

TRAVEL AND HOLIDAYS

Accommodation: a room or building in which you stay during holidays or live. While I'm traveling, my favorite types of accommodation are hotels.

All holidays: a time after you lost your job. He lost his job yesterday. Now it's all holiday for him.

All-inclusive: a hotel deal where the price includes accommodation, meals, and drinks at any time. I've never thought that hotels with all-inclusive service are so comfortable! You can grab a piece of cake at 6 a.m. or get a cocktail at midnight.

Half-board: if you request 'half-board' at a hotel, breakfast, and dinner would be included in the hotel price (as part of the package). John and Lily liked their tour with half-board service. They spent breakfasts and dinners in the hotel and bought lunches in the nearby cafes.

Full-board: if you request 'full-board' at a hotel that would include all three meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) in the price of your accommodation.

Self-catering: a holiday deal where meals are not provided. Mary thinks that self-catering is neither pleasant nor efficient.

To book (something): to arrange and confirm a place on a flight, a room in a hotel, or a ticket for an event in the future. If you book your plane tickets in advance, they will be much cheaper.

brehtaking view: an amazing view. I've seen many breathtaking views during my journey to Paris.

busman's holiday: when you spend your free time similarly to the time when you work. This expression comes from the idea that a bus driver would spend his holiday traveling somewhere on a bus. Unfortunately, many people spend a busman's holiday nowadays.

charter flight: a cheap regular flight. Due to our modest budget, we had to take a charter-flight.

check-in desk: the place at the airport where you register for your flight and deposit your luggage.

far-off destination: a distant place. Australia is a far-off destination, nonetheless, I want to visit it.

getting away from it all: escaping in order to rest from a daily routine. After I passed my exams, I wanted to get away from it all for at least a couple of days.

go off the beaten track: to visit an uncommon place. Unlike my brother, I prefer to go off the beaten track.

guided tour: a tour in which a group of people is guided by an expert. Guided tours are a great way to learn about different places of interest.

head for: go in a direction for. I'm heading to France for my next holidays.

holiday brochure: a publication with details of the holiday. Our guide gave us a great brochure about our hotel.

holiday destination: where you go for a holiday. We chose New York as our holiday destination for the next summer.

holiday of a lifetime: a very special holiday, once in a lifetime. Last year I and my family had a holiday of a lifetime in Italy.

holiday resort (tourist resort): a place where lots of people go for a holiday. Last year my family went

on a journey to London. We lived in a great tourist resort.

hordes of tourists: crowds of tourists. Hordes of tourists can be seen during summer near the city park.

in the middle of nowhere: in a place that is far away from where most people live. My grandmother lives in the middle of nowhere, but she loves her old little village.

local crafts: things made in the region. My sister bought some amazing local crafts on her trip to India.

out of season: not within the main holiday period. I decided to go on a journey with my friends out of season.

passport control: a place where you get your passport checked. I spent a few hours waiting in line on passport control.

package tour: a holiday at a fixed price in which the travel company arranges your travel, hotels, and sometimes meals for you. We bought a cheap package tour to Italy and stayed in a big hotel by the sea.

picturesque village: a nice, beautiful village. My grandparents live in a picturesque village.

places of interest: memorable and honorable places. My native city has a variety of places of interest.

short break: a little holiday. My father had a short break this year, I hope he'll be able to relax some more.

stunning landscape: the beautiful countryside. Stunning landscapes are only one of many reasons why I want to visit Africa.

to go sightseeing: to go visiting sights of interest. Today we went sightseeing with my friends.

to travel on foot / horse When I'm in a small town I prefer to travel on foot.

to travel by bus / plane / car / bicycle / motorcycle Although I usually travel by car, when I decided to visit Paris I had to travel by plane.

tourist attractions: places that tourists tend to visit. Despite not being a tourist attraction, new fountain is very popular among the locals.

tourist trap: place with many tourists. We've visited many tourists traps lately.

travel agency: a shop that specializes in booking holidays. I've bought tickets for my trip through a travel agency.

wildlife safari: an observational holiday, mainly in Africa. I'd love to go on a wildlife safari sometime.

youth hostel: a cheap hotel. During our trip we stayed in a hostel, because we didn't have enough money for a hotel

FRIENDS

close friend: a very good friend.

enjoy each other's company: to like spending time with each other. Steve and Noah are always together, they definitely enjoy each others company.

fair-weather friend: someone who is your friend only when you are cheerful and successful. A lot of John's friends turned out to be fair-weather friends. They were with him when he was rich and left him when he went bankrupt.

friends are like second family: that is to say your friends love you and make you feel comfortable.

get in touch with somebody: to contact somebody. I plan to get in touch with my friends when I return home.

near and dear to someone: very important to someone. Her parents are the only people who are near and dear to her.

shoulder to cry on: someone who is always ready to listen to your problems. I'm so glad my boyfriend is so kind and sympathetic, it's good to always have a shoulder to cry on.

to be through thick and thin: to have some good times and difficult times together. Your parents are married for 15 years, they must have been through thick and thin together.

to be well-matched: to be similar to somebody in interests. They are well-matched.

to break up: to end a relationship. It is hard to believe that Jacob and Sarah broke up. They were dating since high school.

to drift apart: to become less close to someone. As years went by, school friends drifted apart.

to fall for someone (to fall in love with someone): to start loving somebody. They were childhood friends, and he fell for her!

to fall out with: to quarrel, to have a conflict. He left the party after falling out with his girlfriend.

to get on like a house on fire: people get on like a house on fire when they like each other's company and become friends very quickly. I like my new roommate! We have a lot of same interests and get on like a house on fire.

to get on well with somebody: to have a good relationship with somebody. I'm an out going person and I easily get on well with new people.

to get to know someone: to become acquainted with someone. I thought Jenna was selfish until I got to know her and understood her real character.

to have a lot in common: to have similar interests.

to have friends in high places: to have friends in powerful positions in business or government. Joe owes his fast career growth to his friends in high places.

to hit it off with somebody: to quickly become close friends with somebody. I could not imagine that Laura will hit it off with Dylan! They are so different.

to keep in touch with someone: to maintain contact with someone. I keep in touch with my friends from high school, although we graduated five years ago.

to lose touch with someone: to lose contact with someone. I lost touch with Mary since she moved to Canada.

to see eye to eye: to agree. I think it's better to live in a big city, but my brother doesn't see eye to eye with me about it.

to strike up (a conversation, a relationship): to start. I feel awkward when I strike up a conversation with unknown people.

ups and downs: a mixture of good and bad things that happen. We're friends for almost 30 years! Surely we've had our ups and downs.

TECHNOLOGY

computer age: the period in modern history characterized by rapid technology development and widespread computer use. Living in a computer age has many benefits.

computer buff: a user who is good at working with a computer. Mike is a computer buff. He got an A+ on his programming exam.

computer fatigue: a syndrome of tiredness resulting from long computer usage. About 60% of IT specialists are affected by computer fatigue.

cutting-edge: something innovational and leading. Cutting-edge technology.

desktop PC: a personal computer that remains on a desk. I have an old desktop PC that I use for surfing the net when I'm home.

digital editing: a process of changing digital materials like audio or video files. Being good at digital editing is essential in our time.

download (podcasts): to save a copy of a file from the internet to your own device. Yesterday I downloaded a few films that I plan to watch during the weekends.

essential: something you can't imagine your life without. Internet is an essential piece of technology for many people.

gadget: an advanced piece of technology, like smartphone. Nowadays almost everybody owns a gadget.

geek: someone who is obsessed with technology, especially computers. My friend is a real geek. He owns a bunch of computers and other gadgets.

hold the line: wait a minute. She told me to hold the line, because she had to open the door.

large screen: a big-sized monitor. A few days ago I decided to renew my computer, so I bought a large screen for it.

light years ahead: very far away from. Modern computers are light years ahead of those which people used in 90s.

on the cutting edge: at the forefront of progress. Paul's new laptop is on the cutting edge of technology.

operating system: the most important program that runs the computer. I chose to buy a laptop

which is based on the Windows operating system.

out of steam: tired, exhausted. Due to today's intense workday I am out of steam, so I won't be able to work tomorrow.

rocket science: a very complicated subject for someone. Biology is a rocket science form. I don't understand anything in it.

send an attachment: send an email with an added file. My brother sent an attachment with his homework to the professor.

silver surfer: an old person, who uses the Internet. Uncle Bob is a silver surfer. He uses the Internet every day, although he's almost 70.

social media: media used to interact with other people. Facebook is the biggest social media in the world.

time-consuming and inefficient: something that takes too much of your time and isn't rational to do. I find watching football time-consuming and inefficient.

to access websites/email: to visit websites/email. John accessed his email today to see if he had received any letters.

to back up files: to make a copy of files in case of a computer problem. I had to back up files on my computer, because I was going to reinstall my operating system.

to be stuck behind a computer: to use computer for a long period of time. A lot of teenagers are stuck behind their computers all day.

to boot up: to start a computer. I booted up my computer as soon as I got home.

to browse websites: to search for websites. I spent a few hours browsing the websites today, until I found what I was looking for.

to crash: to suddenly stop working. My computer crashed when I was writing my essay.

to go online: to use the Internet. Millions of people go online every day.

to navigate a website: to find what you need on the website. Navigating a website is not very easy, especially if the website is poorly designed.

to pull the plug: to end an activity. After being stuck behind a computer all day, I decided to pull the plug.

to push someone's buttons: to do a specific thing to irritate somebody (usually intentionally). I became so angry because he pushed my buttons by adding pepper to my ice cream!

to surf the web: to look through websites, searching for something you need, or simply for entertainment. I was surfing the web yesterday for three hours, because I had nothing else to do.

to upgrade: to renew a software or a piece hardware. Thanks to the new program for students, I updated my computer for free.

well-oiled machine: something that works perfectly well. My computer, despite being 7 years old, is still a well-oiled machine.

widespread computer use: that is to say people use computers very often.

Wi-Fi hotspots: a public place where you can access the Internet. Our university has a Wi-Fi hotspot. It is very convenient.

wireless network: a network where users can access the Internet without using any cables. We have installed a wireless network at home.

word processing: writing, editing and producing words on a computer, using special programs. There are tons of word processing programs.

to be computer-literate: able to use computers well In today's competitive job market, it is essential to be computer literate.

to computerize something: to provide a computer or computers to do the work The factory has been fully computerized, enabling it to produce more efficiently.

advances in technology: the improvement or development in technology: Recent advances in medical technology are making a great contribution to the search for a cure for Aids.

to download podcasts: to save a copy of a file from the internet to your own device Computer technology is extremely useful for learning a new language. I often download podcasts to improve my listening skills.

video conferencing: to see and discuss with people in different locations using the Internet. In the worlds of business and education, video conferencing has enabled people to exchange ideas without travelling across the world.

the college intranet: a network of computers within a college that can only be accessed by the staff and students to set and mark work, enter into contact etc. Distance learning in education has been made possible by innovations such as the college intranet system.

silver surfer: an old person who spends a lot of time using the Internet. Although young people are often more computer-literate than the older generation, nevertheless there are many silver surfers who use the internet all the time.

a technological breakthrough: an important new discovery in technology. The development of the micro-chip was a technological breakthrough which transformed the way in which people communicate.

discourage real interaction: to result in less face-to-face communication with other people the availability of new communication technologies may also have the result of isolating people and discouraging real interaction.

leading-edge technology: the most advanced position in technology Manufacturers of electronic devices always advertise their products as having the latest leading-edge/cutting-edge technology.

to become obsolete: to be no longer used because something new has been invented Technological innovation is now so rapid, that even the latest electronic devices soon become obsolete.

the digital revolution: the advancement of technology to the digital technology available today The digital revolution has fundamentally changed the way that people work, communicate, behave and even think.

labour-saving appliances: machines that reduce the amount of work or effort needed to do something. The technological revolution in the home started with the introduction of labour-saving appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers.

to apply something to something: to use something or make something work in a particular situation. The new technology applied to farming has led to a huge reduction in the agricultural workforce.

to gain access to the internet/to access the internet: to have the opportunity to use the internet. Millions of people are able to access the internet in cafes, libraries or other public places.

wireless technology: using radio waves to transmit information, rather than wires. Wireless technology has enabled places such as hotels, airports and coffee shops to offer wi-fi connection to customers wishing to access the internet.

e-commerce: buying and selling products or services using the internet. Businesses which rely on e-commerce make huge savings on offices, retail outlets and rents paid to landlords who own high-street properties.

online shopping: shopping while connected to the internet. For people who are physically disabled, or even for people who are simply very busy, online shopping is convenient and may also be cheaper.

to go viral: to become very popular on the internet. One reason why people sometimes talk about 'the global village' is that an image or news on the internet sometimes goes viral and is seen by millions of people worldwide.

computer hackers: people who find a way of looking at or changing information secretly on somebody's computer system. One disadvantage of computers is that computer hackers may be able to discover your personal details, such as bank account information.

online scams: clever and dishonest plans using the internet in order to make money. Many internet users have been victims of online scams, paying money for goods or services that do not exist or are worthless.

to microwave something: to cook or heat food very quickly in a microwave oven. The food industry was quick to adapt to the demands of customers who wanted to microwave ready meals after coming home from work.

a smart card: a small plastic card used to make payments and to store information, which can be read when connected to a computer system. People rarely need to visit a bank these days, and it is easy and convenient to make purchases using your smart card.

supermarket checkouts: the place where you go to pay for the things that you have bought. Personal service in shops has been replaced by the impersonal experience of superstore shopping and queues at supermarket checkouts.

driverless vehicles: cars, buses and other vehicles that have the technology to drive themselves, without a person in control. The first driverless vehicles have already been invented and will soon be seen on the roads.

text-messaging: the act of sending written messages using a mobile/cell phone The ability to write using accurate grammar is declining, partly as a result of text-messaging instead of writing letters.

robotics technology: the design, construction and operation of robots There are examples of robotics technology everywhere, from space programs to manufacturing.

to be in its infancy: to be in the early development of something It is clear that robotics technology is still in its infancy, and it is impossible to imagine the possible future developments.

to be superseded by: to be replaced by something which is better The latest technological innovations are usually soon superseded by new and more advanced devices.

to become over-reliant on: to need something so that your survival or success depends too much on it .Businesses have become over-reliant on complicated computer systems, so that if these systems fail the results will be disastrous.

SPORT

active rest: a leisure time during which you exercise. Active rest between lessons helps children to study more effectively.

athletics track (running track): a track for running, usually used for athletic races. The 9-lane running track is equipped to cope with competitions of all levels.

barbell: a weight-lifting gear.

blow the competition away: win easily the competition. After training for seven years, he blew the baseball competition away.

brisk walk (brisk walking): a sport in which people walk fast, but not as fast as a full run. Brisk walking is a great exercise for those, who want to lose weight.

to build muscle: to gain muscle mass. John was very skinny five years ago, but now he has built muscle and looks really strong.

fitness program: a timetable of activities to keep you in a good shape.

football fan: someone who adores football.

football pitch: the surface on which you play football.

football season: a period when football is played.

jogging: a form of running at a slow pace.

keep-fit exercises: exercises that help you to keep your body in a good shape.

personal best: an achievement in sport that is better than anything you have achieved before. Today I've ran 100m in 12 seconds! That is my personal best.

personal trainer (sports coach): a person that helps you to train on a one-to-one basis. It's much easier to train with a sports coach than alone.

sports centre (fitness centre): a specific building where people can do different sports. I practice fencing at a local sports centre.

sports facilities: the equipment and services needed to do a sport. I chose this gym because it offers a

wide range of sports facilities.

sports meeting (athletics meeting): an event at which a number of athletic contests are held. The next athletics meeting will be held in November and will include javelin, pole vault, hurdles and steeplechase.

squash/tennis/badminton court: the surface where you play these sports.

strength-training strategy: set of exercises to build muscles. My dad advised me a wonderful strength-training strategy.

strenuous exercise: exercise that needs a lot of physical effort. It is recommended to drink a lot of water after strenuous exercises.

strong swimmer: an experienced swimmer.

swimming pool: a place filled with water made specifically for swimming.

that's the way the ball bounces: used to say that things don't always go as planned, but there is nothing we can do about it. Dave didn't win the game as he expected, but he never minds - that's the way the ball bounces.

to be keen to do sth (to be keen on doing sth): to be very interested in doing something. I'm keen on cycling.

to be out of condition (to be out of shape): to be in bad physical condition, to lose strength. Lily hasn't been training for years, she is out of condition now.

to be saved by the bell: to be saved from losing by a timely interruption. Evan would lose this round, if he wasn't saved by the bell.

to build muscle: to gain muscle by working out.

to get into shape: to become fit. Paul started training in gym because he wanted to get into shape.

to keep fit: to stay in a good shape. I practice dancing to keep fit.

to run the marathon: to run a distance of 42.195 kilometres.

to set a record: to achieve the best result in a sport. A new record in pole vault was set two years ago.

to take up doing sth: to start doing something new (usually sport). I took up dancing last week.

to train hard: to train with effort and passion.

to warm up: to perform light exercises to prepare for a hard workout. A good warm-up readies your body for a hard training.

to work out: to exercise in gym.

treadmill: an exercise machine in the gym used for walking or running, while staying in the same place. Good treadmills provide an indoor workout experience as natural as the outdoors.

