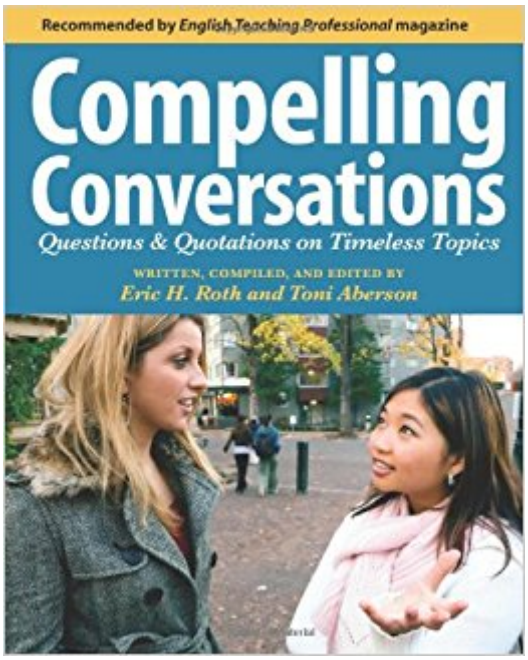
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Compelling Conversations: Questions And Quotations On Timeless Topics- An Engaging ESL Textbook For Advanced Students



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Synopsis

This innovative English as a second language textbook helps advanced English language learners develop conversation skills and improve fluency by sharing experiences, reflecting on their lives, and discussing proverbs and quotations. The ESL book includes 45 thematic chapters, over 1400 questions, 500 vocabulary words, 250 proverbs and American idioms, and 500 quotations. Designed for both adult education and intensive English language students, the conversations deepen critical thinking skills and speaking skills essential to success in community college and university programs. Compelling Conversations has been used in classrooms in over 50 countries, recommended by English Teaching Professional magazine, and enjoyed by thousands of English students.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"In my own teaching, I have found questions and quotations to be highly effective in promoting student discussion. Questions are useful in that they require a response from the listener. Asking them also helps students master the tricky rules of the interrogative. Quotations are brilliant flashes of wit expressed in the shortest space possible, often just a sentence or two. The authors have compiled a formidable collection of quotations by famous people from Napoleon and Aristotle to Tom Cruise and Sylvester Stallone. Some will have the students roaring with laughter "My movies were the kind they show in prisons and airplanes because nobody can leave." - Burt Reynolds), while others require careful introspection ("Love is not just looking at each other; it’s looking in the

same direction." - Antoine de Saint Exupery). The authors also add some wise proverbs here and there. My two favourites were "Recite `patience' three times and it will spare you a murder" and "When money talks, truth keeps silent", which are from Korea and Russia. In sum, Compelling Conversations is a recommended resource for teachers who want to make their conversation classes more learner-centered. It should be especially appealing to those who wish to escape the confines of the Presentation-Practice-Production approach and do without a formal grammatical or functional syllabus. It reflects the authors' considerable professional experience, and would be a notable addition to any English teacher's bookshelf." -- Hall Houston, English Teaching Professional, January 2009"This outstanding resource (Compelling Conversations) allows teachers to confidently walk into an advanced ESL classroom with self-contained, engaging conversation lessons. The 45 thematic chapters allow you to both evoke student experience with long lists of practical and savvy questions. The inclusion of global proverbs and classic quotations also provides larger cultural contexts to inspire deeper conversations - or writing assignments. Students should also appreciate the generous amount of authentic language. I wish I would have had that book in my old adult/university classes. A great book for adult education teachers, university instructors, and private tutors!" -- Eric Busch, director/founder, ESLHQ.com, August 2007"Have you been looking for a good ESL manual? If you have, I think this is one (Compelling Conversations: Questions and Quotations on Timeless Topics) to consider. The topics cover: Your Life, The Civic Life, along with the everyday aspects as dating, enjoying money, handling stress. The editors put it together in an easy to use form. You have conversation starters such as, "How much time do you spend each week in cars? Why?" There is a section in each chapter for vocabulary building. A section on common sayings is included, as well. To increase the conversation we have such questions as this: "Do you prefer to drive in the city or the country? Flat or hills?" Each chapter in the book concludes with quotations. An example is this one by Woody Allen, "I have bad reflexes. I was once run over by a car being pushed by two guys." This manual helps conversation by giving common subjects to talk about. Since English is one of the confusing, difficult and strange languages for a foreigner to grasp and be comfortable conversing in, the compilers pack in 45 chapters over 30 questions, 10 or more targeted vocabulary words, some proverbs, and quotations per chapter. Each chapter focuses on a promising conversation topic. They start with easy questions and continue on to questions a bit more abstract. Each question is there to allow the speaker to share his life experiences along with his insights. This manual will go best with the advanced ESL student or even at coffee shop conversation clubs. It will bring about authentic, not stilted communication, which should be the purpose of an ESL course. It is easier for a person to learn a language through conversation rather

than by a given list of vocabulary words. That is what makes this a welcome addition to the material which can be used for the immigrant who must learn English to advance in the world." -- Dane Robert Swanson, Santa Monica Daily Press, 1/16/2009

