

REAL questions for **REAL** conversations
that **SPARK** learning

free sample



1001

Grammar Discussion Questions

General English

by Chris Cotter

Thank you for downloading the free sample of **1001 Grammar Discussion Questions**.

The questions in this resource were designed for open-ended, free practice with specific grammar structures. Although earlier stages of a lesson require drills and a focus on accuracy, later stages need opportunities for a focus on fluency.

1001 Grammar Discussion Questions consist of closed and open questions that allow students to speak more smoothly and quickly with the target structure. However, with the discussion questions, students also have the opportunity to reinforce additional language from previous lessons and make new connections with the grammar. Students also have the opportunity to improve various speaking strategies, all of which result in an overall better use of English.

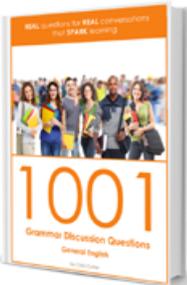
Here are a few questions for you to consider:

- Would you like flexible materials for extended discussions?
- Would you like to spend less time searching for grammar activities and resources?
- Would you like to engage your students with real, meaningful conversation?

1001 Grammar Discussion Questions can provide these solutions!

Enjoy the free sample, and have a great class!

Chris Cotter
Heads Up English



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Preface

Teach. Assess. Research. Teach. This is the cycle which I follow to provide better and better lessons, and so help my students to more quickly reach their goals. And from this simple cycle, new materials get developed as well.

1001 Grammar Discussion Questions is the result of a need to give students as much meaningful practice as possible, thereby improving accuracy, fluency, and automaticity. More meaningful practice means better retention of the target language too.

Many textbooks focus on controlled and semi-controlled exercises; fill-in-the-blank exercises, scripted dialogues, comprehension questions, and the like fill page and page after page. Some textbooks provide companion resources with a few games and worksheets for each unit; however, these fail to consider the background, age, or interests of students, as well as class size. As a result, the activities may not hit the mark. What's more, the supplemental worksheets may not be readily available, especially if you want to incorporate some additional practice as an aside and you haven't made photocopies in advance.

After more than a year in development to create, test, edit, and test again, I'm excited to offer *1001 Grammar Discussion Questions*. I hope they provide as much value in your lessons as they have in mine.

Have great classes!

Chris Cotter

How to Use This Resource

1001 Grammar Discussion Questions has been designed as a companion resource to *101 Pre-Lesson Grammar Worksheets*. The *101 Pre-Lesson Grammar Worksheets* allow for self-study before a lesson, which then allows for more opportunities with meaningful productive practice with this resource.

There are two key concepts to keep in mind with this resource. First, and perhaps most obvious, the resource allows for the practice of key grammar structures. And second, it allows students to develop communication skills and strategies necessary for real-world use of English.

To start, *1001 Grammar Discussion Questions* provides productive practice on key grammar points, and any of these grammar questions may be used in conjunction with textbooks; as an aside to review and reinforce previously studied language as it appears in a lesson; and as written homework.

The content contained herein extends the usual controlled and semi-controlled activities available in a textbook, something which proves essential for students to improve accuracy, fluency, and automaticity with new language. The discussion activities also allow students to focus on areas of interest and thereby personalize their language, all of which improves retention.

In total, there are 1001 questions, some of which prove easier and more accessible than others. The easiest questions allow students to focus on the newly acquired language, rather than also struggle with vocabulary or new concepts which might have been given little thought in the student's L1. However, interspersed with these easier questions are also more difficult questions to engage interest and provide challenge. Regardless of how easy or difficult, though, all questions provide a springboard on which to add information, ask follow-up questions, and incorporate other grammar structures.