FOOD

dine in: dine at home. We're dining in tonight.

dine out: dine at a restaurant. We're dining out tonight.

fussy eater: someone who is very picky about the food and doesn't eat everything. My husband is a fussy eater, and he's never pleased with my cooking.

home-cooked food: food cooked at home, usually implies that food is healthy. Preparing home-cooked food is a good way to make a balanced meal.

in a walking distance of: close to. I usually dine at a restaurant that's in the walking distance of my home.

Italian cuisine: traditional Italian food. You can also say French cuisine, Russian cuisine, Chinese cuisine and so on. I adore pasta, pizza and Italian cuisine in general.

more of a chore than a pleasure: something you do rather unwillingly. I think that cooking is more of a chore than a pleasure.

mouth-watering: delicious, appetizing.

my mouth is watering: that is to say you find something very appetizing. People use this expression when they see/smell food that looks very delicious. My mouth is watering everytime I think about my grandmother's apple pie.

nutritious products: products rich in calories. A nutritious breakfast is a great way to start the day, as it gives your body the nutrients and you get enough energy.

processed food: food that has been modified in an undesirable or unhealthy way to achieve its current state. Try to avoid processed foods like flavored nuts and cereal bars. It is much healthier to eat organic food.

quality justifies the bill: when a product is worth buying due to its good quality, even if it's expensive. I first thought those strawberries were too expensive, but when I tasted them I understood that their quality justified the bill.

quick snack: a light and quick meal, usually unhealthy. Eating quick snack instead of main meal can be harmful for stomach.

ready meal: a meal that you buy already cooked, which only requires reheating to be eaten. I had no desire to cook, so I bought a ready meal in a nearby supermarket.

restrain one's hunger: avoid eating when you really want to. Usually practiced during diets. John couldn't restrain his hunger anymore and went to the nearest fast-food restaurant.

slap-up meal: a quick and fatty meal. To slap up means to cook something very quickly. I feel like making a slap-up meal tonight.

starving hungry: to be extremely hungry. I woke up starving and hungry yesterday and ate the whole roast chicken.

take-away: a meal prepared in a café/restaurant and eaten at home. I'm going to ring the Japanese restaurant and order a takeaway.

the main meal: the most important meal of the day.

to be dying of hunger: an exaggerated way of saying you are really hungry. I haven't eaten all day. I'm dying of hunger!

to be full-up: to eat to the point that you can't eat anymore.- Would you like more chips? - No, thank you, I'm already full-up!

to be ravenous (to have ravenous appetite): to be really hungry, starving, voracious. After working all day, I had a ravenous appetite.

to be starving hungry: an exaggerated way of saying you are very hungry.

to bolt something down: to eat a large amount of food very quickly. Don't bolt your food

to catch a snack: to eat a little portion of food very quickly.

to eat a balanced diet: to eat correctly and in time.

to eat like a horse: to always eat a lot. She's so thin, yet she eats like a horse.

to follow a recipe: to cook a meal using instructions. Although she had never cooked a juggled hare before, she followed a recipe and made a fantastic meal.

to foot the bill: to pay the bill. You paid for dinner last time. Let me foot the bill for lunch today.

to grab a bite to eat: to eat something quickly. I won't eat the whole cake, just let me grab a bite to eat.

to have a sweet tooth: to enjoy eating sweet food. Dave eats candy all the time. He must have a sweet tooth.

to overeat oneself: eat too much, eat immodestly. If you overeat, you're bound to get fat.

to play with your food: to push food around the plate without eating it.

to spoil your appetite: to do something that would hinder your desire to eat. Stop talking about the snails, you're spoiling my appetite!

to tuck into: to eat something greedily and with pleasure. After not eating the whole day, he tuckered into the ham like a savage.

to wine and dine: to banquet, to "entertain with good food". If you wine and dine someone, you usually take him out to dinner at a fancy restaurant. The company wine and dined us, hoping to convince us we should accept the job.

to work up an appetite: to do something that will lead to hunger. He must have worked up an appetite in the gym.

Education

humanities: studies about human culture, such as literature, languages, philosophy, and history.

Chloe excels in humanities subjects. She's adept at arts and languages.

sciences: studies about the world, such as physics, biology, chemistry, and maths. Mark doesn't like scientific subjects, he's just too lazy to learn formulas.

A for effort: a good mark, which is given someone for trying hard rather than for a success. Although I'm not the smartest in my group, I often get an A for effort, because I try hard.

bachelor's degree: an undergraduate course which usually lasts 3 or 4 years. I will receive my bachelor's degree in two years.

bookworm: a term to describe someone who really likes to read and spends a lot of time on it. I'm a real bookworm. I won't stop until the book is read.

distance learning (e-learning): education that takes place remotely, usually via the Internet. Distance learning is more flexible than traditional education, because students don't have to attend classes and can schedule their timetables as they want.

eager beaver: an enthusiastic and hard-working person. My friend is an eager beaver. He studies everything with pleasure and gets great marks.

face-to-face classes: a traditional way of studying - in a classroom with a teacher. When I was a kid, face-to-face classes had no alternatives, but nowadays a myriad of educational establishments offer online courses and individual tuition.

higher education: education that is followed after high school. I plan on getting higher education after finishing school.

hit the books: begin studying hard. I'm on my third year in the university, it is time to finally hit the books.

individual tuition (private tuition): instruction received individually or in a small group. Individual tuition is sometimes more effective than group work.

intensive course: a course that offers longer and more frequent classes. A few years ago I took an intensive French course in the university.

internship: a temporary position which students usually take to get work experience and practical knowledge. Before I went into design industry, I took an internship in a company.

master's degree: a graduate course, which follows after bachelor's degree. Master's degree is often important to find a job with a higher salary.

mature student: someone who's older than others. Nowadays it's not uncommon to face a mature student in the class. People often change professions and get a second or third degree in their mid-thirties.

not the sharpest tool in the shed: a polite way of saying that someone isn't very smart. Maybe John isn't the sharpest tool in the shed, but he's a good friend nonetheless.

public schools: exclusive independent schools in the UK. My friend finished a public school a few years

ago.

schoolboy error: a very basic and stupid mistake. Sam made a schoolboy error on his English test.

single-sex schools: schools for either boys or girls. My brother studied in a single-sex school.

small fraction: small part. A small fraction of students managed to pass this exam.

state school: a school which is paid for by the state or country. It is hard to find a good state school nowadays.

subject specialist: a person who is very talented in one specific field. My math teacher was a real subject specialist. Thanks to him math is my favourite subject now.

teacher's pet: student whom teachers like the most. Hugo is a teacher's pet, he attends all classes and manages to get good marks with poor knowledge.

three R's: basic educational skills (reading, writing, arithmetic). Pupils in a primary school study the three R's.

to attend classes: to visit classes. In my college, students need to attend classes five times a week.

to fall behind with studies: to progress less quickly than others. Mary was ill for two weeks, so she fell behind with her studies.

to give feedback: to give some information or criticism on a subject. I launched a project a couple of days ago and I want my friends to give me some feedback.

to goof around: spend time doing nothing important. Sometimes I like to goof around, although my parents scold me for that.

to learn something by heart: to memorize something. Last year I had to learn a very big poem by heart for my literature class.

to meet a deadline: to finish something within a time limit. Unfortunately, we weren't able to meet the deadline for our project.

to pass with flying colours: to pass easily and with excellent result. I'm studying hard and I will pass IELTS with flying colours.

to play truant: to skip classes without permission. During my school years I often played truant with my friends.

to pursue studying: to continue studying. Lora would like to pursue studying in the future to become a professor.

to set aside some time: to take some time. I need to set aside some time to collect my thoughts.

to sit an exam: to take an exam. Tomorrow I'll have to sit a two-hour math exam.

to take a year out: to spend one year working or traveling before studying in the University. My friend took a year out and went traveling to the UK.

tuition fees: money you pay for your education. I had to pay tuition fees this summer.

to cover a lot of ground: to deal with much information and many facts. The history lecture covered a lot of ground today.

to tailor teaching styles/ strategies: to make or prepare teaching styles following particular

instructions. When faced with classes of students with different levels of ability, teachers should tailor their teaching strategies to deal with this challenge.

a high-flyer: someone who has the desire and ability to be very successful in their studies
The problem with our teacher is that she explains things too quickly for most of the students and she pays most attention only to the academic high-flyers in the class.

transmission of knowledge: the process of passing knowledge from one person to another
I believe that the transmission of knowledge is more effective in face-to-face interaction with teachers rather than online learning.

interactive learning: Refers to a method of teaching and learning in which teachers ask questions in class, assign and check homework, or hold class or group discussions. With or without the aid of technology, interactive learning helps students strengthen problem solving and critical thinking skills.

to bombard someone with something: to continually send someone something, esp. to inform or influence them. Every day it seems as if we are bombarded with e-mail messages warning of computer viruses.

to have a good grasp of something: to understand a problem deeply and completely
Children who begin to learn a foreign language in primary school are usually able to have a good grasp of the new language quickly

to make the grade: To successfully reach the necessary standard
Nobody can succeed in their studies if they rely on luck rather than hard work to make the grade.

continuous assessment: giving students marks for course work or projects, rather than formal exams
Many students prefer continuous assessment because they consider that exams are unfair and too stressful.

to be out of one's depth: to be unable to understand something because it is too difficult
Streaming in schools enables pupils to study at the level which is appropriate for them, and therefore students rarely find themselves out of their depth.

a formal examination: a test conducted under strict, regulated conditions
Entrance to university usually involves achieving required grades in a formal examination, such as IELTS

to work your way through university: to have a job when you are at college/university in order to help to pay for your studies
He had to work his way through university because his family was so poor that they could not afford his tuition fees.

to take a year out: It is when you have finished your school and you've got a place at the University but you'd rather spend a year at "the school of life", either working, doing some community work, doing something adventurous. Taking a year out before starting your degree course can give you a chance to further develop your skills, as well as giving you the opportunity perhaps to travel and work in a different country.

to sift information: to remove unwanted or less useful information
I had to sift hundreds of pages of information to discover the data that I needed to support my theory.

to work/study under supervision: work/ study under the direction of a responsible person At college, I discovered I did not have to work under supervision all the time, and I was free to do independent research.

Top-tier institutions: leading or prestigious educational institutions The government has pumped huge amounts of money into a select group of top-tier institutions in recent years.

to deliver a lecture: to give a lecture It is just as easy to deliver a lecture online as it is to give a lecture in front of a class of students in a lecture theatre.

streaming in schools: the policy of dividing pupils into groups of the same level of ability One disadvantage of streaming in schools is that children in the lower groups have less motivation to study because they think of themselves as failures

Weather

boiling hot: an expression to describe a very hot weather. The last summer was boiling hot, the average temperature reached 40 degrees!

mild: warm and pleasant. The weather in my country is mild in spring.

chilly: cold. It's chilly today, so I think you should wear a coat.

freezing cold: very cold. I wanted to go ice skating on the New Year day, but it was freezing cold and I decided to stay home.

degrees Celsius: used to measure the temperature. In the autumn, the average temperature here is 15 degrees Celsius

to go below zero: to become negative (about temperatures). The temperature often goes below zero in the winter.

gloomy: weather with dark clouds and dull light. Personally, I don't like gloomy weather. It makes me feel depressed.

clear: without clouds. I adore clear weather, when there are no clouds on the sky.

to clear up: when clouds and rain disappear. After a long rain, it finally cleared up.

to be drenched (to the skin): to be completely soaked with water. I forgot to take an umbrella and was drenched in the rain.

gentle rain: light rain.

drizzle: a light rain that falls in very small drops. It often drizzles in the morning.

downpour: a heavy fall of rain. What a downpour! We are drenched to the skin.

to pour down: to rain heavily. I like rainy weather. When it pours down, we sit at home with my family, talk and drink hot tea.

humid: containing a high amount of water. In my country the climate is generally cold and humid, especially in the north.

snow-covered: covered with snow. In the winter my family and I go skiing to the snow-covered

hills of Switzerland.

heavy snow: when a lot of snow falls. Children went to school in spite of the heavy snow.

frosty: cold. Continental climate implies hot summers and frosty winters.

snowstorm: large amounts of wind and snow. I don't like winters because of frequent snowstorms.

hail: when small balls of ice (hailstones) fall from the sky. After the hail, we found hailstones that were the size of golf balls!

high wind :strong wind. In the autumn strong winds are quite frequent.

breeze: a nice gentle wind. I don't usually like windy weather, but a light breeze from the ocean makes me happy.

wind chill factor: when the wind makes the air feel colder than the real temperature. In myhometown it's very windy in the winter. And though the temperature rarely goes below zero, with wind chill factor it feels like minus 10!

sunshine: the heat and light of the sun. I love summertime because of the long days and bright sunshine.

dry: with no rain. Summers in Turkey are often hot and dry.

heat stroke (sun stroke): a serious heat illness because of being too long in hot weather. It'soften boiling hot in my city in the summer and a lot of people suffer from heat stroke.

a spell of good weather: a period of good weather. You can use other adjectives instead of "good" to describe weather. After a three-day spell of rainy weather, there was a spell of sunny weather.

changeable weather: weather that often changes. In my country the weather is very changeable, periods of hot weather can be followed by heavy rains or even snowstorms!

mild climate: a climate without extreme weather conditions.

smog: a cloud of pollution. My town is so polluted that I don't see stars at night because ofthick smog!

forecast: a prediction of how the weather will change. Although the forecasts predicted a mild winter, the January was freezing cold.

Environment

air quality: the cleanliness of the air we breathe. Due to the opening of a new factory nearby, the air quality here went down.

bio-diversity: a diversity in nature, among plants and animals. Nowadays, we suffer the loss of bio-diversity.

endangered species: a category of animals or plants that might become extinct. White rhinos are endangered species. There are only 5 white rhinos left in the world.

environmentally friendly: products that do not harm the environment. I try to use only environmentally friendly goods in order to preserve the nature.

exhaust fumes: gases, ejected from an engine as waste products. I bought an electric car to avoid producing exhaust fumes when I drive.

fossil fuels: energy resources like gas and oil. Gas is one of the most well-known fossil fuels.

global warming: an increase in temperature all-over the world, as a result of greenhouse effect. Global warming is a very serious problem that our society is dealing with.

greenhouse effect: heating of the atmosphere due to the carbon dioxide and other gases. Greenhouse effect causes global warming.

melting of glaciers: the process of icebergs' melting. Melting of glaciers increases the sea-level.

natural disaster: an event like an earthquake, hurricane etc. I experienced a natural disaster in the form of an earthquake last year.

paper recycling: the processes of reprocessing waste paper for reuse. It was found that paper recycling causes 35% less water pollution and 74% less air pollution than making virgin paper.

poacher: one who kills or takes wild animals illegally. Poaching is considered a violation of hunting rules and impedes wildlife conservation.

to discharge chemical waste: to dispose of waste products from chemical processes. Nowadays, more and more company and industrial zones have been discharging chemical waste into rivers, causing death to many fish and other aquatic animals.

environmental degradation: the process or fact of the environment becoming worse. Africa is a continent in which environmental degradation is evident in the spread of deserts and the extinction of animal species.

to take action on global warming: to do what has to be done on problems related to global warming. There have been numerous international conferences to warn of the dangers, but many governments have refused to take action on global warming.

to be bio-degradable : a substance or chemical that can be changed to a natural harmless state by the action of bacteria. Most plastics are not biodegradable, and remain as waste products in the environment for thousands of years.

to deplete natural resources: To reduce the amount of natural resources. Timber companies must not be allowed to deplete natural resources by cutting down trees without planting new trees to replace

them.

ozone layer depletion: refers to a steady decline in the total amount of ozone in the Earth's atmosphere. Ozone layer depletion has the effect of allowing harmful radiation from the sun to penetrate the atmosphere and this increases the risk to humans of skin cancer.

an ecological crisis: a serious situation that occurs when the environment of a species or a population changes in a way that destabilizes its continued survival. Environmental degradation caused by human activity is provoking an ecological crisis which threatens our existence.

carbon footprint: a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide that is produced by the daily activities of a company or person. By providing subsidies, governments should encourage companies to reduce their carbon footprint through energy efficiency or other 'green measures'.

to cut down on emissions: to reduce the amount of gases sent out into the air. People must be made aware of the need to cut down on emissions from their cars if we are to reduce air pollution.

to fight climate change: To try to prevent changes in climate patterns, such as rainfall, temperature and winds. Unless we consume less of the Earth's natural resources, it will be impossible to fight climate change and safeguard our future.

to reduce the dependence/reliance on fossil fuels: to decrease people's consumption of fossil fuels, like oil, coal or gas. Governments must invest heavily in solar and wind energy projects in order to reduce our dependence/reliance on fossil fuels.

to alleviate environmental problems: to make bad environmental problems less severe. Everyone can assist in the effort to alleviate environmental problems in the local community through simple actions such as recycling waste or planting a tree in their garden.

