Chapter by chapter discussion questions

• Here are some chapter-by-chapter discussion questions to ask your friends or your book club.

• You could ask one person to describe ‘what happened in this chapter’, before you start the discussion.

Chapter 1:
• Who is the ‘narrator’ (the person telling the story)? Can you guess his age?
• Can you understand his problem? Is he doing the right thing?

Chapter 2:
• Now you know a little more about Charlie, what do you think about his lifestyle? Does he have the right kind of friends? Does he have a chance of getting Marianna to like him?

Chapter 3:
• Have you ever been to a ‘sausage sizzle’? Have you ever been to an ‘open day’? Did you feel confident to walk around and ask for information?
• What do you think about the advertisement that Charlie saw? Would you believe an ad like this, or would you think it was a scam? Is Charlie too trusting?

Chapter 4:
• What do you know about Charlie’s character now? What shows this? Is he as confident as he tries to appear?
• Did you feel nervous for Charlie when you read this chapter? Did you worry that something bad might happen? Or did you think it could be something good?
Chapter 5:
• How did you feel about the Professor? What did you think about Charlie’s decision? Would you choose to use an English Chip, if you were Charlie?
• Charlie didn’t want to listen to Dan. He said ‘I knew all that already’ (how to learn English). Is that true?

Chapter 6:
• Why was Charlie so disappointed? Is this what you expected would happen? Did you think he would learn English instantly?
• Do you trust the Professor more now, or less? Is Charlie going to have good results?

Chapter 7:
• Charlie changed his behaviour – and now he’s in trouble! Do you think that’s fair?
• Have you ever changed your behaviour a lot? How did people react? Is this part of the story ‘true to life?’

Chapter 8:
• In this chapter, Charlie starts to worry that he’s a cheat. Is he a cheat? What do you think?
• Charlie can’t understand his mum… what do you think is happening?

Chapter 9:
• Do you ever forget words in your own language? Would you worry if you did?
• What do you think of the Professor’s reaction? Does Charlie need his own language? Is it important? What’s going to happen?

Chapter 10:
• Do you think Marianna really likes Charlie? What’s likeable about him? Could this book be a love story? Is Marianna going to be disappointed?
• What should Charlie do at this point?
Chapter 11:
• Did you expect this to happen? Did Charlie expect this to happen?
• What is a crocodile smile? Would you trust a crocodile?

Chapter 12:
• What does Charlie really mean when he says ‘Dan was very relaxed’? What do you think about Dan? Is he right to admire the Professor?
• Is Charlie a ‘ning-nong’? Did you suspect something about the phone?

Chapter 13:
• Were you surprised at Dan’s revelations? What kind of danger could Charlie be in?
• Charlie pretends to be drunk. Do you think he’s a good actor?

Chapter 14:
• Do you ever worry that one day your English teacher will be out of a job? Would you like to learn English an easy way? Would you be tempted?
• What do you think about Charlie’s way of sharing his problem with Marianna? How is he going to get out of this trap?

Chapter 15:
• Charlie has a plan. What do you think it is?
• Do you think it’s going to work? Could you act like this, in a difficult situation?

Chapter 16:
• This was the final chapter. What do you think about the ending of the story?
• What’s going to happen after the story ends? Will Charlie and Marianna fall in love? Will he pass his exams?