

## Life events vocabulary speaking

### Life events vocabulary ask and tell game

Choose one of the cards below. Make a (personal or opinion) question about that thing and/ or using those words, then flip a coin. If you get heads (= the picture side) you can ask someone else in your group that question, but if you get tails (= the number side) you must answer your own question. In other words: **Heads = Ask**      **Tails = Tell**  
If the person who has to answer rejects the question (with "I'd rather not say", "That's a bit personal", etc), they can't make the next question. People can also ask follow up questions if they like, but you don't have to answer extra questions if you don't want to.

#### Suggested questions about life events

"At what age...?"

"Do you approve of...?"/ "Do you think it's okay to...?"

"Do you think it's true that...?"

"Do you think people should...?"

"Do you think... is a good enough reason to...?"

"Has anyone that you know...?"

"Have you ever...?"

"How can you decide if...?"

"How do you feel about...?"

"How was your...?"

"How important is... (to you)?"

"How would you feel if...?"

"How would you... (if you had to/ if the opportunity arose)?"

"Under what circumstances is it okay to...?"/ "Under what circumstances might you...?"

"What are the (dis)advantages of...?"

"What do you (usually) do...?"

"What do you think about...?"

"What have people told you about...?"

"What kind of...?"

"What would make you...?"

"What would you do if your son/ daughter/ boyfriend/ girlfriend/ father/ mother/ husband/ wife/ sister/ brother...?"

"What would you do if... told you that...?"

"What would you... if...?"

"What's the best/ worst/ most... (if...)?"

"When did you first/ last...?"

"Why might you...?"

"Would you (ever)... (if...)?"

"Would you like to...?"

## Life events vocabulary storytelling

Put the cards face up on the table or deal them all out. Use as many cards as you can to make a (single) life story, one card at a time. It doesn't matter if the story is realistic or not.

## Put the life events vocabulary into order

Put the cards into what you think is the best or most typical order.

**Life events vocabulary cards for questions and stories – higher-level version**

(have an) abortion	(have) an affair	(golden/ silver/ diamond) anniversary
first day at school/ start school	(civil/ church/ wedding/ white/ traditional) ceremony	ask for someone's hand (in marriage)/ propose/ proposal
ask someone out (on a date)	first job/ first day at work	best man('s speech)
lose your virginity	(blind/ first/ double/ group) date/ go out with	break up/ split up
bun in the oven/ knocked up/ pregnant	engaged/ engagement (ring/ party)/ fiancé/ fiancée	cheat (on)/ two time/ mess around
divorce/ get divorced	first kiss	dump someone/ throw someone out
birth of your first child	first love/ young love/ infatuation/ crush/ unrequited love	going out/ going steady
heavy petting	hen night/ stag night/ bachelor's party	meet your (future) in-laws
fall (really/ deeply) in love/ fall for someone	matchmaker/ matchmaking/ set up (by) someone	live together (before marriage)/ shack up
(get) (re)married/ (second) marriage	first lover's tiff	second wife/ husband
separate/ separation	settle down	romantic holiday/ honeymoon
sleep around/ sow your wild oats	sleep with	snog/ passionate kiss/ pash (e.g. French kiss)
graduate from (high/ secondary) school	(wedding) reception	Valentine's Day (present/ card)
graduate from university	take (national/ entrance) exams	retire (early)/ (early) retirement

move into an old people's home/ nursing home	take a postgraduate qualification (MBA, etc)	move into your own place
get a promotion	change jobs	go freelance/ work as a freelancer
set up your own company	(get a/ have a) part-time job	take paternity leave/ maternity leave
quit your job/ leave your job/ resign	take a sabbatical	write a thesis/ dissertation
buy a house/ get a mortgage	get a credit card	get into debt/ get a loan
support yourself/ stand on your own two feet	contraception/ go on the pill	meet the right person/ Mr Right/ the one
leave home/ move out	get fired/ get the sack/ be dismissed	

**Life events vocabulary cards for questions and stories – Lower level version**

first day at school/ start school	(civil/ church/ wedding/ white/ traditional) ceremony	ask for someone's hand (in marriage)/ propose/ proposal
ask someone out (on a date)	first job/ first day at work	(blind/ first/ double/ group) date/ go out with
pregnant	engaged/ engagement (ring/ party)/ fiancé/ fiancée	break up/ split up
divorce	first kiss	fall (really/ deeply) in love/ fall for someone
birth	first love/ young love/ infatuation/ crush/ unrequited love	going out/ going steady
(get) remarried/ second marriage/ wife/ husband	snog/ (passionate/ French) kiss	romantic holiday/ honeymoon
graduate from (high/ secondary) school	(wedding) reception	Valentine's Day (present/ card)
graduate from university	take (national/ entrance) exams	retire (early)/ (early) retirement
move into an old people's home/ nursing home	change jobs	move into your own place
set up your own company	(get a/ have a) part-time job	take paternity leave/ maternity leave
buy a house/ get a mortgage	get a credit card	quit your job/ leave your job/ resign
leave home/ move out	get fired/ get the sack/ be dismissed	meet the right person/ Mr Right/ the one

**Life events collocations**

*Brainstorm as many collocations as you can to the words below, adding words before and/or after each word there.*

+ date

+ up

engagement +

going +

have +

+ anniversary

get +

meet +

take +

move +

wedding +

+ marriage

+ school

fall +

+ night/ party

first +

*Use the mixed words below to help with the task above*

*Check your answers with the cards on the higher-level worksheets. Many other collocations are possible, so please check if you wrote something different.*



### Mixed answers

- a loan/ a mortgage
- a postgraduate qualification
- a promotion
- a sabbatical
- an abortion
- an affair
- bachelor's
- blind
- break/ split
- ceremony
- child
- date
- day at school/ day of work
- diamond
- double
- fired/ the sack
- first
- for someone
- golden/ silver
- graduate from
- group
- hen
- high/ secondary
- in love
- into an old people's home/ nursing home
- into debt
- into your own place
- job
- kiss
- knocked
- love
- maternity leave
- Mr Right/ the one
- national exams
- out
- party
- paternity leave
- reception
- ring
- second
- stag
- start
- steady
- your (future) in-laws

**Life events vocabulary word formation**

*Without looking above, write at least one more form of each word below, e.g. the adjective if it is a noun. Answers not above may also be possible.*

abort  
gold  
ceremonial  
propose  
dating  
speak  
virgin  
pregnancy  
engaged  
fiancé  
born  
infatuated  
steadily  
heaviness  
deep  
matchmaking  
marry  
secondly  
separate  
romance  
passion  
graduation  
receive  
nation  
retire  
person  
qualify  
promote  
freelance  
paternal

*Check your ideas above. Many other answers are possible, so please check if you wrote something different.*