The second aim of this resource, improving communication skills and strategies, often gets less attention in many textbooks and lessons. However, these skills prove equal in importance to grammar and vocabulary. This resource implicitly encourages students to do the following, although a teacher can also explicitly teach and practice the below points too:

repair communication breakdowns: When one student doesn't understand his / her partner, the communication breaks down and doesn't progress until it is repaired. Students must ask for clarification and / or re-explain their answers to then allow the communication to continue.

learn circumlocution skills: If students don't know a specific vocabulary word during their discussions, there are several choices. Students can check a dictionary, ask the teacher, or even consult another student; however, with these choices, the conversation stops until the precise word is discovered, and this may not be practical in

How to Use This Resource

the real world. An alternative is to find other language, be it a synonym or a short explanation, which then maintains the flow of the conversation. This is circumlocution.

improve stalling devices: As students think of ideas, organize their thoughts, and find the right language, they also need to incorporate stalling devices rather than sit in complete silence. "Ums" and "ahs" are two examples, and students can also use phrases like "That's a good question." or "I've never thought about that. Let me see."

develop active listening skills: Active listening indicates that the listener understands and is interested in the other person's speaking. Students should make comments ("That sounds interesting!"), confirm information ("So, do you mean...?") and ask questions ("What did you do after that?").

The 1001 questions have been bundled into a single book, but each set of questions is also available as a separate handout. Each worksheet contains five closed questions to start, after which there are eight open questions. Students can also see an example with the language, as well as make any notes for vocabulary, grammar, etc.

As a final word, it's recommended that students first be given one or two minutes to preview the content, check any unknown words, and understand the questions. The teacher may also identify challenging vocabulary or questions in advance, and then check comprehension. The students should form pairs or groups to ask and answer through the worksheet, with the teacher providing correction as needed.

Grammar Discussion

Target Language: *prepositions of time*

Instructions: Answer the questions below. Be sure to use the target language and also add as much information as possible. If necessary, take notes to prepare.

Step One: Let's Look at an Example!

Here's an example to help you. Read the question and answer to understand the target language.

Q: When is your birthday?

A: My birthday is **on May 25th**. I like to wake up early and open my presents **in the morning**. I also meet friends **in the evening** and we go to a restaurant...

Step Two: Closed Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes, if necessary.

- On the weekend, do you sometimes wake up in the afternoon?
- Do you always take vacations in the summer? If yes, where do you like to go?
- Do you post messages on Facebook in the week? How about on the weekend?
- Do you listen to music in the day? If yes, what music do you listen to?
- Do you meet friends on the weekend? If yes, what do you do?

Step Three: Open Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes for longer, more detailed answers with the target language.

- What do you do on Friday?
- What do you often do in the morning?
- What time do you usually wake up? What time do you usually go to bed?
- When is your birthday? What do you like to do on your birthday?
- When is your English class?
- What do you like to do in the winter? Please explain.
- What time do you usually eat lunch?
- When do you usually watch TV? What do you like to watch? Please explain.

Make notes here.

Grammar Discussion

Target Language: *adverbs of manner*

Instructions: Answer the questions below. Be sure to use the target language and also add as much information as possible. If necessary, take notes to prepare.

Step One: Let's Look at an Example!

Here's an example to help you. Read the question and answer to understand the target language.

Q: What mistake did you make **recently**?

A: I waited until the last minute to book a hotel room **recently**. Next weekend, I will stay in New York for a night. Because I made a reservation **late**, the price was quite expensive...

Step Two: Closed Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes, if necessary.

- Do you study hard? Do you think you should study more?
- Do you speak English well? Why / not?
- Does your teacher explain new grammar clearly?
- Can you do anything really well? If yes, what is it?
- Do you know anyone who dances gracefully?

Step Three: Open Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes for longer, more detailed answers with the target language.

- What do you usually do poorly? Do you want to be better at it? Please explain.
- How fast do you run, slowly or quickly? What else do you do slowly? How about quickly?
- What do you tend to do carefully? How about carelessly? Please explain.
- What mistake did you make recently?
- What do you usually do daily? How about weekly? How about monthly? Please explain.
- Who sings beautifully? Why do you like his / her voice?
- How late did you go to bed last night?
- How early did you wake up this morning?

Make notes here.

Grammar Discussion

Target Language: **have to**

Instructions: Answer the questions below. Be sure to use the target language and also add as much information as possible. If necessary, take notes to prepare.

Step One: Let's Look at an Example!

Here's an example to help you. Read the question and answer to understand the target language.

Q: What good habits **do** you **have to acquire**? Please provide as much detail as possible.

