

How to Ask Questions in Class

...and feel comfortable doing it



“The important thing is not to stop questioning...”

– Albert Einstein

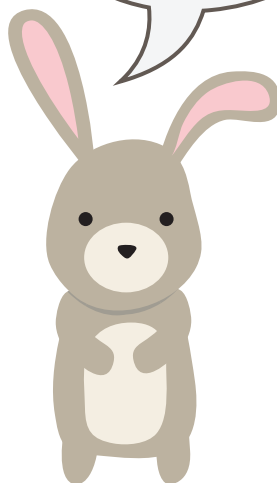
I'm shy or too nervous to ask



I don't know if I understand the material well enough to ask a good question



I worry my question may be stupid



I don't want to disrupt the flow of the class



I'm intimidated by my prof



Prepare

- Do the readings ahead of time so you know the basics
- If you think of a question before class, write it down
- Practice by asking questions to your friends

Focus on learning

- It's OK to be nervous; it gets easier with practice
- Don't get thrown off by negative self-talk or other unhelpful distractions
- It really is true: there are no stupid questions
- Asking questions is proven to lead to better learning (and better grades)

Try it out

- Challenge yourself: take a risk and just ask
- Chances are you have the same question as others in the class; take one for the team!
- If you aren't ready to ask in class, contact your instructor before or after class, by email or during office hours
- Most profs love it when you ask questions. It shows you are engaged in learning