to throw one's weight behind sth: To use one's influence to help support. The council is to throw its weight behind a campaign to save one of the borough's best-loved beauty spots.

to hold sbdy accountable for + noun/gerund: to consider someone responsible for something; to blame something on someone. Companies which discharge chemical waste from their factories into the sea or into rivers must be held accountable for their actions and be fined heavily.

to achieve sustainable development: economic development that is achieved without depleting natural resources. Organic methods must be introduced everywhere in order to achieve sustainable development in agriculture.

alternative energy sources: refers to any energy source that is an alternative to fossil fuel. Clean energy which does not pollute the Earth can only come from greater reliance on alternative energy sources.

food miles: Distance food has to travel between where it is grown or made and where it is consumed. We can all reduce our carbon footprint by flying less, and reduce our food miles by buying local products.

captive breeding: the reproduction of animals in confinement, not in their natural habitats. A successful captive breeding program in zoos has resulted in an increase in the world's panda

population.

to stem from: to be caused by .Scientists say that global warming partly stems from the increase in car exhaustemissions.

environmental impact assessment: a study into how a development, like a new road, anew dam or other construction activity will affect the plants, animals and local communities living in an area. The government must commission an independent environmental impact assessment whenever a new development is proposed.

global warming: the process by which the Earth is getting hotter, as a result of thegreenhouse effect – in particular the increase in carbon dioxide in the air. Perhaps the major environmental challenge which faces humanity today is globalwarming, because it threatens our survival.

habitat destruction: the process that occurs when a natural habitat, like a forest or wetland, is changed so dramatically by humans that plants and animals which live there. The elephant population in the world is declining because of habitat destruction causedby human exploitation of the environment.

endangered species: plants or animals that only exist in very small numbers, so that in future they may disappear forever. One example of an endangered species is the lowlandgorilla, which has almost disappeared as a result of the destruction of its forest habitat.

on the brink of extinction: an animal or plant which has almost disappeared from the planet Before the captive breeding program in zoos, the giant panda was on the brink ofextinction.

renewable energy: energy is renewable when it source, like the sun or wind, cannot beexhausted or can easily be replaced (like wood, as we can plant trees for energy) More funding is required from government funds to help companies to develop renewable energy, such as companies which produce solar panels for buildings.

wind farms: an area of land on which there are a lot of windmills or wind turbines for producing electricity .Wind farms should be constructed in mountainous areas or in thesea, close to land.

environmentally friendly: behavior or products that do not harm the environment We can help to protect the environment by using detergents and cosmetics that areenvironmentally friendly.

toxic waste: poisonous, unwanted waste produced by factories Many species of fish are endangered as a result of the toxic waste dumped by industriesinto the rivers and the sea.

the green movement: all the organisations concerned with the protection of theenvironment Individuals should join one of the organisations which form part of the green movement,in order to campaign for changes in official policy on the environment.

to become extinct: to stop existing. Dinosaurs became extinct may centuries ago.

to be under threat: to be in danger of becoming extinct. White Rhinos are under the threatof becoming extinct.

to dry up: to have all the water drained away. The small river in my hometown dried up thissummer due to the enormous heat.

to get back to nature: live a life that is closer to nature. My friend decided to leave his boring job and move to the countryside to get back to nature.

to litter: to throw rubbish in inappropriate places. I always try to find a garbage bin to throw my trash in. I don't like to litter.

Music

music genre: a distinct type of music. Famous music genres include:

classical music: music that is thought to be a part of a long, formal tradition. My dad is fond of classical music. He listens to Mozart and Beethoven every day.

pop music: a genre of popular music. One of the most famous pop-singers in the history are Michael Jackson and Madonna.

rock music: music that is based around amplified instruments, especially the electric guitar and electric bass, and is characterized by driving rhythms. My favourite music genre is rock. I adore such rock bands as Red Hot Chili Peppers and The Beatles.

catchy tune: a tune or a song that's easy to remember and that you enjoy singing. I heard a catchy song the other day and now it's stuck in my head.

elevator music: music that is played in places like supermarket or family restaurant. Almost always is very repetitive and annoying. Yesterday I heard a very annoying elevator music in the local supermarket.

live music: music performance in front of an audience. I prefer listening to a live music than to a recording. It's much more emotional and energetic.

music to one's ears: something (often information) very pleasant and enjoyable to someone. When my teacher told me that I got the highest mark in the class for the assignment, it was like music to my ears.

opera: a kind of performance in which actors sing during their play with music performed by an orchestra. I often listen to classical music and go to opera.

ringtone: sound that a cell phone makes when someone is calling. I set my favourite song as a ringtone on my cell phone.

rock band: musicians that play rock music. Last week I was on my favourite rock band's concert.

tone deaf: not able to discern the notes properly. Although I'm tone deaf, I'd like to learn to sing properly in the future.

tuneful: pleasant and melodious music or sound. I heard a tuneful choir of birds yesterday morning.

to face the music: to have to accept the unpleasant consequences of your actions. If you commit a crime, eventually, you'll have to face the music.

to ring a bell: to sound familiar. I think I heard this song somewhere. It definitely rings a bell.

to sound like a broken record: to repeat yourself again and again. Little children often sound like a broken record and it annoys most people.

to strike (hit) a false note: to do something wrong. I realised that I hit a false note on the exam when I received a 0 mark afterwards.

Books and Films

action-packed: full of action. My brother loves action-packed movies. Probably that's why his favourite film is "Terminator".

addictive: a book or film that you quickly become addicted to. "Harry Potter" series by Joanne Rowling are so addictive! I couldn't stop after the first book and read all volumes.

creepy: producing a sensation of uneasiness or fear, scary. Noah finds Stephen King's stories creepy.

dreary: gloomy or depressing. I can't stand dramas, thrillers and other dreary movies.

entertaining: funny and enjoyable. Comedies are very entertaining.

futuristic: telling about the future. "Star Wars" movie is futuristic and dynamic.

heartbreaking: that breaks your heart and evokes sad emotions. When my aunt watched "Titanic" she cried all day! It's such a heartbreaking film.

inspirational: evoking inspiration.

intense: a book or film loaded with actions and emotions that evokes strong feelings. The play's plot was very intense. Just a minute after a couple had a quarrel in the forest, the secret lover appeared and started a fire-fight.

tear-jerking: tragic, making you cry. My sister is very emotional. I would rather watch a comedy with her than a tear-jerking movie!

thought-provoking: a book or film that makes you think of new ideas or that changes your attitude to something. Ray Bradbury's novel "Fahrenheit 451" is deeply thought-provoking. I had to rethink my attitude to legislation and censorship after I read it.

action movie: film with fast moving scenes, often containing violence. Last week I saw a great action movie with my brother at our local movie theatre.

bedtime reading: a book you read in your bed before going to sleep. I'm really addicted to books! I can't even fall asleep without an hour of bedtime reading.

box office hit: a very successful movie, in terms of money. The new movie might be a box office hit, but I didn't like it at all.

e-reader: a gadget for reading books. My e-reader broke a few days ago, so now I'll need to fix it or buy a new one.

from cover to cover: from the first page to the last. I am a slow reader so it takes me a lot of time to read a book from cover to cover.

hardcover: a book with hard cover. Opposite to softcover. My friend gave me a hardcover book as a present for my birthday.

page turner: a book which is so good that you cannot stop reading it. My sister recommended me a

great book. It was such a page turner that I read it in one day!

plot: a storyline of a book or film.

intricate plot: a very complex, labyrinthine plot. The famous Leo Tolstoy's novel "War and Peace" has a very intricate plot. It tells a story of five different families and comprises of 4 volumes.

subordinate plot (subplot): a plot that is related to, but less important than the main plot of a story. Ernest Hemingway's novel "The Sun Also Rises" tells a love story of a man and a woman. However, the book involves many subordinate plots that raise questions about physical and spiritual affinity, trans-racial relationships and anti-Semitism.

threadbare plot: a simple, primitive plot. The movie's plot was threadbare, but cutely disarming in its own way. unravelling of the plot: the way in which a story develops over time. I first thought Jack London's novel "Martin Eden" to be pretty straightforward. However, the plot unraveled in a very unpredicted way.

don't judge a book by its cover: a metaphorical phrase which means "you shouldn't judge someone or something by its appearance alone". When I first met Sam I didn't find him handsome. But, as people say, don't judge a book by its cover. He turned out to be the most interesting person I've ever met and we married soon!

to catch the latest movie: to see a movie that has just come out. We need to hurry up if we want to catch the latest movie.

to flick through: to look quickly through a book. I flicked through my notes to prepare for the exam as I didn't have time to study properly.

to know like a book: to know something extremely well. I live in this city for my whole life and I know it like a book.

to read between the lines: to understand the hidden meaning about something. When I broke up with my girlfriend, I didn't want anyone to know that. But Tom saw us in the different corners of the classroom and read everything between the lines. He's very discerning.

Health

addict: a person, who is obsessed (addicted) by (to) something, drugs or alcohol, forexample. My friend used to be an addict, but thankfully he's healthy now.

a check-up: an examination done by a doctor. I felt ill for a few days, so I went for a check-up.

a runny nose: a nose that has liquid coming out of it. I caught a cold so now I have a runnynose.

chronic disease: a type of disease that continues to occur for a long time. My friend Robneeds to use inhaler every day, because he has chronic asthma.

impediment: a physical defect that hinders normal or easy speech. After an accident, Jimdeveloped an impediment - he stutters.

epidemic: when disease spreads very quickly and effects a large number of people. Therewas a large epidemic in South Africa in 20th century. It took away millions of lives.

painkillers: medicine for dealing with pain. I had to take the painkillers last night, becauseI couldn't handle the pain.

rehab: a course of treatment for drug or alcohol or any other dependence. After talking to a doctor, Jim decided to go to a rehab.

to diagnose: to recognise an illness by examining the patient. Although Nick had a very rare disease, his doctor managed to diagnose it correctly.

to stutter: to talk with a continued accidental repetition of sounds. Sometimes you mightdevelop a stutter if you have been scared by someone or something

to be prone to obesity: to be likely to become fat [in an unhealthy way] Children who are addicted to watching television, instead of playing outdoor games, aremore prone to obesity.

eating disorders: problems which occur when people are unhappy with their bodies, andtherefore eat far too much or far too little. Advertising tells women that they should have bodies like supermodel celebrities, andthis sometimes leads to eating disorders such as anorexia or bulimia.

safe hygiene standards: a safe level of keeping yourself, living areas or working areasclean in order to prevent illness and disease Maintaining safe hygiene standards in hospitals, homes and workplaces is a simple andinexpensive way to combat the spread of diseases.

to keep their teeth healthy: to take care of their teeth by cleaning them regularly. Advertisements encourage youngsters to brush their teeth several times a day in order tokeep their teeth healthy.

to launch a full-scale investigation into sth: to start an investigation completely or usingall available methods, equipment, money, etc. Scientists are about to launch a full-scale investigation into the cause of the outbreak ofthe disease.

the outbreak of an epidemic : a large number of diseases occurring at the same time in a particular community.

A lack of government programs for vaccination and regular health care maylead to the outbreak of an epidemic, particularly in developing countries.

sedentary lifestyle: involving little exercise or physical activity A sedentary lifestyle is a major factor

in health problems such as obesity and heart disease.

healthy eating habits : eating healthy food at regular times of the day Health education involves teaching people about healthy eating habits, such as regular mealtimes and eating fruit and vegetables every day.

to take regular exercise : to do some physical activity on a regular basis. Authorities should encourage people of all ages to take regular exercise by providing facilities in each community.

a fitness regime : a method or routine of taking regular exercise .Even elderly people can adopt a fitness regime by taking light exercise such as walking or jogging.

health awareness campaigns : publicity to encourage people to be concerned about looking after their health. Public health awareness campaigns are essential if people are to accept that they have a personal responsibility to look after their own health.

preventive medicine : practices of healthcare intended to try to stop illnesses An emphasis on preventive medicine will result in a healthier population and reduced costs for medical treatment.

alternative healthcare : this is a term used by many western countries to describe more traditional types of healthcare that do not involve operations and pharmaceutical drugs. Naturopathy is a form of alternative healthcare which treats illness and diseases using natural foods, herbs and other techniques.

public health services : the agencies funded by the government to protect and promote the health of the population I would argue that funding for public health services should be the main priority of all governments.

to take out private health insurance: to make regular payments to an insurance company, who will pay for medical or hospital treatment when you need it In countries with poor public health services, many people have to take out private health insurance in order to receive adequate medical treatment.

primary health care: the medical treatment that you receive first when you are sick or ill, for example from your doctor or local clinic. Developing countries must allocate resources to establish primary health care clinics in rural areas and overcrowded city districts.

medical practitioner: a person who works as a doctor or surgeon It is essential to train more medical practitioners if public health is to be improved.

to build up one's immune system/ immunity: to increase the ability of your body to fight diseases A healthy lifestyle and a diet rich in vitamins is a sure way to build up one's immune system.

mental health problems: related to illnesses of one's mind Overwork may sometimes result in mental health problems, such as anxiety and depression.

to offer emotional support : to give counselling to a person who is suffering from a mental health problem Example: Some schools in Europe now offer emotional support to pupils who are the victims of bullying.

alive and kicking: to continue being well and healthy. My grandma is almost 90 but she's still alive and kicking.

to break a habit: to stop doing something that is a habit, especially something bad or harmful. I

was a drug addict, but a managed to break this habit.

to black out: to lose consciousness. I blacked out before my final exam, because I was too worried about it.

to be under the weather: to feel ill. Mary won't be at work today, she's a bit under the weather.

to phone in sick: to call your superior to inform him/her that you are sick and won't be at work for some time. I had to phone in sick last week, because I caught a flu.

To be sick as a dog /to be at death's door: very sick. Paul caught a flu a few days ago and now he's sick as a dog.

white as a sheet: can be sad about a very pale person. John looks sick. Look at him! He's white as a sheet.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

crime of passion: refer to a crime, especially murder, caused by sexual jealousy. People who carry out crimes of passion often regret their actions later, when they reflect on what they have done.

to serve a prison sentence: to carry out confinement in prison as a punishment. They are serving long prison sentences for their part in the assassination.

to turn to crime/ drugs: To start committing crimes or using drugs. During periods of high youth unemployment, some youngsters turn to crime to obtain money.

to contest the verdict: not agree with the decision of the jury after the trial of a case. In many countries, the accused person has the right to contest the verdict which was reached in the court.

to take into consideration: to think about a particular fact or detail and allow it to have some influence when you are making a decision. The previous criminal records of those who are found guilty must be taken into consideration when a sentence is passed.

to be soft on crime : not to impose strict punishments on offenders. In order to deter criminals effectively, governments must not follow policies which are soft on crime.

a non-custodial sentence: a sentence which is not served in prison. There is a wide range of non-custodial sentences which a court may give to offenders, including: fines, probation orders or community service orders.

to be found guilty: the court decided that the person did commit the crime. If people are found guilty of committing serious offences, heavy punishments should be imposed.

the full weight of the law: all the strictest punishments available according to the laws of a country. In order to deter crime, the full weight of the law must be imposed for all serious offences.

to impose a ban on sth: to enforce an official rule which says that something is not allowed. Most governments have imposed a ban on the sale of tobacco to those aged under 16.

to convict a criminal: to find an offender guilty and to punish them. Once the courts have convicted a criminal, the punishment should be severe.

law-abiding citizens: people who obey and respect the law. The government could take some

effective steps to protect law-abiding citizens.

to enforce the law: to make sure that the law is obeyed. The role of the police and the courts is to enforce the law.

to install surveillance cameras: to put cameras in a place where a crime is likely to be committed. The security company has installed surveillance cameras at all the entrances and exits of the shopping mall.

to put on probation : to make a convicted person see an official at regular intervals to check on their good behavior, as an alternative to going to prison. The young offender was put on probation, as his crime was not serious enough to send him to prison.

to punish wrongdoers: to punish people who do something illegal. Stricter measures must be introduced by governments to punish wrongdoers.

to arrest suspects : to stop and hold people who the police think may have committed a crime. Example: The government should give the police greater powers to arrest suspects.

the letter of the law: the exact wording of the law, without considering any excuses. I believe that the courts must apply the strict letter of the law and impose the harshest possible sentences on criminals.

THE ARTS

a work of art/a work of music/a work of literature: a painting, sculpture, book, play, piece of music etc.

