

Emotional speech recording

Fundy 2K Style guidelines

Version 1.1

Emotional Speech Recordings

1. Overview

This document provides high-level guidelines for recording spontaneous English speech to be recorded with a total of 11 emotions (happy, sad, fearful/afraid, upset/angry, surprised, disgusted, interested, confused, bored, ironic/sarcastic, neutral) in 3 different styles (storytelling, interview, questions). There will also be 2 intensity levels only for Storytelling style: High and Low. This doesn't apply to the Neutral emotion, which will be recorded twice at the same intensity level.

In addition, a set of 9 short non-verbal vocalisations will also be collected (laugh, yawn, cough, throat clear, oh, wow, mhm, ah, sigh).

A full breakdown of each style and emotion required is in Appendix A.

The sum of the total time of the recordings is expected to be around 35 minutes per speaker.

In general, each speaker should:

- Match the target emotion following the instructions in section 3 of this guidelines.
- Match the target style required by each prompt following the instructions in section 2 of this guidelines.
- Meet the minimum and maximum time requirements for each prompt as specified in section 2.

2. Speech styles

You will record speech in three different speech styles.

2.1. Storytelling

You will be asked to tell a short story about a time where you felt one of the selected emotions with a prompt like "Tell me a story about a moment when you felt... Happy".

You should maintain a **general feel** of the selected emotion. The idea is to remind something that made you feel that emotion and to convey the same sentiment while you tell the story.

Since the expected length of this type of speech is relatively long (see Table 1), it would be difficult and unnatural to maintain the emotion for the whole duration of the item. Just make sure that the general feel of the story is clearly in line with the required emotion.

You will be asked to tell the story with two levels of intensity for each emotion, except for Neutral, which will be recorded for two different prompts at the same intensity level. The two levels will be low and high. The high emotion should be noticeably more intense (e.g. louder in case of “upset/angry”, more expressive in case of “fearful/afraid”).

2.2. Interview

You will be asked to create a two-way interview or dialogue between friends (interpreting both sides) where the general feeling is the selected emotion with a prompt like “Have an interview style conversation where you feel... Happy”.

You should also aim to maintain a **general feel** of the selected emotion. The idea is to convey the general emotion throughout the interview, using interjections and words that could vehicle the emotions (see Table 2).

Also for this style, the expected length of each item to record is relatively long (see Table 1) and it would be difficult and unnatural to sustain the emotion for the whole duration. Just make sure that the “general feel” of the interview is clearly in line with the required emotion.

An acceptable alternative is to speak as a monologue, providing only the response to an imaginary question you might be asked in an interview or dialogue between friends.

2.3. Questions

You will be asked to record questions where you ask something with the selected emotion with a prompt like “Ask an imaginary person a question with the following sentiment... Happy”.

Since the prompts of this style are expected to be short (see Table 1), **the emotion should be maintained for the whole sentence**, rather than for just one or two words.

Table 1: Breakdown of speech styles with number of items, minimum acceptable length per prompt, reference/target length per prompt, maximum acceptable length per prompt (in seconds).

Style	Intensity	Items (one per emotion)	Minimum length (s)	Target/reference length (s)	Maximum length (s)
Storytelling	Low	11	20	30	50
Storytelling	High	11	20	30	50
Interview		11	90	120	150
Questions		11	8	15	22
Non-verbal		9	1	10	30

3. Emotions

Table 1: List of all the emotions requested in this project, with their definitions, useful phrases and examples to channel that emotion.

Emotion	Definition	Useful phrases, interjections, or examples	
Happy	Feeling of joy, excited, positive energy, wide-range intonation	Yay! That's great! Fantastic!	
Sad	Feeling low, down, empathetic, flat intonation	I'm so sorry. This is bad. Waaa.	
Fearful / Afraid	Feeling afraid, concerned, spooked by something	Ah! What's that! Go away!	
Upset / Angry	Feeling of negative energy, frustrated, angry, loud	Stop it! This is annoying! Enough!	
Surprised	Feeling of surprise, a moment of realization (an "aha" or "eureka" moment); clears up previous confusion.	Oh! A-ha! That's it! Wonderful!	
Disgusted	Feeling dislike, disparaging, slower tempo and flatter intonation	Ew! Yuck! That's disgusting! Ugh!	
Interested	Feeling excited, emotionally engaged, similar to happy	That's amazing! Good for you! Tell me more!	
Confused	Expresses confusion, hesitation or uncertainty. Sentences will often be acted out more slowly and with an interrogative intonation, sounding like questions.	Hum... I'm not sure.	
Bored	Feeling numb, monotonic, bland, with no particular emotion. Flat intonation. Not to be confused with neutral (see below)	OK. If you say so. Whatever.	

