



IELTS SPEAKING AND ACTUAL TESTS

SUGGESTED ANSWERS WITH AUDIO
(SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2018)
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IELTS Speaking Actual Tests and Suggested Answers

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Preface

Most candidates like to read model answers as a very powerful way to get the best possible Band score when they are preparing for the IELTS speaking module. This ebook provides model answers for IELTS Speaking Actual Tests that appears in the IELTS speaking module. Even if your English is not perfect, you can transform your IELTS Band score by using this book.

The model answers are intended as a guide and candidates should modify the answers to suit their own circumstances and add to them wherever appropriate. In other words, candidates should consider using the vocabulary and grammatical structures in this book to help them to create their own answers.



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PART I

1. Morning

1.1. Do you usually do the same things in the mornings?

As I'm a creature of habit, I would say yes. I always get up at 6:00 am, have noodles and tea for breakfast, brush my teeth, then **brush up (quickly study)** on what we learned the day before in class to make sure I'm well-prepared. After all of this, I start heading to class at 8:30am. However, on weekends, I tend to hit the snooze button and end up sleeping till 9:00am then start my day.

1.2. Do you think breakfast is important?

Absolutely. Many experts state that it is the most important meal of the day. I believe it gives me the fuel I need to **tackle my day (to strongly take on the day)**. Moreover, I think it's critical to have a balanced breakfast to make sure I get all the proper nutrients. I cannot imagine starting my day on an empty stomach!

1.3. Did you do the same morning routines in your early ages?

Yes, pretty much! As I've always been a scholarly person, I've always had the motivation to get myself up earlier than expected to have a balanced breakfast and prepare myself for the day ahead of me. However, I used to **have** more of **a sweet tooth (a person who lives sweets)** as a child, so I used to **munch on (eat)** some sweet bread instead of noodles.

1.4. Do you want to change your daily routines in the future?

I think it's inevitable since I'll soon be joining the workforce! I want to keep my organized, prepared habits, but I hope to sleep in a bit more in the future. I would like to at least sleep 30 minutes to an hour later, and not have to spend as much time preparing for my day. Furthermore, I hope to have my own car instead of taking a Grab every morning.



2. Study time

2.1. What can you do to improve your learning efficiency?

Hmm, I would say that meditation and physical exercise can certainly be of help. I believe that meditation can help you to become more aware of yourself and find your center of concentration. Furthermore, exercise releases tension and brings you back to focus. When I feel overwhelmed with my studies, I often take a break to go work out at the gym then afterwards feel more productive.

2.2. Do you prefer to study in the morning or in the evening?

Definitely the evening. When I have an exam the next morning, I feel that the information stays with me much more clearly when I **cram (study at the last minute)** the evening before. When I try to study in the morning, I often feel rushed or cannot stay focused, as I know all my daily tasks are awaiting me.

2.3. What time do you like to study?

Around dinnertime after I've finished all my tasks for the day; I feel most at ease at this time. When I study right before bed, I tend to even dream of that information, helping me to remember clearly for that exam.

2.4. Why do people find it difficult to focus on studying?

Well, for one, studying isn't something enjoyable for many people, so it's hard to concentrate on something you dislike. Moreover, it's difficult with all of the distractions of today- such as texting, instagram, facebook, etc. Lastly, some people become preoccupied with other tasks they need to do, such as cleaning or cooking.

2.5. Do you like to study alone or with your friends?

Both can be nice. But, I tend to be more efficient when I study alone. Sometimes when I study with friends, we get off topic and don't get much done. However, it is effective to quiz each other. So all in all, there are benefits to both.

3. Plants

3.1. Do you like plants?



Frankly speaking, I'm quite drawn by plants and vegetation in general. I often find myself wandering about in the parks gazing aimlessly at the flowerbeds and enjoy the aroma that some beautiful flowers give off.

3.2. Do you think plants can be a good gift?

Definitely, plants usually feature in many occasions from casual birthdays to more formal dinners. It's common to bring a bunch of newly picked flowers or a bouquet of flowers to the host family.

3.3. Can you grow plants? Do you know anything about growing a plant?

I don't have a knack for gardening, so it's quite over my head when it comes to growing certain types of plants. My mother often takes care of this instead.

3.4. Do you keep plants at home?

Yes, I do. I mean I keep lily in my bedroom and I also plant some vegetables like cucumber, onions and tomatoes in the balcony. Now you can see everything covered in green.

4. Transportation

4.1. What's the most popular means of transportation in your hometown?

Without any doubt I would say motorbikes. Almost everyone travels by motorbike. The reason why motorbike is so popular I think is due to their reasonable price and convenience. They also extremely varied in terms of size, color and quality, thus **a wide variety of** choices is available for everyone.

Vocabulary

Without any doubt/There is no doubt that (expression) a phrase expressing certainty or agreement; yes

A wide variety of (collocation) a number or range of things of the same general class that is distinct in character or quality.

4.2. How often do you take buses?

Almost every day. Since my house is so far away from my university, it's impossible for me to travel by motorbike. In addition, the air is heavily polluted



by **exhaust fumes** and **traffic jams** always take place, especially during **peak hours**. Thus, I'd prefer to take the bus, to save time, save gasoline and causing less pollution.

Vocabulary

Exhaust fumes (n) waste gasses or air expelled from an engine, turbine, or another machine in the course of its operation.

Traffic jam (n) a line or lines of stationary or very slow-moving traffic, caused by roadworks, an accident, or heavy congestion.

Peak hours/Rush hours (n) the busiest hours

4.3. Can you compare the advantages of planes and trains?

Planes and trains regularly depart and arrive on time. Plus, there are many convenient facilities **catering** particularly to certain groups of passengers. However, traveling by plane is clearly time-saving and enjoyable in terms of **on-board services** like meals or comfortable seats, while traveling by train offers you a chance **to see the world outside, admire the views** from their seats. It's totally a great experience for most train-travelers.

Vocabulary

On-board services (n) provided on or within a vehicle

Cater (v) provide with what is needed or required

4.4. Is driving to work popular in your country?

Although cars themselves and gasoline are expensive, a lot of people prefer driving, possibly because driving is more comfortable in such weather, with such polluted and noisy surroundings.

4.5. Do you think people will drive more in the future?

If you're talking about India, no, I don't think it's possible, even in the future. Cars and gasoline are becoming unaffordable for many people these days. Plus, the **transport infrastructure** in various regions in India is not appropriate for cars.

Vocabulary

Transport infrastructure (n) the framework that supports our transport system



4.6. Would you ride bikes to work in the future?

Definitely not. Riding a bike means you're exposing yourself to the **unpredictable weather** and to air pollution. What is worse, I'm afraid the main streets or the highway are too dangerous for cyclists, as cars, motorbikes and buses will travel at a very high speed. Thus I'd rather ride a motorbike or take the bus instead.

Vocabulary

Unpredictable weather (n) to not able to be predicted; changeable

4.7. What will become the most popular means of transport in your country?

I think buses will **take the lead**. You can **travel the distance** without much worries about ticket price or rainy weather outside. Also new buses now offer better services like comfortable seats for the elderly or good air conditioning systems.

Vocabulary

To take the lead (v) to start winning a race or competition

4.10. Do you prefer public transport or private transport ?

I think I'd prefer public transport. It's much more inexpensive and because it can contain a large number of people, it helps ease the **intensity** of traffic jams during peak hours and reduce the **greenhouse gas emissions** caused by vehicles. Private transportation is more costly in terms of fees, taxes and gasoline.

Vocabulary

Intensity (n) of extreme force, degree, or strength

Greenhouse gas emissions (np) the emission into the earth's atmosphere of any of various gases, especially carbon dioxide, that contribute to the greenhouse effect



5. Films

5.1. Do you like watch films?

Absolutely! They are an excellent way to **unwind (relax; free your mind)**. Moreover, my friends are really into films, so it's a fun, relaxing way to spend time together. Afterwards, we discuss and debate the film that we have just watched. Apart from just relaxing and enjoying the film, I like to **delve deeper (get to the deeper meaning)** to discover the subliminal messages.

5.2. What kinds of movies do you like best?

Well, I would say I'm **still a kid at heart (a person who still feels like a child in their heart)**, so I really enjoy watching kids' movies. Although they seem simple and innocent, there are often many life lessons packed into these films. Moreover, I'm really into drama and historical movies. When I watch these, I feel that I can more deeply understand human emotions and re-live historical moments, like the Vietnam-America War or World War II.

5.3. Do you prefer foreign films or films made in your country?

Since my country doesn't have a huge film industry, I've always been really into American films. Not to **knock (to insult; discredit)** other film industries, but American ones are incredibly entertaining and well-made; the evolution of film continues to amaze me. Moreover, I only watch films in English so it helps me to learn new slang and expressions.

5.4. How often do you watch films?

Well, I am quite a **busy bee (a busy person)**, but I manage to see about one or two films a week at home. After a long day of studying, I love **snuggling up (getting comfortable with blankets)** on the sofa and watching a film to unwind. I tend to do this on Friday and Sunday evenings with my friends.

5.5. How often do you go to a cinema to watch a movie?

Not too often actually. As the prices in my country are quite high, I usually **opt to (choose)** watch a movie at home instead to save on costs. Actually, I think it's kind of a waste of money to see a movie at a cinema when you can watch it



from the comfort of your living room. I only go when a friend invites me, which is maybe 4 times a year.

5.6. Do people in your country like to go to a cinema to watch a film?

I would say so. Since people like to go out with their families on the weekends, this is often an activity that they would choose. Moreover, teenagers enjoy this activity as a way to get out of the house. Furthermore, it's often a popular date option for many people!

5.7. What was the first film that you watched?

Hmm it's hard to say the first, but I think it was the Lion King. I know it first came out in the early 90's when I was a child. It was my absolute favorite- I used to watch it repeatedly until my parents were really tired of it! I even built "pride rock" out of rocks that I found when we would go to visit my relatives who have a garden.

5.8. Do you like to watch movies alone or with your friends?

Both! On one hand, I find it extremely relaxing to chill out and fall asleep to a film by myself, but it's also enjoyable to have company. So, all in all, I prefer films with friends, since they are also into film. Afterwards, we can discuss the meaning and carry on **inside jokes (jokes among friends)** from quotes from the film later on!

5.9. Would you like to be in a movie?

Not one bit! As I have **stage fright (fear of being on stage)**, I would never **have the guts (never be brave enough to)** to do it. Secondly, I feel awkward when I try to act and I have the **memory of a goldfish (short memory)** so I know I could never memorize my lines! All in all, acting is simply not my thing.

6. Spare time/Hobbies

6.1. Do you have any hobbies?

Of course! My number one hobby is playing golf. Actually, my entire family, grandparents included, are really into golf. Ever since I was a child, my father



used to take me to the **driving range (the place to practice hitting golf balls)** with him to practice. This planted the seed of interest for me. Now we all play together as a family, and actually I beat them all most of the time!

6.2. What do you do when you have free time?

My favorite things to do are play golf and see my friends and family. My top priority is spending time with those I love- and luckily most of us share the common interest of golf. For those who don't like golf, I enjoy spending time eating or at a coffeeshop together.

6.3. What free time activities are popular with people in your country?

As most countries in the world, soccer is quite popular. Furthermore, people tend to enjoy playing cricket and drinking tea with one another. Nowadays, backpacking across Southeast Asia is becoming quite popular too!

6.4. What do you usually do after work or classes?

Since I have an exhausting day in the office, I don't like to stay sedentary all day. I usually hit the gym and go to the driving range after work almost every single day. If I go straight home, I become **glued to (attached to)** the **couch (another word for sofa)** and don't do anything worthwhile.

6.5. Do you prefer staying at home or going out during evenings?

As I'm an extroverted, active person, I'd definitely rather **hit the town (go out)**. I really enjoy going out with my college and golf mates for some beers every weekend. Moreover, I always dedicate Sunday to my family. We usually have a lunch and tea time at my grandmother's house.

6.6. What free-time activities would you like to try in the future?

Lately I've had a growing interest in yoga and meditation. Some of my friends and family have recently gotten involved in it, and I see that it helps them maintain their calm regardless of the chaos around them. Furthermore, it improves balance, coordination, and body toning. I think it could benefit me, as I have a stressful office job.

6.7. Do you like to spend your free time with families or friends?



It's equal! I need both. However, family will always be my number one priority. Unlike some people, I always let loose and have fun with my family. On the other hand, I really enjoy spending time with my friends and discussing topics that would be inappropriate in front of family members.

7. Saving Money

7.1. Is money important to you?

So-so. To be honest, money can help your life. As I know I'm a person who likes traveling abroad, I know I must have a high-paying job to be able to attain this lifestyle. When I have this freedom to have new experiences, I feel a lot happier. So, because of this I'd say money matters to me.

7.2. How do you save money?

I think it's always important to have a certain number in mind. I think of a goal amount to save each month and pretend as if I don't have it. This has been a huge success for me. With these savings, I've been able to take my dream vacations and buy nice gifts for my family.

7.3. Did you save money when you were young?

As I've always dreamt of traveling the world, I used to save money in a piggy-bank! Although these savings never amounted to anything substantial, maybe just some movie tickets or candy, I'm glad I did it as a way to teach myself to save. I'll never forget how sad I felt when we broke the piggy-bank!

7.4. Why do people save money?

Various reasons! I think the main reasons are to have a safety blanket in case emergencies or unexpected costs arise, such as a flat tire or a broken hot water heater, or to save for a vacation or something specific that they would like to buy. Moreover, many parents are focused on saving for their children's schooling and college later on.

7.5. Have you ever given money to the children?



Certainly! Although I don't have any children of my own yet, I like to slip a 20 dollar bill into birthday cards for my young nieces and nephews. Furthermore, when I've traveled, I often buy things from children selling on the streets.

8. Sports/Physical Exercises

8.1. Do you often do exercises?

I'm sort of a sporty guy/girl and **work out** at the gym **day in, day out** to **keep myself in the pink**. Compared with others at my age, I must admit that I'm **as fit as a fiddle**.

8.2. What kinds of exercises do you do?

As a rule, I work out at the gym on a regular basis. I lift weights, run on the treadmill or do some push-ups and press-ups. These exercises are quite exhausting but it is really good to **build muscle and burn fat**.

8.3. In the future, do you want to try some new ways of exercises?

I'd prefer to **take up** jogging in the morning; it's quite a recommended way to work out in the morning. However, **for the time being**, because of my workload and laziness, waking up early is **out of the question**.

9. Ideal Job

9.1. What was the dream job for you when you were young?

Ok, well when I was a child, probably one of my biggest ambitions was to become a professional footballer, which, I should admit, was a bit of a ridiculous dream to have, considering my football skills at that time were **by no means** great. But still, that's what I wanted to be, at least until common sense **got the better of me**.

Get the better of someone: become superior to or master someone or something; win out

9.2. Have you changed your mind on your dream job?



Sure, when I grew up, I realized that I am **not really cut out** to be a footballer, as I'm not physically strong enough to **stand a chance**.

Not be cut out for something/ to do something: to lack the right qualities or character for doing something

Stand a chance: to be likely to achieve something

9.3. What do you plan to do in the future?

I'm planning to pursue overseas study to **hone my expertise in** my chosen field first, then I will make a decision later. The future is hard to predict and I may **end up** doing stuff that I won't ever imagine of.

Expertise in something: special skill or knowledge that you get from experience, training, or study

Hone: to improve a skill or talent that is already well-developed

10. Flats/Houses/Accommodation

10.1. Do you like a house or a flat/ an apartment?

I believe most people would prefer to have their own house rather than to rent a place and so do I. Hence, if I **have my way**, a house with a small garden would be my choice since I don't enjoy the constant disturbance from next-door apartments and elevator rides everytime coming home.

Vocabulary

Have/ get one's way (idiom): get or do what one wants in spite of opposition

10.2. What kind of housing/accommodation do you live in?

For the past 21 years I have lived in a house with my family. And I think if I can move out and start **making a living** on my own, I would try my best to have an independent place where I can plan and design a house layout to **suit myself** since sharing a room or a flat with strangers sounds so **troublesome** to me.

Vocabulary

To afford (v) to be able to financially support/have enough money to pay for Sth



Suit myself (v) to do exactly what you like/want

Troublesome (adj) causing difficulty or annoyance

To make a living (v) to earn enough to support one's self

10.3. What do you usually do in your house/flat/room?

Well definitely I'll spend some **me-time** there. I study, I **chill out** by reading, drawing and dancing **all by myself**. Sometimes I also invite one or two friends to spend time with. We'll watch some movies together and tell each other endless stories.

Chill out (phrasal verb) relax

Me-time (phrase) time for one's self alone

To do Sth all by one's self (phrase) to do Sth alone

10.4. Who do you live with?

I live with my family. There are 5 of us and we all have our own room, which is way more comfortable as the older we grow, the more privacy we need for ourselves. I think our house is big enough for us yet still a **warm and cozy** place that I call home.

10.5. How long have you lived there?

Although during my childhood my family had to move a lot, I've lived in the most recent house for almost ten years. Comparing to the old houses, I think this house has been the best so far.

10.6. Do you plan to live there for a long time?

The answer would be yes if the respondent is my parents, since moving in and out is too time-consuming and exhausting. Cleaning and arranging everything **all over again** would be like **torture** to them. For me, on the other hand, as I'm thinking of moving out to start my adult life, hopefully soon I'll be able to afford to live in a flat or an apartment.

Vocabulary

All over again (idiom) used for saying that you do the whole of something again starting from the beginning, or that the whole of a long process happens again



Torture (n) great physical or mental suffering

10.7. What's the difference between where you are living now and where you have lived in the past?

As I've already mentioned my family moved several times when I was younger. And the most current house where we've been living for about ten years is the best house so far. All of us have separate rooms for our **need of privacy** yet a big dining room where we can spend the whole evenings together watching TV or having dinner.