A: I **have to become** more organized. Because I'm so busy, I often forget many things like homework, making appointments or going to the store. As a result, I **have to rush**, and this is stressful...

Step Two: Closed Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes, if necessary.

- Do you have to work today? (Or did you have to work today?)
- Do you have to go to the doctor this week? If yes, why?
- Do you have to go to the dentist this week? If yes, why?
- Do you have to go shopping for anything important? Please explain.
- Do you have to wake up early in the morning? Please explain.

Step Three: Open Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes for longer, more detailed answers with the target language.

- What do you have to do today?
- What do you have to do this week?
- What do you often have to do all of the time?
- What bad habits do you have to quit? Please provide as much detail as possible.
- What good habits do you have to acquire? Please provide as much detail as possible.
- How much do you have to study English each week?
- How often do you have to say "sorry" to a friend or family member?
- When do you have to do something that you hate? Please provide as much detail as possible.

Make notes here.

Grammar Discussion

Target Language: *before and after (time clauses)*

Instructions: Answer the questions below. Be sure to use the target language and also add as much information as possible. If necessary, take notes to prepare.

Step One: Let's Look at an Example!

Here's an example to help you. Read the question and answer to understand the target language.

Q: **After you wake up in the morning**, what is your routine?

A: **After I wake up in the morning**, I always make a pot of coffee. **After the coffee is done**, I check my email, read the news, and eat breakfast. Next, I get ready for the day...

Step Two: Closed Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes, if necessary.

- Did you study English before you joined this course?
- Will you continue to study English after this course finishes?
- Do you do a lot of research before you make a big purchase? Why / not?
- Do you usually feel rested after a vacation? (Or do you need a vacation after your vacation?!) Why / not?
- Will you change your career at least once before you retire? Why do / don't you think so?

Step Three: Open Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes for longer, more detailed answers with the target language.

- What will you do after this lesson ends today? Please explain.
- Before you take a vacation, how do you prepare? Please provide as much detail as possible.
- Before you go to bed at night, what is your routine?
- After you wake up in the morning, what is your routine?
- What are three things that you want to do before you die? Why do you want to do these things?
- Where are three places that you want to visit before you die? Why do you want to visit these places?
- What is something that you want to achieve before the year ends? Why do you want to achieve it?
- After you go to bed, what do you usually do when you can't fall asleep?

Make notes here.

Grammar Discussion

Target Language: *that / which relative clauses*

Instructions: Answer the questions below. Be sure to use the target language and also add as much information as possible. If necessary, take notes to prepare.

Step One: Let's Look at an Example!

Here's an example to help you. Read the question and answer to understand the target language.

Q: What is something **that you like to do**? Why do you like doing it? Please explain.

A: I like to watch movies at home on the weekend. I recently watched a movie **that was really good**. It was a movie **that had Hugh Jackman and Christian Bale as the stars**...

Step Two: Closed Question

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes, if necessary.

- Is there a place that you love to visit? If yes, why do you love to go there?
- Are there any places that you want to visit before you die? If yes, why do you want to go there?
- Is there a food that you could eat every day? If yes, what is it?
- Is there a dessert that you are absolutely crazy about? If yes, why are you crazy about it?
- Do you have any suggestions which are helpful to learn English?

Step Three: Open Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes for longer, more detailed answers with the target language.

- What are some books which you have read and can highly recommend? Please explain.
- What are some local dishes from your country which you can highly recommend?
- What is something that you hate to do? Why do you hate doing it? Please explain.
- What is something that you like to do? Why do you like doing it? Please explain.
- What is something that you want to do better? Why do you want to be good at it?
- What is something that everyone can do to become happier?
- What movie which is well known haven't you seen yet? Do you want to see it someday?
- What musician which is well known haven't you seen in concert yet? Do you want to see him / her?

Make notes here.

Grammar Discussion

Target Language: *future in the past*

Instructions: Answer the questions below. Be sure to use the target language and also add as much information as possible. If necessary, take notes to prepare.

Step One: Let's Look at an Example!

Here's an example to help you. Read the question and answer to understand the target language.

Q: **What vacations were** you **planning to take** last year? What happened?