Ironic/Sarcastic	Sounds emphatic, the meaning is opposite to what is actually said	Oh, REALLY?!? I'm SO happy to hear that.	
Neutral	Warm and friendly voice, but like a news anchor. Not a terribly dramatic or a terribly happy news anchor, just the same vibe as when presenting neutral news.	Here are tonight's soccer results.	

As a general rule, it is better to over-represent the emotion, rather than under-play it, unless you are specifically recording a low-intensity emotion for the Storytelling style. In this case, you should still convey the relevant emotions, but in a more subdued, less intense, way.

4. Non-verbal vocalizations

These are non-verbal sounds that you will record without speaking actual words. The prompt will be: “Communicate the following without explicit verbal speech” and the full list of the 9 non-verbal sounds is the following:

- Laugh
- Yawn
- Cough
- Throat Clear
- Oh
- Wow
- Mhm
- Ah
- Sigh (Audible)

We are aware that some, if not most, of the non-verbal vocalization items may be difficult to be sustained more than one second, which is the minimum acceptable length for this type of recordings. To meet this minimum length requirement, you can repeat them multiple times, as you can hear in the relevant audio samples.

5. Not-to-do list

In their recordings, no matter the style, you should **never** include:

- Inappropriate language or expressions (e.g. swear words, profanities, derogatory or hate language).
- PII and any personal details. If you want to provide proper names of persons and places, these should be 100% made up and can never be real.
- Gibberish or speech in foreign languages.

As for non-verbal vocalizations, you should **never**:

- Produce any sounds (especially “ah”, “oh”, “mhm”, “wow”) in a sexually explicit or suggestive way.

6. References

The following online resources were used to get the audio samples to follow for each emotion and non-verbal vocalization.

- <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/uwrfkaggler/ravdess-emotional-speech-audio>
- <https://pixabay.com/sound-effects/>
- <https://tfcs.baruch.cuny.edu/Sarcasm/>

Appendix A: Prompts list and breakdown

Style	Prompt	Emotion	Intensity	Length (s)
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Happy	Low	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Sad	Low	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Fearful / Afraid	Low	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Upset / Angry	Low	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Surprised	Low	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Disgusted	Low	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Interested	Low	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Confused	Low	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Bored	Low	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Ironic/Sarcastic	Low	30

Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Neutral	Low	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Happy	High	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Sad	High	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Fearful / Afraid	High	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Upset / Angry	High	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Surprised	High	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Disgusted	High	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Interested	High	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Confused	High	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Bored	High	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Ironic/Sarcastic	High	30
Storytelling	Tell me a story about a moment when you felt this	Neutral	High	30

Interview	Have an interview style conversation	Happy	N/A	120
Interview	Have an interview style conversation	Sad	N/A	120
Interview	Have an interview style conversation	Fearful / Afraid	N/A	120
Interview	Have an interview style conversation	Upset / Angry	N/A	120
Interview	Have an interview style conversation	Surprised	N/A	120
Interview	Have an interview style conversation	Disgusted	N/A	120
Interview	Have an interview style conversation	Interested	N/A	120
Interview	Have an interview style conversation	Confused	N/A	120
Interview	Have an interview style conversation	Bored	N/A	120
Interview	Have an interview style conversation	Ironic/Sarcastic	N/A	120
Interview	Have an interview style conversation	Neutral	N/A	120
Questions	Ask an imaginary person a question with the following sentiment	Happy	N/A	15
Questions	Ask an imaginary person a question with the following sentiment	Sad	N/A	15
Questions	Ask an imaginary person a question with the following sentiment	Fearful / Afraid	N/A	15
Questions	Ask an imaginary person a question with the following sentiment	Upset / Angry	N/A	15
Questions	Ask an imaginary person a question with the following sentiment	Surprised	N/A	15

Questions	Ask an imaginary person a question with the following sentiment	Disgusted	N/A	15
Questions	Ask an imaginary person a question with the following sentiment	Interested	N/A	15
Questions	Ask an imaginary person a question with the following sentiment	Confused	N/A	15
Questions	Ask an imaginary person a question with the following sentiment	Bored	N/A	15
Questions	Ask an imaginary person a question with the following sentiment	Ironic/Sarcastic	N/A	15
Questions	Ask an imaginary person a question with the following sentiment	Neutral	N/A	15
Non-verbal vocalizations	Communicate the following without explicit verbal speech	Laugh	N/A	10
Non-verbal vocalizations	Communicate the following without explicit verbal speech	Yawn	N/A	10
Non-verbal vocalizations	Communicate the following without explicit verbal speech	Cough	N/A	10
Non-verbal vocalizations	Communicate the following without explicit verbal speech	Throat Clear	N/A	10
Non-verbal vocalizations	Communicate the following without explicit verbal speech	Oh	N/A	10
Non-verbal vocalizations	Communicate the following without explicit verbal speech	Wow	N/A	10

