

Questions to Ask New Friends

A new friendship does not need an impressive origin story. These prompts make it easier to learn one practical, everyday detail at a time and to respond with a detail of your own.

Host guide / A4 / 2–6 adults / 5–20 minutes

Read the guide privately first if this activity has hidden answers. Print single-sided at Actual size / 100%. Cut only sheets marked CARDS. Keep answer keys with the host.

What you need

- This page or a few printed prompt cards
- A shared table or call is optional; no special setup is needed

How to run it

1. Agree that the questions are invitations: answer, ask one back, listen, choose another, or pass.
2. Start with a concrete everyday preference. Avoid opening with a sensitive personal history or an assumption about work, family, identity, or location.
3. After an answer, pick one detail to follow up on or offer a short related answer of your own.
4. Stop when the conversation naturally pauses. A good first exchange does not have to end in a plan.

Start with a detail, not a biography

A small, specific question is often easier to answer than “Tell me about yourself.” Ask about an ordinary choice, a skill someone enjoys using, or a routine that makes a day smoother. Those subjects give the other person a clear starting point without asking for a life story.

Answering the question yourself can make the exchange feel mutual. Keep your own response about the same length as theirs, then give them the choice to continue. If the answer is brief, accept it instead of searching for a more revealing version.

- Ask one question at a time.
- Keep an answer short unless the other person asks for more.
- Use neutral topics before personal or emotionally heavy ones.

Follow a thread the other person offers

A follow-up works best when it connects to a detail that was actually mentioned. If someone names a small kitchen shortcut, you could ask when they started using it or share one of your own. Do not jump from an everyday answer to a much more personal question just because the conversation is going well.

You can also add a related observation instead of asking another question. That gives the other person space to respond or move to a different subject. The cards are optional prompts; listening to what is already being said is enough to keep the exchange moving.

- Repeat a word or detail they chose, then ask a simple follow-up.
- Share your own example without taking over the conversation.
- Let a topic end when the other person stops adding to it.

Let new friends choose their own pace

People can be friendly and still prefer different amounts of conversation. Someone may answer by telling a story, choosing an option, or saying they would rather not get into it. These are all ordinary ways to participate. No one needs to explain a pass or prove that a connection is developing.

For a small group, read one question aloud and let people answer in any order. For two people, alternate who chooses the prompt. In either version, a pause is not a problem that must be fixed immediately.

- Offer a pass before anyone draws a card.
- Do not ask for contact details or a reason to continue talking.
- End on a comfortable note instead of extending the round by obligation.

A practical first-meeting sequence

If you want a short structure, try three steps: one concrete preference, one small skill or routine, and one recommendation the person would feel comfortable sharing. This sequence can move from easy details to a more distinctive topic without crossing into private history.

In a remote conversation, choose one prompt and leave enough space for the other person to think. In person, the shared setting may supply a natural topic, but do not assume that everyone wants to discuss the venue, their travel, or their schedule.

- Use two or three cards for a first exchange.
- Choose a new topic if an answer does not invite a follow-up.
- Leave the next conversation optional and unplanned.

CARDS / Questions to Ask New Friends

F37-001 / Daily rhythms

Which small routine makes one part of your day run more smoothly?

F37-002 / Everyday objects

What is a simple tool or object you use more often than you expected?

F37-003 / Food

What kind of meal do you enjoy making when there is no special occasion?

F37-004 / Everyday preferences

What small task do you find satisfying to finish?

F37-005 / Skills

What is one skill you could show someone in a few minutes?

F37-006 / Preferences

What kind of weather makes an ordinary day feel different to you?

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F37-007 / Daily life

What is a small change you made that improved a routine?

F37-008 / Design details

Which ordinary object do you think has a particularly good design?

F37-009 / Work style

What do you like to have ready before you begin a hands-on task?

F37-010 / Leisure

What is a low-key way you enjoy spending a free hour at home?

F37-011 / Interests

What kind of place do you like to browse without needing to buy anything?

F37-012 / Learning

What small thing do you enjoy learning how to do?

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F37-013 / Practical knowledge

What is a useful tip you learned from doing something repeatedly?

F37-014 / Routines

Which everyday decision do you like to make early, and which do you leave open?

F37-015 / Food

What kind of food do you enjoy trying when the portion is small?

F37-016 / Places

What is a small convenience you appreciate when visiting a new place?

F37-017 / Daily rhythms

What do you like to do while waiting for something to finish?

F37-018 / Interests

What is one harmless topic you can explain with a useful example?

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F37-019 / Leisure

What kind of shared activity feels easy to join without preparation?

F37-020 / Routines

What household object do you use in a way it was not designed for?

F37-021 / Practical knowledge

What small object do you find satisfying to use?

F37-022 / Skills

What is one everyday skill you picked up from watching someone else?

F37-023 / Food

What simple meal or snack would you recommend to someone who wants an easy option?

F37-024 / Daily life

What is a detail about your ordinary week that you enjoy talking about?

Hosting questions

Are these questions only for a first meeting?

They are written for the early stage of adult friendship, but many also work when two people know each other casually and want a fresh topic.

Should I ask every question?

No. Choose one that fits the conversation. A short exchange can be complete after one prompt.

What if someone gives a short answer?

Accept it. You can share a related detail, choose another topic, or let the conversation pause.

Can this be used in a group?

Yes. Let people answer in any order and never call on someone who has passed.

References

Reviewed the public page as a search-intent and topic-stage reference. All questions and explanatory copy here are original.

<https://hmu.life/blog/questions-to-ask-a-new-friend>

Original AI-assisted resource with AI editorial review. Independent human playtesting and physical printing have not been completed. Answer, listen, or pass.