Vocabulary

Need of Sth/doing Sth (phrase) circumstances in which something is necessary; necessity

10.8. Can you describe the place where you live?/ Please describe the room you live in

Briefly, my **humble** house locates in a small and quite street, so coming home to me is like all the craziness happened outside is left behind. Just beside my house stands a big old tree. I have my own room with walls painted violet, which is kinda a peaceful color. The air outside is fresh. I usually open the window to enjoy the wind and sunshine, which will help cool down my room without an air conditioner. Since I spend most of my time staying at home, my room means the whole world to me. It's like a friend who is always there to **share ups and downs** with me. So yeah, I would always miss my house, my room whenever I'm away.

Vocabulary

Humble (adj) having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's own importance

To help (SO) do Sth (v) to make it easier or possible for (someone) to do something by offering them one's services or resources.

To share ups and downs (v) together being through good and bad times

To be away (adj) to or at a distance from a particular place, person, or thing

10.9. Which part of your home do you like the most?



It's the dining room where my family spends our time together. Not only lunch or dinner but all our **family reunions** take place in the dining room where we can enjoy a **harmonious** atmosphere. We always try to keep the family dinner as something we **cannot go a day without**, since for us it's the family bonding that lies behind.

Vocabulary

Reunion (n) a social event for a group of people who have not seen each other for a long time

Harmonious (adj) friendly and peaceful

To go a day without Sth/doing Sth (v) to feel not necessary to do Sth on a day

10.10. Why do you think some people invest a huge amount of money in buying houses?

People certainly have different reasons to buy a **property**. I believe the most important one is privacy. You will gain much more independence and freedom to **refurbish** the place **as you please** since you are the owner. Besides, it would create a **pride of ownership**. No matter how small or big your house is, it is yours to **renovate** or brag about.

Property (n): a building or buildings and the surrounding land

Refurbish (v): to clean and decorate a room, building, etc. in order to make it more attractive, more useful, etc.

As one please (idiom): whatever you like, or in whatever way you prefer

Ownership (n): the fact of owning something

Renovate (v): to repair and paint an old building, a piece of furniture, etc. so that it is in good condition again

Brag (+about) (v): to talk too proudly about something you own or something you have done

10.11. Should we live in a flat or a house?

It heavily depends on people's preference and **affordability** since each type of property has its own **perks**. If one enjoys the modern **amenities** that an



apartment complex can provide such as gyms, swimming pools and convenience stores and, of course, he has money, an apartment would be a great choice. In contrast, houses are usually suitable those who prefer privacy and a quiet lifestyle.

Affordability (n): the fact of being cheap enough that people can afford to buy it or pay it; how affordable something is

Perk (n): a benefit or advantage that you get from a situation

Amenity (n): a feature that makes a place pleasant, comfortable or easy to live in

11. Foreign food

11.1. Have you ever tried foreign food?

Of course! Since Germany welcomes many immigrants and refugees, we embrace a multi-cultural cuisine. Since there are many with Turkish roots living here, we are huge fans of kebab. Moreover, we enjoy many asian cuisines, especially Vietnamese, since there is a large Vietnamese community living here.

11.2. Do you like to try new food?

Absolutely! I think it adds color to our live and **tastebuds (part on our tongue that controls taste)**. As I'm a big foodie, I'm always open to trying new cuisines. I've never been very fearful nor picky when it comes to trying new foods. Even sometimes the scariest looking dishes I've tried have ended up being delicious, such as sheep head soup in Peru and tarantula in Cambodia.

11.3. How often did you eat foreign food when you were young?

Since my father is of Turkish decent where my mother is German, we have always had a **fusion (mixture)** of cuisines in my home. Furthermore, my father only eats halal meat, so we would often go Middle Eastern or Indian restaurants to accommodate this. Moreover, my mother has always had a taste for Asian



cuisines, so we have always incorporated Vietnamese, Chinese, Thai, etc foods into our eating habits as well.

11.4. Do you like any food from countries near yours?

Certainly! One of the things I like most about living in Europe is that each country has it's own unique cuisine. I really enjoy the waffles, chocolate, and beer from one of our neighbors, Belgium, as well as the one of a kind **perogies (a traditional Polish dish)** from Poland. All in all, I'd have to say that Mediterranean cuisines, especially Greek and Italian, foods are my favorite. There are few things that compare to those fresh ingredients and delicious olives!

11.5. Do people in your country like foreign food?

As Germany welcomes many immigrants into our country, I would say yes, since people have always been exposed to different types of food. In my experience, I see that all of the people in my circle **embrace (to take advantage of)** the unique variety of flavors that we have here in Berlin. To be honest, I don't know anyone who doesn't enjoy a juicy Doner kebab!

11.6. Will people eat more or less foreign food?

More! Since Germany continues to be one of the most desirable migration destinations in the world, I'm sure that even more foreign cuisines will be introduced into our country. Moreover, I think that the traditional German food may become a fusion with other popular cuisines here. I really look forward to this! I think that multi-cultural foods bring more culture and **richness (diversity)** to a place.

12. Boredom

12.1. Do you ever get bored?

Of course! But recently I have been so lost in my medical school that I haven't really had time to feel bored. Since I work and study from **sun up to sun down (all day)**, I embrace my downtime much more than I did when I was younger.



Nowadays I really enjoy having time to **unwind (relax after a long day)** doing mindless activities, such as watching TV or reading a book.

12.2. What kinds of things are boring to you?

Museums and people who talk too much. I've never been a big fan of museums for some reason. I get extremely bored when everyone is in complete silence observing artifacts and reading information. When I travel, I much prefer to walk around and **soak up (absorb)** the local surroundings. On the other hand, I cannot stand people who **talk my ear off (talk too much)**! I lose focus and cannot wait to get away from them!

12.3. What will do when you feel bored?

I always call my mom! We have an extremely close relationship, so I know she is always just a phone call away. As she is also in the medical field and shares many similar interests with me, we always have endless things to talk about. Moreover, we both enjoy gossiping!

12.4. When you were young, what would you do if you felt bored?

When I was young, I would always **venture (explore)** outside when I was stuck in the house all day. It always kept me entertained to go outside and **people watch (sit outside and observe people)**. Moreover, there was a small pond and park near my house, so I would often go there to play at the playground. The swings were always my first choice.

13. Maps/ Navigation

13.1. Do you use maps?

Well, I **tend to (I usually)** have a good sense of direction, so I prefer to use them only when there is no other option. I'd rather get directions from someone using landmarks, as I have a **photographic memory (when you can easily remember images rather than words)**. However, when I find myself completely lost, especially in a foreign place, I will **resort to (do as a last option)** tourist maps or google maps.



13.2. How often do you use them?

I would say a few times a week. Since I don't usually go outside of my daily routine, I have no reason to use a map. When I get on my bicycle every day, I know **every niche (every small detail)** of my city. If I find myself lost, you can always rely on a stranger to help in my small town.

13.3. What kind of maps do you use? Why is that?

For some reason paper maps just don't seem to **click (make sense)** in my mind. Because of this, I prefer google maps since they give me verbal instructions. I find this a lot easier to follow, as well as much safer especially when I'm driving. Furthermore, the estimated time and walking, biking, or driving option is super helpful.

13.4. How long have you been using them?

I've been using online maps for the past few years, and well, paper maps for my entire life. I followed my first paper map while driving when I was 16. I got so lost and ended up calling my father **in tears (crying)**! Since online maps and GPS, it has become much easier to get around.

13.5. Did you use paper maps before?

Oh, I can remember those days (an expression when talking fondly about the past)! The glove box(the place in front of your carseat to store things) in my car was full of maps and my father used to draw them for me when I was new to the road. Furthermore, even nowadays when I travel, I often stop by the tourist information desk and get a free map.

13.6. Have you ever asked somebody/passers-by for directions?

I believe that people will help you in most cases, so I certainly have. I know some people feel shy or maybe too proud to ask for help, but I'm not one of these. Although I've been rejected a few times, more times than not people **have gone out of their way (put in a lot of effort to help you)** to give me detailed directions with landmarks included to my destination.



13.7. What type of maps do people use the most nowadays? Why?

Google maps or other online maps/GPS have completely **taken over (became popular)**. Nowadays, you don't even need to know where you're going. Since we have these modern day conveniences, less and less people are going through the **hassle (inconvenience)** of reading a paper map. Furthermore, since GPS and online maps are so popular, perhaps people are losing the skill to read and follow a map.

14. Teachers

14.1. Do you like any teachers of yours?

There were a few teachers that I was particularly fond of. I'll tell you about my high school PE teacher, Mrs. Burrier. Since she knew I was painfully shy and especially **clumsy (can easily trip or fall)** when it comes to gym class, she allowed me to do the dance routine that she assigned to us in a private room only in front of her to save me from embarrassment. I so appreciated it!

14.2. Do you still keep in touch with your teacher?

I've lost contact with all elementary and middle school teachers, but I keep in touch with a couple university professors. As uni professors are allowed to have more of a relationship with students, it was easier to get to know them. My Spanish professor and I message back and forth every year to catch up.

14.3. Do you want to be a teacher?

As I'm not a patient person, I don't think teaching is for me. Furthermore, I **dread (don't look forward to)** the thought of standing in front of the classroom trying to get the class's attention while the children **fool around (play)**. I think it takes a special person to be a teacher, and unfortunately I don't meet the criteria!

14.4. Do you remember your fav teach from primary school?

Of course! I'll tell you about my second grade teacher, Ms. Puleo. She was always kind, encouraging, and incredibly patient, even with us little **rascals (slang for kids)**. I always felt a sense of warmth in her classroom, which the students responded well to. The world needs more teachers like her.

14.5. Did you pretend to be a teacher in the childhood?

Oh yes! I remember playing teacher with a small chalkboard my friend had at her house. I used to think it was so entertaining to be the teacher and give the class assignments to do; I usually focused on Math and Art. I loved pretending to give orders!

14.6. What qualities should a good teacher have?

Firstly, I think a teacher needs to be patient. Secondly, I think the teacher must be kind and encouraging, which creates a warm, open learning environment. I also think they should have interpersonal skills to be able to understand the needs of all different students. There are different kinds of teachers, but I would use this as **rule of thumb (a general rule)**.

15. Punctuality/Time Management

15.1. How do you organize you time?

I often **prioritize** things that **matter to me** most, in the order of urgency and importance. Usually, I often spend the evening **planning out** what to do the next day.

15.2. Do you think young people organize their time in the same way?

No, it depends on each individual. Some prefer to **have no plans** at all as they can **improvise** quite well no matter what situations. For me, I always plan out my schedule **in advance** as I'm a safe guy/girl and don't want **to take risks**.

15.3. Are you ever late for anything?

Yes I had a few times late last week for work, but I didn't **get into big trouble** because most of the time I was early.

15.4. How do you feel when you are late for an appointment?

I really don't like to keep others waiting. I feel very apologetic and **guilty of** not being punctual. Usually I'm late because I'm trying to fit too many things into my schedule.

15.5. Do you like to wear watches?



Well, I am more a cosmetics girl than clothing and accessories, hence, there are not many watches and jewelries **in my possession**. However, I **have nothing against** wearing a beautiful piece of art on my wrist and do own a few exclusive timepieces which suit perfectly with my clothing **on some special occasions**, giving me a **sense of identity** and uniqueness.

In someone's possession: if something is in someone's possession, they have it

Have nothing against: to dislike or not approve of someone or something for a particular reason

On (special) occasions: from time to time; now and then

16. Watches

16.1. Do you usually wear a watch?

As I'm a very punctual person, yes I do. I like to be able to quickly check my wrist instead of going through the **hassle (inconvenience)** to check it on my phone. Furthermore, I like the way they look!

16.2. Where did you get your watch?

A thrift store near my house. Since I didn't want to **splurge (spend a lot of money for luxury)** on a new Rolex, I bought a vintage one that I found. Actually, I like it more since it's unique! I really enjoy thrift store shopping since you can find high quality for low prices.

16.3. What kinds of watches do you like to wear?

High quality yet reasonable prices. I'm not the type of person who likes to have the same watch that **everyone and their brother (an expression meaning everyone)** has, so I really enjoy when I find unique pieces. With this said, I often go to vintage or thrift shops.

16.4. Why do some people like to wear expensive watches?

Well, I think there are 2 reasons. One is that it is a **status symbol (something that shows your economic class)**. They know that if someone **catches a**



glimpse (a quick look) of their watch, they will know that he/she has money. Furthermore, perhaps they really like to appearance of it or they are the type of person who likes high quality products.

16.5. Have you ever received a watch as a gift?

Not since I was a child. I remember my mother gave me a pink, shiny digital watch for my 11th birthday and I was ecstatic about it! I wore it everyday at every moment till I went swimming with it on one day and broke it.

17. Parks/ Public Gardens

17.1 Are public gardens very important in your country?

Yes, absolutely. This is simply because people can enjoy a great time with their friends or families in public gardens via some activities like **going for a stroll** or looking at the **beautiful flowerbeds**.

17.2. Are there many public gardens in your country?

Not much I have to say. People tend to be so **tied up at the workplace** or at school, therefore, there is no need to have many public gardens, from the government's perspective.

17.3. Do you think there are enough public gardens in your hometown?

I think it's pretty enough as I am more concerned about the quality rather than the quantity. And most of the public gardens in the place where I am living, which is also my hometown, offer me a great experience you know, looking at the beautiful plants and flowers every time I **tire myself out**.

18. School

18.1. How old are you when you started school?

Well, **to the best of my recollection**, I attended kindergarden at the age of four. And then when I turned six, I entered primary school.

18.2. Where did you go to school?



I lived **on the outskirts of** town ages ago, so I entered a primary and secondary school in my little town. But when I got into high school, my parents decided to move to live in the city so that I could study in a more **prestigious** school with modern facilities.

18.3. How did you get to school each day?

My school was within walking distance so I just walked there. My parents also bought me a bike so that I could get to the school easily, but I preferred to go by foot as a means of taking exercises to strengthen my lower body.

18.4. Did you enjoy it?

Yes, for sure. Unlike some of my friends who **had aversion to** school and just wanted to **play truant from school**, I just really loved to go to school everyday. Maybe the reason is that I was **eager to learn** new things from my teachers and friends.

18.5. Have you ever returned to see your old school again?

Yes, **once in a while** when I **was off from work** and back to my hometown, I **paid a visit to** my old school as well. It **reminds me of** sweet memories when I was still a naughty kid who liked to **pull other's leg**.

19. Work/Study

Study

19.1. Describe your education

I graduated from High School for the Gifted and **got into** an International University because I think 2-year study at this university would prepare me well, especially my **critical thinking** skills before I finish another 2 years abroad at the University of Nottingham.

Vocabulary

Critical thinking (n) the objective analysis and evaluation of an issue in order to form a judgment.

Get into something (phrase) to be accepted to study at a school



19.2. What is your area of specialization?

My **major** is Plant Biotechnology. I have been into Biology since I was in high school and I think a **shift** to a field where Biology and advanced technology are associated would be interesting and promising for my future career.

Major (n) the most important subject that a college or university student is studying

To be into something (phrase) really like something

19.3. Why did you choose to study that major?

There are many reasons for my choice. As I've already **explained about** my long-term interest in Biology and plants, another reason could be because of science itself, since I've found my personalities have changed in a positive way, you know, like I've become more patient and skillful.

19.4. Do you like your major? (Why?/Why not?)

To tell you the truth it was quite challenging for me **at first**, because the university's requirements are especially high and you know science itself highly demands skillful hands and curious mind. However, as time **goes by** I think I'm **getting used to** an **insurmountable** amount of pressure and actually enjoy my study.

Go by (phrasal verb) if time goes by, it passes

Get used to Verb-ing/something (phrase) If you get used to something, you become familiar with it

Insurmountable (adj) incapable to overcome (problem/difficult)

19.5. What kind of school did you go to as a child?

Well just like most of the pupils, I spent five years at the government's primary school. It took me only 10 minutes to go to school and I had my parents take me to school everyday. Classes start at 7 in the morning and end at 5 in the evening.

19.6. What was your favourite subject as a child?



To tell you the truth, I was quite good at Literature **back then**. Besides, my Literature teacher was really dedicated and caring, thus I always tried my best to get high score and impressed my teacher.

Back then (phrase) an expression you can use in order to refer to a specific period of time in the past

19.7. (Possibly) Are you looking forward to working?

To be honest, working is actually my **plan B** just in case I need to **make ends meet**. In the future I think my higher degree is my priority.

Vocabulary

Plan B (n) back-up plan

To make ends meet (v) to make money, to earn a living

Work

19.1. What do you do?

For the past few months I've been working for *The Guardian* as a news editor. In fact this is my first job ever, I'm working really hard to contribute to the success of this prestigious newspaper.

19.2. What are your responsibilities?

As a part-time editor, I am responsible for editing news related to different **current affairs** as well as collecting information for the newspaper edition.

19.3. Why did you choose to do that type of work (or, that job)?

I guess it's mainly because of the **job flexibility** & my passion for journalism. To be more specific, this job offers me alternatives to the typical **nine-to-five work schedule**, enabling me to find a better balance between work and life. Besides, this job gives me opportunities to **pursue my dream** to become a journalist down the road.

Vocabulary

Job flexibility (expression) gives employees flexibility on how long, where and when they work.

Nine-to-five work (phrase) the normal work schedule for most jobs



19.4. Is there some other kind of work you would rather do?

At present I don't think I'm able to **dedicate** myself to any other job rather than this one. In fact, to me it's the experiences and opportunities I can gain that really matters.

Vocabulary

To dedicate to Sth (v) devote (time or effort) to a particular task or purpose

19.5. Describe the company or organization you work for.

The Guardian is a National British daily newspaper which offers free access both to current news and an archive of three million stories. In April 2011, MediaWeek reported that *The Guardian* was the fifth most popular newspaper site in the world. I personally believe that the guardian is the inspirational workplace for all people who dream of becoming a journalist.

19.6. Do you enjoy your work?

Most of the time. Contributing to the news production for a **world-class** newspaper gives me a sense of satisfaction and pride.

