



Three-Minute Interview (#7 - #10 Regular & Tag Questions)



1. Student ability: **Beginner ~ High Intermediate**
2. Approximate length of lesson: **30+**
3. Number of students necessary: **2+**
4. Preferred age/maturity: **JHS, HS, College, Adult**
5. Type of lesson: **Pair Work Activity**

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Language Target: Developing fluency, verb identification and listening skills by practicing simple Questions and Answers.

Setting Up: Before handing out the worksheets, ask the class five or six of the questions from the worksheets and encourage quick responses. Make copies of the worksheets and cut them in half. Pair the students and hand one student Worksheet A and the other Worksheet B.

Make sure that there is one timer for each pair of students. If not, make sure that pairs have at least one watch with a second hand.

The advantage of doing Tag Questions is the inherent need for students to listen to each other – they often don't!!

With Tag Questions, explain that if the answer to the question is known, the question should end with a falling intonation (confirming). Conversely, if the answer to the question isn't known, the question should end with a rising intonation.

Getting Started: Depending on which worksheets are being used* explain the verb tense and direct students' attention to the bottom of the worksheets where the verbs are printed.

*Worksheet #4 – Present Tense

Worksheet #5 – Past Tense

Worksheet #6 – Present and Past Tense

Explain that each student has three minutes to complete all 22 of the questions (with partner answering them). In most cases, students will need about 15 minutes the first time through, but they will increase in speed with each successive time.

Students **are not permitted to write the verbs on their worksheets**, but they can keep notes of their partner's answers if they like.

Usually, the third time students do this interview, they can finish within three minutes.

When Student A is able to complete all of the questions in three minutes, Student B does the same.

Variation 1: Pairs alternate asking each other the questions (set the timer for six minutes).

Variation 2: For lower-ability students, group three or four A Students and three or four B Students. Together, as a group, they help each other identify the correct

verbs for the questions. When finished, one Student A and one Student B form a pair and proceed through the questions.

[Depending on the English ability of the students, they may be permitted to write the verbs on their worksheets. This should only be permitted with very low ability students; it's much better for students to complete the interviews naturally, thereby increasing their speed as they do the interview a second and third time.]

Variation 3: With higher ability students, re-pair the students (each keeping his / her own worksheet) and have them begin the interviews again with a new partner.

Variation 4: Encourage higher-ability students to convert all Regular Questions into Tag Questions, and all Tag Questions into Regular Questions.

Variation 5: Again, with higher ability students, re-pair the students (each keeping his / her own worksheet) and have them **report** the information from their interview with their new partner. For example, Student A tells his / her new partner about his / her former partner:
Student A: *Wanda* (former partner) *meets her best friend three times a week, her parents are from Madrid, summer is her*

favorite season, her family usually gets together on holidays, she isn't an optimistic person... etc.

Variation 6: Once students are able to complete the interview in three minutes (some students will actually be able to do it in less than two!), encourage them to ask a second "similar" question for each one on the worksheet. For example:

Student A: *How often do you meet your best friend?*

Student B: *I meet her three times a week.*

Student A: *How often do you meet your grandfather?*

Student B: *I meet him once a month.*

Student A: *Where are your parents from?*

Student B: *They are from Madrid.*

Student A: *Where is your teacher from?*

Student B: *She is from Canada.*

Similar Lessons:

3-Minute Interviews (Regular Questions)
(Lesson Collection Set #4 - Lessons 23a~c)

3-Minute Interviews (Tag Questions)
(Lesson Collection Set #4 - Lessons 23d~f)

Note: The difficulty of the worksheets increases with the number. Worksheet #01a is the easiest, worksheet #01j is the most difficult.

Contributed by Kurt Scheibner

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