Shakespeare's plays are considered as one of the greatest works of literature in the English language.

the aesthetic qualities of something : The qualities related to beauty and understanding the beauty of something. One advantage of studying the arts is that students learn to appreciate the aesthetic qualities of paintings, literature, and music.

the portrayal of something/somebody : the act of showing or describing something/somebody in a book, painting, play or film. Example: In the past, the portrayal of women in art was often as possessions, owned by rich men.

a private viewing : an occasion when a few people are invited to look at an exhibition of paintings before it is open to the public. Paintings are sometimes considered as a form of investment, and art dealers arrange private viewings for art collectors to purchase works of value.

to be a connoisseur of : an expert on matters involving the judgment of beauty, quality, or skill in art or music. In order to enjoy beautiful paintings, it is not necessary to be a connoisseur of works of art.

a priceless portrait : a painting of a person that is extremely valuable. Private art collections may sometimes include priceless portraits of kings or queens painted by famous artists.

to commission a work of art : to officially ask somebody to paint a picture or compose a piece of

music for you. Artists in the past often relied on wealthy people to commission paintings or music from them.

an art movement : a group of artists who share similar ideas The creative aspect of art is demonstrated by the number of art movements over the centuries – including the Impressionists, the Romantics and the Modernists

performance art : A form of art in which the artist performs something, rather than producing a physical work of art .Some tourist destinations offer performance art by actors to recreate events from local history, such as battles or local legends.

funding for the arts : the act of providing money for artists, writers, musicians etc. Government funding for the arts encourages people of artistic ability to express their talent to the public.

a mixed funding model for the arts : a model in which some money to support the arts is given by the government and some money is provided by private individuals or commercial organizations. I would argue that a mixed funding model for the arts is the best way to support artists, musicians and writers by combining public and provide funds and even donations.

the imposition of censorship: the act of preventing something from being available to the public, because it is considered offensive or a political threat. I believe that the imposition of censorship is sometimes necessary to protect young people from exposure to pornographic writing or images.

to stage a play : to organize and present a play for people to see. It is important to encourage children to be creative, for example by staging a school play or displaying their artwork on school open days.

a talented playwright : a person who writes plays for the theatre. Directors of theatres must encourage talented playwrights by staging their plays for theatre-goers.

to appeal to audiences: to attract or interest those who go to watch a play or film. Plays which deal with contemporary social issues are likely to appeal to audiences.

a literature festival/a book festival : A regular gathering of writers and readers in a particular city, perhaps every year. One way in which to attract tourists to a city is to stage an annual literature festival, and invite well-known writers to attend.

literary and artistic heritage : the tradition of writing or painting that a country, city or town has had for many years, distinguishing it as an important part of its character. Visitors to Britain can enjoy the rich literary and artistic heritage by going to such places as the birthplace of Shakespeare and the National Art Gallery in London.

to express oneself : to communicate some idea or emotion through speech, writing, painting, music or some other form of art. Schools should encourage pupils to express themselves through art, music or creative writing in order to stimulate their imagination.

works of literary fiction : types of literature which describe imaginary people and events, not real

ones . It takes enormous creativity to write works of literary fiction, and the greatest writers are rightly considered literary geniuses.

a literary genius: a person with outstanding ability in writing. Although not every child will become a literary genius, it is still important for students to practice creative writing at school.

street musicians: people who play a musical instrument in the street to get money from passers-by. Street musicians are an entertaining feature of cultural life in many cities.

genres of music : particular types or styles of music. Different genres of music tend to be favored by different age groups, with classical music more popular among the elderly.

to take up a musical instrument : to start to learn to play a musical instrument .Schools should encourage all those children who have an interest to take up a musical instrument.

live music: music that is not recorded – it is performed at the same time as people listen to it .Without funding from governments, it is doubtful whether live music would survive.

a concert venue : a place where people go to listen to live music at an organized event. Cities offer many cultural attractions for music-lovers, such as the Paris Opera.

a resident orchestra: a large group of people who play musical instruments together in the same venue. In most cities, a resident orchestra must receive a subsidy from the local authority in order to survive financially.

an opera house: a dedicated building such as a theatre or other venue, in which the performers sing while the orchestra plays the music. The financial costs of running an opera house are very high, and so ticket prices to see an opera are expensive.

folk songs : songs in the traditional style of a country or community. Traditional folk songs are part of the cultural heritage of a nation or region.

popular music: music of the type which is listened to by a large number of people, with a strong rhythm and simple tunes. It would be a pity if young people only listened to popular/pop music and had no knowledge of traditional folk songs.

to sing in a choir: to sing in a group of people, for example in a church or public performance . One way that schools can encourage children to enjoy music is to give them an opportunity to sing in a school choir.

WORK

Labor productivity : the rate at which a worker, a company or a country produces goods, and the amount produced, compared with how much time, work and money is needed to produce them .Wage rates depend on levels of labor productivity.

Unemployment benefits: money paid by the government to somebody who is unemployed. In times of economic crisis, the amount paid in unemployment benefits is an added burden on the government budget.

To acquire experience/knowledge/skill: to gain experience/knowledge/skill by your own efforts or behavior .Some school leavers prefer to acquire experience working in an chosen profession rather than entering university.

Put knowledge gained into practice: to put to practical use the knowledge that you have acquired. Vocational training courses enable students to put the knowledge gained during their studies into practice.

Minimum wage: the lowest wage that an employer is allowed to pay by law. A minimum wage is necessary in order to ensure a decent standard of living for low-paid workers.

To job-share: to share the hours of work and the pay of one job between two people. Many employers are willing to employ people part-time or allow them to job-share, as long as the duties of each person are clear.

Flexible working hours: hours of work that can be changed by agreement between the employer and the employee .For some employees, flexible working hours are more important even than a high salary.

Health and safety in the workplace : Conditions which are safe and are not a danger to health in factories, offices or other places where people work. Government inspectors should regularly monitor companies to ensure that standards of health and safety in the workplace are observed.

Working mothers: Mothers who have to go out to work as well as to look after children .Workplace practices such as job-sharing and flexible working hours have made life easier for working mothers.

To take early retirement: to stop working before reaching the age at which people usually stop working. Older employees should take early retirement to give young people a better chance to find work.

A retirement package: the money or other benefits that you receive from a company or organization when you stop working there because of your age. Companies who value their employees should offer a generous retirement package.

Sick leave: permission to stay away from work because of illness or injury. Important factors when choosing a job include holiday entitlement, sick leave and a company pension scheme.

Annual leave: a period of time when you are allowed to be away from work for a holiday/vacation.

Parents often take their annual leave at the same time as the long school holidays.

Job prospects : the chances of being successful and having more opportunities at work Example: People with qualifications and experience usually have the best job prospects.

Promotion opportunities : chances to move to a more important position in a company or organization. Perhaps the most important factor when choosing a job are the promotion opportunities/promotion prospects.

To move up the career ladder: a series of stages by which you can make progress in your career. Ambitious employees look for a job in which there is a chance to move up the career ladder.

To pursue a successful career : to have a series of jobs in a particular area of work, with more responsibility as time passes. While many people wish to pursue a successful career, for others it is more important to find work that is interesting and enjoyable.

To take a career break: a period of time when you do not do your usual job, for example because you have children to care for. Some companies offer female employees the opportunity to take a career break for a few years if they have young children to care for.

To have no career ambitions: to have no desire to be successful or to move up the career ladder. Those who are content to do the same job and have no career ambitions are often happier in their work and do not suffer from stress.

Job satisfaction: the good feeling that you get when you have a job that you enjoy. A high salary is not necessarily the most important factor in job satisfaction.

Working environment : the conditions that you work in .If work is to be enjoyable, then a friendly working environment is essential.

Supportive work colleagues : people that you work with who give you help and encouragement .A very important aspect of job satisfaction is having supportive work colleagues.

To be a good team player: to be cooperative and work well as a member of a team. In the modern working environment, it is important to be a good team player and communicate with colleagues.

A heavy workload: a lot of work that an individual employee has to perform While some people enjoy the challenge of a heavy workload, others find too much work very stressful.

Labour-intensive: (of work) needing a lot of people to do it . New technology has replaced the need for workers to do many labor-intensive jobs, such as producing cars.

An internship: a period of time in which a student or new graduate gets practical experience in a job .In order to gain essential professional experience, graduates should do an internship if they have the opportunity.

A desk job: a job in an office, where you sit and work all day at a table or desk. Many young people enjoy the excitement of a dangerous profession to the boring routine of a desk job.

To have a steady job: to have a job which you are unlikely to lose, but which is usually the same routine. Although some people prefer to change jobs, others prefer to have a steady job and a set daily routine at work.

To dismiss somebody (from something): to officially remove somebody from their job. Employment legislation prevents employers from dismissing an employee without a good reason.

100 ways to say very

Very **angry** —> **Furious**

Very **beautiful** —> **Gorgeous**

Very **big** —> **Massive**

Very **boring** —> **Dull**

Very **noisy** —> **Deafening**

Very **poor** —> **Destitute**

Very **cheap** —> **Stingy**

Very **clean** —> **Spotless**

Very **short** —> **Brief**

Very **difficult** —> **Arduous**

Very **dry** —> **Arid**

Very **quick** —> **Rapid**

Very **bad** —> **Awful**

Very **smart** —> **Intelligent**

Very **sad** —> **Sorrowful**

Very **upset** —> **Distraught**

Very **cold** —> **Freezing**

Very **strong** —> **Forceful**

Very **huge** —> **Colossal**

Very **calm** —> **Serene**

Very **ugly** —> **Hideous**

Very **small** —> **Petite**

Very **funny** —> **Hilarious**

Very **quiet** —> **Hushed**

Very **rich** —> **Wealthy**

Very **expensive** —> **Costly**

Very **dirty** —> **Filthy**

Very **tall** —> **Towering**

Very **easy** —> **Effortless**

Very **wet** —> **Soaked**

Very **slow** —> **Sluggish**

Very **good** —> **Excellent**

Very **stupid** —> **Idiotic**

Very **happy** —> **Ecstatic**

Very **exciting** —> **Exhilarating**

Very **warm** —> **Hot**

Very **weak** —> **Frail**

Very **little** —> **Tiny**

Very **friendly** —> **Amiable**

Very **glad** —> **Overjoyed**

Very **great** —> **Terrific**

Very **heavy** —> **Leaden**

Very **hungry** —> **Starving**

Very **hurt** —> **Battered**

Very **large** —> **Huge**

Very **lazy** —> **Indolent**

Very **long** —> **Extensive**

Very **loose** —> **Slack**

Very **accurate** —> **Exact**
Very **afraid** —> **Fearful**
Very **clever** —> **Intelligent**
Very **cute** —> **Adorable**
Very **dull** —> **Tedious**
Very **eager** —> **Keen**
Very **evil** —> **Wicked**
Very **fast** —> **Quick**
Very **bright** —> **Luminous**
Very **busy** —> **Swamped**
Very **careful** —> **Cautious**
Very **clear** —> **Obvious**
Very **colorful** —> **Vibrant**
Very **confused** —> **Perplexed**
Very **creative** —> **Innovative**
Very **crowded** —> **Bustling**
Very **dear** —> **Cherished**
Very **deep** —> **Profound**
Very **empty** —> **Desolate**
Very **excited** —> **Thrilled**
Very **fancy** —> **Lavish**
Very **fat** —> **Obese**
Very **fierce** —> **Ferocious**
Very **light** —> **Luminous**
Very **lively** —> **Animated**
Very **lovely** —> **Adorable**
Very **mean** —> **Cruel**
Very **messy** —> **Slovenly**
Very **nice** —> **Kind**
Very **often** —> **Frequently**
Very **old** —> **Ancient**
Very **open** —> **Transparent**

Very **pale** —> **Ashen**
Very **perfect** —> **Flawless**
Very **powerful** —> **Compelling**
Very **pretty** —> **Beautiful**
Very **rainy** —> **Pouring**
Very **scared** —> **Petrified**
Very **scary** —> **Chilling**
Very **serious** —> **Grave**
Very **sharp** —> **Keen**
Very **shiny** —> **Gleaming**
Very **shy** —> **Timid**
Very **simple** —> **Basic**
Very **skinny** —> **Skeletal**
Very **smooth** —> **Sleek**
Very **soft** —> **Downy**
Very **sorry** —> **Apologetic**
Very **special** —> **Exceptional**
Very **sure** —> **Certain**
Very **sweet** —> **Thoughtful**
Very **talented** —> **Gifted**
Very **tasty** —> **Delicious**
Very **thirsty** —> **Parched**
Very **tight** —> **Constricting**
Very **tiny** —> **Minuscule**
Very **tired** —> **Exhausted**
Very **wide** —> **Expansive**
Very **willing** —> **Eager**
Very **windy** —> **Blustery**
Very **wise** —> **Sage**
Very **worried** —> **Distressed**

Common Idiomatic Expressions

1. **Break the ice:** To get the conversation going. Provide a conversation prompt.
2. **A dime a dozen:** Very common: quite ordinary
3. **Beat around the bush:** To avoid saying something
4. **Back against the wall:** Forced to do something that you would rather not.
5. **Bite the bullet:** Doing something you don't want to but also expressing that you're making a proactive choice.
6. **Wrap one's head around something:** To understand something that may take a bit of time and effort.
7. **Under the weather:** Sick. Typically used to describe minor illnesses like a cold.
8. **Better late than never:** Describes things that are better done than not, even if it takes a long time.
9. **Cut corner:** To skip steps or not do things completely.
10. **Get out of hand:** When a situation gets out of control.
11. **A snowball effect:** Something that can continue to get more and more out of control
12. **We'll cross that bridge when we get to it:** Let's avoid addressing the problem until later on.
13. **To cut someone some slack:** To not manage someone very strictly or to not be critical.
14. **To be hard on someone:** To criticize or to manage someone very strictly.
15. **Get something out of one's system:** To do something you really want to and have been waiting to.
16. **Burn bridges:** To do something or anger someone to where you cannot go back to how things were and cannot expect help in the future.
17. **Sell like hotcakes:** To sell very quickly or be in high demand.
18. **Fish out of water:** To be in an unfamiliar or uncomfortable place.
19. **Step up one's game:** To work harder or perform better.
20. **Your guess is as good as mine:** I don't know either.
21. **Leave out in the cold:** To be ignored or not considered.
22. **Keep an ear to the ground:** To listen for new information
23. **Up in arms:** To be angry or overreact.
24. **Run around in circles:** To put effort into something while making little or no progress.
25. **Scrape the barrel:** To make choices you don't want to or normally wouldn't.
26. **Blessing in disguise:** Something that seems bad but provides some benefit.
27. **Having an Ace up the sleeve:** To have a hidden or untold advantage.
28. **Buy it:** To believe something.
29. **Hook line and sinker:** To be deceived completely.
30. **Piece of cake:** Very Easy.

31. **Once in a blue moon:** Very rare.
32. **On the line:** To risk something or have something at risk.
33. **A quick buck:** An easy way to make money quickly.
34. **Sights set on | Set sights on:** To desire something or to make a goal.
35. **Add fuel to the fire:** To make a situation worse.
36. **Bone to pick:** To be angry about something and want to discuss it.
37. **Go the extra mile:** To do extra work or put in the extra effort.
38. **Hang in there:** To not give up.
39. **Down for the count:** To give up or not be able to keep going.
40. **Rest on your laurels:** To stop trying as hard because of your past achievements.
41. **Give it a whirl:** To try something.
42. **It's not rocket science:** It's not as difficult as you might think.
43. **Get bent out of shape:** To get upset at times when others don't think you should.
44. **Spill the beans:** To tell a secret.
45. **Sit on the fence:** To be undecided.
46. **Don't cry over spilled milk/ No use in crying over spilled milk:** What has already happened cannot be undone so you shouldn't cry but you should think of what to do going forward.
47. **Fair and square:** To do things in a fair way with no advantages given to either side.
48. **Straight from the horse's mouth:** To hear information directly from the person involved.
49. **Bigger fish to fry:** There is something more important to take care of.
50. **At face value:** As something seems or as one claims it to be.
51. **Read between the lines:** To look for the real meaning when something is said.
52. **Wild goose chase:** To waste time trying to do something you cannot.
53. **Call it a day:** To stop working.
54. **Chip off the old block:** To be similar to one's parents in one way or overall.
55. **The apple doesn't fall far from the tree:** Similar to one's parents. This is used at the time when you observe that someone is doing something their parents would.
56. **In for a penny in for a pound:** To make sure a task is complete no matter what once someone has spent any effort or money towards the goal.
57. **By the skin of one's teeth:** To barely get something done.
58. **Draw the line:** To decide on a stopping past which you will not let something continue.
59. **To not see/to lose the forest for the trees:** To fixate on trivial details to the point of ignoring the overall meaning or more important facts.
60. **Penny wise and pound foolish:** To worry about or obsess over unimportant details while ignoring the important ones.
61. **Cry wolf:** To ask for help or attention by lying about a situation.
62. **Play devil's advocate:** To present the other side or both sides of an argument.