Vocabulary

World-class (adj) of or among the best in the world

19.7. What do you like/dislike about your job?

Well **the perk** of being a news editor is that you'll **surround yourself with** inspiring news **on a daily basis**. What I don't like about this job is that I have to do a thousand edits to get the final one to **meet the requirement** of my boss. Sometimes I feel a bit overloaded with tons of tasks.

Vocabulary

Perk (n) an advantage or something extra that you are given because of your job

Overloaded (adj) to give excessive work, responsibility, or information to

19.8. (Possibly) Do you miss being a student?

I surely will miss my student life once I **get involve in the workplace**. For me I think when I'm a student, at least I have someone guide me, whereas at work mostly you must guide yourself. The academic environment appears to be a



comfort zone for me, while I'm sure I'll struggle with **fitting in** the working environment.

Vocabulary

To get involve in (v) to become a part of (an organization)

To fit in (v) to become suitable or appropriate for Sth or SO

20. Travel

20.1. Do you like to travel by air?

Certainly! It's the quickest and most efficient way. I would choose this over a 12+ hour bus or car ride any day! Furthermore, whenever I **set foot on (enter; step into)** a plane, I tend to feel sleepy and end up **drifting off (sleep)** for pretty much the entire flight.

20.2. What do you think about travelling to the outer space?

I think it's quite intriguing, as I believe that other life forms may exist. Moreover, it's fascinating to find out more about the other complex galaxies surrounding us. I believe there is much more to the universe than only Earth.

20.3. Do you want to travel to the space?

Yes, of course! I would be really interested to see what else it out there. I'm not sure if this would happen in my lifetime though. However, I've heard that one day we may be able to take trips to space. I think it's a possibility! The future never **ceases (fails)** to amaze me.

20.4. Who would you like to go with?

At this point in time, I can just imagine going alone with a specialized person. **Down the road (in the future)** I could imagine going with my partner, and perhaps my children as well. I would love for all of us to share this experience together.

20.5. What would you prepare on a trip to the outer space?

Definitely appropriate astronomical gear, as I've seen in pictures. Furthermore, I would like to bring some kind of camera or video to be able to show my friends



on earth what I saw. Lastly, I would like to bring some kind of gift from earth just in case I **came across (encountered by accident)** another life form there.

20.6. Where would you like to go to?

The moon or mars! I would say the moon because I'm interested to know what it feels like to walk on it. I'm also curious if the myth that it's made out of cheese is accurate. On the other hand, I've heard there is water on Mars, suggesting that there could be life there, so I'd be fascinated to investigate that firsthand.

20.7. Do you think it's necessary to see other planets?

I would say it's a luxury more than a necessity for average people. However, I think it's necessary for scientists to investigate other planets so that we have better research and understanding of what is going on around us. Lastly, it's good for us humans to realize that Earth isn't the only planet.

Plunge oneself into something (phrase) to suddenly start doing something with energy and enthusiasm, but sometimes without thinking about it first

Every now and then (idiom) sometimes

Get-together (noun) a small informal meeting or social gathering

21. Shoes

21.1. Do you like shoes?

Yes, of course! I'm quite a **girly girl (very feminine)**, so I've always been into shoes since I was a little girl. My mother used to catch me trying on her high heels in her closet! Moreover, I'm a **fashionista (a person who likes fashion)** so I feel that shoes really tie the whole outfit together.

21.2. How often do you buy shoes?

Mm I would say every couple months. I'm trying to save up for a new car right now, so I don't like to spend too much unnecessary money. With this said, I usually buy a new pair at the start of every season.

21.3. Do you like to wear shoes that are comfortable or good looking?



Definitely good looking, hopefully comfortable too! I care much more about the appearance and if they complement my outfit. However, I try to buy nicer brands so that more comfortable should be expected. Moreover, many comfortable shoes are often unattractive, like Crocs for example.

21.4. What is your favorite type of shoes?

High heels 100%! I feel that they really tie the whole outfit together. Moreover, I feel feminine when I wear them, not to mention that they accentuate my legs. I have spent several years getting used to them so I can now **strut my stuff (walk confidently)** in heels everywhere I go!

21.5. Why do some people have too many shoes?

Well, there could be various reasons. I think one is that perhaps they see shoes on sale so they buy them **on a whim (buying something without thinking about it)**, even if they don't need them. Moreover, some people are really into shoes so they like to collect them. Lastly, maybe they keep their old shoes so their collection keeps growing.

21.6. Have you ever bought shoes online?

Of course, although I don't prefer it. I have only bought shoes online from familiar stores, like Aldo and Zara, which I know fit me well. On the other hand, I don't like to buy shoes from new stores when I'm not able to try them on first.

21.7. Are people willing to buy expensive shoes?

Some people! I think people who are wealthy are more **apt to (likely to)** buy expensive brands. On the other hand, there are some people who would rather have a few quality items rather than a bunch of cheap quality pairs. So, I think this type of person often tends to buy more expensive shoes also.

22. Rain

22.1. Does it rain much in your country? (Where? When?)



I would say yes. It rains a lot in the summer when **tropical storms strike** our country. There is **torrential rain** in the region in June, July and August, and the rainfall tends to be higher in the North than in the South.

22.2. Is there any part of your country where it doesn't rain much?

To tell you the truth, I have no clue about this. I do not **give a hoot about** geography and the amount of rain in my country. I think the most rainfall is in the North where there is an **intricate** system of rivers.

22.3. Does it rain a lot in your hometown?

Well, it depends on the season. In winter and spring, there is a **dearth of rain** associated with the **arid weather**. In contrast, it is usually **raining cats and dogs** in summer and august, causing **loads of troubles** for people travelling on the road.

22.4. Can you remember any time when it rained particularly heavily in your hometown?

That would be last summer. I was going to work and then **all of a sudden** it started to rain, followed by a **deluge**. I was soaked to the skin and couldn't attend a very important meeting.

22.5. Does rain ever affect transportation in your hometown?

Yeah, of course. **Traffic is often held up** when it rains. All the **roads are clogged**, and people find it difficult to **escape from traffic congestion**. I would stay at home and watch TV rather than going out and being caught up in traffic.

Vocabulary

Tropical storm (phrase) A tropical storm is an organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds between 34 knots (63 km/h) and 64 knots (119 km/h).

Torrential rain (phrase) If it's raining extremely hard, then the rain is torrential

Give a hoot about something/someone (phrase) to not be interested in someone or something

Intricate (adj) very complicated or detailed.

Dearth (noun) a scarcity or lack of something.



Arid (adj) (of land or a climate) having little or no rain; too dry or barren to support vegetation

Rain cats and dogs (idiom) rain heavily

All of a sudden (phrase) happening, coming, made, or done quickly, without warning, or unexpectedly

Deluge (noun) a great flood of water

Hold someone/something up (phrasal verb) to delay someone or something

23. Letters / Handwriting

23.1. Do you like to write a letter or an email?

Due to **time constraint** and professionalism, emails are much more favorable than traditional **handwritten correspondence**. However, I still enjoy the **sophistication** and **artfulness** of handwritten letters since each one is unique and **intensely** personal. Therefore, unless in business context, I usually send written notes or invitations for my friends and family for their **intimacy**.

Constraint (n): a thing that limits or restricts something, or your freedom to do something

Correspondence (n): the activity of writing letters

Sophistication (n): the quality of being sophisticated

Artfulness (n): the quality of being artful or of acting in an artful manner

Intensely (adv): in a way that shows very strong feelings, opinions or thoughts about somebody/something

Intimacy (n): the state of having a close personal relationship with somebody

23.2. Do you think emails are useful?

Obviously yes. It's one of the most primary tools in **business communication** as well as personal correspondence. **On the business front**, emails are immediate, direct and efficient for both **internal** and **external** communication. Parties can send and receive **inquiries** or contracts in the matter of seconds, which helps keep **the flow of information** and business process going.



Internal (a): involving or concerning only the people who are part of a particular organization rather than people from outside it

External (a): happening or coming from outside a place, an organization, your particular situation, etc.

Inquiry (n): a request for information about somebody/something; a question about somebody/something

23.3. Who do you usually write to and what do you write about?

I write to my family, and to my friends; we keep each other posted about our lives and work, and also we have heart-to-heart talks about our opinions and feelings.

23.4. What sorts of letters (or emails) do you think are most difficult to write?

In my opinion, complaint letters are one of the toughest **pieces of writing** because of the **discomfort** they may cause. Since I'm an easy-going and **conflict-averse** person, I don't usually complain when I should, whether it's a **poor service experience** or product. Hence, writing a formal letter of complaint is even more difficult, especially when I have to carefully choose my words and tones so it can be less critical and more **constructive**.

Discomfort (n): a feeling of worry or embarrassment

Conflict-averse (a): having a tendency to avoid conflicts

Constructive (a): having a useful and helpful effect rather than being negative or with no purpose

23.5. Do you think email might one day replace handwritten letters?

Regarding the **widespread** use of emails in modern communication, it's understandable that some might think handwritten letters could be completely replaced one day but I don't. Since handwriting is the most **primal** tool of human **interaction** and closely connected with **cultural identity**, it would be preserved and promoted. Besides, many have preferred handwriting in more personal notes or letters since it can express how special the **recipients** are.



Widespread (a): existing or happening over a large area or among many people

Primal (a): connected with the earliest origins of life; very basic

Cultural identity (n): the identity or feeling of belonging to a group

Recipient (n): a person who receives something

23.6. How do you feel when you receive a letter or email?

I will be very glad to receive a letter or email, because it means that there is someone who **cares for** me and sends me something for greetings, or if they have something to discuss with me, I am also pleased to reply to them.

23.7. Who do you usually write to and what do you write about?

I write to my family, and to my friends; we **keep each other updated about** our lives and work, and also we have **heart-to-heart talks** about our opinions and feelings.

24. Daily Routine

24.1. Do you like to plan what you will do each day?

So far, planning has become one of my **unbreakable habits**. The more I get older, the more I learn about the importance of **planning ahead** even though I have just started this lately. Every night before I go to bed, I would **make a to-do list** for the following day, then **scan through** my monthly planner for any upcoming events such as deadlines, meetings or travel trips. Such organizing activity has helped **ease my life**.

Vocabulary

(An) unbreakable habit(s) (n): habits that you keep for a long term

24.2. Please describe your typical daily routine

A typical day of mine starts at 8 am. After waking up, I would just go for some basic getting-ready steps just like other girls. On weekdays I usually have classes so I would leave home at around 8.45 am to be there on time. After classes, I have lunch and go straight back home for some rest as I find morning classes are quite **overwhelming**. Meanwhile, on weekends when I don't have



classes, I would spend my morning on assignments. In the evening I would do some workout, take a shower and then cook dinner with my friends in order to supply ourselves some healthy foods and **save money on a budget**. I also **eat out** sometimes if we're both busy or we run out of food. After I finish my dinner, I check my planner and **get myself back to work**. Additionally, as I'm not a **night owl**, I try to manage my time as efficiently as possible until around 12 am. Before I brush my teeth and go to bed at around 1 am, I would scan through my planner for what to do on the following day and maybe listen to some relaxing music and **do some meditation**.

Vocabulary

To be overwhelming (adj): Sth which is difficult to fight against

To save money on a budget (phrase): to save money

To eat out (v): to go outside to eat

To do some meditation (v): some therapeutic methods to release stress

24.3. What do you usually do at this time of day?

As usual I would still be working on my assignments. I always spend loads of time and efforts on researching for materials, organizing ideas and writing a number of drafts as I always aim to get good marks. Between duration of hard work when I find myself quite **drained out**, I take a 15-minute break to go online, drink some water or listen to some music to **refresh my mind**.

Vocabulary

To be drained out (v): to be exhausted by Sth

24.4. Do you usually do the same things at the same time each day?

Well I guess I would say repeating similar things everyday is not my lifestyle. A meaningful life to me is when I can balance between my personal life and my social life. What I mean is, I always **seek for** opportunities to see, interact and maybe involve in other people's lives to **open my mind** and learn great things from them. Thus, instead of studying, I would love to spend some evenings or nights, either outdoor or indoor, with my family and friends. Besides, I also



participate in social activities held by my university. I believe that this is the right time for the young generation like me to discover the outside world.

Vocabulary

To seek for (v): to look for Sth important (jobs, scholarships, etc.)

24.5. How do you organize your study time?

Maybe because I am very keen on study, I keep studying as a daily routine. Normally I start after lunch or dinner everyday and try to finish it before midnight. However, sometimes it appears to be so boring for me, after I go out and have fun, I would either **stay up late** or wake up early in the morning to study depending on how tired I am.

Vocabulary

To stay up late (v): to go to bed late at night

24.6. Do you ever change your plans?

Well I guess I have to say I've changed my plans a number of times actually. Beside those events such as appointments, meetings or travel trips could barely be **put off**, I tend to be flexible and **go with the flow**. Some people who manage their time exactly to every minute but that's just not my style. If I feel changes do not significantly alter other activities, I would just **go for it**.

Vocabulary

To put off (v): to postpone, to delay

Go with the flow (phrase): let things happen | cope with the adversity

To go for it (phrase): to encourage SO to go ahead and do Sth

24.7. What's your favorite time of the day?

I guess from 4pm to 6pm, when I have some rest after class and a little workout, is my favorite time of the day. I find myself highly awake and process things much more effectively during these hours. This is also a good time to spend on going outside and meeting up, as there is a wide variety of places to choose from and the weather is cooled down.

24.8. What do you want to change in your daily routine?



I guess I would definitely have to change my routine once I **jump into the workplace**, especially if I work in an office. I think I firstly have to **get myself used to** unchangeable events, then manage myself to adapt to the new working environment, as I am actually not good at dealing with changes.

Vocabulary

To get used to (doing) Sth (v): to get familiar with doing Sth

25. Friends

25.1. How often do you go out with your friends?

Well, I'd say that I **hang out with** my friends **on a weekly basis**. We often gather at a coffee shop or movie theater to share moments together. To tell the truth, I can't live without my friends.

25.2. When was the last time you went out with your friends? & What did you talk about?

Well, it was last week when we **threw a party** at my close friend's house to celebrate her birthday. We **had a whale of time** at the party and didn't want to go home at all. So, we decided to stay and **had a chit-chat** all night about our favorite topics like shopping, travelling, etc.

25.3. What is fashion among teenagers?

Probably, many teenagers now are **slaves to fashion** and never stop **keep up with the latest trends** in fashion. Most teenage boys and girls **show a big preference for** clothing styles just like those from their idols, especially **world-class** singers and actors.

25.4. Do you think friends are important in your life?

Sure, they **play an important role in my life**. I agree that **friends are your relatives chosen by yourself**. My friends **accompany me when I am going through ups and downs**. I think your **happiness will be doubled and sadness will be halved** if they are shared by your friends. In addition to that, good friends **offer me valuable suggestions** when I feel lost.



Or:

Well, honestly, besides my family, my friends **play an important role in** my life. With them, I am able to share all the problems that I find difficult to talk to my parents. They're also the ones who I can trust and enjoy the most beautiful moments of my youth.

Go through (phrasal verb) experience something bad

Ups and downs (idiom) a variety of situations and experiences that are sometimes good and sometimes bad

25.5. What does friendship mean to you?

I think friendship is a necessary part of life. Friendship, in my opinion, means you have somebody who can **share your happiness and pain**. Friends are those **whom you feel easy with**. They are always your good listeners. And they are the people you can **discuss the interesting issues with**.

25.6. What is the best part of being a teenager?

The teenage years are the most dynamic stage of life since teenagers really **hang out a lot** with their friends. You can also date with your beloved friends, and enjoy the freedom you have. **There's no need to** worry about your job, money and teenagers simply **enjoy their life to the fullest**.

25.7. What qualities do you value in your best friend?

Honesty and faith, I think, are the most important. We needn't agree on everything, but we can trust each other totally. I don't like being with a person who always tells lies. It's too boring to judge all the time whether he is telling the truth or not. If I **go astray** he will point it to me frankly without hesitation. I don't like the friends who often **flatter** me. In fact they are not real friends.

Or:

Well, it's hard to say anything. Though making friends is easy, **maintaining** that relationship is much harder. Therefore, I think my best friends are those who should be honest and **sympathetic** because I am a kind of person that prefers the truth and easily **get affected** my emotions.

Go astray (phrase) do something wrong



Flatter (v) to praise someone in order to get something that you want, especially in a way that is not sincere

25.8. How do people make friends with others? How do you make new friends?

Besides being classmates and colleagues, I think the most common way to **make friends** is through other friends. It is especially true for people like me, because I am **introverted** and not used to introducing myself to strangers. In addition, with the development of the Internet more and more young people enjoy **making friends online**.

Or:

Let me see, I come from a country which is agricultural, so it means that the people are very friendly and **warm-hearted**. In my country, it is very easy to make friends just by saying hello to someone, then asking about other's health. Sometimes, just a smile can bring people close to each other.

25.9. What are the differences between adults and children in making friends?

I think children make friends just for playing together. If they can play with each other, they will become good friends. A toy or a candy can make them become friends. **Their friendship is rather pure**. But of course they are likely to **break up easily and make up again**. When they grow up, they will not **make friends very readily**. Adults **choose friends more cautiously**. And they may have many kinds of friends, such as business partners, colleagues. The friendship has some profits or advantages for them.

Or:

Well, this question is such an interesting one. In fact, adults and children do have a difference in making friends **owing to** their age and their interests. While adults prefer friends who have the same jobs and goals in life, children make friends as they simply want to find someone who can play and have fun with them.

25.10. Where do young people usually meet in your city?



Well, it's difficult to say because there are many **good meeting places** in my city, like cafes, cinemas or parks. **As far as I am concerned**, I usually meet my friends in the cafes. They have **comfortable seats and pleasant background music**. We can chat without being disturbed while **enjoying a cup of coffee or juice**. If the weather is fine we will go to the parks. It is agreeable to sit on the bench near the lake, enjoying the pleasant scenery far away.

