

## Travel



1. What's the best holiday you've ever had?
2. What's the best airline? What's the worst?
3. Where did you and your family go on holiday when you were young?
4. Can you remember the first holiday you went on without your parents? How old were you?
5. If you have, or are going to have children, at what age will you let them go on holiday with their friends?

## Anti-Americanism



1. How do you define Anti-Americanism?
2. Do you think that your country is an anti American country? Why?
3. Who's your favourite American?
4. Are you anti American? Why?
5. When you think about your feelings for America – how you felt when you were young and now – is there a big difference?

## Society



1. If your son had an exceptionally large nose and everyone at school was making his life hell, would you pay for him to have surgery? (hell – inferno)
2. What are the 5 worst jobs?
3. What are the 5 most glamorous jobs?
4. What is a French kiss? Why is French Kissing *French* in Britain? What is it called in your country?
5. What sort of person is the average bureaucrat?



## Society



1. Why are more and more people in debt? (deuda)
2. Should cigarette companies pay money to sufferers of lung cancer? (lungs -pulmones)
3. Did people suffer from depression before the 20<sup>th</sup> Century? Is depression a disease of capitalist society?
4. Is divorce going to increase? Thinking of the experience of your friends, are people still choosing to get married?
5. Do people drive safely in this country? Do cars stop at zebra crossings? Are the police vigilant?

## Moral Maze



1. If you had the money would you have yourself frozen when you die?
2. Should you always tell the person you are ending a relationship with your true motive for ending the relationship?
3. As the world becomes full of liars and selfish people, is there any sense in having principles or not being selfish? (selfish - egoista)
4. What was story of Robert Redford's 1990 film *Indecent Proposal*? Would most men do what Woody Harleson did?
5. Why do we continue to refer to Alexander as *the great*? He made war on three continents bringing death and suffering.

## Religion



1. Do you come from a religious family?
2. Were you exposed to religion when you were at school?
3. As we know, the new education law lets parents decide if they want religious education for their children. Do you agree with this?
4. If a society exists without religion, how can it teach children what is good and bad?
5. What is the meaning of the word 'Islam' in Arabic? Have you ever considered converting to Islam or Judaism? (Islam - submission.)



## Society



1. Is busking nothing more than a noisy form of begging? (mendigar) (busk - cantar en la calle o en el tren)
2. Are there a lot of people living on the street in this country? If you were without a house where would you spend the night?
3. Do immigrants make a good contribution to society?
4. What is the difference between a tobacconist and a heroin trafficker?
5. What is noise pollution? Have you ever created it or suffered from it?

## Moral Maze



1. Is Miss World insulting to women? The Chippendales to men?
2. Do you have a problem in your country with social security fraud? Would you inform the authorities about somebody receiving unemployment and working at the same time?
3. Would an individual adopted and raised by two gay men have a different attitude to life than someone from a "normal" family?
4. If you hit your son, does he have the right to hit you back?
5. What's the point in being good if there's no heaven or hell?

## Religion



1. Is Buddhism over-rated? (sobreestimado)
2. Have you ever been in a state of Zen? Do you think Zen really exists?
3. Why do Hindus not wear leather shoes? (leather - cuero)
4. Is it hypocritical to get married in church if you don't usually go to church?
5. In a recent survey it was discovered that 65% of Americans believe in angels. Do you believe in angels or do you believe that Americans are crazy?



## Society



1. What's the sense in getting married?
2. Do you give up your seat for old people?
3. Why were the streets safe 40 years ago but they are dangerous now? (safe – seguro)
4. Why did the price of houses increase so much in the years 2000 – 2006?
5. Do you mind that many formalities (usted, sir, vous etc etc) are disappearing? Is it important to always say *please* and *thank-you*?

## Leisure



1. When was the last time you went camping? Would you do it again? What are the main advantages and disadvantages?
2. What's the worst restaurant you've ever been to? What's the best?
3. What's more beautiful, sunset or sunrise? What's the most beautiful sunset or sunrise you have seen? Were you alone?
4. Have you ever been to a rave? What differentiates a rave from a discotheque?
5. What is a metal detector? Have you ever owned one?

