

1 Synopsis

Now That's Personal is a TV show where reporter Marty Sanders asks complete strangers a series of increasingly personal questions. People are invited to ring a bell when the questions get too personal. So, what are the sensitive topics that he brings up? David doesn't want to talk about his recent break-up with his girlfriend, and most people don't like talking about how much money they make, even with their close friends. On *Now That's Personal* they aren't afraid to bring up these topics, but when Marty starts asking people how much they weigh, that seems like a question too far!

Length of video: 5:30min

2 Target Language

Grammar: reported speech

Vocabulary: conversation topics

Language points: reacting to what people say: *That's too bad. Isn't that terrible. I'm so sorry. Get out of here! I don't believe it. Right, of course. Sounds good. Exactly. Ah, come on.*

3 Procedural Notes

A Before you watch

1 Individuals. Read aloud the topic areas in the box and check that students understand them. Have students work individually to write the correct topic areas in column 2 in the chart. Check answers.

Answer key:

1 age 2 breakups 3 wealth 4 politics
5 weight 6 health

2 Individuals. Ask students if they would answer these questions if a friend or a stranger asked. Have students work individually to write their opinions in the final two columns in the chart.

In groups. Allow time for students to share and discuss their charts in a small group. Have groups report back to the class. Which topics do groups think are sensitive? Why? Which ones would groups feel uncomfortable discussing with a stranger? And with a friend? Encourage students to give reasons.

B While you watch

1 As a class. Play the whole video first, then ask some questions to check comprehension, e.g., *Who is Marty? Why is he asking the people all these questions?*

Individuals. Have students read the questions and check comprehension. Then, play the section of the video where Marty interviews David [00:45–02:10] while students complete the exercise. Check answers.

Answer key: 1 2 5 6

2 Individuals. Explain that there is one factual mistake in each of the sentences. Have students read the sentences and explain any new vocabulary. Play the video again and encourage students to watch for the mistakes and then rewrite the sentences.

In pairs. Have students check answers in pair, discussing any differences. Finally, check answers as a class.

Answer key:

1 David grew up in Newton.

2 David's ex-girlfriend is now going out with his best friend.

3 RD doesn't believe that David's ex-girlfriend is going to call him soon.

4 The law firm employee sometimes / occasionally steals pens and paper from his office.

5 Marty believes the law firm employee has cheated on his girlfriend.

6 A lot of the women in the video don't want to answer questions about how much they weigh.

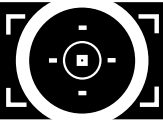
C After you watch

1 As a class. Read the rubric aloud. If necessary, write the rules for tense changes from direct to reported speech on the board:

direct speech	reported speech
simple present	simple past
present progressive	past progressive
simple past	past perfect
present perfect	past perfect
<i>will / can</i>	<i>would / could</i>

Draw students' attention to the example. Explain that reported *wh*-questions begin with a *wh*-word (*when, what, why, how, etc.*), and have statement word order, (i.e., *what is he ...? → what he was ...*).

Explain that reported *yes / no* questions begin with *if* or *whether*, and also have statement word order, (i.e., *is she going ...? → if / whether she was going ...*).



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Do question 1 with the class. Elicit that it is a *yes / no* question, so we need to use *if* or *whether*. Have students suggest answers. Remind them that they need to change the pronouns, too. Write the correct answer on the board:

David asked Zoe if / whether she wanted to see him anymore.

Individuals. Have students complete the rest of the exercise. Then, have them check answers in pairs, discussing any differences. Check answers as a class.

Answer key:

- 1 David asked Zoe if / whether she wanted to see him anymore.
- 2 He asked her if / whether she had met someone else.
- 3 David asked Zoe who she was going out with.
- 4 He asked her how she could do this to him.
- 5 He asked her if / whether she would call him soon.

2 In pairs. Have pairs discuss and write examples of sensitive personal questions that others have asked them. Remind them to use the correct tenses and word order for reported questions, as in the example. Have some pairs report back to the class. Write some examples on the board, correcting any mistakes with reported speech.

expressions with appropriate intonation. Point out to students that *Get out of here!* is an informal expression, but the rest are neutral.

Answer key:

Sympathy: That's too bad. Isn't that terrible.
I'm so sorry.

Surprise / disbelief: Get out of here! I don't believe it.

Affirming / agreeing: Right, of course. Sounds good.
Exactly!

Encouraging: Ah, come on.

2 In pairs. Have students write and practice their dialogues. Encourage them to role-play them. While pairs are working, circulate to help as necessary. Have some pairs perform their dialogues to the class.

Suggested answer:

A: My girlfriend just broke up with me.

B: I don't believe it! What happened?

A: She told me she's been seeing someone else.

B: That's too bad. I'm so sorry. Listen, do you want to come over to my house tonight?

A: I'm not sure.

B: Ah, come on.

A: OK, thanks.

D Language points

1 Individuals. Have some students read aloud the expressions in the box. Read and explain the meanings of the chart headings. If necessary, demonstrate the task for two of the categories. Have students write the expressions under the correct headings in the chart. Check answers, encouraging students to read out the

E Your viewpoint

In groups. Read the questions aloud and check that everybody understands them. Have students work in small groups and write a list of Marty's questions from the video. If necessary, write some of these questions on the board, or play the video again. Then, have students discuss the questions and encourage them to give reasons. While groups are working, circulate to help with grammar and vocabulary. Finish off with a class discussion.

