

UNIT 2 · LESSON 2

Good questions, good data

What makes a survey question useful?

AIMS

How confident are you now? Circle one face for each aim at the end of the lesson.

Content Judge and improve survey questions.



Language Classify questions and use “because” to say why.



Skills Give a reason for your choice.



Read: Four checks for a useful question

Read the four checks and the examples. You will use them to judge questions on the next page.

1 SPECIFIC

Clear topic and exact words.

✗ Do you like sport?

✓ Which sport do you play most often?

2 NEUTRAL

No pushing to one answer.

✗ Don't you agree it is too long?

✓ Is the school day too short, about right or too long?

3 ANSWERABLE

Everyone can answer it.

✗ What does everyone in the world think?

✓ What do the students in our class think?

4 APPROPRIATE

Right for the situation. Not private.

✗ How much money does your family have?

✓ Which lunch do you usually have?

Key idea: pass all four checks = useful. Fail a check = needs improving.

KEY LANGUAGE Use these to judge, compare and explain.

EXPLAIN A GOOD FEATURE

This question is specific because...

EXPLAIN A WEAK QUESTION

This question needs improving because...

COMPARE TWO QUESTIONS

Question A is more useful than B because...

CHOOSE THE STRONGEST

The best question is... because it is...



Write: Judge the questions

Read each question. Circle the happy face if it is useful or the sad face if it needs improving. Then write the reason.

#	QUESTION	CIRCLE ONE	REASON
1	Which after-school club do you want to join? art · chess · football · drama · none	 	
2	Do you like school?	 	
3	How many minutes does it take you to get to school? 0–10 · 11–20 · 21–30 · more than 30	 	
4	Don't you think the cafeteria food is terrible?	 	
5	How many days a week do you do sport outside lessons? 0 · 1–2 · 3–4 · 5–7	 	
6	What do students in the world think about homework?	 	
7	How often do you read for fun? often · sometimes · never	 	
8	How much money does your family earn?	 	
9	On which day do you have the most homework? Mon · Tue · Wed · Thu · Fri	 	
10	How do you usually travel to school? walk · bike · bus · car · other	 	



Write: Rewrite weak questions

Task 1: Choose two weak questions from your judging table. Write each one and name the problem. Then write a better question and explain with “because”.

QUESTION 1

Question number ____ (the original): _____

The problem is _____

My new question: _____

My new question is more _____ because _____

QUESTION 2

Question number ____ (the original): _____

The problem is _____

My new question: _____

My new question is more _____ because _____

Stretch Choose another weak question.



Check: Choose better options

Task 2: Read the question and the two sets of options. Choose the better set and say why.

How often do you read for fun?

OPTIONS X

often · sometimes · never

OPTIONS Y

0 days a week · 1–2 days · 3–4 days · 5–7 days

Options ____ are better because _____



Read: A model survey question

Read the model template. You will fill in a template like this for your own question.

TOPIC	homework
QUESTION	How many minutes do you spend on homework each evening?
OPTIONS	0–15 · 16–30 · 31–45 · more than 45
DATA	Students in each time group → bar chart
WHY IS IT USEFUL?	This question is specific because it asks about minutes. It is appropriate because it is about school. The data would show how long students work.



Think: Ideas for your question

Think of some survey questions for Year 7 students. Use the stems to help you. Do not worry about the checks yet.

How often... _____

How many... _____

Which... _____

What do you think of... _____



Remember: Key words

Read the key words and their meanings. Write each word in your own language.

	MEANING	IN MY LANGUAGE
classify	put things into groups, for example useful or needs improving	
specific	exact and clear, with a clear topic	
neutral	does not push you to one answer	
appropriate	right for the situation and not private	
useful	gives data we can use to answer a question	
data	facts and numbers that people collect	



Independent task

Design one Year 7 survey question and explain why it is useful.

1 Choose a topic school food · homework · sleep · travel · clubs · free time

My topic is _____

2 Write your question and options Use the four checks.

My question is _____

Options: _____

3 Explain the data Which data? Which display?

The data would show _____

I would show it in a table / bar chart / line graph / pie chart: _____

4 Say why it is useful

5 Check it Tick when your question passes.

☐ specific

☐ neutral

☐ answerable

☐ appropriate

STRETCH Write a second version. Which is better, and why?

PARTNER CHECK Swap pages. Answer your partner's question. Then judge it.

This question would / would not give useful data because _____
