

First Night Questions

FIRST NIGHT QUESTIONS WITH YOUR HOST FAMILY

These questions are suggestions only. You and your host family should discuss anything that you think is important. We suggest you discuss the items most important to you as soon as possible. When you are in a new place with not much language skill, it is best not to assume anything, but rather, to ask. The simplest questions may be the most important, such as "where is the bathroom"?

You can come back to other questions as they seem necessary.

1. What would you like me to call you? Should I call you Mom, Dad, or given (first) name, or something else?
2. What are my daily responsibilities while living in your home?
 - a. Make my bed?
 - b. Keep my room neat and clean?
 - c. Clean the bathroom after I use it?
 - d. Other?
3. What is the procedure for laundering clothes? Where do I keep dirty clothes until they are to be washed?
4. Where can I keep my bathroom accessories?
5. When is the most convenient time for me to use the bathroom on weekday mornings and weekends?
6. When is the best time for me to shower or bathe?
7. Is there anything special about using the bathroom I should know?
8. When are mealtimes?
9. Do I have any responsibilities at meal times, such as to set or clear the table, wash or dry the dishes, dispose of the garbage?
10. May I help myself to food and drinks (non-alcoholic) at any time or must I ask first?
11. May I use kitchen appliances such as the microwave, dishwasher or stove? Could you show me how to use them?
12. What areas of the house are strictly private, for example, your study, bedroom, pantry, etc.?
13. What time should I get up in the morning?
14. Where should I put my clothes store my suitcase?
15. What time must I go to bed weekdays? Weekends?
16. What time must I be in on weekends if I go out?
17. What is the telephone number here? How do I contact you in an emergency when I am not here?
18. How do I make telephone calls? What are the rules about telephone calls? Local, long distance, international? How and when may I pay for calls I make? How do you want me to keep track of my expenses for telephone calls?
19. What are the rules about access to the Internet and e-mail if there is a computer in the house?

Are there time limits or time periods that use is permitted or prohibited? If you are not connected to the Internet, where can I find an Internet service to contact my family?

20. What is the procedure about sending and receiving mail?

21. Do any of you have any special dislikes? For example, chewing gum, types of music, being late, wearing a hat at the table, being interrupted while reading, etc.

22. What transportation is available to me? (Walking, bus, bicycle, being driven, riding with friends, etc)
Are there times or places that are unsafe for me?

23. If there is something that I do that bothers you please tell me and I will talk to you if I have questions or problems.

24. How can I arrange to go shopping for personal items?

25. Is there anything else I can do around the house to be of help?

26. Could we visit a Rotary meeting while I am here?

27. Is there anything else we should discuss?

28. I want to be a great member of your family – please let me know what I can do to!

29. Remember, ask about those things you feel are most important the first night, and then others as appropriate. Try to always keep an open and honest communication with your Host Family and Rotary.