## Travel



1. Do you get sick on boats when you travel on them?
2. Do you feel confident about speaking English when you are in an English speaking country?
3. Do you think that the Spanish coast has too many buildings on it?
4. Do you buy flights and holidays on the Internet? Why/Why not?
5. A recent study has shown that people who buy their holidays on the internet spend more time choosing and booking the holiday than those who go to a travel agent? Wasn't Internet shopping supposed to save time? (save – ahorrar)



## Anti-Americanism



1. What is the greatest contribution America has made to the human race? What is the worst?
2. What are the main climactic and geographical features of the United States?
3. What's your favourite city in the United States?
4. Why are so many African Americans in prison?
5. What would be the worst thing about living in the States? And you're not permitted to say "Americans".

## Fashion



1. Is fashion, quite frankly, a lot of nonsense? (nonsense – tonterias)
2. Is it wrong to wear fur coats? (fur – pelo de animal) What did prehistoric man wear, and why is that different?
3. How important is it in your opinion that a man or woman dresses well?
4. Recently, the 1980s have become fashionable? Do you think 80s' and 90s' fashions are cool?
5. Are these revivals because designers have no new ideas?

## Utterly random



1. In Australia it is illegal not to vote. Do you think this is a good idea? Why?
2. Who invented the pizza? Where can you buy the best pizza in the world? What do you think of Pizza Hut?
3. Have you ever had food poisoning? What happened?
4. What is the future of reality TV? Will something like *the Truman Show* become a reality?
5. What's the best hotel you've ever stayed in? What's the worst? Do you like hotels or are they lonely places?



## Utterly random



1. What is identity fraud? Are you scared of becoming a victim?
2. Do you ever drop papers or other rubbish on the street when you are walking? Does it annoy you when other people do it?
3. Are you good at responding to e-mails?
4. If your best friend slept with another man/woman should he/she tell his/her spouse?
5. Do you have any scars, tattoos or piercings? Your boy/girlfriend? Your kids?

## Society



1. Is racism an inherent human instinct?
2. What effect does constant exposure to images of beautiful models and actors on TV have on people?
3. Has homosexuality been scientifically proven in animals? How should this affect our attitude to homosexuals?
4. Before the immigration into Europe by people from Asia, Africa and Latin America in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, which ethnic/religious group were consistently the victims of racism?
5. How would social life change if alcohol was removed from the earth?

## Music



1. Will Bob Marley be remembered as a greater artist than John Lennon?
2. Should the Rolling Stones do everybody a favour and retire?
3. What is a cultural dinosaur?
4. Why do young white adolescents identify with black hip-hop culture? Do you identify yourself with hip-hop culture?
5. What do you think Madonna is like as a Mum?



## Fashion



1. Is there anything that you used to wear that you feel embarrassed about now?
2. If you sent your child to school with Carrefour trainers and the other children made fun of him, would you buy him a pair of Nike trainers instead? (make fun of – burlarse de)
3. What do you think has been the most stupid fashion of all time?
4. Do you pay any attention to what fashion magazines and/or television programmes tell you, or do you just buy what you like in the shops?
5. Do your friends influence the choices you make when buying clothes?

## Leisure



1. What does it mean if somebody has *a good poker face*? Can you play poker? What's your favorite card game? Are cards boring?
2. What's more exciting - the World Cup or the Olympic Games?
3. What's the best football match or sporting event you've ever seen? Give a description of where you were, who watched it with you, and why it was so exciting (exciting – emocionante)
4. Crosswords, sudoku etc... do you do any mental exercise?
5. Have you been to a casino? Did you lose or win money?

## Childhood



1. What was the name of your favourite teddy bear when you were young? Where is it now?
2. Who was your school bully? Are all bullies unhappy inside? (bully – matón)
3. What were your favourite television programmes as a child, a teenager and a young adult?
4. There is an expression in English that "your school days are the best days of your life". Do you agree?
5. What is the difference in the way young people treat adults today, from the way they treated them twenty years ago?



