

Exercise 1

New journalists can often fall into the trap of asking closed, rather than open, questions. Rewrite these closed questions to make them open.

Was the house on fire when you arrived?	
Were you alone?	
Were the flames three metres high?	
Was it your neighbour inside?	
So, did you just go home afterwards and continue eating dinner?	
Was the dog ferocious looking?	
Did you vote against that proposal because you dislike new motorways?	

Exercise 2

Remember, an interview needs a variety of questions (open, closed, statements, etc.), but open questions elicit the best responses.

Watch this interview, in which top broadcaster John Campbell interviews then Prime Minister John Key: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3ZCrxc14>

1. Count the number of questions, or similar, Campbell asks in the first nine minutes.
2. Note whether each question is open or closed, whether it is actually a question or a statement, and whether it is rhetorical or a minimiser (as minimiser is a sound or small word intended to keep the person talking, such as “ah”, “mmm” or “yes”).

Exercises 3

Click on this link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=z4Ezruu1oeQ

In this interview, young broadcaster Chris Stark interviews a famous Hollywood actress, Mila Kunis

1. Watch the interview and describe what interview-technique mistakes he made.
2. Explain what he should have done differently.