

Overarching Question: What is my story?

Overarching Challenge: Use the format of your choice to effectively tell your story.

Lesson Question: How can you create great questions?

Lesson Challenge: Create questions that will help you learn more about interesting and important topics.

Lesson Summary: Have you ever been in a situation where you really wanted to start a conversation but weren't sure what to ask? How can we ask questions that are interesting and respectful and also help us learn? In this lesson, you'll create questions that will help you learn more about interesting and important topics.

Big Idea: Asking great questions can help you more effectively tell your story.



Lesson Question: How can you create great questions?

Lesson Challenge: Create questions that will help you learn more about interesting and important topics.

Start Your Thinking

Have you ever been in a situation where you really wanted to start a conversation but weren't sure what to ask? How can we ask questions that are interesting and respectful and also help us learn?

Imagine that you have a chance to talk with one of your favourite singers: What questions would you ask to start the conversation? What could you ask that the musician would find interesting?

A Singer or Band That I Would Like to Meet	Three Questions That I Would Like to Ask
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What does a great question sound like? Judge the quality of these questions by noting each question's number along the line below. Question 1 has been done as an example for you.

1. Where are you from?
2. Of all the songs you've written, which one means the most to you?
3. What vegetable do you like the most?
4. How has your relationship to the land shaped your music?
5. What musical instruments do you play?
6. What advice would you give to a young person who wanted to be a musician?
7. Where's your favorite city to play concerts?
8. What do you want people to think about when they listen to your songs?

Not a great question

A medium question

A really great question

1.



Think About the Lesson Challenge

In this lesson, you'll create questions that will help you learn more about interesting and important topics.

What makes a great question? Think back to the first step in this lesson: What did really great questions sound like? What did the not-so-great questions sound like?



Not-so-great questions are...	Really great questions are...

Grow Your Thinking

In the next part of this lesson, you'll practise identifying great questions. Great questions are like invitations: the more thoughtful the question, the more the listener will want to respond! People who are skilled at asking thoughtful questions make sure that their questions invite the listener into the conversation. Great questions usually meet three criteria.

BUILDING MY TOOLBOX

Great questions will:

- ✓ **Require the listener to think carefully:** A great question can't be answered with a one-word answer. Great questions often require the listener to carefully think and often make a thoughtful decision or a choice.
- ✓ **Help reveal new or interesting information:** A great question can encourage the listener to share new ideas or thinking.
- ✓ **Lead to other thoughtful questions:** A great question can invite follow-up questions and conversation.

Listen to the interview with Tantoo Cardinal, an important Indigenous actor. As you listen, see if you can find any examples of interview questions. Put a checkmark beside the criteria that each question meets, and an x beside the criteria that are not met. An example has been done for you.

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/q/tantoo-cardinal-on-getting-her-first-starring-role-in-a-feature-film-1.4809722>



Tantoo Cardinal is a Cree and Métis actor who has appeared in more than 100 films and television shows, including *Through Black Spruce* and *Mohawk Girls*. In 2010, she received the Order of Canada in recognition of her outstanding career and the important role she's played as a mentor to Indigenous youth and aspiring artists.

Questions I Heard in the Interview	Criteria for a Great Question
<i>You're cool with the parties and things?</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> requires the listener to think carefully <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> helps reveal new or interesting information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> leads to other thoughtful questions
	<input type="checkbox"/> requires the listener to think carefully <input type="checkbox"/> helps reveal new or interesting information <input type="checkbox"/> leads to other thoughtful question
	<input type="checkbox"/> requires the listener to think carefully <input type="checkbox"/> helps reveal new or interesting information <input type="checkbox"/> leads to other thoughtful questions



Which question do you think was the best?



Now imagine that you had the chance to talk with Tantoo Cardinal after listening to the interview. What great questions would you ask?

On the next page is a thinking strategy that can help you create great questions. Write down your ideas in each part of the chart—your thinking will help you ask better questions. At the bottom of the chart, see if you can create your own question. Remember to use the criteria to help you come up with great questions!

Try this strategy: As you listen to an interview or to someone speak, try noting important words. Don't worry about writing everything that a speaker is saying, just quickly note an important word or two that you can use later to help you ask thoughtful questions.



Speaker: **Tantoo Cardinal**

Topic: **Being an Indigenous actor in movies and television**

Before listening: What do I already know about this speaker and topic?

After listening: What new information or ideas did I just hear?

What am I curious about?

Possible great questions that I'd like to ask Tantoo Cardinal

Can you tell me more about...?

Can you give me an example of what you mean by...?

What might happen if...?

Another great question that I'd like to ask Tantoo Cardinal

- requires the listener to think carefully
- helps reveal new or interesting information
- leads to other questions

Practise the Tools

Now let's practise using the thinking strategy on page 8 to create your own great questions.

You can use this thinking strategy whenever you're listening and you want to ask a thoughtful question. For example, if you were going to ask questions after listening to your favourite musician or entrepreneur, hearing a story, or learning from an Elder.

Try practising the thinking strategy after listening to one of these recordings:

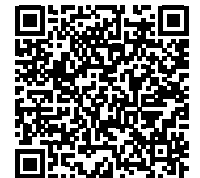
Jeremy Dutcher (singer/composer): <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/q/it-s-a-bit-of-a-double-edged-sword-jeremy-dutcher-on-his-indigenous-music-album-juno-nomination-1.5049017>



Beatrice Deer (singer): <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/q/friday-june-21-2019-beatrice-deer-laakkuluk-williamson-bathory-and-more-1.5183231/beatrice-deer-brings-her-unique-blend-of-throat-singing-and-indie-rock-to-the-q-studio-1.5183253>



Shawn Adler (chef): <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/making-cedar-soda-with-pow-wow-cafe-s-shawn-adler-1.5126282>



Angela DeMontigny (fashion designer): <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/indigenous-fashion-looks-beyond-fringe-feathers-and-beads-1.4713243/concept-of-indigenous-luxury-challenges-fashion-stereotypes-1.4714155>





Speaker:

Topic:

Before listening: What do I already know about this speaker and topic?

After listening: What new information or ideas did I just hear?

What am I curious about?

Possible great questions

Can you tell me more about...?

Can you give me an example of what you mean by...?

What might happen if...?

Another great question I'd like to ask

- requires the listener to think carefully
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Reflect on Your Thinking

Think About the Lesson Challenge

Think back to the beginning of this lesson. What have you learned that might help you ask better questions?



A Singer or Band That I Would Like to Meet

Three Great Questions That I Would Ask

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-
-



Can you think of other times and situations where you could use these tools to help ask more thoughtful questions?

Think About the Overarching Challenge

Remember our overarching question: What is my story? After you've finished the English lessons, you'll select the format of your choice to tell your story.



How might the tools in this lesson help me tell my story?