## Music



1. Has Britney Spears got lots of talent?
2. If you could execute one pop star, who would you choose?
3. If you had to make a pop star the president of the world who would you choose?
4. Should teenagers be prohibited from listening to pop music?
5. What was the first album you ever bought? Do you still have it?

## Society



1. Is there a positive aspect to bullying? Does it make the victims stronger? Are children too overprotected now?
2. If a young girl becomes pregnant in your country, what help does the government give her? Does the system in Britain (rent paid and a weekly cheque) make getting pregnant attractive?
3. Why are men attracted by lesbians, but women (generally) not attracted to male homosexuals?
4. Is the love of your spouse more important than the love of your friends?
5. Is there too much bureaucracy in your country? What is the worst experience you have ever had with bureaucracy?

## Films



1. Which type of horror films scare you most? Films with the supernatural or films with blood and murder?
2. Would you like to live in a haunted house? (mansion encantado)
3. What are the three most over-rated films of all time? For example *Moulin Rouge*, *2001 a Space Odyssey* or others?
4. Is your idea of a good film a one and a half hour orgy of explosions, car chases and beautiful models, or a three hour examination of life in rural Romania?
5. How often do you go to the cinema, the theatre and the dentists? Which do you prefer?





## Utterly random



1. What is Opus Dei, the Moonies, Hare Krishna, Scientologists and Jehovah's witnesses? Which one would you be a member of if you had to join one? (join – unirse)
2. If you were on a train and a passenger used a mobile from 1988 with a super large antenna, what would you think? Why are we all snobs about mobiles?
3. In the old days if you arranged to meet someone at the station and knew you were going to be half an hour late, what did you do? Have mobiles made us less punctual and lazier?
4. What's the worst thing about being a teenager? What's the best thing?
5. How far can you run/swim before you have to stop?

## Global Issues



1. What does the EU gain by expanding to the east? Do you think Turkey's accession to the European Union would be good?
2. If the US is so powerful and the CIA is watching everyone, why can't they find Bin Laden?
3. Do you have a social responsibility to watch the news or is the news just too depressing and boring?
4. What was the worst moment for you personally of 9/11?
5. Who built the nations of Japan and Germany as we know them today?

## Utterly random



1. What is Euroscepticism? Why are the British so anti-European?
2. Is British pop music the best in the world?
3. Which country has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the world? Is teenage pregnancy increasing or decreasing in this country? Why do you think this is?
4. Who is the most respected Englishman ever to have lived? Why?
5. Are Latinos more beautiful than Anglo-Saxons? Why?



## Utterly random



1. If crime was your only option, what criminal activity would you choose?
2. Do you leave your insurance details if you damage (dañar) a car?
3. Is it immoral to avoid taxes? (avoid taxes – evitar impuestos)
4. Give a brief description of your working day, hour by hour. (brief – breve)
5. Would you try speed dating? What's the best way of meeting a potential new girl/boy friend?

## Consumerism



1. Which companies rip-off their customers the most? (rip off – estafar)
2. How much did you pay on your last visit to the hairdressers? Why does it cost so much for someone to cut you hair?
3. Why don't women burn their bras anymore?
4. Why is brown skin attractive? Do you go brown easily?
5. Is there an argument for the prohibition of advertising? Wouldn't this be a real protection of consumer rights?

## Utterly random



1. If you don't believe in religion, do you believe in destiny? Why? Has anything happened to you to make you believe this?
2. Have you ever done a parachute or bungee jump? What was it like? Can you tell us? Are 'Extreme Sports' really extreme, or just stupid?
3. What are the Olympics that you remember best?
4. Do you like sweets? What's your favorite dessert? How often do you eat chocolate each week?
5. What's your culinary specialty? What's the most disastrous thing you've ever cooked?



