

## Instructions for Using the “What Did You Do Over the Weekend?” Needs Assessment Tool

One of the best ways to tailor your instruction to your students’ needs is to find out more about their lives outside of the classroom. Have you ever asked your students the typical Monday question “What did you do over the weekend?” only to hear the same simple responses, like “I worked” or “I slept”? The following needs assessment tool helps you learn more about your students’ lives by providing some scaffolding for even beginning level students to build on when answering this question. Suggestions for using it in your adult ESL class:

- Distribute this form at the beginning of your first class of the week and have students complete it while others are arriving.
- After students have completed the form, ask some students to talk about their weekend, using the form as a guide.
- Model the use of follow-up questions to help students engage in elaborated conversation. For example, if a student checked off these activities, ask:

- I talked to my family in my country.  
*How often do you talk to your family? Is it easy to telephone them?*
- I ate in a restaurant.  
*What restaurant did you go to? Do you prefer eating at home or eating in a restaurant? Why?*
- I bought \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Was it on sale? Where did you buy it?*
- I spoke English with \_\_\_\_\_.  
*What did you talk about in English? Did you have any problems speaking or understanding English during the conversation?*

- Have students get into pairs and ask each other about their weekends, with follow-up questions as practiced.
- Collect the completed forms and use some of the information to plan instruction that will be relevant to your students’ lives.

With some practice, students will get used to this routine and will look forward to using English to share some of the details of their lives outside of the classroom.

## What Did You Do Over the Weekend?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the statements. If it is true for you, check the box:  and complete the information.

If it is not true for you, don't check the box:

- I worked.
- I went to church, mosque, temple, or other religious event.
- I talked to my family in my country.
- I ate in a restaurant.
- I ate fast food.
- I went shopping at a mall.
- I went grocery shopping.
- I saw a movie in a theater. The name of the movie was \_\_\_\_\_.
- I slept late on \_\_\_\_\_ (for example, Saturday or Sunday).
- I woke up early on \_\_\_\_\_ (for example, Saturday or Sunday).
- I visited with family.
- I visited with friends.
- I cooked \_\_\_\_\_.
- I bought \_\_\_\_\_.
- I watched \_\_\_\_\_.
- I cleaned my \_\_\_\_\_.
- I went to the doctor or to the clinic.
- I ate \_\_\_\_\_ from my country.
- I spoke English with \_\_\_\_\_.
- I read \_\_\_\_\_.
- I felt good.
- I didn't feel good.
- I enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_.
- I didn't like \_\_\_\_\_.