

Icebreakers

- Have you ever quit doing something that you used to be really passionate about? Do you regret it? Or are you happy you quit? Either way: Do you think you'll ever take it up again?
- Imagine you could devote a year to researching someone's biography. Who would your subject be?
- If you had to take a bath in a food, which food would it be?
- What question do you wish people would ask you?
- Of the places you have lived or spent significant time, which one had the most pleasing view out the front door/main window/etc for you and why?
- Who is your pick for the most underrated character in a movie or TV show?
- Tell me about a time when you changed your mind.
- If you're going to win the lottery, would you rather win \$10 million, or \$100 million?
- Imagine you are backpacking through a remote jungle and the guide you are with has you spend the night with a native tribe. During the evening they treat you as if you were their guest of honor. They put on a show for you and cook you a giant feast . . . part of which includes human flesh. A delicacy for them. Would you eat it? Or, at the very least, would you be curious to know what it tasted like?
- If you could live in the setting of any book or movie, without necessarily being involved in the story, which would you choose?
- If you could be one other person, who would that person be and why?
- What is your oldest or most cherished grudge?
- What is your earliest memory?

- Tell me something about yourself that I could never tell from looking at you.
- If you could own one building, any building, what would it be?
- If you could only use three condiments for the rest of your life, what would they be?
- What is your secret skill?
- If you could say one sentence to your pet and know they would understand it, what would you say?
- Tell me about something you love doing that you're terrible at. And tell me about something you really do not like doing that you're great at.
- Would you rather be able to speak every language in the world fluently, or be able to play every musical instrument as well as a virtuoso?
- If you could safely eat any inedible object, what would it be?
- What are you into now that you never thought you would be into? And conversely, What's something you used to be into that you're not anymore?
- To start such a gathering, have all participants go around the room and describe how they got their names. That gets them talking about their family, puts them in a long-term frame of mind and illustrates that most people share the same essential values.
- What is a supposedly fun thing that you did — that you'll never do again?
- If you had unlimited resources, what frivolous thing would you collect? Not books. It has to be frivolous.
- What is something you didn't like but you are glad happened?