Non-verbal vocalizations	Communicate the following without explicit verbal speech	Mhm	N/A	10
Non-verbal vocalizations	Communicate the following without explicit verbal speech	Ah	N/A	10
Non-verbal vocalizations	Communicate the following without explicit verbal speech	Sigh (Audible)	N/A	10

Appendix B: Script ideas

You are invited to come up with your own, natural stories, questions and interview -style bits, based on the prompts in Appendix A. However, if you find it difficult to find inspiration, you can use the following scripts as reference. Even if you end up using them, try not to read and make sure you add some variation by using your own words.

1. Storytelling

Tell me a story about a moment when you felt Happy

I was on a road trip with my friends. We were driving down these scenic backroads, blasting our favorite tunes and laughing till our stomachs hurt. As the sun began to set, we stumbled upon this breathtaking hidden beach. The sand was soft and warm beneath my feet, and the waves crashed against the shore rhythmically. We sat there, sharing stories, and roasting marshmallows over a campfire. In that moment, surrounded by great company and the beauty of nature, a wave of pure happiness washed over me. It was a simple yet extraordinary moment that I will cherish forever.

Tell me a story about a moment when you felt Sad

It was last summer when my best friend moved away to another country. We had been inseparable since kindergarten, and suddenly, she was gone. I didn't realize how much I relied on her for support and laughter until she was not there anymore. The first few weeks were the toughest, with an empty feeling in my heart. But as time passed, I learned to cherish the memories we had and found solace in our occasional video chats. Although I still miss her terribly, I now understand that life goes on, and I have to embrace the change.

Tell me a story about a moment when you felt Fearful / Afraid

One time, I was hiking alone in the middle of a dense forest. As I ventured deeper, the atmosphere transformed, becoming eerily silent. My heart started pounding, sensing something was off. Suddenly, I heard rustling amid the bushes. Fear gripped me as my mind imagined all sorts of wild animals or even a mysterious attacker. Goosebumps covered my skin and I couldn't move as the sound grew closer. Luckily, it was just a harmless bunny scurrying by. Nonetheless, that moment left me trembling with both relief and a newfound respect for the power of fear.

Tell me a story about a moment when you felt Upset / Angry

I was at a concert and I had been looking forward to it for weeks. The tickets were expensive, but I thought it would be worth it. However, right when my favorite band was about to take the stage, someone spilled a drink all over me. I was devastated, not only because my clothes were ruined but also because I had been eagerly waiting for that moment. It was really upsetting, but I tried to make the most of it and remind myself that accidents happen. Lesson learned: always be cautious around enthusiastic concert-goers!

Tell me a story about a moment when you felt Surprised

I was searching through my old things in the attic. As I rummaged through a dusty box, I stumbled upon my long-forgotten childhood diary. Curiosity got the better of me, so I decided to read a few entries. I was stunned to find an entry about a secret treehouse in my backyard, a treehouse that I had absolutely no recollection of. Intrigued, I rushed to my backyard and, to my astonishment, discovered a hidden treehouse nestled among the branches of a large oak tree. I was filled with a mix of excitement and wonder, realizing that my childhood adventures had been far more magical than I remembered.

Tell me a story about a moment when you felt Disgusted

So, I was at this fancy restaurant with some friends celebrating my birthday. Everything was going great until I spotted a little bug crawling on my plate. I mean, come on! You pay a fortune for a meal and bugs decide to crash the party? It totally ruined my appetite, and I couldn't believe the nerve of that bug. I immediately called over the waiter, who was just as shocked as I was. They offered me a replacement dish, but honestly, I'd lost my appetite by then. It's safe to say that bug incident left me feeling disgusted and questioning the cleanliness of fancy restaurants.

Tell me a story about a moment when you felt Interested

Once upon a time, I was scrolling through social media when I stumbled upon a video of a mysterious hidden waterfall. Intrigued, I started researching more about it. I discovered that it was tucked away in a lush rainforest, only accessible through a challenging hike. The idea of embarking on an adventure and witnessing something so awe-inspiring fascinated me. I couldn't get the image of the cascading water out of my mind. This moment fueled my curiosity, and I promised myself that I would one day stand in front of that waterfall, letting its enchanting mist captivate all my senses.