Colors fade, temples crumble, empires fall, but wise words endure." - Edward Thorndike (1874-1949), American psychologistThe art of conversation, once considered the sign of a civilized individual, seems less common today. Yet I treasure the moments of sharing experiences, collecting news, and exchanging ideas. I make a point of knowing my neighbors, allowing casual greetings to become long conversations, and making time to explore in depth the feelings and perceptions of friends, students, and relatives. These natural conversations provide information, encouragement, and pleasure.Many people say that they are too busy to have long talks. Other people prefer to watch YouTube, play computer games, chat via email rather than talk to relatives, co-workers, and friends. Many Americans, it seems, have forgotten how to hold good, deep conversations - or even a friendly chat on the phone. I suspect this lack of real communication lessens their daily joy. English language learners, of course, face many more barriers to have a satisfying conversation in English. First, English remains a confusing, difficult, and strange language. It’s very easy to feel uncomfortable when speaking a new language - whether a second or fourth.Ã Â English students in my advanced speaking skills courses often ask questions like: How do start a conversation?What questions do I ask? How can I keep a real conversation going? How do I share agreement - or disagreement - in a polite way? How can I share my experiences in clear manner with appropriate vocabulary? How I can have better, more engaging conversations? Compelling Conversations: Questions and Quotations on Timeless Topics addresses these issues for both native and non-native speakers. The focus remains on learning by doing and making "good mistakes". (Good mistakes, by the way, are natural mistakes that help us learn so we can make different and better "good mistakes" next time.) Each of the 45 thematic chapters focuses on a promising conversation topic. Every chapter includes 30 or more questions (both direct and indirect), 10 or more targeted academic vocabulary words, a few proverbs to paraphrase, and 10 or more quotations to discuss from a variety of perspectives. Although designed for advanced English language learners, many intermediate ESL and EFL students will plenty of material to use can can benefit from exposure to authentic questions, common phrases, and new vocabulary words. As I tell my university English students, "your English may not be perfect yet, but daily practice does lead to significant progress." Compelling Conversations gives students, teachers, and tutors the tools and phrases to talk more and listen better to friends, classmates, and strangers in English.Ã Â I hope you enjoy creating

many compelling conversations - in and out - of the English classrooms! Eric H. Rothco-author of Compelling Conversations: Questions and Quotations on Timeless Topics

A friend of the author asked me to review Compelling Conversations, and I am glad to do it because this is a truly excellent book. I've taught ESL to adults in East Los Angeles for eighteen years and came across this book just a couple of years ago. I wish I'd known about it sooner. I has become indispensable. It stands head and shoulders above the many other conversation books I've bought and used or considered using with my students.With little or no preparation, students can open this book and start speaking in pairs or groups. With a little creativity on the part of the teacher--warm up and follow up activities--and an ESL class or a conversation class can easily spend two hours working with a single chapter. The discussion questions are well-worded and the themes are accessible to a majority of students. Each list of questions is accompanied by a selection of related vocabulary words and quotations. You certainly get your money's worth in so far as the amount of material provided in this book and, again, the quality of the material is excellent.This wonderful book is for advanced level students. The author's equally wonderful book entitled Compelling American Conversations is fundamentally the same but presented at a more intermediate level (fewer questions per topic and easier language).

Excellent book for high-intermediate and advanced students. Each chapter has at least 20 discussion questions, a quick vocabulary activity, more discussion questions, proverbs/sayings, and quotes.

This is exactly what I was looking for. I've created similar worksheets based on topics, audio, and songs, but it does take awhile to create original material. This is a huge time saver, and the students (intermediate to advanced) are really engaged when chatting through the different chapters. Each chapter, which has its own theme, vocabulary lists, proverbs, questions, and quotations, can easily take 45 minutes of class to discuss, but I usually use it for 30 min. then assign the homework ("On Your Own"). This is a great textbook if your class has a conversation and culture aspect to it.

Compelling Conversations is one of my top teaching tools. I have been an ESL tutor of adults for over 3 years, and a classroom ESL instructor for over 4 years. I purchased this book 3 years ago and absolutely LOVE it, and use it daily with the students I tutor, and have also used it in my classroom settings as well. There are a wide range of topics, and the flow of the discussion

questions is very natural and lends itself to great conversation. My students really look forward to the conversation section of our tutoring sessions, and have told me that with the chapters in this book, they always learn new words, idioms, and proverbs, in a very relaxed, natural way. I also like the fact that these conversations help to build our friendships too. I would HIGHLY recommend this book!!

I find this book very useful for class dissuasions in an ESL classroom. It has plenty of questions students can answer and it can be used for pair/group work as well. For an extra challenge, there are some proverbs after each discussion topic and it is always fun to see if students can interpret those correctly, and if they have equivalents in their language.

Finally a book with just the questions for conversation, not a staged dialogue. Thanks! Lots of questions and love the "proverbs" and sayings. Causes them to think and verbalize, not just read it.

I was hoping this book would give better categories and more thought provoking questions, but for what it is it’s ok. I may have just expected something a little different.

After reading the whole book, I think it could propose much more subjects and more ideas of what to do in the class. It is too much the same from the beginning to the end. It has interesting subjects and good approaches for them though.In the end I felt a bit frustrated.

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