A: I **was going to visit** South America but the airfare was too expensive. I have always wanted to go to Brazil because it seems like an interesting place. Unfortunately, it's very expensive to fly there...

Step Two: Closed Question

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes, if necessary.

- Were you going to visit any friends last weekend but didn't?
- Were you going to see a movie last weekend but didn't? If yes, what movie didn't you see?
- Were you going to see a concert last month but didn't? If yes, what concert didn't you go to?
- In the recent past, were you going to take a short trip somewhere? Please explain.
- In the recent past, were you going to take up a new hobby?

Step Three: Open Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes for longer, more detailed answers with the target language.

- What were you going to do during the past week but didn't? Why didn't you do it?
- What were you going to do during the past month but didn't? Why didn't you do it?
- What were you going to do during the past year? Please explain.
- What vacations were you planning to take last year? What happened?
- What classes were planning to take last year? What happened?
- What New Year's resolutions were you going to make and follow last year? What happened?
- Can you think of a time when you were going to meet friends but didn't?
- Can you think of a place where you were going to visit but didn't?

Make notes here.

Grammar Discussion

Target Language: *gerunds and gerund phrases as the subjects of sentences*

Instructions: Answer the questions below. Be sure to use the target language and also add as much information as possible. If necessary, take notes to prepare.

Step One: Let's Look at an Example!

Here's an example to help you. Read the question and answer to understand the target language.

Q: How do you feel about rigidly organizing your day? Please explain.

A: **Organizing every part of my day** is annoying. I don't like making plans so much. If I feel tired, I sit home and watch TV. If I want to meet friends, I go out...

Step Two: Closed Question

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes, if necessary.

- Do you dislike going to the doctor or dentist? If yes, why do you dislike going there?
- Do you think getting to the airport early is important when you travel? Why / not?
- Is shopping online convenient? How about safe? Why / not?
- Is mastering English important for your future? If yes, how will you use English?
- Does talking on a cell phone in a public place annoy you?

Step Three: Open Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes for longer, more detailed answers with the target language.

- What are some healthy activities? How often do you do these activities?
- What do you think about studying in a foreign country for one or two years? Is it a good idea?
- What do you think about developing alternative energy sources? Is it a good idea?
- How do you feel about rigidly organizing your day? Please explain.
- How do you feel about meeting new people? Please explain.
- How do you feel about waking up at 4:00 am to start your day?
- What do you think about spending a lot of money to wear the latest fashions?
- What are some bad habits that you have? How about good habits?

Make notes here.

Grammar Discussion

Target Language: *quantifiers for general and specific things*

Instructions: Answer the questions below. Be sure to use the target language and also add as much information as possible. If necessary, take notes to prepare.

Step One: Let's Look at an Example!

Here's an example to help you. Read the question and answer to understand the target language.

Q: How many of the items on your bucket list have you done? Do you have a lot more to accomplish?

A: I have done **a few of the** items on my bucket list. For example, I have visited Japan and climbed Mt. Fuji. I have also ridden a motorcycle across the United States...

Step Two: Closed Question

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes, if necessary.

- Are some of the fast food restaurants that you eat at healthy?
- Are all of the people that you know open-minded?
- Are most of the politicians in your country trustworthy? Why do / won't you think so?
- Are many of the stereotypes of people and places accurate? Why do / don't you think so?
- Do you think some of the people might fail this class?

Step Three: Open Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes for longer, more detailed answers with the target language.

- What can you say about many athletes? How about the athletes in your country? Please explain.
- What can you say about many actors? How about the actors in your country? Please explain.
- Where are a few of the best tourist destinations in your country? What makes them great places to visit?
- What are some of the most delicious foods in your country? What makes them so good?
- How many of the people that you regularly hang out with know your birthday?
- How many of the items on your bucket list have you done? Do you have a lot more to accomplish?
- What can you say about Facebook, Twitter, and social media?
- Who are some well-known people in your country? What are they famous for?

Make notes here.

Grammar Discussion

Target Language: *active causative*

Instructions: Answer the questions below. Be sure to use the target language and also add as much information as possible. If necessary, take notes to prepare.