Tell me a story about a moment when you felt Confused

On my first day of college I was so excited but also nervous. I thought I was well-prepared, but as soon as I stepped into my first class, confusion hit me like a tornado. The professor quickly started talking about complex theories and using terms I had never heard before. I panicked and felt like I had entered an alternate universe. It took me a while to gather my thoughts, ask for help, and realize that it was okay to feel confused. That moment taught me that it's alright to be out of my comfort zone; it's all part of the learning journey.

Tell me a story about a moment when you felt Bored

I was visiting my grandma's house during summer break. I found myself sitting in her living room, with no internet or TV to keep me entertained. I remember staring at the clock on the wall, its ticking sound becoming the soundtrack of my boredom. I tried reading a book, but my mind kept wandering off. Eventually, I resorted to playing solitaire on my phone, but even that couldn't shake off the relentless feeling of boredom. It seemed like hours had passed, and I was stuck in this endless loop of uneventfulness. That day surely taught me the importance of finding something engaging to do, no matter where I am.

Tell me a story about a moment when you felt Ironic/Sarcastic

Oh, where do I even begin with the fantastic tales of annoyance that grace my existence? Let me regale you with a riveting story of a moment that left me utterly annoyed. Picture a picture-perfect day, sun shining, birds chirping, and yours truly attempting to savor this blissful tranquility. Suddenly, like a superhero summoned to duty, someone comes along to dump their endless barrage of trivial complaints upon me. Oh, the joy! It was truly a magical moment, as annoying as a symphony of nails on a chalkboard. Can you feel my excitement? It was simply indescribable.

Tell me a story about a moment when you felt Neutral

Once upon a time, I was sitting at my desk, trying to finish a task that seemed never-ending. My computer screen was flickering, and the monotonous hum of the air conditioner filled the room. Outside, the sun was shining, but I couldn't enjoy it. The clock on the wall seemed to be moving in slow motion, and every second felt like an eternity. As I clicked away at the keyboard, the minutes turned into hours, and the minutes felt like days. It was a boring story of a day that seemed to stretch on forever, with nothing interesting to break the monotony.

2. Interviews

Happy

- Good day! How are you doing today?

- Hey there! I'm absolutely thrilled to be here and having this interview with you. It's a beautiful day outside, and everything feels just right. Thank you for asking!

- I'm glad to hear that! So, tell me, what brings you so much happiness and positivity?

- Well, I believe that happiness comes from within, and it's really all about adopting a positive mindset. For me, finding joy in the little things is a daily practice. I wake up each morning feeling grateful for another day of opportunities and adventures. I have an incredibly supportive family and fantastic friends who fill my life with laughter and love. Surrounding myself with positive and like-minded people is a key ingredient for my happiness recipe.

- That's wonderful to hear! Can you give me an example of a recent memorable moment that made you particularly happy?

- Absolutely! Just last weekend, I went on a spontaneous road trip with my closest friends. We decided to explore a hidden gem of a beach that none of us had been to before. As the sun slowly set, we built a bonfire, shared stories, and laughed until our stomachs hurt. It was one of those magical moments where time seemed to stand still, and I couldn't help but feel an overwhelming sense of happiness and contentment.

- That sounds amazing! What about your career? How does that contribute to your overall happiness?

- Ah, my career! It's truly been a vital source of my happiness. I'm fortunate to work in a field that aligns with my passion and values. Every day, I get to do what I love, and it never feels like "work." The joy I feel when helping others and making a positive impact in their lives is indescribable. It brings me immense fulfillment and happiness, knowing that I'm making a difference.

- It's fantastic to see how passionate you are about your work. Lastly, how do you plan to spread this happiness to others?

- My goal is to spread happiness like wildfire! I firmly believe that happiness is contagious, and by radiating positivity, I can inspire others to do the same. Whether it's through a simple smile, a supportive word, or lending a helping hand, I strive to bring a little bit of happiness into the lives of those I encounter. We all have the power to make a positive impact, and I'm excited to share my happiness with as many people as possible.
- Well, thank you for your time during this interview! Your happiness and enthusiasm are truly contagious.
- Thank you so much for having me! It's been a pleasure sharing my happiness journey with you. Remember, happiness is a choice, so let's choose to embrace it and spread it wherever we go!

