

The English Chip: An ESL Easy-Read

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?