25.11. Have you made any friends on the Internet?

Yes, I'm keen on surfing the Internet, especially chatting with others on Facebook. I have made many friends via the Internet. In my opinion, they are not different from other friends of mine. We know each other's personal information and trust each other. We often discuss something we are both interested in. The only difference is that we meet online but not in real places

25.12. How can you keep in touch with your friends if you two are not seeing each other frequently?

Everything becomes easy with modern technology. We call each other or send messages. Sometimes we chat online and even see each other on the screen with the help of a small camera. We often send pictures and letters by Internet as well.

25.13. Do you prefer to spend time with friends or alone?

To me, friends are the best thing that I've ever had, so whenever I am free, I usually would like to spend time with my **beloved** friends. We often **hang out** at the coffee shop in the weekends, **gossiping** about our daily **issues**.

25.14. Do you have many friends?

Oh, many friends? I am a kind of person who is **fun-loving** and outgoing. Therefore, that I have many friends is just a matter of time. I have my friends, most of whom are my classmates from my high school and my university. We find it very exciting to **be friends** for such a long time.

25.15. Do you like meeting new people?

Honestly, I am a kind of person who is very **reserved** and quite, so I prefer meeting my acquaintances rather than try to make new friends. I don't like



meeting new people since I have to start all the things to **get to know** those and **balance** the new relationship, which takes a lot time and efforts.

25.16. What kind of friend do you want to meet in the future?

In the future? Oh well, I prefer making friends who are better than me both in **general knowledge** and **soft skills**. Therefore, in the future, I would like to meet friends that may **set the same goals** as mine in their careers and in their lives. Besides, those who **master** in English do catch my attention a lot since English is my favorite language.

26. Weather

26.1. What do you like to do when the weather is great?

I'd love to participate in some outdoor activities like meeting up with some friends or do some sports, especially swimming. Or I'll **grab the chance** for a photography tour. Everything becomes so clear and stunning on sunny days, no matter it's **early in the morning** or **late in the afternoon**, as long as the sun shines, I'm sure I'll find inspiration almost everywhere.

Vocabulary

To grab the chance (v) to have an opportunity to do Sth

26.2. Would you like to stay at home or go outside when the weather is great?

It's recommended that people should spend more time outside for both **physical and mental benefits** and there's no reason not to, especially when the weather is great. I usually get out of the house for a walk or short break just to enjoy the fresh air. It's also a really helpful **tactic** to **boost creativity** and **regain focus** after long working hours.

Tactic (n): the particular method you use to achieve something

Boost (v): to make something increase, or become better or more successful

Regain (v): to get back something you no longer have, especially an ability or a quality



27. Music

27.1. Do you often (like to) listen to music? Or Do you like listening to songs?

So far I haven't met anyone who dislikes listening to music. However, when the **workload** is too heavy that requires me to **stay highly focused**, music is a **huge distractor**. Unlike many people who like listening to instrumental music because it highly benefits for their concentration and study, in my case the music makes me feel instantly sleepy.

27.2. When do you listen to music?

Well, music is essential to human in the whole world so I'm **no exception**. I usually listen to cheerful music when I need motivation while sad music is my **go-to choice** during emotional days.

Vocabulary

To be no exception (adj) if someone or something is no exception, they are the same as all others so they can be included in a general statement

27.3. How much time do you spend listening to music every day?

As I've mentioned I prefer working in silence. **To put it simply**, no music is allowed during my working hours. After a long day at school, I probably want to **chill out** for like half an hour with music to help me stay energetic so I can get back to work later.

Vocabulary

To put it simply (expression) used for saying that you are explaining something in a clear and simple way

Chill out (phrasal verb) to relax

27.4. What kinds of music do you like to listen to? Or What's your favorite kind of music?

My music taste varies widely from West to East and from the 90s to modern EDM. But if Korean pop is considered as a kind of music, then yeah, that's my



favorite of all time. More than half of my playlists are Korean songs and I always **keep myself updated** with the news related to Korean showbiz.

Vocabulary

To keep updated (v) to follow a celebrity by frequently reading news about them

27.5. Have you ever been to a concert before? Or Have you ever been to a musical performance?

Once in a blue moon I attend a concert, since the ticket price for foreign artists' concerts is so **out of my reach** that I can only stay home and watch online. It was 2014 that I finally did go to a concert **on my own**, obviously it was an international music concert. It was absolutely **mind-blowing** and unforgettable for me.

Vocabulary

Once in a blue moon (idiom) rarely

Out of my reach (idiom) to be unable to afford

On one's own

(idiom) Responsible for oneself, independent of outside help or control

Mind-blowing (adj) Sth overwhelmingly impressive

27.6. Do you like to listen to live music?

Unless it's live at a coffee shop, where literally there are only you and music, then yeah I would love to. But I would **change my mind** if it's a concert. The crowd is too crazy. It's completely **a mess** that most of the time I **end up** having serious dizzy and headache.

27.7. When did you start listening to this type of music?

Since the day a friend of mine introduced her favorite group to me. She **couldn't help herself talking on and on** about them that I thought I somehow needed to catch up with her. And the more I know about Korean pop, the more passionate I've become.

Couldn't help one's self doing Sth (n) continuously doing Sth

On and on (expression) continually; at tedious length



27.8. Where do you listen to it?

Almost everywhere, except for classroom. It's the **golden era** of mobile devices, everyone carries earphone and phone with them all the time, music therefore **is on their fingertips**.

Golden era (n) a certain period of time that Sth vastly develops

On their fingertips (phrase) easy to reach

27.9. How do you feel when you listen to this music?

Well I'm a **type of person** whose mood is easily affected by what I'm listening to, thus as the music changes, my mood also fluctuates. But most of the time, listening to some music helps me **pick up my energy** and chill a bit.

Vocabulary

To be a type of person (that) (phrase) to belong to a group of people who share a similar characteristic

Pick up my energy (phrasal verb) to get better, stronger

27.10. Have you ever learned to play a musical instrument?

I learned to play the organ when I was in kindergarten. It was quite funny because I **started out** as one of the performers, then my teacher told my mom that I had better play the organ instead of performing, so I became her trainee and it continued for around 4 to 5 years until I was 10.

Vocabulary

To start out (v) to begin

27.11. Is music an important subject at school in your country?

Music is one of the **compulsory** subjects for primary and secondary students in my country. However, mainly singing is focused. We can also add some movements to make the songs more lively. Only those who are selected for the big performances are allowed to use musical instruments.

Vocabulary

Compulsory (adj) to be required

27.12. Did you often listen to music when you were a child? (If yes give details.)



Since my parents are **music-lovers** and they also have very good tastes, I was exposed to the old kinds of music at a very young age. Sometimes my mom **sang me to sleep** with her **lullabies**. Although I can't get the message at that time, my mom said that I **buoyed up** when listening to them.

Vocabulary

Bouyed up (adj) feel cheerful

27.13. What kinds of music are (most) popular in your country?

Beside pop music, the young generation nowadays expose to a number of different types of music. It is indeed difficult to tell which is the most **in demand**, since from my point of view each type has roughly the same popularity. But I guess pop music is the most **sought-after** now. At least I've never met someone who completely doesn't know a single pop song.

Vocabulary

Sought-after (adj) in demand

27.14. Do you like traditional songs?

Well, it's easy for me to name some traditional songs, some of which are even quite familiar to me. But to be honest, I think **I'm not that into** this kind of music.

28. Gifts

28.1. What is your favourite gift?

I received lots of gifts from my relatives and friends, among which I show a great preference for the bicycle best. It's a birthday present from my parents when I was ten, and it's rare to have a mountain bike at that time. I used to ride it to school and it makes my life more at ease.

28.2. Do you often give gifts to people?

Yes, I really love giving people gifts as they are always so happy and thankful and it is such a good feeling. Even something small pleases anyone.

28.3. What was the last gift you received?

A lovely watch, but the sentimental value counts even more. I was very touched by her thoughtfulness. My girlfriend gave me a watch a few weeks ago because



she thought I'd like it. It's The last gift I received was a birthday present of some kind. I don't recall exactly.

28.4. When considering a present to give to someone, how do you select this gift?

It can be pretty tricky trying to find the perfect gift, especially if the recipient is already well-off. You can get clues by listening closely to their needs, and try to guess what they'd like based on their hobbies and interests.

28.5. Have you ever received a gift that you didn't like?

Well, I haven't received any gift I dislike, but I do have gifts I pile up for years, such as soft toys, I'm not into soft toys so much as other girls, and I have about twenty toys in various types in stock.

28.6. Do you prefer receiving a gift or giving a gift?

I prefer receiving a gift. For giving a gift, I need to consider the interest of the recipient, and sometimes it may not be accurate, so it is not that easy to send gifts. But for receiving a gift, you can make up your own mind if you like it or not.

28.7. Do you think it's difficult to choose what gift to give to people?

Of course, it is very different to choose gifts for people. Everyone is different I need to consider the interest of the recipient, and sometimes it may not be accurate, so it is not that easy to send gifts. But for receiving a gift, you can make up your own mind if you like it or not.

28.8. What were the gifts you sent to others recently?

I sent to my friends some cosmetics such as the eye shadow makeup or the daycare cream. Besides, I also sent one of my friends a blue bag that is very cute, and she liked it very much.

29. Family Activities

29.1. How often do you meet with your family?

Well, because all of us are fully **occupied with** our schedule, we don't see each other during daytime. In the evening we'll have dinner and watch TV together



and talk about our day. I think in the future if I'm ever able to move out, I'll try to **set aside** time to visit my parents at least twice a week.

Vocabulary

Occupied with (adj) busy

Set aside (phrasal verb) reserve for a special purpose

29.2. How do you spend the time with your family?

We'll have a **delicious big dinner** together with **scrumptious** food prepared by my mom. After we have dinner at around 7 o'clock, we'll watch the news, have some chat with each other or **huddle together** to play cards. It's a precious time when we can momentarily get away from the **hectic whirlwind** of daily activities.

Vocabulary

Scrumptious (adj) delicious

Hectic whirlwind (expression) a busy schedule

Huddle together (phrase) gather together

29.3. Do you want to live with your family in the future?

I think probably not. It's better for me to try to start an independent life as a **grown-up**. However, I still have the responsibility to **take good care of** my parents that I'll **make time** to visit them at least twice a week.

Vocabulary

To make time to do Sth (n) to try to spend time doing Sth that is not just for fun like hobbies

29.4. What activities do your family like doing together?

Well, as I've mentioned we usually have dinner together. Besides, on weekends, we would love **to eat out** or get outdoor. Sometimes we have a family trip to the beach to enjoy ourselves on the day that all of us are free from work.

Vocabulary

To eat out (v) to have meal outside

Family trip (n) to travel with family members



29.5. What activities did your family do when you were young?

From my recollection, when I was **knee high to a grass hopper**, my family often went on a picnic together. On that occasion, we would prepare **slap-up snacks** to bring along and sit together to com . Such family activity did really strengthen the bonds between us.

29.5. Are you close to your family members?

My parents are quite traditional that they try to **form a strong bond** between all of the family members. They **take good care of** my brother and me and guide us in some of our life aspects.

Vocabulary

To take good care of (v)

29.6. How has your family influenced you?

Although my parents are traditional, they try to become my friends, by helping me and encouraging me without forcing me to **live up to their expectations**. They also **imprinted on** me proper principles like moral values, respect, humbleness, patience, **diligence**, etc. I think my family shaped who I am now. I'm deeply thankful for having such a wonderful family.

Vocabulary

To live up to SO's expectations (v) to try to please others

Imprint (v) to establish securely, as in the mind or consciousness

Diligence (n) careful and persistent work or effort

30. Politeness

30.1. Do you think you are a polite person?

I would say yes, but I think that manners depend on the country. Here in Denmark, it's impolite to strike up a conversation with someone in public, as you may be disturbing them. On the other hand, it's seen as rude to be unfriendly and not acknowledge others in other countries. However, I consider others, so yes I would say I am a polite person.



30.2. Who taught you about politeness when you were a child?

My mother. She constantly reminded me to say please, thank you, and to greet guests that came into our home. Moreover, she was very particular about table manners and using utensils correctly. I could not **get away with (be allowed to)** talking with food in my mouth or eating with my hands.

30.3. Are we less polite with members of our families than with people we don't know?

I agree, because we feel more comfortable with family. Moreover, we often take family for granted and fail to thank them for all they do for us. However, when we meet someone we don't know, we are less likely to tell them our true opinions and are always careful not to offend them.

30.4. Why should people be polite?

We feel better and they feel better! When we know we are treating people in a respectful way that doesn't cause harm, we tend to feel better. When they are treated this way, I imagine they feel the same. Furthermore, all countries have different etiquette so we should consider this to not offend them.

30.5. In your country's culture, how do you show that you are being polite?

We show politeness by saying please, thank you, respecting the environment, and trying our best not to disturb others. We shouldn't be overly loud and **obnoxious (causing attention to yourself)** and should never be late. Also, when we are invited to someone's house for a meal, we should bring a gift, like a dessert, flowers, or wine.

30.6. Have there been any changes in politeness in the past few decades?

I would say so. Nowadays, there's a lot less emphasis on respecting the elders. We no longer have to Sir/Ma'am, etc. Moreover, people are beginning to not even acknowledge you when you enter a social circle. Furthermore, **chivalry (men being gentlemen)** is becoming to die and it isn't frowned upon for women to use curse words anymore.



31. Neighbors

31.1. Do you know your neighbors?

Yes, I do. My family has been living on the same block since I was born, so we've gotten to know each other quite well. We are close to my next door neighbor in particular, Ms. Elizabeth. As she's a **widowed (husband died)** 80 year old woman in poor health, we keep a close eye on her to make sure she's managing on her own. The other neighbors **have come and gone (many new ones have moved here, many have moved away)** so we aren't as close with them.

31.2. Do you like your neighbors?

Some of them! We are all quite fond of Miss Elizabeth; she has always been like a grandmother to me. She has always been there during our important **milestones (important life stages)** in life. I'm always thrilled when she turns up at our door with freshly baked banana bread. On the other hand, some of our other neighbors are quite **stand-offish (unfriendly)** so we tend to keep our distance. However, Miss Elizabeth is family.

31.3. What do you think of your neighbors?

I think they are just so-so people. It seems as though they lead stressful daily lives and **cannot be bothered (making the effort would bother them)** to talk to their neighbors. They are **caught up in (lost in)** their own family dramas. We used to be friends with another neighbor, but then she ended up being too **nosey (too interested in the lives of others)**, so now we just smile at her but don't share our business.

31.4. How often do you see (or talk to) your neighbors?

Other than Ms. Elizabeth, I just **see them in passing (see briefly)**. So, I see them everyday but really only talk to them once or twice a week when we are forced to be in the same vicinity. For example, when I take the garbage out, we usually **make small talk (talk about unimportant things, like the weather etc.)**



PART II & III

1/ Describe a good law in your country

You should say:

- *What the law is*
- *How you first learned about this law*
- *Who benefits from this law (who is affected by this law)*
- *And explain why you think this is a good law*

I'm going to tell you about Singapore's littering laws which I firmly believe are a great idea. As you know, Singapore is one of the cleanest countries in the world which I feel extremely proud of, considering many other countries in Asia have enormous pollution issues. Unfortunately, I think people need strict laws enforced to have the incentive not to do it. Either way, I'm glad it benefits our planet and those who reside on it.

In Singapore, a first time offender who is caught littering is subject to a max fine of \$2,000, a second time offender \$4,000 and third time \$10,000. However, this is only if a police sees you. I wonder how many people can **sneak past (do something without being caught)** this! However, there is a strong police presence in Singapore, so I hope this isn't the case.

I would say the entire country benefits from this. By having a cleaner environment, we all have uncountable health benefits. For example, we could have healthier lungs, skin, animals have improved habitats, etc. Furthermore, we attract more tourists, as many people are drawn to clean places. With this said, I know that some people financially profit from this.

Sadly, humans have a tendency to choose to see only what they want. None of us want to believe the **gravity of (how serious something is)** just how much we are harming the planet and cannot always directly see it in front of us; we



live just for today. With this said, people usually don't take initiative to protect the environment unless there are laws. So, I think this law is critical to give people incentive to not litter. As the fine is drastically high, it will scare people into making sure their trash goes into the bins. Although it must go hand in hand with education, I think it's impossible to keep a clean country without strict laws. I wish more countries enforced laws like these.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Is there any situation people disobey the law?

To be honest, I've never actually seen anyone litter. I'm sure it must still exist to some low extent, but I genuinely think people are afraid to do so because of the fines and police presence. However, I know that no country is perfect and that there are always people who will disobey the law. On another note, I think that perhaps people who come to Singapore are more likely to throw their trash on the ground if it isn't something enforced in their home country.

Do people like being a policeman in your country?

I would say so. Actually, my father is a police officer and he seems to enjoy it quite a bit, although it is a tough job. Since Singapore has a reputation to maintain, the police force **strives their utmost (works extremely hard)** to give their all to make sure that Singapore remains among the safest countries. With this said, some police officers feel quite a lot of pressure, which makes it a challenging yet rewarding job.

What qualities should a police officer have?

Firstly, I believe that a police officer must have a high sense of integrity. As corruption is a problem in many countries which prevents progress in a place, it is important that the police officer has a sense of integrity along with morality, honesty, and a genuine concern to make the country safer. Furthermore, they



must be hard-working and not too relaxed as there are always people trying to **slip through the cracks (do something without being caught)** of the law. All in all, they must be a strict, no tolerance sort of individual to be efficient.

Why some people want to become a lawyer?

To be honest, I think some people choose it for the money, as it is a high paid job in many countries. Secondly, some people feel quite passionate about the law and want to dedicate their life to it. Thirdly, there are many different branches of law, such as international, geriatric, criminal, etc., so there are many different opportunities within this career path. As with other jobs, people know in their heart which career is for them!