Sad

- Hey, how's it going?
- Hey, not so good, actually. I've been feeling pretty down lately.
- Oh no, I'm sorry to hear that. What's been bringing you down?
- Well, it feels like everything is going wrong at the moment. I recently lost my job, and it's been really tough trying to find something new. I'm feeling defeated and worried about the future.
- That sounds really tough, I can imagine how much that would weigh on your mind. Can you tell me a bit more about how losing your job has impacted you?
- Yeah, losing my job has hit me hard emotionally. Not only was it a blow to my self-esteem, but it's also causing a lot of financial stress. I'm struggling to pay bills and take care of basic necessities. It's incredibly frustrating and disheartening.
- I can definitely understand how that would be a source of sadness. Have you been able to find any support systems to help you through this difficult time?
- I've reached out to friends and family, and they've been really supportive. They've offered kind words and assistance where they can. But it's still tough. I feel like I've let everyone down, including myself.
- It's great that you have a support system to lean on. Remember that losing a job doesn't define your worth, and it's okay to ask for help. What steps are you taking to cope with all of this?
- Well, I'm trying to stay positive and proactive. I've been actively searching for job opportunities, networking, and updating my resume. I'm also taking some time for self-care, like exercising and practicing mindfulness, to help manage the sadness and anxiety.
- That's fantastic! It sounds like you're taking all the right steps and making the best out of a difficult situation. Is there anything else you'd like to share about what you're going through?
- Just that I'm hopeful that things will turn around soon. It's been a tough journey, but I know that I'm not alone in facing these challenges. I'm doing my best to stay optimistic and keep pushing forward.
- Thank you for sharing your story with me. I wish you all the best and hope that brighter days are just around the corner for you.
- Thank you, I appreciate your kind words.

Fearful / Afraid

- Hey man, thanks for meeting me today. I wanted to talk to you about something that's been keeping me up at night.
- Oh, really? Is there something bothering you? You can tell me, man.

- Well, you know about the recent wave of break-ins in our neighborhood, right? I've been living in constant fear. Every creak and rustle outside my window sends shivers down my spine.
- I totally get it, man. Those incidents are unnerving. I've been feeling the same way lately. I constantly find myself looking over my shoulder, scared that someone might come up behind me.
- It's not just the break-ins, though. Did you hear about that creepy van that's been driving around? Just the sight of it lurking in the shadows sends fear coursing through my veins. I can't help but think that danger might be just around the corner.
- I heard about it, too. It's terrifying. I can't even walk my dog without feeling vulnerable and on edge. I'm always clutching my keys tightly, ready to defend myself if needed.
- Exactly! And when the news reports another incident, it feels like the fear intensifies. I start questioning if my home is truly secure, if my loved ones are safe. It's like living in a constant state of anxiety.
- I completely understand, man. I feel that knot in my stomach whenever I have to walk alone at night. It feels like I'm a potential target, ready to be victimized. Fear grips my heart anytime I pass a dark alley or encounter a stranger.
- You described it perfectly, man. It's the fear of the unknown, the fear of what could happen. It's exhausting to be in this fearful mindset all the time. I just want to feel safe again, you know?
- Absolutely, man. We all deserve to live in peace without the constant presence of fear. It's unsettling how fear has infiltrated every aspect of our lives. We need to find a way to fight back and regain control over our own sense of security.
- I couldn't agree more, man. Let's stay vigilant, support each other, and work towards making our neighborhood a safer place. Together, we can overcome this fear and reclaim our peace of mind.
- You're right, man. We are stronger together. It's time to take action and make our voices heard. No more living in fear.

Upset / Angry

- Hey man. I can't believe you did that! I'm so upset with you right now.
- Well, you're not the only one upset here, man. I'm equally mad at you.
- Oh really? Why don't you enlighten me then, man? What exactly is your problem?
- My problem? How about the fact that you completely disregarded my feelings? You always do that!
- Disregarded your feelings? Is that what you think? Maybe if you had communicated them better, this wouldn't have happened!
- Oh, so now it's my fault? Typical of you to turn things around. You never take responsibility for your own actions!
- I can't take responsibility when you constantly push all the blame on me! You never admit when you're wrong!
- Admitting when I'm wrong? Ha! That's rich coming from you, man. Whenever I try to express my opinion, you shut me down!
- And you think you're any better? You're always playing the victim card, making yourself out to be the innocent one!

- Innocent? Far from it! Maybe if you actually listened to me instead of constantly criticizing, we wouldn't be in this mess!
- Criticizing? I criticize because you never seem to learn from your mistakes! It's frustrating dealing with someone so stubborn!
- Stubborn? That's laughable, coming from someone who can never see things from someone else's perspective!
- Oh, please! Don't act like you're the epitome of empathy! You have no idea what empathy even means!
- And you think you're any better? You don't care about anyone else's feelings but your own!
- That's not true! I do care, but it's hard to care for someone who constantly brings negativity into my life!
- Negativity? It's not negativity, it's called holding you accountable for your actions!
- Accountability? Hah! It's more like constantly being under your microscope, waiting for me to slip up!
- Well, maybe if you didn't constantly make mistakes, I wouldn't have to keep watching you!
- I can't believe we can't even have a civil conversation without pointing fingers and blaming each other!
- It's because we're both upset, man! We never see eye to eye, no matter what the situation is!
- Maybe it's time we take a step back and evaluate if this friendship is worth all the anger and constant fighting.
- Perhaps you're right, man. It's exhausting being upset all the time. Maybe it's time we find some common ground and work things out.