63. **On thin ice:** In a dangerous or risky situation with much margin for error.
64. **The best thing since sliced bread:** Really, really good.
65. **Take it with a pinch of salt:** Don't believe it to be 100% true.
66. **The whole nine yards:** Everything to the greatest extent.
67. **Bite off more than you can chew:** To take on a task that is more difficult than you can handle.
68. **A second wind:** To have more energy or more appetite after being tired or full.
69. **Play it by ear:** To improvise or wait for more information to come to a decision.
70. **Put something on ice:** To stop progress on something or put it on hold.
71. **24/7:** All the time, always. (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
72. **Lose one's touch:** To not be as good at something as one used to be.
73. **Sit tight:** Please wait patiently.
74. **Twist my arm:** To convince someone with persistence.
75. **Turn a deaf ear:** To ignore someone.
76. **Hit the books:** To study (more often used to imply studying hard)
77. **Cold turkey:** To quit suddenly rather than gradually.
78. **Go down in flames:** To fail suddenly and severely.
79. **Pitch in:** To put in the effort or to make a contribution.
80. **Cut to the chase:** To get directly to the point.
81. **Off the table:** Unavailable, the offer has been revoked.
82. **Ship has sailed:** It is too late for the opportunity. You waited too long for the opportunity and it is no longer available.
83. **Blow off steam:** To do fun activities to help relieve stress.
84. **Come rain or shine:** No matter what.
85. **See eye to eye:** To agree, compromise or understand the other person's perspective.
86. **Rings a bell:** Sounds familiar or reminds you of something.
87. **A class act:** Of great character or able to perform to high standards.
88. **Break the bank:** To be very expensive.
89. **Cost an arm and a leg:** To be very expensive. (Typically less used for items less expensive than ones that you would use "break the bank" for).
90. **Face the music:** To accept reality.
91. **Darkest before the dawn:** Things will get better (Useful for when several bad things happen at once)
92. **Through thick and thin:** Through good times and bad times.
93. **Fortune favors the bold:** Taking a risk can pay off.
94. **Don't put all your eggs in one basket:** You're taking too big of a risk or putting too much effort and resources into one risky option.
95. **Throw caution to the wind:** To stop thinking about something and take the risk.

96. **Look before you leap:** To think before you do something.
97. **Jump on the bandwagon:** To follow a trend or not to do something until it's popular.
98. **Pour one's heart out:** To tell or confess something emotional.
99. **Right as rain:** There is nothing that can be improved.
100. **Pull one's leg:** To lie.

36 English Phrasal Verbs for Speaking

1. **Add on** — To include an extra thing or amount in something.
2. **Add up** — This phrase can mean either to seem to be true or logical, to make sense, or to be added together.
3. **Bring sth up** — To start talking about something. This phrase can also mean to vomit something.
4. **Bring sth to light** — This phrase can be used when you want to say that something was discovered or made known publicly.
5. **Bring sth to the party** — to provide or offer something, such as a helpful skill, in a situation.
6. **Bring on** — To cause something to happen. Used when it comes to something negative. In this context, “bring” and “on” can be separated by a noun. Also, the phrasal verb can be used as a part of a request to make something or someone appear.
7. **Bring it on!** — A set phrase used to challenge someone or to show that you're prepared to compete or do something complicated.
8. **Call on** — To visit someone.
9. **Call off** — This phrase can be used to cancel something as well as to stop an animal or even a person who is behaving aggressively.
10. **Carry on** — The verb has several meanings, but it's the most frequently used when it comes to excited, anxious, uncontrolled, or even foolish behavior. Besides, it means “to continue or proceed.”
11. **Cheer on** — To encourage or support someone, usually with shouts.
12. **Cheer up** — This phrase is used to improve one's mood, especially when someone is sad.

13. **Come across** — To behave in a way that makes others believe you have a particular personality.
14. **Come up with sth** — To think of an idea or plan.
15. **Come in** — To enter a place such as a room, home, office, etc.
16. **Cut off** — The phrasal verb has different meanings, but it's usually used to say that someone or something or someone is prevented from leaving a place or interrupted.
17. **Cut it/that off!** — Use it when you want to say "Stop doing that!".
18. **Cut in** — To interrupt someone who is speaking.
19. **Fall apart** — To break into parts. This phrase can also be used to show severe emotional problems.
20. **Fall back on sth** — To use something for help when other things have failed.
21. **Fill in** — To add required information to the empty spaces. The phrase "fill someone in" can also mean to provide details about something.
22. **Find out** — To discover new facts or information.
23. **Get along (with)** — To be friendly with someone.
24. **Get away** — To escape or to leave a place.
25. **Get over sth** — To accept and feel better about something terrible that has happened in the past.
26. **Give away** — If a company gives something away to customers, they let them have it free of charge.
27. **Give up** — To stop trying.
28. **Go out with** — To have a romantic date.
29. **Go ahead** — To permit to do something.
30. **Grow up** — The phrase is used for telling someone to stop behaving like a kid.

31. **Hold on** — This phrase has various meanings. You can use it to tell someone to stop or wait for a minute. Besides, it means continuing to do something in a challenging situation.
32. **Hold back** — To decide not to do something as well as not to show your feelings, often because of fear.
33. **Put sth away** — To put something in the place where it's usually kept.
34. **Put on** — To wear clothes, shoes, or jewelry.
35. **Turn on/Turn off** — To make something start working or stop it working by pushing a button or moving a switch.
36. **Throw away** — To get rid of something that you no longer need. This phrase can also be used to say that someone is wasting a skill or opportunity.

SPEAKING PHRASES AND FILLERS

<u>Key Tips</u>
• Say fillers slowly to maximize thinking time.
• Use multiple fillers together for really difficult questions

Well

“Well” can be used in a few different ways. You can use it to show that you’re thinking.

“Well, I guess \$20 is a good price for a pair of jeans.”

You can also use it to put a pause in a sentence.

“The apples and cinnamon go together like, well, apples and cinnamon.”

You can even use the word to stall.

“Well... fine, you can borrow my car.”

Like

“Like” is sometimes used to mean something is not exact.

“My neighbor has like ten dogs.”

In the above example, the neighbor probably doesn’t have exactly ten dogs. Rather, the neighbor has a lot of dogs.

Usually, though, the word is used when you need a moment to figure out the next word to use.

“My friend was like, completely ready to like kick me out of the car if I didn’t stop using the word ‘like’.”

Keep in mind that the word “like” as a filler is seen as a negative thing. The word is often overused by young females and can make you sound like you’re not sure what you’re talking about.

Actually/Basically/Seriously

“Actually,” “basically” and “seriously” are all adverbs—words that describe actions. Many adverbs (though not all of them) have an “-ly” at the end of the word which makes it easier to recognize them. All these words can be used as fillers that change the strength of a statement.

For example, the word “actually” is used to point out something you think is true, when others might not agree:

“Actually, pugs are really cute!”

“Basically” and “seriously” change the sentence in slightly different ways too. “Basically” is used when you’re summarizing something, and “seriously” is used to show how strongly you take the statement.

“Basically, the last Batman movie was seriously exciting!”

Other adverbs that are often used as fillers are “totally,” “literally” and “clearly.”

The word “**literally**” means “**something that is true**,” but many times in conversation it’s used with a different meaning: to state strong feelings. For example, you’re not just laughing you’re literally dying from laughter.

“**Totally**” means “**completely**,” and is used to emphasize (show that you feel strongly) about something.

The word “clearly” means the same as obviously, and is used to state something that is very obviously true.

These three words don’t have to be used together either, but here they are in one sentence:

“Clearly you totally didn’t see me, even though I was literally in front of your face.”

You see

“You see” is used to share a fact that you assume the listener doesn’t know.

“I was going to try the app, but you see, I ran out of space on my phone.”

You know

“You know” is used to share something that you assume the listener already knows.

“We stayed at that hotel, you know, the one down the street from Times Square.”

It can also be used instead of an explanation, in cases where we feel the listener just understands what you mean.

“When the elevator went down, I got that weird feeling in my ears, you know?”

I mean

“I mean” is used to clarify or emphasize how you feel about something.

“I mean, he’s a great guy, I’m just not sure if he’s a good doctor.”

It’s also used to make corrections when you misspeak.

“The duck and the tiger were awesome but scary. I mean, the tiger was scary, not the duck.”

“The cave is two thousand—I mean—twenty thousand years old!”

You know what I mean?

“You know what I mean?” is used to make sure the listener is following what you’re saying.

“I really like that girl, you know what I mean?”

At the end of the day

“At the end of the day” is a phrase that means “in the end” or “in conclusion.”

“At the end of the day, we’re all just humans, and we all make mistakes.”

Believe/trust me

“Believe me” is a way of asking your listener to trust what you’re saying.

“Believe me, I didn’t want this tiny house, but it was the only one I could afford.”

It’s also used to emphasize what you’re about to say.

“Believe me, this is the cheapest, tiniest house ever!”

I guess/I suppose

“I guess” and “I suppose” are used to show that you’re hesitant, or not really sure about what you’re saying.

“I was going to eat dinner at home, but I guess I can go eat at a restaurant instead.”

“I guess” is used more often in speech, but “I suppose” can sound classier (a bit smarter).

Or something

“Or something” is a sentence ending that means you’re not being exact.

“The cake uses two sticks of butter and ten eggs, or something like that.”

Okay/so

“Okay” and “so” are usually used to start sentences, and can be a sign that a new topic is starting.

“So what are you doing next weekend?”

They can also be used to introduce a summary.

“Okay, so we’re going to need to buy supplies for our trip this weekend.”

Right/ “Right,” are all affirmative responses—they all mean a “yes” response.

“Right, so let’s prepare a list of all the things we’ll need.”

I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THAT

Used to answer a particularly tricky question and indeed, one you may not have thought about before:

“Do you think that one day humans will live on Mars?”

“Mmmmmm, I’ve never really thought about that. I would say probably but not yet because.....etc.”

LET ME THINK / LET ME SEE

Used purely to delay your reply whilst thinking.

“Can we have economic growth and environmental protection?”

“Mmmm, let me think.....yes I believe we can and the reason is.....etc.”

BEGINNINGS

When you need time to think about the question

- I haven’t thought about that question before
- Where should I start?
- There are a variety of different things I could say
- Wow. That’s a tough question to answer.
- I need a couple of seconds to think about that but
- I’m not quite sure what to say here

ENDS

- And I suppose that that’s my main point
- And finally I’d say that
- My personal conclusion would be
- And I don’t think I have anything else to say

MIDDLES

You just thought of a better idea

- And I should add that
- Another point would be that
- I almost forgot to say that
- But there’s also something else to consider

You know what you just said is rubbish

- Let me try and rephrase that
- What I’m trying to say is
- Or to put it another way
- So the main point is

You forgot the word or what you wanted to say

- Sorry, it's on the tip of my tongue
- I don't know the right way to put this
- I'm not sure if this is the right way to put it but

Transition Language

These are for changing topic or linking parts of arguments together.

- The other thing I should say is...
- In other words...
- This means that...
- Another point I should mention is...
- Anyway...
- Let me give you an example...
- Firstly...
- Secondly...
- Lastly...

CRACK IELTS SPEAKING PART-1

Common Question Types

Do you (verb)?

Can you use tenses related to the present?

Are you good at it?

Can you describe your ability?

Is (noun) popular in your country?

Can you talk about popularity?

Did you (verb) as a child?

Can you use tenses to talk about the past?

Do you prefer A or B?

Can you make comparisons?

What kinds ofdo you....?

Can you use a wide range of vocabulary?

Do you cook?

How often do you cook?

Do you like cooking?

Step 1 :

Yes, I do./ Of course, why not/ definitely/ undoubtedly/ definitely yes.

Step 2:

I cook on a fairly regular basis.

I cook on a regular basis.

I cook every now and again.

I cook from time to time.

I cook once in a blue moon.

Step 3 :

I've been cooking since I was a child.	I've been cooking for 2 years
I was a kid.	I've been cooking for ages
I was at school.	I've been cooking for as long as I can
I was young.	remember

Step 4:

I love it!	I hate it
I adore it	I am not a big fan
I am really into it	

Other perspective:

No, not at all/ not one bit/ never.

As I'm not a big fan of cooking, I don't cook. Another reason for this would be I mess up the kitchen every single time I walk into it so I'm not allowed in my mom's kitchen.

Strategy:

Negative expression + Reason

To add reasons, use:

Apart from that

On the top of that

What's more

In addition to that

Similar Questions

Do you often write with a pen?

Do you like traveling?

Do you take photos?

Do you like going to museums?

Are you good at SOMETHING?

Yes, I am good at it.

I am a dab hand at it = I am very good at it

I have a knack for doing... = I am quite skillful

I can hold my own = I am good enough

Strategy:

Direct answer+ evidence

Are you good at cooking?

Although I don't wanna blow my own trumpet, however, I'm a dab hand at it. I love to cook every now and then, and would love to try cuisines from around the world, mostly Chinese and Indian. Every person who tasted my cooking praised me, saying, it was finger-licking good. Also, once I participated in a cooking competition and won a bronze. So I guess. I'm somewhat good at it.

Are you good at SOMETHING?

No, I am pretty bad at it

I am hopeless at it

I am terrible at it

It's not my forte = not a strength

Strategy:

Direct answer+ evidence

Are you good at cooking?

Although I don't wanna blow my own trumpet, however, I'm a dab hand at it. I love to cook every now and then, and would love to try cuisines from around the world, mostly Chinese and Indian. Every person who tasted my cooking praised me, saying, it was finger licking good. Also, once I participated in a cooking competition and won a bronze. So I guess. I'm somewhat good at it.

Similar Questions

Are you good at running?

Are you good at taking photos?

Are you good at memorizing numbers?

Are you good at art?

Is SOMETHING popular in your country?

POSITIVE:

It's well-liked

In demand

It's pretty / fairly / quite

Sought after

trendy

Widespread

It's all the rage

Prevalent

Strategy:

Popular phrase+ among which age group it's popular+ among which gender it's popular+ among people of which age it's popular+ time contrast.

Is cooking popular in your country?

Well, yes. It's well-liked. People of the Asian continent are considered foodies, and so are we. That's why it's quite common for us to have a thing for cooking. Especially, Our mothers and grandmothers, I believe, have got magic in their hands as I don't quite understand how they can make such delicious delicacies.

Is SOMETHING popular in your country?

NEGATIVE:

No, not really.

Most people are not into it.

Most people are not big fans.

Most people don't care much about it.

Strategy:

Unpopular phrases+ reason + contrast

Are water sports popular in your country?

No, not really. Despite Bangladesh being a riverine country, there is not much of a craze for water sports. Why this is the case, I'm not really sure of, but, I'd say, perhaps there is not enough effort making by sports communities or the people related to sports. However, in the past people of rural areas would partake in swimming or boat racing, nowadays, these are very rare sight.

Similar Questions

Are international celebrities popular in your country?

Which colors are popular in your country?

What kind of movies are popular in your country?

Are water sports popular in your country?

Did you do SOMETHING as a child?

Strategy:

Use of past tense: indefinite, continuous, perfect & perfect continuous.

Past modals

Time contrast.

Did you do SOMETHING as a child?

Yes, I did.

I a lot

I used toa lot

I wouldmost days

Did you do SOMETHING as a child?

No, I didn't, to be honest.

I wasn't into that much

I wasn't really bothered about it = didn't care about it.

Did you cook as a child?

Yes, I did. I used to cook a lot. In fact, I loved cooking so much that I'd even bunked school quite a few times to watch a cooking show called Masterchef India. I was into experimenting and making fusions of different. I still have this habit, although I don't get a decent amount of time to be as frequent as my younger self.

Similar Questions

1. Did you take art classes at school?
2. Did you enjoy taking history classes at school?
3. Did you have science classes at school?
4. Did you grow any plants when you were young?

Do you prefer A or B?

Strategy:

Choose one+ and give a reason why + to compare.

I prefer A because,

They're much faster/better/cheaper than B

They're far faster/better/cheaper than B

They're way faster/better/cheaper than B

I prefer A because,

They're much more convenient/useful/interesting than B

They're far more convenient/useful/interesting than B

They're way more convenient/useful/interesting than B.

Do you prefer traveling by planes or trains?

Similar Questions

1. Do you prefer long breaks or short breaks?
2. Do you prefer to use a pen or a pencil for writing?
3. Do you prefer to take photos yourself or have other people take photos?
4. Do you like dark colors or light colors?

What kinds of SOMETHING do you VERB?

Strategy:

Talk about more than one idea.

What kinds of movies do you like?

It depends on my mood really. Sometimes I will go for comedies. From time to time, I also enjoy action movies. There are also times when I am in the mood for thrillers

Similar Questions

What kinds of music do you like?

What kinds of cakes do you like?

What kinds of films do you like?

What kinds of water sports do you like doing?

SPORTS

Do you like to watch sports on TV?

Not at all! I **despise** it. I get extremely bored and disinterested. I usually try to avoid watching sports on TV at all costs unless it's an exciting event, like the World Cup or Super Bowl. In that case, I go for the social event rather than the game itself.

Do you play any sports?

Not anymore. I was an **avid** swimmer as a child, but I gave that up after high school, as it was quite time-consuming. Nowadays, I enjoy going to the gym, running around the lake by my house, and going on mountain treks. I'm not sure if these are considered sports, but I'm really into physical activity.

Which is the popular sports in your country?

Soccer of course! As soccer is the sport of the world, that would be number one. People go wild when our team wins a game- they even drive around waving flags, blocking off the streets! Apart from this, many people enjoy playing tennis and doing martial arts.

Who is your favorite sports star?

As I'm not a big sports fan, I don't really have one. However, I think I may like Cristiano Ronaldo. Although I don't know anything about him or his athletic abilities, I think I've always been **drawn to him** because of his looks.

What kinds of sports would you like to try in the future?

