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Vocabulary: Interview 词汇: 采访

Chat shows are the **staple** of late night entertainment TV in many countries. The US has some of the most famous **hosts** and the shows are **syndicated** worldwide.

Jon Stewart does comedy; Oprah Winfrey goes for **heartfelt** conversation. But what makes a good interview? Is it **catching** the guest **off guard**? Will they reveal something more personal - some **juicy gossip** that will have us chatting away on social media?



How to get the guests to reveal their secrets?

Larry King is a veteran. For more than 25 years he's been hosting nightly shows in which he interviews movie stars, politicians and ordinary people, who are **thrown into the spotlight**. And the secret to getting the best out of an interviewee? King says: "If you ask good questions and **elicit** thoughtful answers then you learn more about the person. If the interview's hard – if I begin by saying: 'Why did you do that?' I'd make you **defensive**. That may be **thrilling** television, but you don't learn a lot."

King adds that he's learned that the more he **draws back**, listens to the answers, and cares about the guest the more he gets from the person. "You make the camera disappear", he says.

Another thing Larry King does is ask **open questions**. He explains: "I don't want a 'no'. I don't want a 'yes'. I want a 'why'. So in other words, I want to be a little kind of **dumb**, I ask "What do you mean by that?"

Being **amiable**, **courteous** and curious about the person in front of them – maybe that's what makes a good chat show host. Their biggest talent is making the guest **feel at ease**. Another famous American host, David Letterman, seems to know it. He once said: "I cannot sing, dance or act; what else would I be but a talk show host." Good idea: let others do the singing – just make them relax and they'll tell us everything!

词汇表

chat show	访谈节目
staple	主要的，常规的
a host (noun)	主持人
to syndicate	把（电视广播节目）给媒体机构（以供播放）
heartfelt	真心实意的，诚挚的
to catch (somebody) off guard	乘人不备，使人措手不及
juicy gossip	八卦，花边新闻
to be thrown into the spotlight	成为公众焦点
to elicit	引出，套出
defensive	辩解的，防卫的，保护的
thrilling	令人兴奋的、激动的
to draw back	后退，不咄咄逼人
open question / closed question	开放性问题/封闭性问题
dumb	笨的，傻的
amiable	和蔼可亲的，友好温和的
courteous	有礼貌的，客气的
to feel at ease	感到放松的

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Which host mentioned in the article makes guests say sincere things?
2. True or false? *Larry King likes to have his guests on the defensive so they reveal more about themselves.*
3. What does Larry King mean when he says he makes "the camera disappear"?
4. What example of an open question can we find in the article?
5. If David Letterman can't sing, dance or act, what can he do?

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I've been working in construction for 30 years. I'm _____ in this business.

a host	a veteran	a guest	Larry King
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2. No need to _____. I'm just asking if you've seen my smartphone. It was here a minute ago.

be defensive	feel at ease	syndicate	be thrown into the spotlight
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3. Why is the sky blue? I'm very _____.

courteous	off guard	relaxed	curious
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4. So you know George Clooney well. Come on, give me some _____!

open questions	talk show	juicy gossip	entertainment TV
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5. I shouldn't have told you that. It's a secret. You _____ me off guard!

made	gave	did	caught
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Which host mentioned in the article makes guests say sincere things?

Oprah Winfrey.

2. True or false? *Larry King likes to have his guests on the defensive so they reveal more about themselves.*

False. Larry King says that if he puts his guests in the defensive "you don't learn a lot" about them.

3. What does Larry King mean when he says he makes "the camera disappear"?

He means that he makes the conversation so interesting and the guest so comfortable that it makes the conversation more intimate and natural.

4. What example of an open question can we find in the article?

Larry King's example of an open question: "What do you mean by that?"

5. If David Letterman can't sing, dance or act, what can he do?

According to the article's author, the famous American chat show host David Letterman can make his guests feel at ease so they reveal more of themselves.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I've been working in construction for 30 years. I'm a **veteran** in this business.

2. No need to **be defensive**. I'm just asking if you've seen my smartphone. It was here a minute ago.

3. Why is the sky blue? I'm very **curious**.

4. So you know George Clooney well. Come on, give me some **juicy gossip**!

5. I shouldn't have told you that. It's a secret. You **caught** me off guard!