Surprised

- Hey man! Long time no see! How have you been?
- A, oh my gosh, it's been ages! I can't believe it's you! I'm doing well, thanks for asking. What about you?
- You won't believe it, but I just bumped into our high school physics teacher at the supermarket. Mr. Johnson! Can you believe it?
- No way! Seriously? Mr. Johnson?! That's insane! I haven't seen him in, like, forever. What was he doing at the supermarket? Did he recognize you?
- I know, right? It was the wildest coincidence! He was there picking up some groceries. And yes, he totally recognized me. It's so surprising that after all these years he still remembers my face!
- That's incredible! I would have never expected that. I mean, we were just average students in his class, nothing exceptional. Does he still look the same? I remember he had that quirky, messy hair.
- Oh my goodness, man! You won't believe this, but Mr. Johnson hasn't changed a bit! His hair is still as wild as ever, and his eyeglasses are still hanging precariously on the edge of his nose. It's like stepping back in time!
- That's unbelievable. It seems like he's trapped in some kind of time loop or something. Did he mention anything about our class or ask how we turned out?
- Surprisingly, he did! He asked about both of us, and I couldn't help but feel a bit flattered. He genuinely seemed interested in our lives after high school, even though we aren't famous rock stars or rocket scientists.
- Wow, that's really sweet of him. It's nice to know that a teacher still remembers his students and cares about their well-being. It really shows how much of an impact they can have on our lives.
- Absolutely! I always knew he was a great teacher, but this little encounter was a real eye-opener. It's heartwarming to see familiar faces from our past and realize how they still hold a special place in our hearts.

- I couldn't agree more, man. That's the power of connections we make throughout our lives. Who would have thought a simple trip to the supermarket could bring back all these nostalgic memories and surprise us with such unexpected encounters?
- Life is just full of surprises.

Disgusted

- Hey man, have you ever tried that weird food people are talking about? I can't believe they actually enjoy eating it!
- Ugh, don't even get me started on that one. I can't fathom why anyone would subject themselves to such an experience. It's absolutely disgusting!
- Right? I mean, just the thought of it makes my stomach churn. It's like they took every food item I despise and combined them into one monstrous concoction.
- Exactly! I have no idea how it even became a thing. Who in their right mind thought it was a good idea to create such a repulsive dish?
- I have no clue, but it's definitely not for the faint-hearted. The appearance alone is enough to make me lose my appetite. The way it's all mushed together, the unappetizing colors, and that strange texture? Ugh!
- Tell me about it! And don't even get me started on the pungent smell that emanates from it. It's like a mix of rotten eggs, sweaty socks, and something unidentifiable. It's enough to make you gag!
- Oh gosh, I can almost smell it now. I honestly can't comprehend how people enjoy putting that in their mouths. The taste, from what I've heard, is an assault on your taste buds.
- I completely agree. I mean, why would anyone willingly subject themselves to that horrific taste? It's like punishment instead of pleasure. It's mind-boggling!
- It really is. And the worst part is, some people even brag about eating it! How on earth can they be proud of consuming something so revolting?
- I honestly have no idea. It's beyond my understanding. I like to think I have an open mind when it comes to food, but this one crosses all the boundaries.
- Absolutely. No amount of curiosity will ever convince me to try it. I'd rather stick to my trusty favorites and avoid that monstrosity at all costs!
- Couldn't agree more, man. Weird food trend or not, count me out. I'm perfectly content with enjoying the food that doesn't make my stomach turn.

Interested

- Hey, long time no see! How are you?
- I'm great! Thanks for asking. How about you?
- Oh, you know, just been busy with work and life. But hey, I heard you went on an amazing trip recently. Tell me all about it!
- Oh my gosh, yes! It was absolutely incredible. I went to Japan, and it was like stepping into a different world. The culture, the food, the people - everything was so fascinating. I visited Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka. The city lights of Tokyo at night were breathtaking!
- Wow, that sounds amazing! I've always wanted to visit Japan. What was your favorite part of the trip?

