

137 Water Cooler Topics

Questions to Ask Coworkers to Stay Connected While Working Remotely



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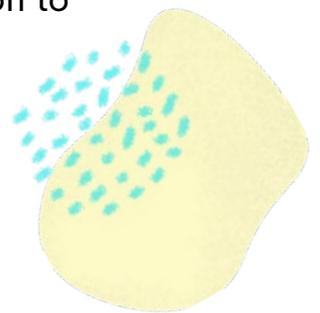
Plain and simple: working from home is different than working in the office.

What we missed most were the water cooler conversations—the moments where we'd get to share non-work-related thoughts, opinions, and news with each other. Working remotely makes it harder to have those casual moments organically. So, we got intentional.

Every day, our design team started posing "water cooler questions" to their team Slack channel. It helped us find space for the silly opinions, anecdotes, and memes to break up the remote work day and build community with each other. It worked so well, we wanted to share it.

This eBook contains 125+ "water cooler questions" to ask your team. From "What's your favorite childhood snack?" to "If Thanos snaps and one typeface disappears, what typeface would you make it disappear?," you'll have an expansive inventory to share with your team (or some inspiration to come up with your own questions).

We hope you enjoy it as much as we have.





Opinions or Preferences

1. What is your favorite time of the day and why?
2. What is a hobby you think would be fun to get into?
3. What is your favorite outdoor activity? Why?
4. What is your favorite smell?
5. What is your favorite card game or board game?
6. What is your favorite word or phrase, and why?
7. Which US city or state (that you haven't been to) would you like to visit most?
8. What's your top-rated oddly satisfying thing?
9. What's something you consider underrated?
10. What's your favorite mascot?
11. What's your favorite plant?



12. What does your dream home interior design look like?
13. What is your favorite piece of furniture or furniture brand?
14. What is your favorite fall activity?
15. What's your dream vehicle?
16. What's your most low-stakes controversial opinion?

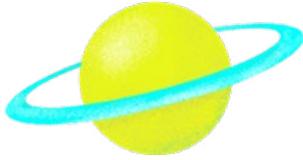


Whimsical Topics

17. If you could be an animal, what animal would you be and why?
18. If you could make a unique ice cream flavor, which flavor would you make?
19. If you could build your own theme park, what would the theme be?

20. If you could only bring ONE thing with you to a deserted island, what would it be?
21. Who do you consider to be your doppelgänger?
22. If you could trade places with any celebrity, athlete, or public figure for a day, who would it be and why?
23. What was the last thing to make you laugh really hard?
24. What myth do you believe is true? (If none, what myth do you think is the most plausible)?
25. Got any spooky stories that you, yourself, have experienced?
26. What is your favorite Dinosaur and why?
27. Do you believe in Aliens? Why or why not?
28. If you could be any supernatural creature, what would you be and why?





29. If you could dine with any three celebrities alive or dead, who would they be, and why?

30. What mundane, real life thing do you wish you could ⌘-Z (easily undo with a keystroke)?

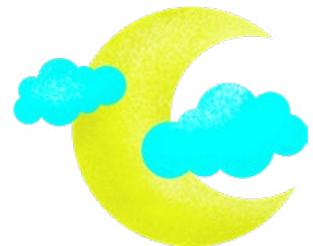
31. The zombie apocalypse is coming, who are the three people you want on your team?

32. Write a short, tweet-length letter to your former self. What do you want your former self to know?

33. If you were a wrestler, what would your gimmick be?

34. 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s: Which decade do you love the most and why?

35. What type of vehicle best represents your personality?



36. If aliens landed on earth tomorrow and offered to take you home with them, would you go?

37. You just won the lottery!!!!!!! You already did the responsible things (paid off debts, gave to friends & family, donated, etc.) What's the first fun or ridiculous purchase you make?
38. If you could bring back any fashion trend what would it be?
39. If you could live anywhere in the universe, where would you live?
40. "What is your favorite shortcut, pro-tip or life hack?"



Personal Topics

41. What was the worst haircut you've ever had?
42. What is your favorite childhood memory?
43. Tell us about your favorite vacation.
44. What is a random and fun fact about yourself?

45. What is the oddest thing you have in your home? (And can you share a photo?)



46. Do you have any weird family traditions or habits?

47. What's your favorite "guilty" pleasure? (Even though you shouldn't feel guilty about the things you like!)

48. Who was your childhood crush?

49. If you could go back in time and pay more attention to any class in high school or college, what would you choose?

50. What's something that you don't currently own, but would want to?

51. What commonplace thing have you never owned?



52. Any good vacations planned in the next year?

53. What is an embarrassing thing you did as a kid?



54. Tell us something about your hometown.
55. What's a habit you've formed that makes your life better?
56. Were you obsessed with anything weird or random as a kid? A certain movie? An outfit? A food?
57. Share some cool photos you've taken! Can be of anything, from anytime.
58. What's the best gift you've ever gotten?
Post pics if you have them!
59. What are some childlike things you still do as an adult, because they are fun?
60. What's your pet peeve? (Or what's your pet's pet peeve?)
61. What was going on in your life in the year 2010?
62. What's your theme/vibe/mood for this month?