Step One: Let's Look at an Example!

Here's an example to help you. Read the question and answer to understand the target language.

Q: What did your parents often **make** you **do** when you were younger?

A: My parents **made** me **practice** the piano every day. They **made** me **practice** for at least one hour, and then they **allowed** me **to go** outside and play...

Step Two: Closed Question

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes, if necessary.

- Did your parents encourage you to try something different when you were younger?
- Do you let your friends take advantage of you? Why do / don't you think so?
- Are you often required to do something that you don't like to do? If yes, what is it?
- Will you help anyone finish their English homework this week?
- Should we convince people to protect the environment? Why / not?

Step Three: Open Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes for longer, more detailed answers with the target language.

- Does your school have any requirements? If yes, what does it require you to do?
- What has helped you learn English?
- What do you encourage every visitor to your country to see and do? Why?
- What do you encourage every visitor to your country to avoid? Why?
- What makes you fall asleep quickly? What makes you stay up late even when you're tired?
- What did your parents often let you do when you were younger?
- What did your parents often make you do when you were younger?
- What aren't you allowed to do in your house? Why?

Make notes here.

Grammar Discussion

Target Language: *third conditionals*

Instructions: Answer the questions below. Be sure to use the target language and also add as much information as possible. If necessary, take notes to prepare.

Step One: Let's Look at an Example!

Here's an example to help you. Read the question and answer to understand the target language.

Q: Where would you have ended up **if you had pursued your dreams without compromise?**

A: I think most people think that they would have become richer or more successful **if they had pursued their dreams**. However, **if I hadn't compromised in my life**, I would have become a lonely person...

Step Two: Closed Question

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes, if necessary.

- If you had always listening to your parents, would you have made as many mistakes while growing up?
- If you had taken fewer risks when you were younger, would you have missed a major event in your life?
- If you had been born with super powers, would they have been a blessing or curse? Why?
- If you had had more time recently, would you have been productive or would you have procrastinated?
- If you had been given three wishes, would any of them have been altruistic?

Step Three: Open Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes for longer, more detailed answers with the target language.

- What would you have done this month if you had had more time? How about last year?
- What would you have done last year if you had had enough money to do anything?
- Where would you have ended up if you had pursued your dreams without compromise?
- If you had been born a century earlier, how different would your life have been?
- If you had been born into a wealthy family, how different would your childhood have been?
- If you had been grown up in another country, which country would have been best?
- If you had been given three wishes as a young child, what would you likely have wished for?
- What would you have done if you had been given the chance to quit school at a young age?

Make notes here.

Grammar Discussion

Target Language: *modal verbs for the past*

Instructions: Answer the questions below. Be sure to use the target language and also add as much information as possible. If necessary, take notes to prepare.

Step One: Let's Look at an Example!

Here's an example to help you. Read the question and answer to understand the target language.

Q: Your friend looks happier than ever before. What **might have happened**?

A: Of course, it depends on which of my friends looks happy. That said, my friend **might have decided** to get married or **might have received** a promotion at work. He also **could have won** the lottery...

Step Two: Closed Question

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes, if necessary.

- You have just come back from a vacation in Hawaii. Might you have had a great or a terrible vacation?
- You have come back from a vacation in the wilderness. Might you have had a great or a terrible vacation?
- You couldn't sleep last night. Could you have been worried or stressed out about something important?
- You missed the train. Could you have overslept?
- You arrive at work and no one is there. Might the company have gone out of business?

Step Three: Open Questions

Read and understand the questions. Check your dictionary and make any notes for longer, more detailed answers with the target language.

- Imagine your teacher has missed the lesson. What might have happened?
- Imagine you get a phone call from your teacher. Why might he / she have called you?
- Imagine you receive an email from the US President. Why might he have sent you the email?
- Imagine there is a suitcase of money at your front door one day. Where might it have come from?
- Your friend looks happier than ever before. What could have happened?
- Your friend looks sadder than ever before. What could have happened?
- You hear that your favorite actor has suddenly passed away. What may have happened?
- Imagine you have felt exhausted recently. What might have happened to make you feel so tired?

Make notes here.