

# Field Interviews

## Pre-task:



Image 1

Have a look at the following types of questions that can be used for field interviews:

1. Introducing questions. Questions to get the interview started:

- Can you tell me about .....
- Could you describe ..... in as much detail as possible?

2. Follow-up questions. Questions to extend the interviewee's answer to previous questions:

- Could you expand on that point?
- You mentioned that.....how do you feel about that?

3. Probing questions. Questions in which the interviewer probes the content of the interviewee's answers.

- Do you have further examples of that?
- Could you say something more about that?

4. Specifying questions. Questions to gain further information about a particular aspect of the interviewee's answers:

- What did you think then?
- How did you react to that?
- Have you experienced that yourself?

5. Direct questions. Direct questions are used in the later parts of the interview:

- Have you ever considered.....? Why?
- When you mention ..... are you thinking of something in particular?

6. Indirect questions. Projective questions to determine exactly what the interviewee means. They encourage respondents to reveal their unconscious feelings and attitudes without being aware that they are doing so.

- How do you believe.....?

7. Structuring questions. Questions to structure the interview to make sure that s/he is covering the relevant areas in the field: These questions will help the interviewee know which part of the interview s/he is in.

- I would now like to introduce a new aspect/topic,.....?

8. Interpreting questions. Questions that help to interpret the interviewee's answers, they may involve rephrasing or interpreting some of the previous questions:

- You mean that.....
- Would it be correct to say that you feel .....?

## Task 1:

Interview your partner using the field interview questions mentioned in the pre-task.

Suggested topic: Your profile picture on social networking sites.

1. Introducing questions:

- Can you tell me about the profile picture/s that you use on your different social networking sites?
- Could you describe it/them in as much detail as possible?

2. Direct questions:

- Have you ever considered changing your profile picture/s? Why?
- When you mention that, are you thinking of something in particular?

3. Indirect questions:

- How do you believe your profile picture tells other people things about yourself?

4. Structuring questions:

- I would now like to introduce a new aspect/topic; can you think of some categories to classify different types of profile pictures?

## Task 2:

Describe and interpret the results.

### Phrases for describing and interpreting results

- Nearly half of the respondents (48%) agreed that ...
- Less than a third of those who responded (32%) indicated that ...
- 70% of those who were interviewed indicated that ...
- There is some evidence that X may affect Y.
- This suggests a weak link may exist between X and Y.
- X may have been an important factor in ...
- X may have contributed to the increase in ...

## Follow-up activity:

Think of a current topic of discussion in the field of social studies and interview your partner.

Tip: Try to avoid leading questions since they obviously lead the interviewee to give you the answers that you want and, therefore, can have a negative effect on the results of the field interview.

## Sources

Image 1 [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Survey\\_pictogram.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Survey_pictogram.svg)

Text 1 <http://ro.uwe.ac.uk/RenderPages/RenderLearningObject.aspx?Context=7&Area=1&Room=3&Constellation=25&LearningObject=120>