I'm really intrigued by soccer. I think it's something that can really connect people, as well as is good cardiovascular and coordination activity. Actually, I wish I had gotten into it as a child. I think it would be interesting to join a league in my city.

MOBILE PHONES

What was your first mobile phone?

(Answer 1) I had a **keypad phone** (*a cell phone with a physical keypad on the device*) from LG which I personally bought when I was a high school student. It was a small and basic phone with radio as the only entertainment. I remember I bought it for only \$60.

(Answer 2) My first phone ever was already a smartphone. It was an iPhone 4S which was given by my sister. She gave it to me because she **upgraded** (*exchanged it for a better version*) her phone to iPhone 5S. I was so happy at that time because I was the only one who didn't own a phone in our class. I was 14 years old at that time.

Do you often use your mobile phone for texting or calls?

(Answer 1) I often use my phone for video-calling. I have a Viber application installed on my phone which I can use for contacting my family and friends. But if I don't have mobile data or internet connection, I simply call them as I subscribe to a postpaid plan where I can call and text without restrictions.

(Answer 2) Well, I seldom call my friends or family unless it's an emergency because it's costly. More often than not, I use my phone for text messaging because it's affordable. And since we have access to a wi-fi connection at work, I use my smartphone for video-calling as well, but of course, I only do that during lunch break.

Will you buy a new one in the future?

(Answer 1) Absolutely! The phone that I've been using is already outdated – when I surf the net, webpages don't **load** (*to provide information*) quickly. Besides, the resolution of the camera is pretty low. I think I'll buy a new smartphone next month.

(Answer 2) Well, I don't have any plan of buying a new phone anytime sooner because I've just bought the latest model of iPhone and I'm pretty satisfied with this new phone of mine. It actually **cost me an arm and a leg** (*a very large amount of money*) but I **couldn't be happier** (*to be very happy*) owning the latest model of iPhone.

How has your mobile phone changed your life?

(Answer 1) My smartphone has greatly improved my life in a way that I can do online banking **at my fingertips** (*readily available*), interact with my friends or family members who are living abroad in real-time, search for directions with the use of Google Map, widen my knowledge through reading education sites, and more. Well, my mobile phone is a tiny thing yet one of the most useful things I **possess** (*own*).

(Answer 2) Wow, that's interesting! My phone has **revolutionized** (*transformed*) the way I live my life. My phone is my alarm clock, my teacher when I need to learn how to cook a new recipe, my guide when I'm not familiar with the place, my radio when I want to relax, my entertainer when I get bored, and more. Thanks to the development of smartphone technology as I get to enjoy the conveniences in life.

Do you like to 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. Afterward, 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.

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 deeply understand human emotions and re-live historical moments, like the Vietnam-America War or World War II.

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.

How often do you watch films?

Well, I am quite a **busy bee (a busy person)**, but I manage to see 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.

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.

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!

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 '90s when I was a child. It was my absolute favourite- 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.

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 movies. Afterwards, we can discuss the meaning and carry on **inside jokes (jokes among friends)** from quotes from the film later on!

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.

What was the best movie you watched?

Okay, that's a hard question! If I absolutely had to choose, I'd pick The Departed, by Martin Scorsese. It features Leonardo diCaprio starring a police detective undercover in the Irish mob. The chilling plot, intense dialogue and brilliant cinematography make it an all-time favourite for me.

MEMORY / MEMORIZATION

Why do some people have a good memory and others don't?

(Answer 1) I dunno but I think that has something to do with age. The younger a person is the sharper his memory. As people age, they tend to forget things very easily, that is, they can't remember where they keep their car keys or wallet or some forget their appointment schedule. These are pretty common among old people but rare for young people.

(Answer 2) I may be wrong but I really believe that's because of intelligence. Some people who are smart have the best memory. I think their brain is functioning excellently that they can remember things quickly. However, those who aren't smart usually have difficulty remembering or recalling important things. I know I sound **discriminatory (biased, unfair)** but I based my answer on my personal observation.

Why do more people rely on cellphones to remember things?

(Answer 1) Why not? I believe smartphones make our lives more convenient, that, using a reminder application has become the most reliable way to memorize or remember things, especially for those people who are simply forgetful. I've been **reliant** (*dependent*) on my smartphone for years to make me remember important dates or events and I **couldn't be happier** (*to be very happy*).

(Answer 2) I believe people these days have lost faith in themselves. They don't trust their memory to remember things. They allow themselves to be **enslaved** (*make someone a slave*) by these modern technologies even in remembering simple things such as anniversaries or birthdays. It's pretty common among people these days to set an alarm for important dates so they're reminded. Yes, it's too convenient, but because of too convenience people are losing trust in their memory skills.

Are you good at memorizing things?

(Answer 1) Unfortunately not. Honestly, when I was a student, I didn't perform well in our history classes because of my poor memorization skills. As you know, the subject of history needs a lot of memorization – memorizing the important events or dates in the past or the significant people who contributed something valuable to society. I'm bad at memorizing things because I believe I haven't **taken the trouble** (*to make an effort*) to improve my memory skills.

(Answer 2) I'm very proud to say, yes. I can easily memorize or remember things. I believe this is because I'm a wide reader. When **you're into** (*be interested in something*) reading, your memory becomes so active. Reading is a very good exercise for one's brain and that makes me develop my skills in memorizing and remembering things.

Have you ever forgotten something important?

(Answer 1) As I said, I'm forgetful, so more often than not, there have been times that I miss some important events in my life. Well, this question reminds me of the time I forgot my flight schedule, business meeting, and anniversaries. This happens many times in my life because of my carelessness. And **the price to pay** (*the unpleasant or difficult aspect of something that one must face*) for being careless is too much.

(Answer 2) Yes, I have and I think that's **human nature** (*natural*). No one's perfect at remembering important things always. We all fail to remember those important things, sometimes, and that's being human. In my experience, the worst thing that I experienced for not remembering something important was last year. I missed my flight going abroad and it cost me so much.

READING

Do you like reading?

Yes, I'm definitely a **bibliophile (a person who loves to read)**! I believe that books are a way to not only escape, but also gain more knowledge. By the same token, people who read tend to have a richer vocabulary and a higher level of general knowledge, so they tend to have more to talk about and are thus more interesting.

Do you read electronic book ?

Definitely yes. I'm a real sucker for e-books as they are portable. I often download my favorite books and copy them to my smartphones or Ipads and when I'm on the bus in other public places, I will take my hi-tech devices out and start to read right on my phone.

What kind of books do you like to read?

I love reading anything that falls under literary fiction. By this, I mean authors like Virginia Woolf, Jane Austen, and Haruki Murakami. I can't get enough of Kafka on the shore!

What was your favorite book as a child?

I remember being very fond of a book called "My Sister's Keeper". I recall that it was the story of two sisters, one of whom needed a kidney transplant. Although the sister was initially **apprehensive (scared; nervous)** to do so, she ended up donating a kidney to her sister and saving her.

Have you lent books to others?

At times, I reckon. My friends and I are avid readers and would love to exchange books with one another. So, I often lend my books, mostly English books to my besties and get in return some comic books to read in my free time.

Have you borrowed books from others?

As I have said, I have a circle of friends who are bookworms! which means I'm in the habit of borrowing some comic books from my friends to while away the time during days off or just to catch up on things in the Manga world.

Do you read professional books ?

At the moment, I'm getting bogged down with work! so I can't manage decent time for reading books related to my major field of study, but in the past during my university years, I had to say I was a bookworm, and purchased books every week to enhance my expertise.

WORK

What do you do?

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

What are your responsibilities?

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

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

I guess it's mainly because of **job flexibility** & my passion for journalism. To be more specific, this job is unlike the **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.

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. It's the experiences and opportunities I can gain that matter to me.

Describe the company or organization you work for.

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

Do you enjoy your work?

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

What do you like/dislike about your job?

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

(Possibly)Do you miss being a student?

I missed student life once I got involved in the workplace. I think when I was a student, I had someone to guide me, whereas at work you must guide yourself. The academic environment was a comfort zone, and I struggled to fit in the working environment.

- **To get involve in:** To become a part of (an organization)
Eg: Sheethal never got involved in cooking.
- **To fit in:** To become suitable or appropriate
Eg: Tom tried to fit in with his friends.
- **Job flexibility:** Gives employees flexibility on how long, where, and when they work.
Eg: Job flexibility plays an important role in retaining employees.
- **Nine-to-five work:** The normal work schedule for most jobs
Eg: George joined a nine-to-five work and was happy with it.
- **To dedicate:** Devote (time or effort) to a particular task or purpose
Eg: John dedicated his evenings to his daughter.
- **World-class:** Of or among the best in the world
Eg: Tom built a new hotel with world-class facilities
- **Perk:** An advantage or something extra that you are given because of your job
Eg: The new job offer contained a lot of perks.
- **Overloaded:** to give excessive work, responsibility, or information to
Eg: The boss always overloaded his employees with work.
- **To dedicate:** devote (time or effort) to a particular task or purpose
Eg: John dedicated his evenings to his daughter.

HOME AND ACCOMMODATION

What kind of accommodation do you live in?

Houses

A detached house

A townhouse - a duplex - a semi-detached
(usually two houses
together)

A terraced house (one house connected to
many others in the same
row/street)

A bungalow (a house with only one level)

Flats

Flat / apartment (a living area within a bigger
building)

e.g. a two-bedroom flat

Note: flat and apartment are really the same,
you can use either.

A block of flats (a building that contains many
flats)

An apartment block (a building that contains
many apartments)

A condominium (a building that contains
many apartments)

A high-rise building

Often for students

Rented house

Student accommodation

Student digs

A studio / A bedsit (a self-contained unit;
everything in one room)

Collocations

Remember to use collocations to add 'color' to your language.

A run-of-the-mill house	singular.
= an ordinary house	You can spell this 'story' or 'store'.
A cosy / noisy / cramped flat	I live on the third floor
Cozy = small and comfortable	a spacious /comfy flat
Cramped = too small and uncomfortable	Spacious = plenty / lots of room
A three-story building	Comfy = comfortable

Note: 'three-story' is an adjective and so is

Rooms

Kitchen	Bathroom	Bedroom
Living room	Lounge = living room	Bathroom
Dining room / area	Entrance hall	
Tea room	Office (n.) / study (n.)	

Furniture and Equipment

Kitchen island (table in middle of kitchen for food preparation)	Couch = sofa	Shower
Oven (for baking and roasting)	Fireplace	Bathtub
Fridge	Cabinet	Mirror
Stove (hot plates for cooking)	Bookcase	<u>Decoration</u>
Cupboards (for pots, plates, cups...)	Desk	Paintings
Chest of Drawers (for socks, underwear...)	Armchair	Photos
Wardrobe (for clothes)	Bed	Plants
Coffee table	Bedside table	Ornaments (any kind of decoration)
	Carpet (wall to wall)	Table lamps
	Rug	Floor lamps
	Tiled floor	Model plane
	Piano	Desk calendar
	Staircase	
	Sink	

Collocations

En-suite bathroom (attached to the bedroom)	Colorful bedroom
The master bedroom (the biggest one, usually for the parents)	An elegant bathroom
A king-size bed (the biggest size)	A bedroom full of contrasting colors
Open plan kitchen	Fluffy cushions (on the sofa) and pillows (on the bed)
Spacious living room with a modern look	A hand-woven carpet (made by hand)

Fully-furnished house

A state-of-the-art TV

A well-lit living room

Artificial plants

A flat-screen television

A wooden table

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

What is the examiner looking for?

Use of tenses:

I am living in a coastal city

I have been living here for 2 years

We live on the sixth floor

It's quite a cozy place, but it is a little cramped

Before we moved here, I was living in Malaysia

We lived in a condominium

It was a 27-story building

Comparisons:

Much bigger than where we are now

There was far more room

It was just way more spacious

It had a lot more mod cons (modern comforts) than what we have now

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.

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.

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. Compared to the old houses, I think this house has been the best so far.

Do you plan to live there for a long time?

The answer would be yes. My parents have been living there for a long time and 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.

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.

STUDY

Do you work or study?

I am currently studying. I am in the semester, and my major is I study in the (...university name...). It is more popularly known as (...name that people call in short...). It is one of the best private universities in our country.

What subject are you studying?

My major is I completed school, majoring in....., and studyingwas a long dream for me.

Which part of the course do you enjoy most?

I enjoy learning new things every semester. The project works each semester is the part I enjoy most. These projects enable me to work in a group and hands with the theories I learn throughout the semester.

Why did you choose to study that?

Honestly, I did not mainly select this subject. I attended the university admission test in commerce faculty, based on my performance on the exam and interview with the faculty members. I was offered this subject from their end. I wanted to study in the commerce faculty, and now I feel fortunate that I was suggested for this major.

Is it a difficult subject?

Generally, this subject requires extensive study, research, group work, and other academic activities. Things are new and challenging in many cases, but I think they can be conquered with passion and dedication. To me, it is a challenging yet delightful subject.

What is your favorite subject?

Economics, without any doubt, is my favorite subject. I am fascinated to discover this subject's connection in our everyday life, and the global economic structure has made it more complex yet

more intriguing. I love to explore different theories and research on this subject and how economics is all around us.

What kind of school did you go to?

In my early childhood, I studied in a local English medium school and then was shifted to a government school by my parents when I was in grade 7. I was in a cantonment college and I, have finished my twelve class degree from there. Now I am studying at a large university, one of the best public universities in my country.

What is the best thing about your university/school?

I love my university life. The classes, friends, teachers, university life, my freedom to do so many things, and my participation in some charity works organized by the university are equally important to me. If I had to select the best thing about my university, I would choose my exposure to a diverse culture and academic life that has motivated and inspired me to do even better than I initially thought. I was exposed to life and an era unimaginable to me, which is the best part of my university life so far.

What is the educational system like in your country?

I am glad that you asked this question. In our country, primary education is mandatory for all, and it is the government that funds if someone wants to send his kids to a private English medium school. The secondary and tertiary education systems are also managed and run by the government and private organizations. The government-controlled educational institutes are less costly, and the education board presents and monitors the curriculums.

What is your career plan after you graduate?

For the first few years, I will work in a multinational company. Then maybe in 10 years, I will plan to start my own business. I want to be an entrepreneur rather than work in a company for the rest of my life. Being an entrepreneur is not easy, and it requires a lot of dedication and commitment. However, I would work to fulfill this plan after I finish my graduation.

Childhood

Did you enjoy your childhood?

I think I did, when I **look back** on it I can only **recall** happy memories. I was **carefree**, I could play as much as I wanted to, my parents gave me a lot of attention. I had no worries. I'd say it was the **(happiest/delightful)** period of my life.

What were some of your favorite activities when you were a child?

I loved cycling when I was a (child/kid). Cycling **(felt like/gave me the sense that)** I was free, that there was nothing that could stop me and I could just live the life as **(I want to/ I prefer)** and it was this feeling that made me love cycling even more. I remember, cycling during holidays and **(then evenings, even in the morning/ all day long)**. I just loved it.

When you were a child, where did you often go for holidays?

My favorite tourist **(destinations/spots)** (in my/during my) childhood were cities across Bangladesh. In the summer, my family and I often traveled to the beaches in the Southern part of Bangladesh. We also occasionally visited mountainous areas to **(enjoy/relish)** their natural beauty.

Can you please tell me something about memories at your primary school?

My **(primary/early)** school years were full of wonderful experiences. To be specific, I had the chance to meet new friends and teachers who came from **(various/several)** cultural backgrounds. **(Moreover/Furthermore)**, I was also able to take part in many different extra-curricular activities, such as field trips.

How have you changed since you were a child?

Since I was a child, I have developed **(various/multiple)** life skills. For example, I have been better at time management and planning hard and soft skills. In addition, I have also learned to **(appreciate/ worship)** the value of hard work and determination, when it comes to achieving big objectives.

- Furthermore/moreover/apart from this/other than this/
- Beautiful/attractive/amazing/heart-touching/awesome/memorable/remarkable/
obedient/gifted/Talented/ cheerful/ blissful/ blissful/ deprived/gloomy/sorrowful
- I cherish my childhood memories/ full of magical moments that I remember/full of dreams
and imaginations/a fantasy world/days of great fun and enjoyment

- I remember when I was a child,/I used to.... /I recall ____ /I have a clear/ vivid memory of____/ I often (reminisce = indulge in enjoyable recollection of past events) about my childhood/ reminds me of my childhood
- Great memories to share/one of the sweetest memories/full of wonderful memories
- (Usually,/would often) played made-up games / pretend games/ swings and roundabout/ Blindfold game in the park.
- (tethered=connected) to my iPad/boardgames)

Hometown

▪ **Where (is your hometown/did you grow up)?**

I grew up in/ My hometown is Dhaka/ (.....), which is the capital city of Bangladesh, and one of the most western cities in all of Bangladesh. It is a **(magical/vibrant/amazing)** place with beautiful (.....)and is itself surrounded by beautiful **(mountains/rivers)** and about half a million friendly citizens.