2/ Describe a mathematical skill that you learnt in primary school

You should say:

- *What the skill was*
- *How you learned it*
- *Who taught you*
- *Why it was useful to you*

I'm going to tell you about when I learned multiplication in second grade, when I was 7 years old. At first it was a big challenge and a hard concept **to swallow (meaning to deeply comprehend)**, but I got the hang of it fairly quickly. The first few days I remember this was a stressful time in my household, as I always had to turn to my parents and sister to help. Since I got the hang of it, I **aced (got a perfect mark on)** almost every exam!

I started learning this skill from Ms. Puleo. The first few days she used images for us to learn the concept of multiplication, as we had already mastered addition and subtraction. We could then visualize 3 times (x) 3 by drawing a picture of 3 groups of 3 tigers for example. She had a clever way of teaching us



this by creating tables for us to get ample practice. After completing these, I was able to memorize several simple multiplication problems, like 3 times 6, 7 times 7, 8 times 8, etc. Moreover, she taught us the helpful trick that all multiplicands of 9 add to nine. With her patience and way of making us visualize and memorize, multiplication has always stuck with me.

This helped me because it only added to my knowledge of addition and subtraction. It may seem like a simple skill, but I can see that I use it regularly in my daily life. For example, when I go grocery shopping and something is \$9 and I buy seven of them, I think back to those multiplication tables and can quickly come up with the answer in my hand! Although more complex is not always applicable to life, I see that all basic math is constantly used in daily life.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

How can adults benefit from this skill?

I've realized that the most basic mathematical skills have helped me the most. They make daily life much easier when we are able to use **mental math (math in your head)**. For example, if I had never learned this skills, I would always have to be reaching for my calculator or asking Siri for the answer. All in all, I value being able to do multiply in my head.

What can government do to teach maths to adults?

Life applicable lessons are always the way to go! As math is source of confusion and anxiety for many, Instead of having adults sit in **cold, stiff (not inviting people to talk)** classrooms, I think it would be better to have hands-on lessons. For example, they could create monthly budgets for their family with these new skills. Moreover, they could pretend that the power just went out at the supermarket and that they must add everything on paper. For more complex math which I'm not an expert on, I believe similar techniques could be applied.



I'd say that teaching people how to apply their new skill to their life is the most effective way.

Which one is more important, mathematics or handwriting?

I would say mathematics. As it's still important to know how to write by hand, I would say that math teaches you new ways to think. Furthermore, as technology continues to be on the rise, handwriting is losing its value. Although people should still know how to write by hand, it's not a skill that is used very often, thanks to computers and cell phones. Looking back, I feel that learning to write in cursive was a waste of time, while math has helped me expand my mind and improved my logical thinking skills, even though it was always a struggle for me.

Do you think computers will make learning maths less useful?

This is a possibility. In the beginning of my schooling, we learned everything the **old school (traditional; without technology)** way. As I progressed to high school, the technological age began; we could then plug everything in to a calculator and solve the problem. With this evidence, I've seen that all the time I invested in learning how to do everything by hand were then easily solved with a few clicks on a calculator or a google search. On the other hands, I still value these skills. There are always moments when technology fails us, so it's still good to have this back-up.

Do you think computers can control humans in the future?

I could see that happening! Although it's hard to wrap my head around that now, I wouldn't be surprised if that happened. I could imagine some intelligent human mind creating an evil line of robots that would seek revenge against humanity. Moreover, I think it's possible that robots become more intelligent than humans, without many errors, like driving for example. As robots may not have as **intricate (detailed; complex)** of feelings as humans, I think that they are able



to focus and retain more attention better without distractions. This thought is a bit frightening!

3/ Describe a time that you were shopping in a street market

You should say:

- *When it was*
- *Where it was*
- *What you bought*
- *And explain how you felt about the shopping experience*

I will tell you about a memorable experience I had at a street market in Cusco, Peru. It was in May 2014, when I went backpacking throughout South America after I finished the army. I was **on a tight budget (not having much money)**, so I **took advantage of (used in a positive way)** all the the cheap, local markets and restaurants around me. In the center of Cusco, there were two Main Street markets, so I **opted for (chose)** the one closer to where I was staying. If I remember correctly, it was called San Pedro. I had gone in just to look for some fresh veg and quinoa to cook in my hostel kitchen, but **ended up (happened without planning)** leaving with a friend!

I went to the veg stand of a woman who seemed friendly, then she ended up inviting me to have a fresh juice at her other stand. She noticed that I had a slight cough which was concerning to her, so she **whooped me up (made quickly)** a juice with ginger, lemon, honey and pineapple juice at room temperature, which she said would help my cough. Actually, indeed it did! I ended up buying some cucumbers, carrots, zucchini, garlic, and tomatoes from her, and some quinoa from her friend at the stand next to her. All in all, it cost me around \$1!



I was extremely pleased with this experience! I know that I certainly wasn't **ripped off (charged a higher price)** as a tourist for one. Secondly, I really appreciated the personal care and attention that Marcelina, the stand owner, gave to me. It would have been easy to just sell my some fruits and veggies at an outrageous to me, but instead she even went out of her way to help me out. This experience left a good impression on me.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Why some people choose to buy in the street market rather than the shopping mall?

As far as I'm concerned, street shopping is quite cool in the aspect that people are given a combined experience of shopping and immersing themselves in the nature! When they stroll along the small shops lined along the street, they can see the items on display while being able to look up to the sky and breathe the fresh air, for example. Sometimes, it's an enriching experience as people can have casual talks with the shopkeepers and deal some bargains with them. All these can make shopping at a street market appealing to many.

Do you think the discounted goods have good value?

From my personal experience, the quality of goods sold at a discounted price is often inferior to those sold at normal prices. This can be due to the fact that the seller may want to get rid of some faulty commodities, so they may reduce the prices so as to attract the vulnerable consumers who are interested in such bargains. Additionally, lowly priced items are often out of dated. So if you're a fashion fanatic, buying discounted clothes won't be a good choice, as the items of clothing are often fading out of fashion as newer versions are being launched on the market on an hourly basis.

How often do people in your country go shopping?



Generally speaking, people are really into shopping, just like Western people and they will spend as much as time possible for this activity. Usually women will spend at least one or two times a week browsing for latest lines of products especially clothes at the supermarket or shopping mall. If they are busy, they tend to log on the Internet on some virtual stores and compare the prices of different brands: and then wait till the weekend to satisfy their desire for shopping

What kinds of places are popular for shopping in your country?

Usually, there are two types of places which are popular among shoppers. The first and most prevalent one is supermarket. This is simply because there are a wide range of clothes of different brands on display and the customers can feel free to try on their favorite piece of garment, they can also take their friends along to check for them if those clothes match or not, which I think is pretty great. Another type is online shopping. The consumers can access the virtual stores on the Internet and browse for items they love. Moreover, they can compare prices and look at the Review sections and receive advice whether that product is worth buying or not

Do you think online shopping will replace shopping in reality?

Not really, I think each type has its own merits. In terms of shopping at physical stores, customers there are a wide range of clothes of different brands on display and the customers can feel free to try on their favorite piece of garment; they can also take their friends along to see if those clothes match or not, which I think is pretty great. In terms of online stores, they can compare prices and look at the review sections and receive advice whether that product is worth buying or not. In a nutshell both are here to stay.

Did you ever have had shopping experience?



Yes, I did. I remembered that I bought a fake Iphone 5 and ended up throwing it in the trash can after one or two uses. The problem is that I didn't receive good customer service and chose less reliable places to shop. I recalled the shop assistant was strangely nice to me but I didn't think that those nice words were her trick.

What would you do if you bought something disappointing from the internet?

There can be a number of courses of actions I can consider when an item I bought online fails to live up to my expectations. The first thing would do in this case is to note down the address of the store owner and go directly there to ask him. This is simple because the sellers must have the responsibility if they provide products that don't meet the standards and fix them if there are any technical problems. Another thing I would take into account is that I would go to some local authorities and claim my rights the seller refuses to repair the item; change another one or give a refund.

How is online shopping so popular these days?

It is understandable that buying stuff online is gaining tremendous popularity among people in modern society. You can see nowadays people don't have time to get to the store in person and access the virtual stores instead. There is an increase in the number of online stores, selling diverse range of products with different price ranges which cater for the needs of people of all ages.

Furthermore, the customer service is being improved greatly and I see that many people are placing their trust on online shopping these days.

4/ Describe an occasion that you wore formal clothes

You should say:

- *What occasion it was*



- *When it was*
- *Where it was*
- *And explain why you wore it*

I'm going to tell you about the time I was a bridesmaid in my cousin's wedding last year. It was a spring wedding, so she wanted us to wear light shades of purple with the men in silky, gray suits that were just divine. The exact date was May 13, 2017 held in a town known for its beautiful horse farms and **sprawling (open, never-ending)** fields called Hunt Valley. My cousin is a **devout Christian (serious Christian)**, so she decided to get married in a Catholic Church with a backdrop of the gorgeous fields behind us.

Although the wedding was held on this day, I ordered my dress 3 months in advance and had it altered two times before the big day. I had put on weight during the months leading up, as I was going through a stressful **break-up (end of a relationship)**. So although I had ordered a size 10, I had to have it taken out by a tailor to make it a size 12. Moreover, at the last minute, I realized my heels weren't tall enough so the bottom of the dress was dragging along the floor, picking up dirt. So, I had it altered again by about 6cm. When all was said and done, the **dress fit me like a glove (fit perfectly)**. The day before I went to get a French manicure and tips and had my hair and make-up done the morning of. My cousin provided us with bouquets, a flower bracelet, and a set of gold earrings to thank us for being a part of her special day.

Although the dress wouldn't be my personal taste, I felt that I had to **put on a face (smile even when you don't like something)** for my cousin's **sake**. I know that your wedding day is a day one dreams of for their entire life, so I certainly didn't want to **put up a fuss (complain)**. Furthermore, a wedding especially in a church is a formal event, so I wanted to dress accordingly. All in all, I did it for her!



QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What kinds of clothes do people wear after work?

There are a wide range of clothes people can choose to put on when people go home from their office. One of the most popular types is shorts and T-shirts, which I think is favored by both sexes. I guess this is simply because at the workplace staff are supposed to dress formally and such clothes are pretty uncomfortable. So, casual wear helps the blood circulate better and thereby relaxing their body. Many people are also keen on gym clothes, pajamas or skirts as it doesn't increase their laundry, which means they don't have to wash their clothes frequently.

What kinds of clothes should people wear at work?

Actually, I think it depends on what people do. One of the most popular types among manual laborers is thick pieces of garments with protective gear as these help them to prevent injuries and dirt. However, those working in the office have different dress code for sure. To be more precise, office workers tend to dress more formally like a pair of trousers and shirts for males or a dress for females. This is probably because they have to present a professional image in the eyes of the customers or wearing such clothes gives staff more confidence in their ability.

Do you think it is necessary for children to wear school uniforms?

As far as I'm concerned, I strongly believe that it's absolutely vital for school children to wear uniforms. The most convincing reason is that in a developing country, if all students wear the same clothes, which are white shirts and blue pants, then poor students will feel less humiliated and embarrassed about the financial conditions and consequently can focus more on their academic study. The second reason is that uniform brings and cultivates a sense of belonging and unity in a group. Besides, it will be pretty pleasing to the eyes, if you see

students in their uniforms in the schoolyard line up to enter the class, which I think is unique in my country.

Where do people in your country buy clothes?

Actually, there is quite an array of places people can purchase their clothes. The most typical one is at the supermarket where clothes of all price ranges are on display. I reckon it absolutely caters for consumers' interest as they are able to pick whatever item of garment they like and try it on. ask their buddies' opinion and so on. Another place is at the market or alongside the streets. Clothes sold at these points are often of lower quality but at more reasonable prices, which is quite a popular choice among less well-off folks. Needless to say but most people are short of cash at times so this alternative seems to be pretty good.

When do people wear formal clothes?

Formal attire is often a must on important occasions such as meetings, ceremonies and other solemn events. Having said this, it's becoming more and more popular that people nowadays prefer casual wear on nearly all occasions and it's a standard practice in my country, I'd have to admit. For example, it's absolutely normal to wear jeans and T-shirts to weddings, birthdays, meetings and so on. if the nature of the event is not too serious. This is quite in contrast to that of Westerners who often put on a suit or a dress every time they join a formal event.

Do people wear formal clothes more often or less often than the past?

I'd say casual attire is gaining more popularity as people in modern society prefer flexibility and convenience. For example. it's absolutely normal to wear jeans and T-shirts to weddings, birthdays, meetings and so on, if the nature of the event is not too serious. This is quite in contrast to that of Westerners who often put on a suit or a dress every time they join a formal event.



Will the way we dress influence the way we behave?

This is an interesting question, and my answer is yes. For those creative people, they often choose a combination of diverse colors in their clothing style and such people tend to be fashionistas who have a firm grasp of a hat to wear to make them look best. These people are dynamic, energetic and love to socialize. On the other hand, those who often wear plain clothes to belong to a group which doesn't have much enthusiasm about fashion and is willing to put on anything they can find in their wardrobe every morning

5/ Describe a time when you received money as a gift

You should say:

- *Who gave it to you*
- *When it was given to you*
- *Where it happened*
- *How you felt about it*

I'm going to tell you about my college graduation gift from my grandparents. They have 4 grandchildren, so they **made a pact (made a promise)** to give us all the same graduation gift. With this said, they decided to give all of us \$2,000 upon completion of our Bachelor's Degree. I graduated back in May 2015 and received the gift about a month after, since they live 12 hours away.

I had a late graduation party in my backyard in June since some family members were busy during the month of May with their own children. My grandparents suffered through a 12 hour car ride just to make it to my special day- I was so very grateful! So, they slipped me a card while I was opening my other cards and gifts and I could not believe my eyes! I had heard that he gave all of us a generous gift, but I didn't expect **the gravity (how serious or big)** of just how much. When Monday came, I immediately deposited it into my savings account,



as I'm quite a frugal person. However, months later, I decided to treat myself to a solo trip to Prague. Considering I had always dreamt of going to Prague, I felt that I put the money to good use.

Since I had never received a gift quite like this, I felt extremely excited. I felt that this money gave me new opportunities to travel and enjoy my future, especially if I save it. Moreover, apart from the money, I felt very appreciative that my grandparents traveled all that way for me. All in all, I felt almost in disbelief along with **elated (extremely happy and proud)**!

6/ Describe a time you spend with your friend in your childhood / Describe a childhood friend of yours

You should say:

- *Who is this friend*
- *What did you do at that time*
- *How did you know about each other*
- *And explain why you describe this time*

I'm going to tell you about my best friend Chris. Well actually, we aren't **in close contact (not in touch; don't speak often)** anymore, but he still **means a lot to me (is important to me)**. We were in the same kindergarten class, so we first **hit it off (when you immediately like a person)** then. As soon as I walked into the classroom nervously on the first day, I felt **drawn to (attracted to)** him. He invited me to sit next to me and complimented me on my 100 Dalmatians backpack. Since that initial moment, we sat together in the learning circle every day. We soon started having regular **play dates (when children schedule a time to play)**. He would always share his toys with me and play nicely with me, even though I was a girl. Even better, our mothers started to become very close friends since Chris and I often had had dates at each other's homes, so our

lives became **intertwined (connected in many ways)**. Still, his entire family is very special to me. His mother became like a second mother to me. Although things aren't like the old days anything, we still usually make time during our busy schedules and get together about once every year or two years.

I still remember how he was a very fragile child. He had many allergies, so he was always sent to the hospital. I remember **worrying sick (worrying a lot)** one time when he was sent to the ER by ambulance when he had an allergic reaction to soy bean. Moreover, I remember he was always extremely talented in Math class, whereas I was really into Art. We could balance each other in that way. Actually, we balanced each other in many ways. I felt that he was always a bit feminine, where I was masculine. I was strong and nearly never ill when he was so delicate. I think this is what makes a good friendship!

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Do you use technology to communicate with friends?

Absolutely! I think it would be impossible to do in this day and age. We coordinate all meet-ups by WhatsApp, SMS, or Facebook messenger. Moreover, I've even met friends online through different Facebook pages. **I'm not into (I don't like)** talking on the phone, so I really prefer this mean of communication. If it weren't for these apps, I may be a lot more anti-social than I am! I think the fear of strangers from the internet is lessening a lot nowadays.

Does social media help to build your relationships?

It certainly can! As I said, I've even met friends through Facebook pages. I think it allows you to reach a wider **spectrum (an audience; a variety)** of people. Nowadays, it isn't as common to **come across (find without planning)** new friends in public spaces. Since many people are beginning to work online, it also creates a challenge for meeting friends. The social media allows people to advertise social events which bring people together.



Is it important for kids to have friends?

Absolutely. I think it's critical to learn how to be a good friend from a young age. I believe that humans need friendship to survive, like almost all species, so a child is **bound to (probably)** be happier when they are surrounded by friends from a young age. Moreover, it teaches them how to share, open themselves to others, support someone, and simply have more fun! I think life would be very lonely without friends.

What effect do friends have on children?

I think friends definitely make a child's life better in various ways. For one, the child must feel a lot happier and have more fun with friends by their side. Moreover, the kid is reminded that they aren't alone in this world and have something who is an **outlet (a person to talk to to express your feelings)** for them, which definitely makes them feel comforted. Secondly, through friends, they learn how to have interpersonal relationships and treat and relate to other people outside of their family. Lastly, especially if the boy/girl is an only child, they may not have much experience sharing and they may feel as if they are the center of the universe. Friends are critical for life!

Are children easily influenced by friends?

I would say yes, 100%. Children are very **impressionable (easily influenced)**, so they tend to **morph into (change into)** the people they spend the majority of their time with. If a friend has a good habit, I'm sure that the other friend will **soak it in (to absorb)** and begin to act in a similar way. On the contrary, when a friend has a bad habit, like smoking or cursing, their social circle is affected by this and begin to pick up their habits. I've noticed that children start talking, walking, and dressing like their friends. Because of this, I think it's important for the parent to teach the child to be a leader rather than a follower.



