## Talking About Your Hobbies In English

When you want to get to know someone, ask about their hobbies and interests. Talking about hobbies means you can share details about yourself – and discover shared interests and free-time activities.

Here are some phrases you can use:

### Questions you can ask

What do you like doing?  
What sort of hobbies do you have?  
What do you get up to in your free time?

### How to reply

In my free time I…  
When I have some spare time I…  
When I get the time, I…  
I relax by watching TV / listening to music, etc.  
My hobbies are bird-watching / playing sport, etc.

I'm interested in (+ noun / gerund)  
I'm keen on (+ noun / gerund)  
I'm into (+ noun / gerund)  
I enjoy (+ noun / gerund)

You can add "really" or "quite" after "I'm…" for emphasis.  
"I'm **really keen** on football."  
"I'm **really into** geneaology."

### Talking about hobbies in more detail

You can give more information about your hobbies and interests:

"I like **arts and crafts**. I'm a creative / practical person, and like doing things with my hands."

"I'm an **outgoing** person, and like socialising / hanging out with friends."

"I enjoy being **physically active**, and spend a lot of time playing sports and team games."

### Saying why you like your hobby

You can also explain why you spend time on your hobby to make the conversation longer and more interesting.

"I really enjoy going to the gym because…"

…it keeps me fit.  
…it gets me out of the house, you know!  
…it's sociable. I've met lots of new people.  
…it gives me something interesting to do with my time.  
…it's not very expensive, and anyone can do it!

"My hobbies are all creative…"

… I've always enjoyed painting and drawing.  
… Because my job is technical, it's good to spend time doing something completely different.  
… I enjoy spending time making things like clothes.

**More words that you can use to describe your hobbies:**

creative  
fascinating  
practical  
cheap  
enjoyable  
relaxing  
different  
unusual

### Like doing and like to do

We use like + gerund (ing form) to talk about general likes:  
I **like fishing**.

We use like + infinitive to talk about more specific likes:  
I like **to go fishing** at the weekend.

### Talking About Hobbies Quiz

**1. Someone asks you, ''What do you like doing in your \_\_ time?''**

*  own
*  spare

**2. You answer, ''When I \_\_ any free time, I like going to the cinema.''**

*  have
*  make

**3. You ask, ''Is there anything in particular you're interested \_\_?''**

*  in
*  on

**4. If someone asks you that, you can reply ''I'm really \_\_ sports.''**

*  in
*  into

**5. You want to say a bit more about your hobby. For example, ''I like playing tennis because it keeps me \_\_''**

*  athletic
*  fit

**6. Here's another example to talk more about your hobby. ''I'm quite \_\_ and I like hanging out with my friends at the weekend.''**

*  friendly
*  sociable

**7. Here's another example you can use to describe a hobby: ''Painting is quite a \_\_ hobby.''**

*  artistic
*  creative

**8. If you like an activity like fishing, you can say ''You need a lot of \_\_ for this.''**

*  patience
*  waiting

**9. You can also ask people about their hobbies. For example, ''Do you have an \_\_ hobby?''**

*  uncommon
*  unusual

**10. Don't forget to make a comment if someone tells you about an interesting hobby. You can say, ''That sounds \_\_!''**

*  fascinating
*  lovely

**Here are some people talking about their hobbies. Can you guess what the hobby is in each case ?**

1. I usually use colour, but sometimes you get a better effect with black and white. It really depends on the subject.
2. I really enjoy going round the shops and markets looking for bargain.
3. I try to practice every day, but sometimes it's difficult because I don't like to disturb my neighbours too much. And one neghbour gets very angry if I play the same thing over and over again.
4. The great thing is you can do it when you like. I usually do it three or four times a week either early in the morning, or after school. I only go for about 25 minutes but it really keeps me fit.
5. Obviously it saves me a lot of money and in any case, I hate buying things in boutiques because so many things are badly made.
6. I joined a club because I wanted to get better, and I know play twice a week in the evenings. It has helped me a lot and I have a much better memory for all the different moves and strategies.
7. I think this is a very common hobby for people like me, who have a house but don't have much money. That's why I started, but now I think I do a better job than many professionals.