4 Video Script

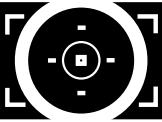
RD: Marty will ask anything! Good afternoon and welcome to Personal Questions – Now That's Personal. Our reporter, Marty Sanders, is on the scene asking some personal questions. You know, there are some topics most of us wouldn't bring up if we were talking to someone we didn't know very well. Here, on Now That's Personal, we aren't afraid to bring up really sensitive topics with random

strangers! Today's first topic will be breakups. Let's go live to Marty Sanders. Marty?

Marty: Hi, RD! This is Marty Sanders reporting from Harvard Square. I'm here with David. Hi, David.

David: Hi, Marty.

Marty: I asked David where he's from. He told me he's from Newton. He said that he grew up there. I also asked David about



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- his family. He told me that he has two sisters and a brother. Right, David?
- David:** That's right, Marty.
- Marty:** Now, this is our Now That's Personal bell. You ring it when the questions get too personal.
- David:** I can handle it.
- Marty:** So, do you have a girlfriend?
- David:** No, actually, I don't.
- Marty:** Why don't you have a girlfriend?
- David:** She broke up with me, actually. Her name was Zoe. She told me she didn't want to see me anymore.
- Marty:** So why did she break up with you?
- David:** She told me the magic was gone.
- Marty:** Oh, that's too bad. I'm so sorry.
- David:** She also told me she met someone else.
- Marty:** David, David, you're gonna be OK. So, who's she going out with now?
- David:** It's kind of personal.
- Marty:** Exactly! This is Now That's Personal. Come on.
- David:** I rang the bell.
- Marty:** So what? Come on, you can tell me. Who's she going out with?
- David:** She's going out with my best friend.
- Marty:** Get out of here. I don't believe it. Isn't that terrible?
- David:** She said she'd call me soon.
- RD:** Sure, Dave. Asking a complete stranger about a breakup is pretty personal, and most of us wouldn't dream of bringing it up, except, of course, here on Now That's Personal. Another topic we don't bring up, even with our friends, is how much money we make. Let's see how Marty handles that one.
- Marty:** Hi! I'm from Personal Questions – Now That's Personal. Have you seen the show?
- Man 1:** Yeah.
- Marty:** Can I ask you some questions?
- Man 1:** Yeah, why not?
- Marty:** All right. This is our Now That's Personal bell. You ring it when the questions get too personal. OK?
- Man 1:** Sounds good.
- Marty:** Where do you work?
- Man 1:** I work for Brown and Steel, it's a law firm.
- Marty:** A law firm has a lot of office supplies – pens, paper, stuff like that, right?
- Man 1:** Right, of course.
- Marty:** Do you ever take any of that stuff home with you?
- Man 1:** Well, once in a while, yeah.
- Marty:** Do you have a girlfriend?
- Man 1:** Yeah.
- Marty:** Do you like her mother? How many times have you cheated on her? Have you cheated on her? Cheater. OK. Do you love her?
- Man 1:** Yeah, yeah.
- Marty:** Will you marry her?
- Man 1:** Yeah, actually, I think I'm going to ask her to marry me next month. It's her birthday.
- Marty:** How much money do you make?
- Man 1:** I'm sorry, that's just a little too personal.
- Marty:** Ah, come on.
- Man 1:** No, it's just, well, we don't talk about it at the office, so I feel kind of weird talking about it with you.
- Marty:** Well, RD, there you have it. I guess that's just too personal.
- RD:** It certainly was! And now for the next portion of our program. We asked you to tell us about your friends and family who share information that is a little too personal. Marty?
- Marty:** Hi. I'm with Now That's Personal. Can I ask you some questions? Great. Do people ever ask you questions that are just too personal?
- Man 2:** Sometimes, yes.
- Marty:** Do you have a girlfriend?
- Man 3:** Yep.
- Marty:** What's her name?
- Man 3:** Her name is Britney.
- Marty:** Do you have a boyfriend?
- Woman 1:** No.
- Marty:** Why not?
- Marty:** Do you think Britney's cheating on you?
- Man 3:** No, I don't.
- Marty:** Have you ever cheated on a girlfriend?
- Man 4:** Yes.
- Marty:** Have you ever cheated on her?
- Man 2:** No.
- Marty:** Have you ever thought about cheating on her?
- Man 2:** That's too personal!
- Woman 2:** One time, somebody asked me how much money I had in my wallet.



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Marty: How much money do you make?

Marty: Have you ever cheated on your taxes?

Man 3: Friends have told me stuff about their parents I just don't need to know.

Woman 3: My best friend has told me way too much information about her family.

Marty: Have any of them ever been to jail?

Woman 1: No.

Marty: Half of your family has committed crimes?

Man 3: I'd guess half of the direct family has committed crimes.

Woman 1: Now that's personal!

Marty: How often do you work out?

Woman 3: Three days a week.

Marty: How much do you weigh? ... How much do you weigh? ... How much do you weigh?

Woman 2: Now that's personal!

Marty: Do you like the summer?

Woman 3: I love summer.

Marty: Do you shave any parts of your body?

Marty: Wow. Now that's personal!

RD: Thanks for joining us today on Now That's Personal. Tune in next week when we ask people if they've ever been accused of a crime.