7/ Describe a time you borrowed something from your family or friend

You should say:

- *What you borrowed*
- *Who you borrowed it from*
- *What you borrowed it for*
- *And explain why it was useful to you*

I'm going to tell you about a time my grandfather lent me his car when mine **broke down (stopped working)**. My car was in the shop after it left me **stranded (stuck)** without brakes, so I really appreciated his kind gesture. If he hadn't done this for me, I would have been lost since this was the time before Uber, not to mention I live in the suburbs of Atlanta so there isn't much public transportation available.

I borrowed his Honda Civic for about a week. I used it to get to work and school as well as run other errands. As I said, it's nearly impossible to get around my town without your own personal vehicle. The brakes in his car weren't the best either, so he only allowed me to take it on short journeys. With this said, I didn't go out with friends or take any road trips with it. As my grandfather is known to have a **bad temper (gets angry easily)**, I was very careful in it to make sure I didn't scratch, **dent (to leave an indent)**, or get in an accident with it.

It was useful to me all basic ways. Without his offer, I would have been able to get to work and school which were the basis of my life. Since everything is **spread out (not close together)** and not walkable, we completely rely on our cars in my town.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Who is more important to you, friends or family?

In the deepest part of my heart, I think family matters more to me, although sometimes I may spend more time with my friends. You know, we can only be

born once by our parents, but we can make new friends all the time. Besides, in this benefit-oriented society, only parents truly love us. Therefore, family should, carry more weight.

In a typical family, who plays the leading role?

Well, the stereotype is that the father is the **breadwinner** of the family, the person who makes the decisions and **takes responsibility for** the whole family. This can be understandable because the father tends to occupy high positions in society while the mother tends to be housewife or only gets involved in some trivial work like cleaning or babysitting. However, this is not really the case in modern society where freedom and equality is being **put a higher emphasis on**. Women are as successful as men and are no longer in charge of the **monotonous household chores** like they were in the past

In your country, what kinds of family members usually live together?

Well, **to the best of my knowledge**, despite the increasing popularity of **nuclear families**, extended ones still exist in our society. Usually both parents and one, two or three kids would **live together under the same roof**. In other cases, a grandmother or grandmother joins them to take care of the small kids while the parents are away for work, for example. Other less common situations are many generations reside in the same house, usually a multi-story house. Families like these often consist of an uncle, aunt, and their families and so on. Typically, many problems occur when a great many members are in a similar place

Do young and middle-age people live with old people?

Frankly speaking, unlike in Western countries where it is common to send older grandparents to nursing homes, most people are bound by their duty, which means that they should or, in another sense, have to **pay back** what their parents have given them. As a consequence, the young generations and



middle- aged people tend to share the same house with older people. This can be beneficial since small children can receive special care from their grandparents, obtain invaluable hands-on experience and tend to develop a good code of conduct later on.

What would children do to make their parents proud?

I guess kids can have good performances at school and behave well to their teachers and the elders. Parents usually take a great pride in their kids if their children get a good score at school, or when others tell them that their kids are nice people. As well as this, I deem it a necessity if children help their parents out with mundane tasks around the house like sweeping the floor, or washing the dishes.

Do you like to spend time on your own or with your family/friends?

I would love to hang out with my families more. As my parents are always **pied up at work** we can hardly manage time for one another. So, we often try our best to spend time by having a dinner together at some restaurants at the weekend or see a movie together **if time permits**. For me, it's much better to **build a close-knit family and strengthen our bonds**.

What are parents' responsibilities for their children?

Primarily, they are responsible for the **safety and upbringing** of their children. Obviously, it includes a lot of things, such as feeding them, comforting them and looking after them **under any circumstances**. They need to make sure that their children have everything they need and are **well looked after**, have opportunities to learn about things, grow up and develop as **well-mannered** individuals.

What's the influence of parents on their children?

At first, parents' behaviors **influence their children greatly**. If parents are



polite, generous and kind, their children tend to be like this. Besides, parents have influence on their children in **making some great decisions**. I think good parents should help their children **make better decisions** and **offer them useful guidance**. What's more, **parents' attitudes to work, marriage and life** can also influence their children. The children may **lose confidence in love and marriage** if their parents often quarrel.

8/ Describe a skill you need long time to learn

You should say:

- *What it is*
- *Where you can learn it*
- *How to learn it*
- *And explain why you need long time to learn it*

I would like to talk about learning a language, which definitely requires a lot of time and patience. I think many people **go into learning** a language expecting to speak fluently after a few short months which can **lead them to disappointment**. I think to truly **be fluent in a language**, you need at least 3 years, preferably living and **immersing yourself in** that country. Language starts with the grammar and sentence structure, then being able to listen and respond, then onto reading and writing which is a **whole different ball game (a different challenge)**. Even those who can communicate effectively would still struggle to read a novel or literature in that language.

You can begin to learn a language in various ways. For one, you can learn it in school and a language center, which is a good base for grammar especially. Secondly, you can study it on your own, maybe even by watching youtube videos, series/ movies, listening to music, etc. which is becoming more of a trend nowadays due to the high costs of studying at a language center.

Moreover, you can learn it by **starting a relationship** with someone and **figuring out** a way to communicate after some time - I think it usually happens fast when you **catch feelings (to start feeling emotions for someone)** for someone who doesn't speak the same language! Lastly, you can move to that country and **pick it up** there. I would say this is the best way, although many don't have this opportunity.

I think language learning is a **tedious (long, detailed)** process because it involves many different skills, such as memorization, pronunciation, grammar, etc., and requires you to think outside of the box, which doesn't come easily for some. Moreover, I think it takes your brain a long time to accept another language when you've **spent your whole life making memories** in one. All in all, it is no easy task.

9/ Describe a film or TV show that made you laugh a lot

You should say:

- *What it was*
- *When it happened*
- *Who was with you?*
- *And explain why it made you laugh*

I'm going to talk about the American sitcom, Friends. Although it first debuted in the 90's, I just began to watch it this past year.

I watched almost the entire series by myself, with the exception of a few episodes with my ex-boyfriend. We both **chuckled at this goofy sitcom**. As I'm now in my late 20's like the characters in the show, it made me laugh a lot almost every episode because I can **relate to** many of the same situations and challenges that they face, especially dating. For example, they all are trying to get married and have children but keep finding many dating failures before



finding the **real thing (true love)**. Furthermore, I think the characters in the show are quite well-developed and each have their own unique personality, like Joey's **goofball (silly)** self and Phoebe's hippy, **zany (uncommon)** way of being. I think this is what made me want to keep watching.

I really enjoy this show because it's quite **light-hearted (easy-going, not too serious)**; it's one of those shows you can unwind to in the evening. I find shows based on simple stories, like a 20 something group of friends, quite entertaining because it's relatable. For example, I laughed at their ways of talking to each other on the daily because I imagine saying things like that to my own group of friends.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Why do children laugh so much?

Well, I would say because the mind of a child is a lot more simple. Take a baby for example, they laugh when you play **peek-a-boo (when you cover your face with your hands then uncover with babies)**. I think it's because they are still figuring out the world and their permanent place in it, so it seems odd and silly to them that you can "disappear" for a moment. Moreover, children are often playful and tend to giggle almost non-stop at things that adults would find immature, like **potty talk (talk about the bathroom)** for example. All in all, I think children are a lot more light-hearted, which makes laughter come easier to them. They are always looking for the next opportunity to play or giggle with their siblings or friends.

Why don't adults laugh easily?

Well, this really depends on the adult. Actually, I know a lot of adults with a great sense of humor, although darker than children. I believe that laughter comes more easily to adults because they have lived through more experiences, so they can simply laugh at their misfortunes at times. On the other hand, some



adults are completely consumed by their work, which may make uptight and not often laugh. Moreover, adults are more developed, so it takes a lot more to make them truly laugh- they will usually not laugh at potty talk or peek-a-boo.

What kind of people can make people laugh?

It depends on their audience! For example, some people find darkness and **sarcasm (saying the opposite of what you really think as a joke)** funny, so those type of people would make them laugh. Moreover, some people are really into **whit (quick humor)** and **banter (arguing with jokes)** which would cause them to seek like-minded kinds of people or comedians. Furthermore, I think **goofy (silly; informal)** people who don't have much concern for what people think of them usually make others laugh often because they are just like a walking joke. Lastly, comedians or others in the performance industry tend to **have a knack (have a special talent)** for entertaining people and appealing to their sense of humor.

10/ Describe an activity you would do when you are alone in your free time

You should say:

- *What do you do*
- *How often do you do it*
- *Why do you like to do this activity?*
- *How do you feel when you do it?*

I'm going to tell you about my love for reading. Ever since I was a child, I've always been more of the introverted type and have loved to **have my face buried (expression for someone reading)** in a book. Since my parents often fought when I was a child, I felt that it was an escape from reality. Moreover, I am also really into writing and I think it's impossible to be a great writer without



reading. Through reading books, I can **bask in (deeply enjoy; get lost in)** the literary geniuses of the book and find inspiration for my own books in the future. I read every single day. Actually, I can't recall a single day in my life that I didn't read. Sometimes I feel as if books are my entire life. Whether the book is my **taste (preference)** or not, the **suspense always kills me (not knowing what will happen next is exciting)** and I cannot stop flipping the pages to find out what happens next. However, **duty calls (responsibilities call)** and I must go to work at the boutique from 10-6 Monday-Friday, so I have to pull myself away from my books during that time. I usually get up around 7am and read a bit before work then come home, have dinner, and get lost in a book for the rest of the evening.

As I mentioned, books are a great escape for me as I feel my life is quite **mundane (boring; uneventful)**. Moreover, I really find deep joy in analyzing the literature, such as the character development, plot, archetypes, etc. I feel like my best self when I read; I feel I stretch my mind to new dimensions. Furthermore, reading sends me into a tranquil state. After a busy day at work, opening a book is the best way to **unwind (relax)**. On another note, I feel quite exhausted conversing with others all day at work so I feel quite **rejuvenated (fresh)** when I'm finally at home in my den in my happy place. Moreover, I feel that people who read have more interesting things to talk about so I often find myself in **engaging (exciting)** conversations with co-workers and customers at the boutique throughout the day. All in all, reading is everything to me.

11/ Describe someone who is talkative

You should say:

- *Who this person is*
- *How you know this person*
- *What this person likes to talk about*



I'm going to tell you about my stepmother's friend, Mindy. She is the **chattiest (chats a lot; negative meaning)** person I know! She absolutely never shuts up, for a lack of kinder words. Even though she constantly **talks our ears off (talks too much)**, we still love her because she is a kind, caring friend. Because of this, it would be really difficult to ask her to **be quiet (stop talking)**. My stepmom has been friends with her for over 20 years, so she's like family to us. My stepbrothers and Mindy's three children grew up together, as they were neighbors. My stepmom admits that at first she couldn't stand Mindy because of her talking, but after some time Mindy started to **grow on her (started to slowly like)**. She says that it's hard to find friends like Mindy, as she is always very loyal and would do anything for any of us; she is a very **selfless (opposite of selfish)** person.

I met her about 12 years ago when my father and stepmother first got together. At first I felt like I was going crazy due to her **constant chatter (non-stop talking about unimportant things)**, but she also started to grow on me. I see now that perhaps it is a nervous habit of hers. I have also met other people who feel the need to fill the silence with **mindless chatter (unimportant things)** to make the situation more comfortable. I also feel that when someone talks a lot, it shows that they require attention. So, actually, now I'm sensitive to her.

Mindy talks about every single detail of her life- from her children's lives to her home improvement projects. On a car ride, she was chatted the entire 45 minute ride about what colors she has been thinking about painting her kitchen. Furthermore, it's clear that her children **are her world (are extremely important to her)**, so she discusses them non-stop at well. Everything we may say turns into a story about her Peter, Tommy, and Becky. From spending time with her, I know every aspect and stage of her children's lives. I know what Peter did when he was a baby, why Becca and her boyfriend fight, and all about Tommy's new car. Although it can be quite annoying, somehow we still love her!



12/ Describe a family business you know

You should say:

- *What this family business is*
- *How you know about it*
- *Who the customers of this family business are*
- *And explain why the business is successful*

I'm going to tell you about my family's Chinese restaurant. It all started when my cousin Yvonne met her Chinese husband, Mr. B. He had just moved to America and wanted to put his chef skills to use and start his own business. So, Yvonne was **on board (agreed with the idea)** and they opened The Rice House restaurant after a few years.

Of course I know of this business from my family. Their restaurant is on the coast of Maryland, which was about 3 hours from my hometown. If I didn't know them, I would have never discovered this place. Although many people **flock to (big groups go to)** the coast in the summer, many tourists don't know about The Rice House because it's located in an **inconspicuous (not easily noticed)** mall, which most people don't visit on vacation. Furthermore, tourists tend to **gravitate towards (feel attracted to)** the seafood in Maryland which is quite famous. So, most of their customers are locals. I imagine they find out about this restaurant through Facebook advertisements and word of mouth.

Considering they have a large house, a movie theater in their home, and luxury brand cars, I can see that they do good business. I think it's because of Mr. B's expertise. I've been to many Chinese restaurants, but I **swear (to be 100% sure)** his is the best I've ever tried, not only because he's family. Moreover, they offer high quality, gourmet dishes but for reasonable prices with large portions which attracts more customers. Furthermore, many people in rural areas have one Chinese restaurant that they like to go to or order in from, so he has a good

clientele. All in all, I think a restaurant is a safe path to finding success in America as an immigrant.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Do more expensive shops provide better service?

I have to agree with this, when you buy something that costs an arm and a leg, it means the price of the product has included the superb service that you receive in the store. For example, most luxurious items are on display at some world-renowned brand store and once you step into the store. It looks like you are being in a palace, and the chances are that the staff are polite and a good listener to provide you with details of the products.

Do you often buy things at big shops or small shops?

From my personal taste, I'd rather go for big shopping centers rather than smaller ones. The most compelling reason for this is that there is an array of goods and items for me to choose from, all being on display at the same premise. All this means that I won't have to run to different stores just to buy something else, as everything is just right there for me to choose from.

If customers feel difficult in the shops, who will they ask?

Not surprisingly, there's always someone for you to make enquiries if you want for more information on a particular item. The shop assistant would just be pleased to show you around, explain the features and functions of something for you. A prime example is when I went to purchase a smartphone, I met a nice shop assistant who instructed me in detail about different brands, and I ended up picking the most suitable one.

What kinds of businesses are popular in this city?

In my city, people prefer to open beauty saloons or small coffee shops. I can put it down to the fact that most girls or women would try their best to look gorgeous in others' eyes and spending money to beautify themselves is considered as a must for them. Or in a similar situation, the youths tend to hang out with their buddies for some casual/idle chit-chat, which means many cafes



are doing well recently. Ah, not less popular are some small restaurants that can only accommodate to more than ten people. It can be understandable that many would call on these places for a snack or drink when they have time or feel hungry.

What jobs require staff to get in touch with many people?

To the best of my knowledge! any job that involves handling people' enquiries and complaints means that staff are supposed to have regular contact with a whole lot of people. Take customer service staff as a prime example, they always need to call their customers to ask whether they feel satisfied with certain products or staffs attitude after using a service or purchasing a product. Another case is teachers, whose job requires sorting out students' questions, and explaining the answers to them.

13/ Describe something important that you lost

You should say

- *What it was*
- *Why it was important*
- *How you lost it*
- *What you did after you lost it*

I was **devastated (really sad and upset)** the time I lost my first Iphone! Let me give you some background. It was my 16th birthday and my parents had just bought me an Iphone 4. I had waited for this for so long and was filled with joy when I finally received it after getting good marks at school. It was all the rage in technology at that time, so I really wanted to keep up with my friends.

It was important to me since I know my family worked hard to be able to buy a gift like this for me. I have seen my father work hard around his law office and my mother tend to our home to create a happy, clean atmosphere for us.



Although I feel ashamed to say it now, it was important for me to have it as a **status symbol (something that shows how much money you have)** at the time.

I lost it one afternoon when I went out on a cold day with a loose, winter coat on. Unfortunately, I forgot to zip the pocket that it was in. I hadn't realized that it fell out of my coat pocket during my ride when I hit a big bump in the road. Foolishly, I had music blaring on my headphones, so I never noticed the sound of it dropping.

I tried to retrace my steps to see if I could find it along the way, but never did. I imagine that someone may have snatched it. I then went home to my parents in tears and told them what had happened. While my father was understanding, my mother yelled at me and told me that I need to be more careful. However, they both agreed that I would have to save up if I wanted another.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

How did you feel about it?

I was devastated. I knew my parents had worked hard for this, so I felt really disappointed in myself. Moreover, I felt that I was just an ungrateful, careless teen. It reminded me that I needed to be more careful with my things in the future, especially as I didn't buy them myself.

Why do children lose their things?

Since children lack the maturity of adults, they tend to not be careful with their things. When they don't buy the things for themselves, I think they don't see the value of them as much. This is to say that children haven't developed a sense of responsibility yet. Furthermore, children are just humans as all of us, so they often make mistakes.

Why do adults lose their private things more than other things?



Well, since adults have many responsibilities and things on their mind, they tend to become **scatter-brained (many things on their mind)** and lose their things sometimes. I imagine that especially adults in a serious relationship and/or with children tend to prioritize others over themselves. With this said, they forget their own things rather than those of others.

Studies have shown that people who are messy are more creative. Why is it so?

I imagine that people who are messy can find beauty in chaos. They don't need to follow a strict routine, so they are more likely to think outside of the box. With this said, they are more creative. I think people who can go with the flow instead of insisting their usual organized ways can find more opportunities for creativity. Lastly, perhaps messy people find unexpected beauty more, perhaps among the trash pile in their room!

14/ Describe a party that you joined

You should say:

- *When it took place.*
- *Where it was.*
- *Who were there.*
- *What you did there.*
- *And how you felt about the party.*

Well, I've actually been invited to quite a few parties, particularly wedding receptions as I'm now at the age when lots of my buddies are starting to tie the knot, so it was kind of tough choosing which one to give you an account! but I guess probably the easiest for me to talk about would be the most recent party I went to, which was the wedding party of one of my neighbours.