▪ **What do you like about it?**

There are **(a lot/bunch of/multiple)** things to like about (.....). It has a lot of **(scenic/picturesque)** beauty, which attracts a lot of tourists from around the country/world as it's a fairly big town. If you (prefer/want) to go out in the afternoon, there are lots of standard restaurants. If you are **(fond of /keen on)** cultural activities, there are museums and art galleries.

▪ **What do you not like about it?**

Personally, it's (a bit boring for me/ I dislike the fact that) there isn't a shopping mall or any other means of **(entertainment/recreation)**. The streets get very crowded as well. Traffic/ (.....) are very common. This has **erased** the peace of mind that people had before/ This has taken an impact on the life of the people living there. However, it is **turning into** a potential **hotspot** due to the increasing number of annual visitors.

▪ **Has your hometown changed much since you were a child?**

Actually, yes. It has changed **(enormously/to great extent)**. Around (20 years /2 decades) ago you would barely find tall buildings in my area, but now you'd easily be able to catch sight of skyscrapers and tower blocks there.

▪ **Do you think you will continue living there for a long time?**

To be honest, I hope I can go there to visit my relatives and friends, but **settling down** is not

part of my plan. I am now **getting familiar** with (**city/abroad**) life as there are more job opportunities here

- **How long have you been living there?**
- **Are there any changes you would like to make in your hometown?**
- **What is the most interesting thing about your hometown?**
- **Would you recommend your hometown to foreign travelers?**

VOCABULARIES

- **Coastal (adj)**– near a sea/an ocean
- **Close to my heart** – important for you/loved by you.
- **Congested (adj)** – a lot of traffic/vehicles.
- **Picturesque (adj)**– very beautiful (place).
- **Tranquil (adj)**– quiet and peaceful.
- **Renowned for** – famous for.
- **Untouched (adj)** – not changed or damaged (place).
- **Idyllic (adj)**– perfect(place).
- **Densely populated** – an area in which many people live, e.g. a big city.
- **Unspoiled (adj)**– not changed by people/development (positive).

Hobbies

Do you have any hobbies?

Yeah, of course, I do! In my **spare time**, I absolutely love (.....). I **can't get enough** of it. I **took it up** more than 5 years and nowadays I do this every weekend with my father. I first began playing so as to **get fit** but I've found it's also a great way to **unwind**.

Hobby is something I believe **pulls out** the **hidden talent** of an **individual**. Although most people have one or other kind of hobbies, I love writing, reading and traveling So, whenever I get time I usually **pick some** novel or a magazine or newspaper for reading. Or else when I am not reading I usually **write on** my blog or in a diary that I have.

Is it important to have a hobby?

Definitely! I mean nowadays life is getting more and more **hectic**, so people are always under an **enormous** amount of stress. That's why it's helpful to get into some **recreational activities** to be able to **unwind** and just forget about life for a minute, you know?

Do you enjoy doing hobbies with other people or do you prefer to be alone?

For me, I think I enjoy both. One of the things I love about rock climbing is spending the day outdoors with friends. Climbers are very **supportive and encouraging** of each other so it is very easy to meet new people and build new friendships in this (.....). **However**, I also love the time to myself on the piano/indoor/outdoor games. When I play, it feels as though nothing except the piano/indoor/outdoor things and I exist in the world.

Why do you think people have hobbies?

I think hobbies provide people with **a way to relax**. People in today's world work very hard and so it is important that they also spend their time **partaking** in relaxing activities and generally having some fun! I believe that hobbies help us to **switch off from** the pressures and stresses that exist in society.

How to Reply

- In my free time, I like to...
- In my free time, I like to play football
- In my free time, I go swimming
- In my free time, I prefer to read
- At the weekend I like....
- At the weekend I like to go fishing
- At the weekend I like cooking
- At the weekend I like to do the gardening
- I like to ...
- I like to go dancing
- I like to make wine
- I enjoy...
- I enjoy drawing
- I enjoy hiking
- I am into ...
- (This means that you like something very much)
- I am into comics
- I am into website design
- I'm into gaming
- When I have the time, I like to ...
- When I have the time, I like to go walking
- When I have the time, I like to take photographs
- I'm interested in...
- I'm interested in tropical fish
- I'm interested in local history

Examples of Hobbies

- ⇒ playing the piano, jogging
- ⇒ painting, gardening
- ⇒ cooking, drawing
- ⇒ bowling, making websites
- ⇒ collecting coins, bird watching
- ⇒ hiking, dancing
- ⇒ knitting making jam
- ⇒ brewing beer, model trains

Vocabulary

1. Spare time (n) - free time.
2. To unwind (v) - to relax.
3. To blow off steam (v) - to release negative feelings/to relax after a stressful time.
4. To can't get enough of (v) - to love something so much that you always want to it. Can be used for an activity There's only twenty-four hours in a day (p) - There isn't enough time to do everything you want to/need to do.
5. Leisure activities (n) - things you do in your free time for enjoyment. eg. Playing football/reading.
6. Hectic (adj) - busy and often stressful.
7. To take up (v) - to begin doing a new hobby.
8. Have a crack at - trying to do something although you are not certain that you will succeed
9. Blast - a thrill
10. Get a real kick out of (doing) something - it means to enjoy something very much
11. End up doing something - to be in a particular place or state after doing something
12. Leisure pursuit - hobby

SPEAKING PART-1 COMMON QUESTIONS

Work

What is your job?

Where do you work?

Why did you choose that job?

Is it a popular job in your country?

Do you like your job?

Do you get on well with your colleagues?

What was your first day like?

What responsibilities do you have at work?

If you had the chance, would you change your job?

Do you plan to continue with your job in the future?

Study

What do you study?

Where do you study that?

Why did you choose that subject?

Is it a popular subject in your country?

Do you like that subject?

Do you get on with your colleagues?

What was your first day like?
What are the main aspects of your subject?
If you had the chance, would you change subject?
Do you plan to get a job in the same field as your subject?

Hometown

Where is your hometown?
Do you like your hometown?
Do you often visit your hometown?
What is your hometown like?
What is the oldest place in your hometown?
What is there for a foreigner to do or see in your hometown?
How could your hometown be improved?
Has your hometown changed much since you were a child?
Is there good public transportation in your hometown?
Do you think your hometown is a good place to bring up children?

Home

Where is your home?
Do you live in a house or a flat?
Whom do you live with?
Are there many rooms in your home?
What is your favorite room?
How are the walls decorated?
What would you change about your home?
Do you plan to live there in the future?
What facilities are there near your home?
What is your neighborhood like?
Do most people live in houses in your country?

Common Questions in Speaking Part 1

Art

Are you good at art?
Did you learn art at school when you were a child?
What kind of art do you like?
Is art popular in your country?

Have you ever been to an art gallery?

Do you think children can benefit from going to art galleries?

Bicycles

Do you have a bike?

How often do you use it?

How old were you when you learned to ride a bike?

Do many people in your country use bicycles?

Do you think using bicycles should be encouraged?

Birthdays

Do you usually celebrate your birthdays?

How did you celebrate your last birthday?

Which birthdays are the most important ones in your country?

Do you think children should celebrate their birthdays with a party?

Childhood

Did you enjoy your childhood?

What is your first memory of your childhood?

Did you have a lot of friends when you were a child?

What did you enjoy doing as a child?

Do you think it is better for children to grow up in the city or in the countryside?

Clothes

Are clothes important to you?

What kind of clothes do you usually wear?

Do you ever wear the traditional clothes of your country?

Where do you usually buy your clothes?

Have you ever worn a uniform?

Do most people in your country follow fashion?

Computers

Do you often use a computer?

How do you usually get online?

Do you prefer desktops or laptops?

What do you use your computer for?

Do you think it is important to learn how to use a computer?

Daily Routine

When do you usually get up in the morning?

Do you usually have the same routine every day?

What is your daily routine?

Do you ever change your routine?

Is your routine the same today as it was when you were a child?

Do you think it is important to have a daily routine?

Dictionaries

Do you often use a dictionary?

What do you use dictionaries for?

What kinds of dictionaries do you think are most useful?

Do you think dictionaries are useful for learning a language?

What kind of information you can find in a dictionary?

Dreams

Do you often have dreams when you sleep?

Do you usually remember your dreams?

Do you think dreams are important to remember?

Do you ever have a daydream?

What kind of daydreams do you usually have?

Drinks

What is your favorite drink?

Is it common for people to drink tea and coffee in your country?

Did you prefer different drinks as a child?

Do you think it is important to drink lots of water?

What is a traditional drink in your country for celebrating?

Evenings

What do you often do in the evenings?

Do you do the same thing every evening?

Do you prefer to spend your evenings with family or friends?

Do you ever work or study in the evenings?

What is a popular activity for young people in your country in the evenings?

Do you do the same thing in the evenings as you did when you were a child?

Family & Friends

Do you spend much time with your family?

Who are you closest to in your family?

Do you prefer spending time with your family or friends?

Who is your best friend?

Are you still friends with people from your childhood?

Is family important in your country?

Flowers

Do you like flowers?

What's your favorite flower?

When was the last time you gave someone flowers?

Do any flowers have a special meaning in your country?

Why do you think women like flowers more than men?

Food

What's your favorite food?

Have you always liked the same food?

Is there any food you dislike?

What is a common meal in your country?

Do you have a healthy diet?

What do you think of fast food?

Going Out

Do you often go out in the evenings?

What do you like to do when you go out?

Do you prefer to go out on your own or with friends?

How often do you go out in a week?

Where do most young people like to go out in your country?

Happiness

Are you a happy person?

What usually makes you happy or unhappy?

Does the weather ever affect how you feel?

What makes you smile?

Do you think people in your country are generally happy people?

Hobbies

Do you have a hobby?

What equipment do you need for it?

Do you think hobbies should be shared with other people?

Did you have a hobby as a child?

What hobbies are popular in your country?

Why do you think people have hobbies?

Internet

How often do you go online?

What do you use the internet for?

How do you get online?

Do you have your own computer?

What's your favorite website?

Do you think children should be allowed unsupervised access to the internet?

Languages

How many foreign languages do you speak?

When did you start learning your first foreign language?

How many foreign languages do children in your country learn at school?

Do you think it is important to learn a foreign language?

Leisure Time

What is your favorite leisure activity?

What did you enjoy doing in your free time as a child?

Do you prefer to spend your free time with other people or alone?

What is a common leisure activity in your country?

Do most people in your country get two days off a week?

Do you think leisure time is important?

Music

Do you like music?

What's your favorite type of music?

Can you sing?

Did you learn music at school?

If you could learn a musical instrument, what would it be?

Do you think music is important?

Neighbors & Neighbourhood

Do you like your neighbors?

Are neighbors usually close to each other in your country?

What is your neighborhood like?

Do you think your neighborhood is a good place for children?

How could your neighborhood be improved?

Do you think it is important to have a good relationship with your neighbors?

Newspapers

How do you usually get your news?

Do you often read the newspapers?

What kind of news do you usually follow?

How do most people get the news in your country?

Do you think international news is important?

Noise

Do you live in a noisy area?

What kinds of sounds do you hear on a daily basis?

Where do you go to spend time in peace and quiet?

Are there any sounds that you think are pleasant?

Do you have any noisy friends?

Patience

Are you a patient person?

Do you ever get impatient?

When was the last time you lost your patience?

Which person in your family is the most patient?

Pets

Do you have a pet?

Do you like animals?

What's your favorite animal?

What is a popular pet to have in your country?

Did you have a pet as a child?

Why do people have pets?

Reading

Do you often read?

What is your favorite kind of book to read?

Do you often read newspapers?

Do you have any e-books?

What books did you read as a child?

Do you think it is important to encourage children to read?

Shopping

Do you like shopping?

What's your favorite shop?

Do you prefer shopping alone or with others?

What kinds of shops are there where you live?

Have you ever bought anything online?

Do you think men and women have different opinions about shopping?

Sport

Do you like sport?

What's your favorite sport?

Do you often watch sports on TV?

Did you play sports as a child?

What is the most popular sport in your country?

How do most people in your country keep fit?

TV

Do you often watch TV?

What sorts of things do you watch on TV?

What is your favorite TV program?

Do you ever watch foreign programs or films?

What did you watch on TV when you were a child?

Do you think children should watch TV?

Transport

How did you get here today?

What is your favorite mode of transport?

Do you ever use public transport?

Do you like the transport system in your country?

What is the difference between taking a bus and taking a train?

Weather

What's the weather like today?

What's your favourite weather?

Do you like the weather in your country?

Is the weather the same in all parts of your country?

Does the weather ever affect the way you feel?

Does the weather in your country ever affect transportation?

THOUGHTS ABOUT SPEAKING PART-1:

It's the introduction part that's why examiner asks personal questions. To ace speaking part -1, you need to understand yourself better and you should talk about you, your life and your life experiences.

IELTS SPEAKING PART-2

What happens in IELTS Speaking Part 2

In Part 2 of the IELTS Speaking Test you are given,

- a **topic card**
- a pen and paper to make notes
- 1 minute to prepare your talk

The topic card will have 3 or 4 **bullet points** to guide your talk.

You do not have to follow all of these bullet points, they are just a guide.

The 'Topic Card', sometimes called a 'Cue Card', looks like the one beside

The topic will vary, but the format is always the same.

Describe a book you have read

You should say:

- What it was
- When you read it
- What it was about

And explain how you felt about this book

Using the 1 minute preparation time

The 1 minute preparation time in Part 2 of the IELTS Speaking test will go by very quickly.

Get your idea quickly

Don't waste time brainstorming lots of possible ideas to talk about! Just take the first idea you get, that is *good enough* and go with that. Spend no more than 10 – 15 seconds on getting your idea.

Get a structure ready

Then spend the remaining **45 seconds** on the **structure**. You can follow the bullet points, or you can have a slightly different structure if you want.

Write down your key points briefly

Knowing the key 2 or 3 things you are going to talk about (**and writing them down**), will help you focus on your language more when speaking.

Just write 2 or 3 words for each main point.

Have your first sentence ready

Before you begin talking, **try and have your first sentence clear and ready**, so you can make a confident start.

Part 2 really is all about **confidence**!

Finally, keep the Cue Card or Task Card in front of you.

Remember! You can look at your notes and Cue Card as you are talking.

There are so many **topics** for Part 2 of the speaking test, that it is almost impossible to prepare each one.

It can be useful to start your preparation by putting the topics into **these 5 categories**.

I would say, just about all topics can be put into one of these categories:

- **People**
- **Places**
- **Events**
- **Activities**
- **Things**

Some questions may actually enter 1 or 2 different topics.

By focusing on these categories, it helps us get control and plan our preparation.

IELTS Speaking Part 2 Topic: PEOPLE

In your 2-minute you stay

- **Who** (they are).
- **How** (you know or met them)
- **Feel** (how you feel about them)

When talking about who they are, you can say:

- boss
- ex-boss
- colleague
- workmate
- classmate
- parents

When talking about how you know them: if he or she is a celebrity or a person you haven't met yet.

When talking about how you met them: if he or she is your friend, neighbor or someone you've met

When talking about what's your 1st memory: if he or she is your grandparents or parents or someone you've known since your birth.

When you've to describe them:

Personality

to be the life and soul of the party: a fun person, someone who is the centre of activity

to bend over backwards: to try very hard to help someone

broad-minded: prepared to accept other views or behaviours

easy-going: relaxed and not easily worried about anything

extrovert: an energetic person who likes the company of others

fair-minded: to treat people equally

fun-loving: to enjoy having fun

to hide one's light under a bushel: to hide one's talents and skills

good company: enjoyable to socialise with

good sense of humour: the ability to understand what is funny

introvert: someone who is shy

laid-back: see 'easy-going'

to lose one's temper: to suddenly become angry

narrow minded: opposite of 'broad-minded' (see above)

painfully shy: very shy

to put others first: to think of others before yourself

quick-tempered: to become angry quickly

reserved: shy

self-assured: confident

self-centred: thinks only of oneself

self-confident: believes in one's own ability or knowledge

self-effacing: to not try to get the attention of others (especially in terms of hiding one's skills or abilities)

to take after: to be like (often another member of the family)

thick-skinned: not easily affected by criticism

trustworthy: can be trusted

two-faced: not honest or sincere. Will say one thing to someone to their face and another when they are not present.

Appearance

to bear a striking resemblance: to look very similar to

cropped hair: very short hair

disheveled hair: untidy hair

to dress up to the nines: to dress very smartly or glamorously

fair hair: light-coloured hair

to be fair-skinned: light skinned

to get done up: to dress smartly

to be getting on a bit: to be getting old

to go grey: to have hair that is turning grey

to be good looking: to be attractive

to grow old gracefully: to act in a way that embraces the fact you are getting older

to be hard of hearing: to find it difficult to hear

in his/her 30s/40s: to be 20/30 something

scruffy: dressed untidily

to look young for your age: to look younger than you are

to lose one's figure: to have a figure that has lost its toned shape

complexion: natural skin colour and texture

make up: cosmetics

medium height: average height

middle-aged: approximately between 45-65

to never have a hair out of place: perfectly styled hair

to be overweight: to weigh more than is regarded as healthy

pointed face: the opposite of a round face

shoulder-length hair: hair that comes down to the shoulders and no further

slender figure: a figure that is tall and slim

slim figure: attractively thin

thick hair: a lot of hair

to wear glasses: to use spectacles

to be well-built: to be muscular

to be well-turned out: to look smart

youthful appearance: to look young

when talking about their hobbies: see speaking part -1 hobbies part .

