

**Chapter 3**  
**Topic 5 Interviews**  
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**Activity: Research**  
**Researching sex education**

**Learning objectives**

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Apply the characteristics of a particular research issue to the use of unstructured interviews.
- Evaluate the strengths and limitations of using unstructured interviews in studying a particular issue.

Imagine you are considering using unstructured interviews to investigate the issue of pupils' experience of health and sex education.

1. Working in pairs or small groups, list as many characteristics of this issue as you can, e.g. younger pupils may misunderstand the terminology of sex education.
2. Now compile a list of the advantages and disadvantages of unstructured interviews from your textbook.
3. Which advantages and disadvantages of unstructured interviews can you link to the different characteristics of the issue you identified? For example, the interviewer can spot misunderstandings and clarify terminology. Write one or two sentences to explain each of your points.
4. From what you have learned, on balance do you think that unstructured interviews would be a good method for researching this issue? Give your reasons.