## Utterly random



1. Why do British people drink so much?
2. How much housework should children do? How much do children do in this country? What did you have to do when you were a child?
3. Is buying a house a viable option for young people in your country?
4. Have you ever been in a helicopter, a hot-air balloon, gondola, a hang-glider, tuk-tuk or donkey? Tell the story.
5. Do tourists annoy you? Aren't you a tourist when abroad?

## Consumerism



1. Would you be prepared to take a €60 a week cut in wages if this would decrease carbon emissions to zero?
2. Why are people more selfish these days? What are the principal social and economic factors? (selfish – egoista)
3. Should everyone receive the same salary?
4. Name 10 things you can't leave the house with.
5. Are designer clothes, sunglasses and bags, a rip-off? (rip off – estafa.)

## Utterly random



1. Does your country have any islands? Which are they? What about mountains, lakes and deserts? Where's the most beautiful place in this country?
2. At an English wedding it's traditional that the father of the bride and the best man both make a speech. Is this the same in your country? Are you good at making speeches? (bride – novia, best man – padrino, speech – discurso.)
3. Can you sit on a beach all day? Do you prefer shade or sun? (shade – sombra)
4. What percentage of Americans own passports? Is few Americans having a passport an urban myth? What's your favorite urban myth? (urban myth – leyenda urbana)
5. In Britain medical services are having financial problems. What's the situation here? Are there long waiting lists for operations?



## Media



1. Of all the individuals that have been made famous by Reality TV, who has been the most annoying and why?
2. What do you think about the quality of the news in newspapers and on television? Is the news objective?
3. What do you think about the free newspapers?
4. Has Cosmopolitan contributed anything to women's lives?
5. Do men's magazines such as FHM or Maxim do the same for men?

## Society



1. Have you ever driven while drunk? Do you think the effects of alcohol on driving are exaggerated?
2. Why are the "Terrible Twos" so terrible? Are children intrinsically good, or evil?
3. What is the difference between a freedom fighter and a terrorist? Is there an objective criterion to distinguish the two? How would you classify ETA, the IRA, the French Resistance in World War 2 and Al Qaeda?
4. Why do men instead of women usually cook the meat on a barbecue?
5. When does adolescence end these days? University? 30? When you have children? Or marriage?

## Utterly random



1. Are you satisfied with your country in terms of 1) security: do the citizens feel safe? 2) jobs and wages. 3) social life. 4) national character. 5) service in restaurants?
2. France is the most visited country in the world. Why? Do you think Paris is overrated?
3. Are punishments adequate for criminals in your country?
4. What's the one thing you always note about any English person you meet? What could we do to improve our image?
5. What's the stereotype that people have about your country? Does it annoy you?



## Utterly random



1. In the 1998 film *Algo que Contar* Ben Affleck changes tickets with a man in the airport so he can take a different flight. The plane which he didn't take then crashes? Have you ever had any close encounters with disaster? How do you think people cope with being so lucky, and so close to death? (cope – enfrentar)
2. Name one song which can take you back in time. Is there any smell that does the same?
3. Did you represent your school or university at a sport? Do you think I did?
4. Are you a member of a gym? Are gyms too expensive?
5. Has your life ever changed suddenly? What can change a life suddenly?

## Society



1. Why is there any debate over euthanasia at all? It is your life so you can do what you want with it! Discuss this point of view. (euthanasia – a form of suicide for the ill.)
2. Western governments are constantly trying to take us from our cars and on to public transport. What would make you give up your car? Cheaper, better transport, or would you have to be forced out of it by high fuel/car taxes?
3. What would be the consequences of extra-terrestrials landing on Earth for 1) your sanity, 2) the Church, 3) society in general?
4. Why do many shop assistants look unhappy?
5. Should spitting be made illegal? (spit – escupir)

## The Environment



1. Is it right that rich countries tell poorer counties to reduce their carbon emissions?
2. Is it good that supermarkets don't use plastic bags any more?
3. Do you think that everything you put into the recycling bins always gets recycled?
4. Do you always recycle?
5. What do you think when you see images of birds covered in petroleum?



