

Sample Interview Questions

FIRST CONVERSATION CHECKLIST (Phone)

Here are some suggestions to get you started in your first phone conversation. Spending time talking on the phone and meeting in person before you decide to share is very important. Moving too quickly because of housing or financial pressures can lead to hasty decisions and unstable matches.

Questions About the Home:

1. General location of the home (no street addresses)
2. Number of bedrooms available
3. Private or shared bath
4. Amount of rent charged
5. Number of people living in home
6. Available parking
7. Proximity to public transportation
8. Pets in home now
9. If you expect a security deposit
10. Are utilities included or not? If not, what are average utility costs?
11. Are people in home now smokers or nonsmokers?

Questions the Provider may want to ask the Seeker.

1. First and last name
2. Contact information (telephone numbers, e-mail)
3. Why do they want to homeshare?
4. What is their daily schedule? What do they do during the day?
5. Are they looking for housing for just themselves?
6. Are they a smoker or nonsmoker?
7. Do they have pets?
8. Do they have a car?

SECOND CONVERSATION CHECKLIST (In Person)

If you feel that there is a potential for a good fit between you, you will want to set up an in-person meeting. This is a great way to get to know and understand each other's personality, habits, and lifestyles. Be sure to include any additional questions that are important to you. Meeting in a public place, such as a coffee shop, is recommended for this first in-person meeting.

Questions the Provider may want to ask the Seeker.

1. Tell me about you. What is your personal situation, as to mates or significant others and children?
2. Where does your family live? Will there be family members visiting on a regular basis? Would you expect to have friends or family visit the household? If so, for what periods of time?
3. How long have you lived in this area? What brought you here?
4. What are your interests? Hobbies? Sports? Special skills and talents?
5. What aspects of home sharing seem most important to you?
6. Do you have any pets?
7. Do you have a car?
8. Are you good about keeping to agreements and showing up on time for appointments?
9. What kinds of things get on your nerves?
10. What are the last three things you did that you really enjoyed?
11. How would you describe your strong points?
12. How would you describe your weak points?
13. What issues came up in your previous household(s) and how did you solve challenges?
14. Do you have any special health problems, which could affect the household?
15. Do you have any strong religious or political affiliations?
16. Would you describe yourself as a liberal or conservative, or somewhere in the middle?
17. Do you cook? Would sharing meals be of interest to you?

Work and income:

18. Describe your current employment. What do you do? What are your hours? Do you work from home?
19. What is your approximate income, and from what sources?
20. Is it necessary to you to live on a tight budget, or can you afford some luxuries or extra expenses without them upsetting your budget?
21. Are you a student? What level, and how heavy a course load?
22. What did you do previously?

Personal habits:

23. Do you smoke?
24. Do you drink alcohol? How often and what quantities?
25. What's your opinion about recreational drugs?
26. Do you consider yourself a tidy person?
27. Are you sensitive to certain smells?
28. Do you have allergies?
29. What are your sleeping habits? Night hours? Day napper?
30. How do you feel about noise? Are you tolerant of loud sounds or sound sensitive?
31. Do you watch TV or listen to the radio or talk on the phone a lot, or do other things which make noise? Would you expect to do these things in common areas of the home?
32. Thermostat settings—what is comfortable for you? How warm do you like to have your space in the winter/ how cool in the summer?

Storage, personal items and vehicles:

33. What are your needs for storage of possessions? What would you expect to bring to the house, including any large furniture?
34. How many vehicles do you have?

Questions about the home the Seeker may want to ask the Provider.

1. The Room(s) available to share
2. Furnished or unfurnished?
3. Bath facilities (private or shared)
4. Use of kitchen or their own kitchenette
5. Entry/Access
6. Parking
7. Utilities (included in rent or separate)
8. Location (general location, near shopping or other conveniences?)
9. Laundry facilities
10. Storage space (including space for food and utensil storage if kitchen will be shared)
11. Internet service (Wi-Fi)
12. Cable service
13. Heating and cooling
14. Your pets (if applicable)
15. Guest policy
16. How long you are planning to share your home

Post-Interview Checklist

After the face-to-face interview, take time to reflect on the meeting. The questions below can help you to sort through your feelings and impressions following the interview. It may be helpful to refer to your notes from the interview and write your impressions of the meeting on paper, as it can be easy to forget important questions.

The section below can help you to determine if this is a compatible homesharer for you and to ensure that all of your important questions have been asked and sufficiently answered. If you have additional questions or concerns about your prospective homesharer, write them down and then call or schedule another meeting.

- Did I discuss what I feel is important in a homesharing arrangement? Yes No
- Have I asked questions about lifestyle preferences which are important to me? Yes No
- Have we clearly discussed the division of private areas and common spaces? Yes No
- Have we discussed what the rent will include? Utilities, use of space, parking, storage? Have we discussed the policy for entertaining and overnight guests? Yes No
- Does this potential home sharer seem to have similar lifestyle, values and needs? Yes No
- Do I feel comfortable talking to this person? Yes No
- Do they seem flexible and adaptable? Yes No
- Do they seem mature and responsible? Yes No
- Do they seem trustworthy and honest? Yes No
- Do I have any reservations about this prospect? Yes No
- Do I think our differences can be worked out? Yes No
- Have we agreed to a trial period of living together before allowing the home seeker to move in permanently? Yes No
- Have we discussed using a written agreement to specify obligations and expectations? Yes No