- Hmm, it's hard to choose just one favorite. But I would have to say that exploring the traditional temples in Kyoto was a profound experience. The peace and serenity within those ancient buildings were truly awe-inspiring. Oh, and the cherry blossoms were in full bloom! It was like walking through a dreamland.
- That sounds so picturesque! I can only imagine how beautiful it was. Did you try any traditional Japanese cuisine while you were there?
- Of course! Japanese food is so diverse and delicious. I had the opportunity to try sushi, ramen, and an array of street foods. But the highlight was definitely the traditional kaiseki meal, where each dish was a delightful work of art. The attention to detail was incredible!
- I'm getting hungry just thinking about all the food you had. (laughs) Speaking of food, guess what? I recently discovered a new recipe for homemade pizza that is out of this world!
- No way, that sounds amazing! I love trying new recipes, especially when it comes to pizza. What's the secret ingredient?
- It's actually not just one ingredient, but a combination of spices and seasonings that take it to a whole new level. The crust is perfectly crispy, and the flavors burst in your mouth with every bite. Trust me, you have to give it a try!
- Oh, I absolutely will! Homemade pizza is always a winner. I can already imagine having a fun pizza night with friends, trying out this delicious recipe.
- That's a great idea! Let's plan a pizza night soon, and I'll bring the dough and toppings. We can enjoy good food, good company, and share stories about our trips and adventures!

Confused

- Hey man! Long time no see. I heard you got a new job. Congrats!
- Thanks, man! Yeah, I did land a new gig, but to be honest, I'm a bit confused about it.
- Really? What's confusing about it?
- Well, during the interview, the HR person gave me a vague job description. It was like they were reading off a generic template or something. I left the interview feeling perplexed.
- That's strange. Didn't they give you any details about your role?
- Not really. They mentioned something about being part of a dynamic team, but there was no clear explanation of what I'll actually be doing.
- That's definitely confusing. You'd think they'd be more specific about the job responsibilities.
- Yeah, exactly! And when I asked about the specific projects I'd be involved in, the interviewer seemed equally confused. It was like they didn't have a clue themselves.
- That's really odd. How are you supposed to know if it's the right fit for you if they can't even explain what you'll be working on?
- That's exactly what I thought! And to make matters worse, they mentioned potential overseas travel, but couldn't provide any details. How can I commit to something without knowing where I might have to go?
- That sounds incredibly frustrating. It's like they expect you to blindly jump into this new role without giving you any information.
- Yeah, it's frustrating and confusing at the same time. I mean, I'm excited about this opportunity, but I need to know what I'm getting into. It's challenging to make an informed decision with all this uncertainty.

- Absolutely, man. It's important to have a clear understanding of your role and expectations before committing. Maybe you should reach out to them to clarify these concerns.
- Yeah, I think I will. It's better to clear up any confusion now rather than regret it later. I just hope they can provide me with some solid answers this time.
- Good luck, man! I hope they address your concerns and give you the clarity you need to move forward with confidence.

Bored

- Hi, man! How've you been?
- Oh, hey, man. Not bad, just the same old routine.
- Yeah, I hear you. Life can be pretty monotonous sometimes. So, any plans for the weekend?
- Not really. Just probably catching up on some TV shows or maybe just staying in bed all day. Nothing exciting, you know.
- Oh, I get it. Yeah, my weekends have been pretty uneventful lately too. Just sleeping in and doing absolutely nothing productive.
- Yeah, weekends used to be more fun before. Now I just can't seem to find anything interesting to do.
- Exactly. It feels like I'm stuck in this never-ending loop of boredom. Wake up, work, come back home, repeat.
- I feel you, man. It's like we're living on autopilot mode or something. Can't even remember the last time I did something exciting.
- Yeah, same here. I used to: have hobbies, you know? But now everything just feels so... meh.
- Tell me about it. The spark just seems to have faded away. Life has become this dull, colorless routine.
- It's like we're trapped in this mundane cycle, waiting for something exciting to happen. Anything!
- I couldn't agree more. We need a change, man. Something that can shake us out of this boredom and inject some energy back into our lives.
- Absolutely. Maybe it's time to start seeking new adventures or trying out new things. We need some excitement injected back into our veins!
- Yeah, that sounds great. Let's make a pact, man. Let's break free from this boredom and make sure our lives become interesting again.
- I'm with you on that, man. Let's bring back the passion, the enthusiasm, and the adventure. Life's too short to be bored all the time.
- Couldn't have said it better, man. Let's embark on a quest to banish boredom from our lives and make every moment count.

Ironic/Sarcastic

- Hey man, have you ever heard about that new restaurant that opened up in town?
- Oh yeah, I've heard about it. It's supposed to be absolutely amazing... if by 'amazing' you mean overpriced and pretentious.
- Come on, don't be so pessimistic! The reviews are all raving about their unique fusion cuisine.
- Unique fusion cuisine? You mean they've found a way to combine flavors that have no business being together? Sign me up! Nothing says 'delicious' like confusion on a plate.