## You



1. How much money would it take to pay you to do a bungee jump, take a bath in a tub full of cockroaches, or drink from a urinal?
2. What were you doing on New Years Eve 1998?
3. Could you be a housewife or house-husband?
4. Could you have been a professional sportsman?
5. Who are you?

## Utterly random



1. If you could invent a time machine, which 3 epochs would you choose to visit?
2. Many singers have described their lives as “sex, drugs and rock n roll”. What 3 words would you use to describe your life?
3. Did you ever use a Ouija board when you were a teenager? Do you still use one? If spirits were going to talk to us, why would they use such an obscure method?
4. Is chatting flirtatiously with strangers on the internet a form of infidelity?
5. Have you ever given blood? Would you donate parts of your dead body to help someone else live?

## Utterly random



1. Have Americans got the right idea putting the legal age for consuming alcohol at 21?
2. What are the principal advantages and disadvantages of adopting a child?
3. Forgetting financial benefits, would you like to be famous and why?
4. Briefly summarize the full plot of *Sleeping Beauty*, *Hansel and Gretel* and *Puss in Boots*.
5. Totemism is the the belief that one’s soul, character and destiny are intimately connected with that of an animal. Which animal is your totem? (soul – alma)



## Society



1. The only things we hear about young people today is their bad behaviour. Say something positive about young people today compared to young people in our day.
2. Should the driving age be changed to 21?
3. If young women are no longer caring, well educated and graceful like women were traditionally, has society lost something?
4. What is wrong with hitting children?
5. Do you support local shops or do you prefer the hypermarket experience?

## Society



1. In the United States last year \$34 billion was spent on pets. Shouldn't we spend more on our own species first? (own – propio)
2. What do you think of astrology? If astrology was true, this would mean there are only 12 different kinds of people.
3. What are the most boring jobs? Is security guard in a supermarket one of the top candidates?
4. What's so great about diamonds? Personally, they just look like little pieces of glass. And paintings: what's so good about an original when I can have a good print done for €20?
5. Margaret Thatcher was famous for saying that if the Good Samaritan were alive today he would have carried on walking. That was in the Eighties. What would happen now? What other parables need to be modernized?

## Money



1. Have you ever asked for a salary increase in your professional life? What's the best way to do it?
2. Do you bank by internet? If not... why not? What are the principal advantages and disadvantages of internet banking?
3. Do you buy well-known brands or the supermarket's own brand? (marcas - brands)
4. Why do people pay so much money for bottled water like *fontavela* when they can buy another brand five times cheaper? Surely water is water.
5. What percentage of a €5,000,000 win would you give away? What would be the most eccentric thing you would buy or do, after winning the lottery?



## You



1. What age did you learn to drive? Was it easy to pass your test? Are men better drivers than women?
2. If you're a woman, do you like to wear make-up? If you're a man, do you like women to wear make-up? How much is too much?
3. Can you skateboard, snowboard, ice skate, ski, or roller blade? Or was roller-skating the fashion when you were young?
4. Name one thing you wouldn't do for a million dollars.
5. What do you know about your ancestors? (antepasados) Were they potato pickers or kings? Would you ever pay to find out the truth about them? What is suggested by your surname?

## You 2



1. When you're on holiday, do you like to sit on a beach or go to museums?
2. Have you or anyone you know had a supernatural experience? Have you ever visited Lourdes?
3. If you had an enormous property and lots of money, what pets or animals would you have?
4. Who was more attractive: Paul Newman, James Dean, Marlon Brando, Jack Nicholson, Robert De Niro, or Al Pacino? Who was the best actor?
5. Fifteen years ago, how did you think your life would be in the future?

## Money



1. Can you relate to those sick people who say they would continue working if they won the lottery?
2. Do you think the lottery is a tax on the poor? (tax – impuesto)
3. Do you ever get bored with “what I would do if I won the lottery” conversations?
4. Is money the cause of everything bad in the world? If it is not, what is?
5. Is it possible to have too much money?

