!

Instructions: Ask these open questions and let the student answer freely. Encourage natural conversation!

Questions to explore:

What's your favorite game to play with friends?

When you don't understand something, what questions do you like to ask?

Can you ask me three questions about my favorite game?

How do you feel when someone asks you questions about things you like?

What makes a good question? What makes a question hard to answer?

If you could ask anyone in the world one question, who would you ask and what would you ask them?

What games help you learn new things?

How do you ask for help when you need it?

✓ **Practice Conversation:** ➡ **Tutor's Notes:**

Wrap-Up

Areas That Need More Practice: 1. 2. 3.

Overall Difficulty Rating:

Very Easy | Easy | Just Right | Challenging | Very Difficult

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5

○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○