- Ha! Well, at least they're getting attention for their creativity!
- Yeah, because people love to pay top dollar for a bowl of food they can barely pronounce. The more exotic, the higher the price, right?
- Okay, maybe you're being a bit too harsh. People appreciate the effort these chefs put into creating innovative dishes.
- Oh, absolutely! I mean, who doesn't love paying extra for a tiny portion of food that you can't even recognize? It's like playing a guessing game with your taste buds!
- Alright, you've made your point! But you have to admit, it's nice to have a fancy dining option in our small town.
- Yeah, I guess it's a great opportunity for people to dress up and pretend they're in a big city. Maybe if we're lucky, they'll even play some elevator music to complete the illusion!
- Ha, you're being way too cynical! I'm sure the restaurant will bring some much-needed excitement to our boring little town.
- Yes, because what we've been missing in our lives is the chance to spend a small fortune on a meal just to impress our friends with how trendy we are. Our priorities were clearly all wrong!
- Alright, alright, I get it. You're not a fan. But maybe we should give it a shot, who knows, we might actually enjoy it!
- Well, if by "enjoy" you mean have a good laugh at the absurdity of it all, count me in! Let's go and pretend to be sophisticated food critics for a night!

Neutral

- Hey there, how's it going?
- Oh, you know, same old, same old. Nothing much happening. How about you?
- Yeah, not much happening on my end either. Just trying to get through the day. So, what have you been up to lately?
- Well, work has been keeping me busy, as always. Meetings, deadlines, you know the drill. And you?
- Pretty much the same. Work has been a drag, to be honest. It's just a never-ending cycle of emails and paperwork. But hey, it pays the bills, right?
- Absolutely, can't argue with that. Speaking of bills, have you managed to plan that vacation you were talking about last time?
- Not yet, unfortunately. I've been swamped with work, and finding the time to escape has been a struggle. Plus, the thought of somehow fitting it into the budget is a whole other issue.
- I feel you. It's always challenging to find that perfect balance between work and personal life. But hey, at least we can dream about that vacation, right?
- Oh yeah, for sure. I've been daydreaming about sitting on a beach with a cold drink in my hand. It's those little fantasies that keep us going, right?
- Absolutely, couldn't agree more. Sometimes, it's the small pleasures in life that help us push through the daily grind. So, any other exciting plans in the near future?
- Not really. Just trying to survive each day until the weekend rolls around. Maybe catch up on some Netflix or hang out with friends. How about you? Anything interesting coming up?

- Nah, just the usual routine. Maybe catch a movie or something. It's always good to have some downtime. You know, to recharge and all.
- Absolutely, self-care is important. Well, on that note, I guess we'll just keep trudging along until something exciting comes our way.
- Yeah, that seems about right. Who knows, maybe one day we'll have more interesting things to talk about. But until then, it's just a matter of getting by.
- Couldn't have said it better. Here's to hoping for a little excitement in the near future. Cheers!
- Cheers to that, my friend!

3. Questions

Happy

Hey, if you were granted one wish that would instantly make you happy, what would it be? Hoping it's something fabulous that brings a big smile to your face!

Sad

Hey, how do you cope with feeling sad? I noticed sometimes life throws us a curveball, and it can be tough. Just curious if you have any tips or personal strategies for dealing with those gloomy days.

Fearful / Afraid

Hey, have you ever had that bone-chilling feeling when it's pitch black and you hear strange noises coming from behind you? It's so creepy! What do you think could be lurking in the dark?

Upset / Angry

Why did you lie to me? I trusted you and now I feel like our whole friendship was a sham. This is really upsetting and I don't know if I can forgive you.

Surprised

Dude, are you seriously telling me that you won the lottery?! How the heck did that happen? I mean, I never thought you'd be the one to strike it rich!

Disgusted

Hey, did you really have to eat that entire pizza by yourself? I mean, seriously? It's so greasy and heavy! Aren't you worried about your health or something?

Interested

Hey buddy, have you ever jumped out of an airplane? If so, what was it like? I've heard skydiving is an exhilarating experience and I'm curious to know your thoughts!

Confused

Hey, umm, so I was thinking, why are clouds fluffy? I mean, they're just made of water vapor, right? But then they look all cottony and stuff. It's so weird, right?

Bored

Hey, if you had to pick one superpower, what would it be? I know, it's just one of those random questions that pop into your head when you're bored. But hey, let's kill some time and have some fun!

Ironic/Sarcastic

Oh, sure, because asking for your valuable opinion would undoubtedly be the highlight of my day. But hey, tell me, how did you become the undisputed expert in everything?

Neutral

Hey, what's your take on the latest Netflix series? Would you recommend giving it a go or should I spend my time on something else? Neutral vibes, so I'm just curious about your thoughts!