And, as for who was there, well. I couldn't tell you everyone, because there were Absolutely loads of people you know, the hall was pretty packet! so my guess would be that there were probably Something like 250 to 300 guests, and if I'm not mistaken it seemed to be that the overwhelming majority were friends and relatives of the bride and groom.

Anyway, with regard to where the party was held. well, it was actually in a small city called X, which is about an hour's drive just to the south east of Y, because that's bride's birthplace, and the reception itself was held in quite a nice-looking hotel, which was easy to spot because it was about 10 times higher than all the buildings around it!

So regarding how I felt at the party, well, to put it simply, it was an Absolutely out-of-this-world experience, and there were some parts of it that moved me quite a lot, such as when the bride broke down in tears when she was on stage expressing her gratitude towards her parents for all the support they had given her. It was also really clear to see how much the bride and groom loved each other, as they couldn't take their eyes off each other the whole evening, so I was really happy for them and was glad that I made it to their wedding.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

How do people in your country celebrate birthdays?

Generally speaking, people like throwing a party to celebrate. Some people acknowledge their birthdays, but they don't actually celebrate them.

Are birthdays more important for children or for adults?

Birthdays are important for children, because they get to celebrate growing up and also can have fun parties with their friends and stuff. Oh and let's not forget



the cool presents. I think as adults it's not so much about the party but about the age. I think from mid 20's to mid 30's it's not important for them cause generally they are too busy with work or being a parent. But in retirement it's important again because that is a chance they get to see family.

What are the things the old and the young like doing in their free time?

Truth be told, many old people spend their leisure time indoors, sitting down, reading a book or resting; or they might go outside for a brisk walk in the evening. Many of them enjoy watching TV or knitting. Young people, on the other hand, enjoy a variety of things. Many do the same things I mentioned that old people do, but in my opinion, there are many more options available if you are young. You can play sports, go clubbing all night, participate in extreme sports like bungee jumping or sky diving - that might give an older person a heart

Should parents spend much money on children's party?

I guess it should depend on the financial budget of the family and the importance of the birthday party. If a family is well-off, splurging more on a grand birthday party for their beloved son won't matter a big deal, especially if it marks a milestone in their life. Having said this, those from less advantaged family backgrounds should weigh the pros and cons carefully before throwing a party for their kids, as this can make an inroad into their monthly income; so a small and cozy party enough.

Why some people dislike attending parties?

People are being increasingly on the go and can hardly manage time for drinks or parties as they are overly occupied with work-related matters. Given this, a 2-hour wedding reception party, for example, can take away their precious time for work, making them delay their progress. Besides, some families are running



short of cash to cover the expenses for attending parties, so every time there's a wedding invitation, they're often Worried and helpless.

Why do people throw parties?

Parties are a good occasion for reunion and bonding. A fact is that people in modern society are up to ears with their work and can hardly manage time for socialization, so attending parties can be a golden opportunity to catch up on what is going on with their friends whom they may not have met for ages. Secondly, parties often mark a milestone in an individual's life and record memorable experiences the host has with his friends and family. After all, parties can have a meaningful role to play in our life.

15/ Describe an interesting job that you want to have in the future

You should say:

- *What it is*
- *How you might find this job*
- *What qualities it requires*
- *Explain why it is a well-paid job*

I'm going to tell you about a job I've always dreamt of doing, a National Geographic photographer. Firstly, I want to travel around the world and hear countless stories from people of all different cultures and backgrounds. I think it would be extremely fascinating to work in this changing, **enriching (makes you more cultured)** environment. For this job, you don't necessarily apply. As most of the photographers are some of the most well-known photographers in the world, they say that if they want to hire you, they already know who you are.



For this job, they require that you have a degree in a discipline other than **solely (only)** photography. They want you to have studied Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology, or Journalism and have also attended photography courses. They require that you are already known for your unique skill and that you agree to work an independent, not full-time schedule. You also have to accept that they may not always pay for your travel fees.

Actually, it isn't an extremely well-paid job compared to some others. The salary is about \$50,000. Although I could get paid higher in another field, I would say it is worth it to **get your name out there (to get famous)**. I think it would undoubtedly open countless windows of opportunities if you stand out from others. Who knows, I could end up with millions later on!

I think I could be suitable for this job for many reasons. I've always **had an apt (have the ability to)** to capture sensitive, moments on the human face. I've traveled all around Asia, the Middle East, and South America working on a photo journal of people I've met along the way. Apart from this, I have a degree in Biology, so I could **venture out (travel)** into the wild to give Wildlife Photography a try. I currently have an instagram with 700,000 followers, so I'm slowly and surely getting my name out there. I do believe I'm a **good fit (suitable)**, but let's see if I could impress them enough!

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Do you think job satisfaction is more important than salary when choosing a job?

I would say it's a mixture of both, but I'm **leaning more towards (believe more)** job satisfaction. You must spend a large portion of your life working, so you might as well do something you love. When you do something you're passionate about, I'm sure your happiness and sense of fulfillment is greatly elevated. Moreover, if you love what you do, it may not even feel like work. On the other hand, when your salary is low, people often become lazy and



motivated. Furthermore, it is ideal to have a career that can provide a comfortable life for you, with as little financial stress as possible. Money can't bring you happiness, but it can certainly be a tool in it!

What skills do you think are needed to get a job nowadays?

I think that language, technology skills, and Master Degrees are becoming a necessity nowadays. As one language can be limiting, especially if it isn't English, it only makes you more desirable to an employer to have other languages. Furthermore, it would be impossible to survive in a career without technology skills nowadays, as the world is becoming more technologically advanced **at the speed of lightening (a very fast speed)**, in some countries especially. Moreover, as some job markets are more competitive than others, it may be compulsory to have a Master's Degree in some countries.

Do you think women should be able to do all the same jobs that men do?

Absolutely! I believe that gender inequality in the workplace should be **a thing of the past (should disappear)**. If the person is qualified for the job, the gender should have no effect on whether they are hired or not. Sure, there may be some jobs that are typically more suitable for men, like perhaps construction or mining, but that doesn't mean a woman shouldn't **have a fair shot (have a fair opportunity)** at it if she's eligible.

How has technology changed the way we work?

Wow! In many ways. Firstly, it has seriously cut time for tasks that used to **take ages (take a long time)**, thanks to email, phone contacts, writing reports, etc. Secondly, I think there is less emphasis on interpersonal skills, as you may never even have to meet the client face-to-face. With this said, maybe it is making people more antisocial. Lastly, make it has made people lazier since they can finish a task with a few clicks of the mouse. Maybe now if there boss



asks them to a tedious task, they may **scowl (an expression of anger)** and not be too thrilled about doing it.

What is the difference between white collar and blue collar jobs?

Well, a white collar job is usually a job in which you wear more formal attire to work, no manual labor, in an office or administrative environment, and usually requires a higher level of education. On the other hand, a blue collar job is an informal one usually based on manual labor. People created these named as a way to classify people's **prestige (wealth)** in society. In my opinion, doesn't matter if the person is white or blue-collared, as long as they do honest work.

16/ Describe a building you like

You should say:

- *Where this building is*
- *What it looks like*
- *what it is used for*
- *And explain why you like*

Nowadays, there are many creative modern and high-rise buildings built in my country. Among them the first one that popped into my mind is the library in my college, which is the tallest and most unique building. It's located in the East corner of the school.

Just like other buildings, made of concrete and steel but the shape and height are what sets it apart from others. If you look at the library from the outside, you'll find it resembles a big book case full of books—the shape of each window is identical to a book. The color is red and yellow because these colors are very bright and appealing to the eyes. And I wouldn't forget to mention that it is taller than any surrounding buildings, consisting of 9 stories.



The first floor is a big hall, where you can check out or check in your books. All the new books are placed there. On the second to the fourth floor, you could find all kinds of reference books about a wide range of majors, and of course, there're also some entertaining books. On the fifth floor, there's a computer lab, where students can get online or search for reference materials. The remaining floors are the entertainment areas where students can play some educational games on the computer; there are also places where they can feel free to set up their own activities. Truthfully speaking, I have never been to higher floors, so I'm pretty not sure what is there to offer.

I love reading and this gorgeous library makes me love reading even more. I'm glad that our school could have such a wonderful library building.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Are there many tall buildings where you live?

High-rise apartments are a common sight in the vicinity of my neighborhood. Actually, they are mushrooming on a yearly basis some even have more than 20 stories, but mostly they are residential buildings.

Why are there tall buildings in so many places?

It is simply because land is a scarce resource. Its scarcity and high price have forced real estate developers to think vertically rather than constructing a horizontal building. Also I wouldn't forget to mention the fact that those buildings can act as a symbol of a city! as it can beautify the cityscape! and draw tourists as well.

What role do you think old buildings play in society?

The old buildings symbolize the ancient culture and civilization. They remind us of the ancient people's ancient people and craft. From the old buildings, we learn about people's lifestyle, customs and even social structure in the past.

Do you think it necessary to protect old buildings?



Yes. the government should fund to preserve the old buildings. They are the Representative of our long history and splendid culture! Besides, they are of research value. Finally, they can bring tourism income for the city.

What are the differences between the constructions in your city nowadays and 20 years ago?

The constructions 20 years ago in my city were quite single-styled, and there were no many high buildings. Most constructions were made of red bricks, and they looked the similar by appearance. But a lot of changes have taken place in the past decades and many stylish, spacious and colorful constructions have been built. The nest-shaped Olympic Stadium is a good example.

What do you think of the constructions in the city center?

I think the density of constructions in the city center is too high. There are fewer colorful constructions, but some don't match the surroundings. They look offensively conspicuous!

17/ Describe a recent happy event/ Describe something have happened recently make you happy.

You should say:

- *What it is.*
- *Where it happened.*
- *With w horn.*
- *And explain why you feel happy.*

Well, today I'd like to share with you about the wedding ceremony of my best friend, X. This event was the most recent one I feel delighted and enthusiastic because it was the first time I had been a best man/bridesmaid.

X has been my close friend since childhood. We have known each other for more than 15 years. When he/she invited me to be his/her best man/bridesmaid, I agreed without any hesitation.



The wedding was celebrated at ABC, one of the most famous wedding venues in my country, where guests can enjoy the stunning views of the sunset. We had a hectic but memorable day back then, which was last month I remember. The ceremony procedure was quite conventional, just like others; the bride and groom exchanged wedding rings, towed down to their parents, proposed toast took photos with guest and so on.

Since we bumped into a bunch of old friends, we turned the wedding into a big reunion party everyone had a good time together. At the beginning, I was quite nervous 'coz I had never been a bridesmaid before, and it seemed like I was going to have a big day. Before the ceremony, we had laboriously decorated and planned everything. During the ceremony, the couple recalled their love journey: they tied the knot after experiencing all sorts of ups and downs together and I was deeply touched by their stories. As their best friend, I wanted to express my overwhelming love and best wishes to them.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

How would you define happiness?

From my perspective, the definition of happiness is subject to multiple interpretation. Some people argue that accomplishing a sense of satisfaction in life means possessing as much money as possible. Therefore, people will sacrifice whatever it takes to become wealthy. However, my view is that having a good job and a happy family life is what makes us truly happy in life. If we feel what we are doing is worthwhile and financially rewarding; or our children behave well and love their parents, that happiness is no longer out of reach.

Do you think money can make people happy? =Do you think people will be happy when they become richer?

The answer is yes for me. It is true that money cannot buy everything. However, people will enjoy a greater sense of comfort and feel better contented with their life if they are in possession of much more money. For example, a rich family can gain better access to top-notch services like healthcare or education or



spend their weekends going shopping or seeing a movie together. The second point is that although money cannot buy happiness, it is the means with which can make others happy. Take this example, you can buy a present to bring happiness to a small child or use your wealth to cover medical expenses for the less fortunate people. So you can see, it not only makes you happy but other people as well.

What do you do when you feel unhappy?

It is hard to deny that everyone can come up against apparently insurmountable hurdles in their lifetime and I am no exception. At those times, I try to comfort myself by assuming the best. For example, if a person keeps me waiting for hours, I would console myself by some thoughts like he may be springing a surprise on me with something special. Or some scenarios like he may have stopped at the store to pick up a present for me. So, this could cheer me up at that instant. At other times, I often come to my soul mates to confide in ups and down and seek for sympathy, yet just for utterly miserable moments, to tell the truth

Do you think rich people are always happy? = Can money make person happier?

No. they aren't, as I have mentioned. Money cannot buy happiness. It only makes life more comfortable and convenient. As you see. material wealth brings both positive and negative changes. From my experience, I have witnessed a true story about my uncle. At first he was a broke guy, however, after his business at the publishing company paid off, he turned over a new leaf. However, the more profits he made, the greater his ambition and greed became. He ended up turning into a man who values material wealth more than anything else on earth and nothing can satisfy his limitless desire. As time went by, his family broke up because he just put efforts into earning money without devoting any quality family time to his wife and children. The outcome is that they got divorced and his wife took 3 small kids with her, leaving the husband lonely in his 5 story villa.



Is it possible to be happy during whole life?

I would have to say it is quite out of the question to stay happy all the time during one's life. Whether we like it or not, there are ups and downs: happy moments and sorrowful ones. Therefore, it would be unrealistic to expect only good things to come to us and paint a rosy picture of one's life. Rather, one is supposed to face up to unpredictable difficulties and make their best efforts to overcome them and become happy again. It's safe to say that life is a vicious circle.

18/ Describe an interesting song you like.

You should say:

- *What it is:*
- *Which country the song comes from*
- *What story the song tells*
- *And explain why you think it is interesting.*

I have always been **a huge fan of** music. I love listening to music because good music helps me **recharge my battery and energy** as well as **uplift my spirit** after a long day **overloaded with** work and study. I listen to many different kinds of music from Rock to Jazz, depending on where I am, who I am with and how I feel at the time. Today I'm going to tell you about one of my favorite songs titled 'Hello'.

The genre is pop, as characterized by its **upbeat music** and simple, **down-to-earth** lyrics. It's actually a single that just **went platinum** this week. The song is **incredibly popular** at the moment, I mean, it's **the talk of the town**. It's been **topping the charts** for weeks, and has got millions of streams on music sites.

The person who performs the song is Adele, an **internationally acclaimed** artist, hailing from the UK. She's **made a killing** with her albums, but she's maintained a somewhat **low-profile** lifestyle. I am a huge fan of her. I have an



impressive collection of her records that I really treasure. Maybe I would have the fortune to attend one of her concerts.

I first listened to the song last week. It was when I was **in the middle of** finals. I was **up to the ears in** revision and it was incredibly **nerve-racking** time, so I needed something to **let my hair down**. That's when I went to YouTube to watch some music videos. The minute I heard Adele's voice, I was **hooked** and totally **blown away**. I've **put the song on repeat** ever since.

I am keen on the song for a number of reasons. First, it was her voice that struck me, which is incredibly soothing, and has a nice warm quality to it. The lyrics is also **dope**. It talks about emotions after two people **part ways** in a relationship and I can definitely relate to that.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What do old people like to listen to? = Why do you think old people like old songs?

My guess is that the old generation would show a big preference for old songs, particularly the ballad or love story. Those songs usually contain meaningful lyrics and give them a golden chance to reflect on their life a bit. Besides, such melodious pieces of music are great ways to let their hair down they like immersing themselves in the soft and meaningful music I'd say. I wouldn't forget to mention songs with a theme on wars as they remind the elderly of their Miserable time and all the hardship they had to suffer when the country was still ill poverty and conflict.

How would your grandfather feel if you gave him some hip hop music to listen to?

What an interesting question! As I have mentioned earlier, modern music like hip-hop or rap is definitely not their taste. Having that in mind, I have never thought of recommending that sort of songs to my grandparents.

Why do you think people of different age groups have different favorite songs?



Simply speaking, people of different ages belong to different groups and each group has its own norms. So, teenagers are under the influence of other members, in the group and would go for the latest pop songs of current artists on TV or songs that go viral on the social network. Meanwhile, the older and more mature group would rather look back on past values and prefer old songs that usually have something to do with their life some 40 years ago. What I'm trying to say is they can recall bitter or sweet memories from those pieces of music.

Why do some people like to play music = play a musical instrument in the open?

As far as I'm concerned, when you are out in the open air and hold your musical instrument, sing a song, you not only give yourself but others a great time as well. From my personal experience, I have seen many university students; for instance, gather around in the park, surrounded by a lot of trees and sing group songs with their guitar. This is great fun you know', just imagine everyone feeling the heat and dance to the tunes of the songs, or many other passers-by stopping for a while to enjoy the song.

What kinds of songs do children like listening to?

From my point of view, based on what I recall from my own childhood, I would have to say most kids tend to be drawn by short, simple songs which have catchy tunes and memorable lyrics, and I suppose a lot of them are the theme songs from their favourite cartoons or some songs accompanying the adverts on the TV.

19/ Describe a time that you had to change your plan/ you changed your mind

You should say:

- *When this happened.*
- *What made you change the plan.*
- *What the new plan was.*



- *And how you felt about the change.*

Well, when I was 21 years old, I made a decision that has forever changed my life; it started in 2014. I had it all **set up (carefully planned)** to go to Chile to study for a 2 month summer semester and language immersion. However, as soon I set foot in Valparaíso, I instantly fell in love with it. I felt like that culture really **suits me (goes well with me)**, as opposed to life in Canada. I loved the art and charm that fills the street. I had finally found a place where I could learn the language I wanted and **pursue (get; follow)** my art career as well. Furthermore, the people there really welcomed me with open arms and made me feel at home. So, I decided to stay for 2 years! Fortunately, I was able to finish my Bachelor's Degree there since they are **affiliated (partners)** with my Canadian university.

This has affected my life in many different areas. For one, my parents have always put pressure on me to work in business. However, I've always known that **that wasn't for me (not suitable for me)**. After this experience, I decided to be an Art teacher to children in a part of town with many Spanish speakers. If I had never stayed for 2 years, I wouldn't have the fluency that I have in Spanish today. Moreover, I've become a lot more **well-rounded (educated, experienced)** from this. I've gotten the opportunity to travel around South America and see the way others live, as well as the **breath-taking (extremely beautiful)** landscapes. Most importantly, I met the love of my life there! He moved back to Canada with me and I'm now pregnant with our second child. Looking back, my life wouldn't be nearly what it is today without this change of plans!