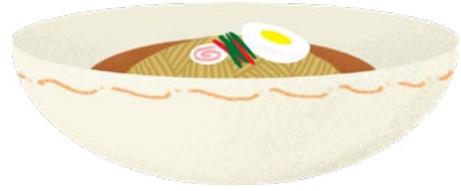


63. What is the most fun or interesting thing you've done?
64. What is something that you'd consider yourself to be very bad at?
65. What is the oldest or newest thing in your home? (And can you share a photo?)
66. What's a new interest you've gotten into in the last 6-12 months?
67. What is one of your holy grail items? What product or brand do you purchase consistently?

Food & Beverage

68. When you have to cook, what's your go-to dish?
69. What food does everyone love, but you don't particularly enjoy?





70. What is your favorite food?
71. What is your favorite cocktail or unique drink?
72. Orange juice: pulp? no pulp? extra pulp?
Debate encouraged.
73. What's your favorite cereal or breakfast food?
74. What is your favorite kind of cake? What frosting? Do you even like cake?
75. What's food or beverage that you have never tried but want to try?
76. Got any good restaurant recommendations that we might not have heard of before?"
77. If you were a La Croix flavor, what would you be? (Feel free to make one up.)
78. Are you a coffee person, tea person, or both?
What is your favorite tea or coffee?
79. What food or drink do you highly recommend?



80. What was your favorite snack growing up?
Any nostalgic treats you enjoyed that aren't for sale anymore?
81. What is your secret Starbucks (or any cafe or tea shop) recipe?
82. What are your favorite toppings to put on a hot dog?
83. What is your favorite sandwich and why?
84. If you were a tv dinner, what would be your 3-4 "courses" in the little tray?

Pop Culture & Media

85. What movie would you want to live in?
86. What was your favorite TV show growing up?
87. What's your favorite Vine, TikTok or YouTube video?



88. If you could be a cast member of any show, what would it be?
89. What upcoming movie, show, or album are you looking forward to most?
90. What is your favorite short film?
91. If you could replace one movie character with another, who would you want to switch and why?
92. If you could eat any food from a movie or TV show, what would it be?
93. What is your favorite YouTube channel, vlogger, or specific topic?
94. What's your favorite cartoon of all time?
95. Name a recent movie or tv show that you'd recommend to someone. Why?
96. What's a really good book that you often recommend to people? Why is it great?





97. What are some cool, fun or random short videos you've watched recently?
98. If you could be a contestant on any game show, which would you pick and why?
99. Which Hogwarts house are you?
100. What cartoon character do you relate to the most?
101. If you had to be on a reality TV show, which one would you choose and why?
102. What book(s) are on your to-read list?
103. Any good podcasts you've been listening to lately, or any oldies but goodies that you would recommend?
104. What is your favorite horror/thriller movie and why? No spoilers please!
105. What's your favorite bad movie?

106. What's a movie you can watch over and over without getting tired of it?
107. If you were a superhero, what would be your kryptonite?
108. You have your own late night talk show, who do you invite as your first guest, and why?
109. 2020 marks the 10-year anniversary of the formation of One Direction. In honor of this, share some pop culture thing that you love with no shame.

Music



110. Good or bad, what song is currently stuck in your head?
111. What is your favorite music video and why?
112. If you could sing a duet with any singer, who would pick as your partner and what song would you sing?

113. What's the coolest stage show you've seen?

114. Would you rather have to listen to one song (chosen by you) play over and over again for a week or have multiple songs (chosen by someone else) play over and over again for a week? If it's your own song, what song? If someone else, who would you trust with this power?

115. What's your current jam?



Internet

116. What's your favorite gif?

117. What are some of your favorite Instagram accounts that I can follow?

118. Send cute puppy or kitten gifs, please.

119. What is the funniest animal or animal meme you have seen?

120. Describe your current mood in a gif.

121. What's your favorite emoji and why?

School & Work

122. What is your favorite "tool?" (Can be digital or physical.)

123. Give us some tips for working from home.
How do you stay productive and motivated working virtually?

124. If you had to give a 5-minute presentation on something totally unrelated to work, what thing would it be on?

125. Show us your workspace!

126. What useful tips would you give to someone aspiring to be in your career field?



127. If you had to switch careers to something completely unrelated to what you do now, what would you do?

128. What was your least favorite job? (Don't say your current one!)

129. What is your dream project and why? Could be for a client or a type of product, etc.

130. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Design & Art

131. If you could pick an artist to paint your portrait, who would it be?

132. If Thanos snaps and one typeface disappears, what typeface would you make it disappear?

133. Today's topic is about vexillology. What is the best, worst, or ugliest flag design you've seen?

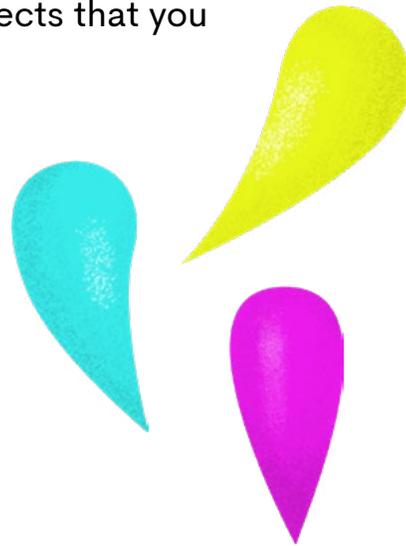


134. What is your favorite product branding or logo?

135. Got any tips for choosing fonts? What are some of your favorite font resources?

136. Share a piece of art or collectible in your home and tell us something about it.

137. Were you artistic as a child? Are there any childhood crafts or projects that you remember fondly?



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