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

How did people around you respond to it?

My family was quite happy for me, but it was **bittersweet (happy and sad at the same time)** for them because they really missed me. Since my parents were



immigrants to Canada, they never had these opportunities when they were young, so they were joyous that I was able to. However, they were concerned that I would party too much instead of study! Moreover, they would stress about my **whereabouts (where I was, what I was doing)** and well-being while in Chile.

Do you like changes? Why?

Certainly! I'm not a **creature of habit (a person who likes the same routine)** at all. Actually, I get so bored with a **monotonous (always the same; never changing)** life. Moreover, I'm an extremely adaptable person, so I think I can **embrace (make the best of)** and integrate myself into almost any unfamiliar situation. I believe we all need changes to help us grow and simply make life more interesting.

Why do some people hate changes?

Well, I would say the number one reason is fear. It often happens that people are afraid of what the change may bring. Another reason is that some people become so attached to their daily routine that they feel **off-kilter (shocked, unbalanced)** when it's tweaked. I think this especially happens to the elderly. Lastly, changes are difficult! Although we may know that the change is necessary, like perhaps leaving your current job that you hate, it's still hard to make that **first move (to make the change happen)**. Change requires discomfort and adjustment!

How can you change people's opinions?

I would say that the number one way to do this would be through a peaceful dialogue. In the world today, many people resort to violence, threat, or other extreme measures to try to change someone's mind. However, I think this is ineffective. I believe all parties must sit together and listen to each other's ideas before any change can happen.



20/ Describe a perfect holiday/vacation from home you want to go on in the future

You should say:

- *Where you want to go*
- *When you would like to go*
- *What you can do for the holiday*
- *Who you would like to go with*
- *And explain why you want to have this holiday*

Frankly speaking, I'm not an **extrovert**, so I haven't been on many trips up to now. However, I would **crave for** having a pleasant experience on a **package tour/ motorbike trip** to [place] - only within a 50- kilometer drive from my house.

I intend to travel **on my own** to **do the sightseeing**, which may **save me from the hassle and nuisance** from my friends, who usually complain **all the time** while being on a long holiday. If everything goes according to my plan, the tour should be **reasonably priced**, at 40 USD for at least 2 days 1 night and it should promise **luxurious accommodation** and **scrumptious** food. So you see, I tend to go for cheap holiday without **second thoughts** as it is exactly what I want to expect. The first part of the journey will probably be good enough for me because it will take me not too much time to **reach the destination**. Besides, I am **looking forward to** chances to **engage in** any gossip with other passengers so that the trip will go by with a lot of fun.

I imagine that the moment I **check in** at the hotel near the beach, I will be really glad that the quality of the room will definitely be **up to standard**. If I recall correctly, I **made it quite clear** to the travel agency that the bed must be cozy and comfortable and the air-conditioner has to work well. Regarding the swimming and the seafood, the weather on that day will be so sunny for sunbathing, which will make me feel like jumping my feet into the seawater. **To**



add to the fun, because I am going to travel during **off season**, the seafood won't be too **pricey** and the **servings** will be therefore large for a person like me.

Vocabulary

Extrovert (noun) someone who is very confident, lively, and likes social situations

Crave for (verb) to want something very much

Package tour (noun) package vacation, or package holiday comprises transport and accommodation advertised and sold together by a vendor known as a tour operator

On my own (noun) unaccompanied by others; alone

Do the sightseeing (phrase) the activity of visiting the famous or interesting sights of a place

Hassle (noun) argument

Nuisance (noun) disturbance

Scrumptious (adj) delicious

Second thoughts (noun) a change of opinion after considering something again.

Engage in (verb) take part in a particular activity

Up to standard (phrase) good enough

Make it clear to somebody (phrase) If you make something clear, you say something in a way that makes it impossible for there to be any doubt about your meaning, wishes, or intentions

Off season (phrase) a period of the year when there is less activity in business

Serving (noun) a quantity of food suitable for or served to one person.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What can people benefit from travelling?

Clearly, there are a number of **merits** brought by travelling. But I would probably say that the thing that really **stands out** is we can **broaden our horizons** of



the world. To be more specific, when coming to a new region or a country, we have the chances to **sample the local life**, enjoy the cuisine and learn a great deal of interesting stuff. Besides, a second positive point could be that we can **let our hair down** after **undergoing nerve-racking period of time** of hard work or study. **A flying visit to** somewhere can help us **recharge our batteries** and work more effectively afterwards.

Merit (noun) the quality of being particularly good or worthy

Stand out (verb) to be easy to see or notice because of being different

Broaden one's horizon (phrase) to make you see a wider range of opportunities and choices

Let hair down (idiom) relax

Nerve-racking (adj) nervous

Flying visit to (phrase) short visit

Recharge one's batteries (phrase) to rest and relax for a period of time so that you feel energetic again

Do you like to travel on your own or with your family?

Personally, I like the former option. Travelling on my own can **free me from** the burden of others and so I can have more freedom and independence to **explore to my heart's content**. To be more precise, when you travel on a **package tour** with your family members, you have to plan your budget, must **keep an eye on** the small kids or have to follow the instructions of the tour guide. However, when you are **on your own**, you can head to anywhere you feel like, stay with the local people, experience many different feelings, and become more independent. You can also have **me time** to reflect on your life or **contemplate** the meaning of life.

To one's heart's content (phrase) as much as one wants

Keep an eye on (phrase) to watch someone or something; to monitor someone or something closely

On one's own (phrase) alone



Me time (phrase) time that you spend relaxing and doing things that you enjoy rather than time spent doing things for other people

Contemplate (verb) to think very carefully about something for a long time

Do you like to visit popular places or less-known places?

If you choose to visit touristy places:

If you ask me, I would say that I'd rather **pay a visit to** popular tourist destinations. The main reason for my choice is because I will feel more safe and secure in a place that I **know like the back of my hand**. To be more precise, I could know where to **get a good bargain for** a service or won't **fear the risk of** getting lost. On the contrary, if you venture to visit tourist places of no good reputation, you may risk your life or get **ripped off** in some cases. In addition, I am not a kind of extrovert and dynamic person, so I'd prefer to go to popular sites instead.

Know like the back of my hand (idiom) be entirely familiar with a place or route.

Get ripped off (verb) to be cheated, especially by charging them too much money for something

If you prefer less-known places:

To be honest, I **have proclivity for** travel to not touristy places where I can have more space **to capture the breathtaking landscapes** without disturbing other travelers. Besides, visiting a site which has not yet been well-known makes me enjoy to discover more about that place. This is because I want to become the **pioneer** who can help introduce the place to more visitors with my photos I snapped and travel guidance I wrote.

Have proclivity for (phrase) have a tendency or inclination to do something

Breathtaking (adj) causing awe or excitement

Where do people like to travel in your country?



It depends on different preferences and ages. For example, young American, who are adventurous and **curious about** new places, tend to choose **brand new** places where haven't exploited by tourist, whilst old people prefer to stay in a resort nearby a beach or in a village in order to bring back their memories and do meditation.

Curious about (adj) Eager to learn more about something

Brand new (adj) completely new

What is the relationship between travel and the environment?

Obviously, travel has an adverse impact on the surrounding environment. Air pollution is one concern. This is because people must get on a coach, a train to reach their travel destinations and these means of transport give off huge amounts of emissions into the surrounding air, making the air quality from bad to worse. Another thing is litter dropping issue. All the travelers do is enjoy the services, and throw away trash onto the ground, spit anywhere and these things really spoil the cityscape.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of travelling alone?

Well firstly I'd say the good thing about travelling alone is that you get to do what you want, without having to ask for anyone else's approval. So basically, you can be really flexible with your plans. But on the downside, if you're travelling on your own, you might feel lonely at times, especially if you've got no one to talk to.

What are the differences between young people and old people when they go travelling?

I guess there are **a handful of** differences, of which one would be that young people generally like doing quite exciting and energetic things, like **bungee jumping**; or, if they're going somewhere coastal, they might wanna do some watersports like jet skiing, whereas I would say the elderly, **on the whole**, tend



to simply like relaxing when they go on holiday, so they'll probably take a few books with them and spend most of the time on a deck chair next to a swimming pool **soaking up** the sun and enjoying the feeling of doing nothing.

A handful of (phrase) A small, undefined number or quantity

Bungee jumping (noun) a jump made by someone from a high bridge, building, etc, secured only by a rubber cord attached to the ankles

Soak up (verb) to absorb

21/ Describe a trip that you went on by public transportation

You should say:

- *When and where you went*
- *Why you took the trip*
- *What you did and saw on the trip*
- *And explain how you feel about the trip*

Frankly speaking, I'm not fan of public transport, so I haven't been on many journeys by bus. train or taxi up to now. However, out of those I have taken, the most pleasant experience was when I travelled on a package tour to X - only within a 50-kilometer drive front my house. It was a small tour and we travelled in a bus as the travel agency owns a public transport corporation.

Off the top off my head, the tour was quite reasonably priced, at \$100 for merely 2 days as it promised luxurious accommodation and tasty foods. So you see, I just went for it without second thought as it was exactly, what I would expect. The first part of the journey was good enough for me because it took us not much time to reach the destination. Besides, I did get chances to engage in any gossip with other passengers and the trip just went by with a lot of fun. Travelling by bus like this for long distance was an experience I hadn't had before, as the bus condition was good and the service was decent.

The moment we checked in a hotel near the beach, I was really glad that the quality of the room was up to standard. The bed was pretty comfortable and the air-conditioner worked extremely well. Regarding the swimming and the



seafood, the weather then was so sunny for sunbathing and I felt like jumping my feet into the seawater. To add it to the fun, because we travelled during off season, the seafood was very cheap. This is the bus tour that left me with most profound memories, I also take pride in protecting the environment as well.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

How to encourage more people to take public transportation?

Encouraging the public to make use of the public transit is quite a tough task as the facilities and infrastructures are not developed. So with a view to achieving that, there should be an increase in the number of public means of transport like buses, trains, and subways with better service quality so that the general population feels worth it to leave their motorbike or car at home and make daily commutes by public transport. In addition, government should run more awareness raising campaigns to educate people about the importance of conserving the environment via small actions such as taking public transport. Posters can be stuck on electrical poles on the streets, or banners should be hung outside buildings, for example.

Causes and contributing factors of traffic congestion:

Traffic congestion is caused by different factors; bad weather, poor signal timing, car accidents, inadequate roadway capacity, insufficient number of roads. Substandard road conditions, and increased number of cars; roads and transport services suffer when they are overused. Urban sprawl and unplanned urban growth contribute to the traffic congestion of large cities.

What measures should the government take to solve transportation problems in traveling?

The government can do a lot to solve traffic problems. For example, better educations of the citizens to follow traffic rules, more provision of public transportation facilities, such as buses and underground railways, as well as broadening the roads or building skyways, can all contribute to the alleviation of traffic problems.

Other suggestions to reduce traffic:



To apply automated traffic management systems, to improve public transport systems, to encourage people to use more public transport, to provide carpooling facilities, to establish car sharing schemes, to ease traffic jams through radio reports, to impose vehicle emission laws: a regulatory system planned to limit the number of cars on the roads could be introduced, to ban private cars from entering certain areas of the city, to increase the number of roads, to provide a safe network of walking and cycling routes.

What types public transport can be found in your country?

Obviously, there's quite a mixed variety of public transport in my country. When we travel on the roads, it's easy to find mass of buses, taxis, or even trains. If someone wants to have an outbound trip, plane is crucial. However, the most commonly-used would potentially be buses, since they are so cheap and reliable.

Why types of public transport do you use most?

As far as I'm concerned, I take buses more often than any other means of transport. That might be due to the fact that I am liable to carsickness buses aren't so stuffy. Moreover, bus wouldn't set me back because with only 200,000 dong for a monthly commutation ticket. I could commute to work every day without any anxiety.

Are there any public transport problems in your country?

With an increase of private cars in my country, during the rush hour there are always jam-packed kind people often go bananas due to this, the road quality, furthermore, is too run-down to meets the needs of the overwhelming vehicular traffics. This might leads to the increase in drastic crack-ups recently.

22/ Describe a useful website that you often visit.

You should say:

- *What the contents of this website are*
- *How you first found this website*
- *How often you go to visit this website*



- And explain how this website helps you.

When the first book out of seven in the Harry Potter series, the Sorcerer's Stone was published in the United States, I searched almost every bookstore in my country in vain. And just when I was downhearted, one of my friends recommended Amazon and I got this book sent to me.

After that, it became my favorite website. The website is a great marketplace to find anything, from books to clothes, movies and furniture. It stocks millions of products for the home, garden and office. And there is the amazing "sell your stuff" link. In the marketplace section, you can sell your unwanted things, such as books, computer games and DVD s and make a little of money back.

During my student days, I spent hours on Amazon buying all the reference books because the prices were cheaper. And now I also log onto it to buy new or second hand DVDs and CDs. After my acquaintance with Amazon, I stop throwing away things. I can always use the marketplace to offload these unwanted things onto someone else that needs them.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

When was the first time you used the Internet?

I think it's in middle school when I first used the Internet. I watched comic cartoons, read novels on the Internet, and later. I even began to write novels by myself in the online community.

Do you often buy things on the Internet?

Not really. I don't like shopping clothes online. I prefer to go the shopping mall and try the clothes on. and then decide to buy or not. If I cannot try it. I'll feel it may not fit me well. But sometimes I will buy some daily necessities on the Internet that don't have the problem of size or fitness.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of the Internet?

The Internet has changed our lifestyle. People can get information of what b happening in the world at an time and at an place through Internet we may-talk to the friends who are far away from us. But I also has some downsides The



Internet IS also a Source of violence and porn which fry III do harm to Innocent children.

How do you think about online shopping?

Since the introduction of online shopping in the mid 1990s. the online market has grown rapidly. The advantages of online shopping have greatly contributed to its monumental success. Online shopping offers many more options to consumers than the traditional bricks-and-mortar retailer does. Initially, the development of online stores came about in order to fulfill consumers' need for greater variety. Also, physical retail stores only order and keep a certain amount of any merchandise, so customers become frustrated when they travel to a retail store and are unable to find the particular items that they want. Online stores can offer not only a greater range of goods, but they can also eliminate the uncertainty of an item being in stock. Most "e-tailers" have a feature that can tell customers if the product they are looking for is available and, if not, how long it will take to arrive. By moving one's business to the Internet, an owner is not restricted to the confinements of a physical store.

23/ Describe a famous athlete you know /famous sports star / Describe a famous person

You should say:

- *Who he or she is*
- *How you know him or her*
- *What he or she has achieved*
- *Why he is famous*

I'm not a sports enthusiast, so picking up this topic card seems to be my doomsday as my mind went blank just thinking how I can give you a proper account of this. But after a bit of a thought, I have finally come up withal name of a sportsperson that seems to strike me as talented and charismatic- It's Roger Federer, a professional tennis player.



Speaking of outward appearance, he's quite a good-looking guy who gives out a lot of charisma. Although he's no spring chicken, his tennis skill is still superb. I just love how he serves the ball and returns the ball with agility and precision that no other player has ever achieved. I remember a time when I was up to ears with my studies having various assignments to complete, but I still managed to watch his matches since it would be a pity to miss seeing him play tennis.

One of his accomplishments I have to mention is that he has won 19 Grand Slam singles titles, the most in history for a male tennis player. Currently, I'm too preoccupied with work, so I haven't got the foggiest idea what more achievements he has had, but I wish that my idol's career would continue to flourish so that he can bring the best of himself through his marvelous matches.

QUESTION FOR PART 3

Do you think sports can help people improve their health?

I can't agree with you more. Sporting activities are a highly recommended way to keep fit and get into a better shape. Through sports like football or basketball, the body sweats profusely, which helps us lose weight and makes the blood circulate more properly! Besides, people can cultivate team spirit and enlarge their social circle! through participating in sports.

What are the benefits of playing sports?

Clearly, taking part in sports is greatly beneficial in several ways. The first merit is that we can keep our body in better shape and relieve our minds quite effectively. For example, when you join in a football match, you have to exercise your body. This builds up your muscles and by sweating profusely! you burn up some kilos and it helps your blood to circulate better. Apart from those health benefits, with your participation in sports, you can broaden your social circle by meeting people of different backgrounds, cultivating team spirit and cooperation skills.

Do children need to exercise?



Obviously, children in modern society need plenty of physical exercise. It is not surprising to see that with the fast-paced lifestyle the land increase study pressure. many students fail to manage time to take part in certain forms of sports to work out. Therefore, they end up suffering from various health problems like obesity or short-sightedness. It is my recommendation that teachers and parents should encourage them to join some sports to help them relax their minds and build up their bodies as health is the most important; asset of a person

Why do people need to play sports?

Needless to say, taking part in sports is greatly beneficial in several ways. The first merit is that we can keep our body in better shape and relieve our minds quite effectively. For example, when you join in a football match, you have to exercise your body. This builds up your muscles and by sweating profusely, you burn up some kilos and it helps your blood to circulate better. Apart from those health benefits, with your participation in sports, you can broaden your social circle by meeting people of different backgrounds, cultivating team spirit and cooperation skills.

24/ Describe a popular comic actor /actress you know

You should say:

- *Who he/she is*
- *How you knew him/her*
- *What comedies /films have he/she performed*
- *And explain why he's he is popular*

The celebrity I admire very much is Maggie, a well-known actress in my country, and enjoys worldwide reputation, especially after she obtained the Best Actress Award in Cannes Film Festival when playing the role of the protagonist in a movie "ABC" last year. In this film directed by her ex-husband, she acts a hippie named Amelia, who loves rock, takes drugs and dreams of becoming a rock star. After her husband is killed in an accident, she decides to have a completely