When talking about how you feel about them, you can use expressions like these:

- I was excited to see them
- I was ecstatic to be with them
- I was thrilled to meet them again
- I was delighted to spend time with them
- I was over the moon to see them again

Describe an old person you know and respect Or An old person you met recently

You should say:

Who he or she is?

How do you know this person?

What he or she is like?

And explain why you respect him or her?

An elderly person whom I admire and look up to is my grandmother named Surjo Banu. She is a graduate of political science from the renowned Eden college. From a very young age, being the elder sister from a clan of 3 siblings, she was shouldered with responsibilities. She was forced to stop her studies due to the financial crisis. But her immense interest in education made her excel, and she topped her school and college. In addition, she was an active member of the student union in her university. Owing to this, she was selected to speak to our prime minister. She feels she was very lucky and grateful for her stars. Appearance-wise she is a short lady with fair skin. Her black hair complemented her beauty, yet she always used to tell us that beauty is skin deep. There are several reasons and experiences why I adore her. The main reason is her clear-cut goal in life. She wanted to earn and stand on her feet, which she eventually did, and she grabbed a good lucrative post in the government sector. Secondly, her punctuality and discipline. She used to be on time for any functions and raised her children to be well disciplined. Charity and helping hand were extra added feathers to her cap. She did many donations to help the needy and provided funding for educational needs for students from socio-economically backward groups. I feel she has a magnetic personality and a very intuitive character.

Describe an energetic person that you know.

Or an active/lively person you know

You should say

Who is this person?

How do you know this person?

Why do you think this person is energetic?

And explain how you feel about this person?

According to my perception, an energetic person is always ready for action, either physical or mental—a person who does not feel tired. Here I am going to talk about a very energetic person.

Her name is Anita. She lives next to my home. She is a teacher of mathematics in a private school. There are five family members: her husband, father-in-law, brother-in-law, and four-year-old son. All members of her family are working. She is the only lady in her family, so she manages household chores and schoolwork. She wakes up at 4 am. She starts her day with prayer and then begins other household chores such as dusting, mopping, washing clothes, and preparing food for all. She completes all this work at 6 o'clock. After that, she gets ready for her son to school. She leaves home at 7 o'clock and comes back at 3 o'clock. Instead of taking rest, she teaches math to 10 students from 4 to 6 o'clock in the evening, and then she completes the rest of the house chores and prepares dinner for the family. She goes to bed at 10 o'clock. So this is her daily schedule. I think she is a brave lady who manages all this very calmly. I know her very well because I am her neighbor and was attending math class in her home last year. She is a big motivation for me. Even though she is very busy in her personal and professional life, she still maintains her physique very well because she does yoga in the morning.

IELTS Speaking Part 2 Topic: PLACES

When talking about where it is, you can use expressions like these;

- It's located in the north of ...
- It can be found in the south of...
- It's a little-known place...
- It's hidden away, off the beaten track
- It's a really popular place...
- One of those must-see places
- Quiet, calm, peaceful,
- Noisy, a lot of hustle and bustle, a hive of activity

When talking about what to do there, you can use the following;

- You can (go hiking)...
- It's well known for its (cuisine)...
- People typically like to (shop) there...

When talking about how you feel about it, you can say the following;

- I like / love / adore it.
- I reckon it's awesome, fantastic, outstanding
- I fell head over heels in love with it

Buildings: Location / Exterior / Interior / Atmosphere / Service / My own feeling

Describe a tall building in your city you like or dislike

You should say

Where is it?

What is it used for?

What it looks like?

And explain why you like or dislike it?

Although there are numerous tall buildings in my city, one skyscraper has carved a niche for itself. It is far ahead of others in terms of style and utility. This building lies in the central part of the city. The name of this building is IT Tower. This building is a blessing for the software industry. More than one thousand software engineers and developers work over here. Its design is simple but unique. Unlike other tall buildings, no such fancy work is there on the elevation. I like this building for its utility. Being a nature-loving person, I firmly believe that all citizens should join hands to undo the environmental damage. This building has set the right precedent to save our environment. To do so, the designers of this building have used solar planes for the window panes instead of glass. Due to this unique feature, this building generates energy for its usage from solar power. To extract maximum solar energy, the architects have left no stone unturned. They have given it a shape conducive to effective use of sunlight. Due to this out-of-the-box thinking, this massive structure has carved a niche for itself. During the construction process, many experts expressed apprehensions regarding the success of this tower. However, five years have passed, and all companies inside this tower get a seamless power supply at a minimal cost.

Cities: Location / People / Food / Cityscape / Entertainment / My own feeling

Describe a foreign country you have never been to.

You should say:

where the country is

when you plan to visit this country

why would you like to go there

and explain why this is a good country to visit.

I have always wanted to be but have not been to yet is 'Italy.' I've been dreaming of visiting this country for more than five years. Ironically, an attempt to visit Italy was canceled two years ago. I'll see the country as soon as my graduation is complete. Italy is in Southern Europe. Rome, the

largest city and the Capital of Italy, has been the leading political and religious center of western civilization, serving as the capital of both the Roman Empire and Christianity. I want to go there to see the great museums, historical monuments and structures, cultural and other attractions and above all to get an impression of an Italian way of life. Another reason I want to go there is to visit Vatican City. I have read and heard numerous historical facts about this country, and witnessing them would be a great joy for me. There are plenty of things to see- arts, museums, Colosseum, Leaning Tower of Pissa, Roman Forum, Florence Cathedral, St. Peter's Basilica, Milan Cathedral, Sistine Chapel, Piazza San Marco, Circus Maximus and lots of other places I'd love to visit. Italy was one of the most advanced territories once. This country still has lots of historically important sites to see. I've read about those places so many times and heard stories from many of my friends that visiting this country has become a big wish for me. And I'm pretty optimistic about visiting this country next year after I finish university.

<u>Organization:</u> History / Members / Location / Duty / Influence / My own feeling
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Describe a large company that you know:

you should say

what kind of company it is

what the company does

why you are interested in it

and explain how you became interested in this company.

There are many large and successful corporations today, like Google, Amazon, etc. The company I want to work for is Bashundhara Industries. It's a sizeable Bangladeshi multinational with many subsidiaries like Bashundhara Consultancy, Bashundhara Motors, Bashundhara Hotels, etc. It even has ventures like Bashundhara salts and Bashundhara water purifiers. In Bangladesh, everyone knows about it because they have some presence in every sector. It recently got global recognition after its takeover of the failing Square Motors and converting it into a profitable business within a year. Admittedly, it is not as commercially successful as some other multinationals, but it is still my dream company. There are many reasons for it. First of all, it is one of the few companies that only run after money. It runs my social welfare projects like Bashundhara Hospitals, Bashundhara Children Charity, Bashundhara Welfare Homes, and so on. During the coronavirus crisis, it donated the most considerable amount to PM cares fund in Bangladesh. Not only that, it was the first company to announce the donation. The second reason is its work culture. I have an elder cousin who works in Bashundhara Motors. He told me that Bashundhara Motors is one of the few companies which doesn't exploit their employees. The employees are encouraged to maintain a work-life balance. Employees are strictly forbidden to work

more than 48 hours a week. During the coronavirus lockdown, it was one of the few companies which paid their employees fully. Last but not least, it would be a matter of pride for me to work for a sizeable Bangladeshi company. Unfortunately, there are very few sizeable Bangladeshi-origin multinationals. Over the years, Bashundhara Industries has grown domestically and spread its roots in other parts of the world. Bashundhara Industries can help me fulfill my dreams, and I can settle abroad and still work for a Bangladeshi company.

<u>Natural Beauty:</u> Location / History / Visitors / Activities / My own feeling

Talk about a place full of colors?

Where is it

How you know about it

When you went there

What you did there

Explain why you think it is colorful

Without colors life more boring and dull. colors play a vital role in our life and make our life more colorful. There are some colorful places. But I would like to talk about a colorful place located in my hometown. This is the rose garden of my hometown full of color. There are many reasons why this place is full of color. This is the biggest park which covers a huge area. I must say that this park full of colors because of thousands and thousands of flowers available in this park. In addition to it, there is greenery all around which makes this place colorful. apart from this, in this park, we can see the rare color of flowers such as black. Furthermore, there are some colorful plants that spread the colors all around and there are some colorful birds such as butterflies, sparrows and so on which put contribute to making this place full of color. Moreover, There is one children's area where children spend their quality time and I must say that their hooting, laughing makes this place more colorful. In my daily routine, I visit this park and enjoy the view of this place. This place gives me relaxation and sometimes I go there for study purposes and for some other purpose. That is a place is full of color and put contributes to increasing the beauty of my hometown.

IELTS Speaking Part 2 Topic: ACTIVITIES

In your 2 minute talk you can talk about;

- **What** (it is)
- **Is it popular or not**
- **How** (you do it)
- **Easy or difficult**
- **Challenges**
- **Overcome**
- **Feelings**

When talking about the what it is, you use phrases like these;

- It's hugely popular,
- It's really trendy now,
- It tends to be popular with (young/old/city people),
- It's not so well-known

When talking about how, you do it, you use expressions like these,

Easy

- It's a piece of cake,
- Anyone can do it,
- It's not rocket science

Difficult

- It takes a while to pick it up,
- It's not straight forward,
- You need time and patience,
- It's not for everyone

When talking about challenges you can say;

- X poses a few challenges, such as...
- The difficult thing about X is..
- The tricky thing about X is...
- Without a doubt, the biggest challenge with X is...

Describe a leisure activity near/on the sea that you want to try.

You should say

- What is it?
- What do you need to prepare?
- How easy or difficult is it?
- And explain why you want to try it?

Being an adventurous person, I have participated in many activities for fun and excitement. However, I haven't got an opportunity to participate in exercises near the sea. Next month I am going to Goa for an official trip. Over there, I will swim in the ocean. Since I am an expert swimmer, I need not prepare much. I need to carry the swimming kit. If I talk as a swimmer, I do not think it would be a daunting task because I have sufficient experience. Since childhood, I have been swimming in different water bodies like lakes, canals, and rivers. However, swimming in the sea would be an altogether new experience for me. Hence, once I would do it, only I would come to know. Since my childhood, I have had an uncanny knack for indulging in water sports activities. I have already tried swimming with the flow of the river Ganges. Apart from this, I have tried my hand at river rafting too. I would like to have another feather on my cap by swimming in the sea alongside the tides—my friends who have done swimming in the sea talk very highly about their experiences. Their stories motivate me to try this activity as soon as possible.

Describe an art or craft activity that you had at school.

You should say

- What you made?
- How you made it?
- What it looked like?
- And how you felt about the activity?

Art and craft have always fascinated me since my childhood. Although I had participated in many such activities during school time, I was regular at painting. I won an award when I drew a flowing river on canvas. During the summer holidays of the 6th standard, our teacher assigned a task to us. It was to draw a painting with nature as the theme. Since I had plenty of time at my disposal, I did much research to find the correct piece for my painting. Finally, I painted the flowing Ganges river with the Himalayas in the background. The task was not easy because you need to be accurate with colors when you have to draw nature on canvas. It took me a week to draw the painting. Initially, I was very nervous, but eventually, I got into a flow state. From the 3rd day onwards, I started enjoying every second of my task. I drew it with precision. To come up with the right color for the background, I had to mix various colors. Finally, when I unveiled the painting at the school, I gained tremendous appreciation. They gave me a good round of applause. The school principal gave me a trophy along with a bunch of peonies. That day, I was on cloud nine because that moment changed my life's trajectory and made me a confident person. After that, I participated in many other competitions and brought laurels to my school. The admiration I had received that day would always remain etched in my memories.

Describe an activity that you do after school/work.

You should say

- What it is?
- When and Where you do it?
- Who you do it with?
- And how you feel about it?

Being a busy person, I usually have little time at my disposal to engage in an activity. However, taking the pressures of this new world into consideration learning new skills is very important. To help me in my future career, I daily engage myself in activities after work. One such activity is cooking, which I regularly do. Every evening I cook dinner at my home for the whole family. As I have planned to go abroad for greener pastures, I prefer to do cooking alone to hone my culinary skills. However, when I get stuck, my mother helps me. Initially, when I started to cook, it used to be a monotonous experience for me. Every day I would think of quitting it. But the need was urgent, so I carried on. Eventually, I started getting into the groove, and now I enjoy it. Cooking is no longer an activity for me now. It has become my passion, and whenever I do it, I get into a state of flow. Every day my family members have a vibrant smile on their faces when they savor the mouth-watering delicacies prepared by me to pamper their appetite. Since I would shift to Canada in the next few months, this activity allows me to spend quality time with my family. Overall this pursuit has brought a paradigm shift in my life. And I have planned to carry on with this activity for the rest of my life.

IELTS Speaking Part 2 Topic: EVENTS

In your 2 minute talk you can talk about;

- **What**
- **Who**
- **When**
- **Why**
- **My feeling**

When talking about the setting, you can use phrases like these;

Past Tenses

- When I was living in...
- When I was working in...
- I used to live in...
- I would always...
- When I was younger, I often...

When talking about people, you can talk about personality

- talkative, never shuts up, thick-skinned, rude, inconsiderate
- sensitive, delicate, considerate, thoughtful, polite,
- witty, smart, fast-thinking, intuitive

When talking about *what happened*, you can use tenses such as past, present and future, as well as functions such as regret;

Past

- I was doing..., when xx happened.
- I did this, I did that, and I did this and that (*common pattern of 3 actions*)

Present

- As far as I know, (this event) still happens...
- If this happened to me today/now, I would definitely...
- Nowadays, I always...

Future

- I am sure (this event) will continue to happen in the future...

Regret

- I wish I had known...,
- With the benefit of hindsight, I wouldn't do that again.
- I regret doing that...

Describe a special day or a memory of your school or college days.

You should say

- When and where it was?
- What exactly happened?
- How did you feel?
- Why it is so special for you?

I feel good while remembering my school days. The quality time spent in school would always remain etched in my memories. Although numerous instances are worth discussing in my school days, one such moment is worth mentioning. It happened during my 8th class. When I had to give my best performance in front of a huge crowd. There was an inter-school competition for lawn tennis. My friend Andrew from my class was representing our school at that event. To our dismay, Andrew had an upset stomach just before the match. The school management decided to drop Andrew. Upon Andrew's recommendation, the team proposed my name as the replacement. Since I had good terms with the sports teacher, my name got instant approval. I had gone to the stadium as a spectator. However, destiny had a big plan for me. Initially, I was a bit nervous, but when the whole of my school started cheering for me, I got a feeling of adrenaline rush. Initially, I was hitting the ball too hard. As the match went further, I regained my touch. Suddenly, my play became too smooth, and I won the game in straight sets. After winning the game, I had a sigh of relief. I was able to do justice to my talent. Apart from this, I brought laurels to the school. That day led to a paradigm shift in my confidence. My school life was never the same after that day.

Describe a live sports match that you have watched

- What it was?
- When you watched it?
- What was it like?
- How did you feel about it?

Being a football player, I do not get enough chances to watch a live match as an audience. Because most of the time, I have to participate as a player; however, recently, due to an unforeseen contingency, I got an opportunity to watch a live football match. Last month, there was a match between our college and St. Stephen's college football team. I was a part of my college team and eagerly waited to participate in that match. However, just before the game, I met with an accident. I didn't get many injuries, but I had swelling on my right foot. After discussing it with my coach, I decided not to play the match. However, I stayed at the stadium to watch the game and cheer for my team. Since the game was between two of the best teams in our city, there was a massive crowd

at the stadium. After the first half, I went to my team's dressing room and advised my team. My team was lagging by one goal at the start of the second half. Nevertheless, we won the match. Upon winning, the captain told me that my advice helped them score three goals. Initially, I was upset about not being a part of the team. But as the match progressed, I started enjoying it. Moreover, I realized we could learn about the game by playing it and watching it. During the game, the quality time I had would always remain etched in my memories.

IELTS Speaking Part 2 Topic: THINGS

In your 2 minute talk you can say ;

- **What** (it is).
- **How** (you got it /gave it)
- **When**
- **Why**
- **Description**
- **Feelings** (about it)

When talking about what it is, you can use adjectives and adverbials like these;

Good

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| • fantastic | • outstanding |
| • top quality | • the best ever |
| • awesome | |

Bad

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| • terrible | • disappointing |
| • awful | • the worst ever |

Positive Adverbials

- absolutely
- really
- undoubtedly
- without a doubt

When talking about how you got or gave it, you can say the following,

- My sister gave it to me
- It was given to me by my sister
- I got it from my sister

When giving a description of the object, you can use expressions like these;

- It's reddish, brownish, greenish...
- It's square-shaped, round-shaped, oblong-shaped
- It's modern, state of the art, high-tech, cutting edge

When talking about feelings about it, you can use expressions like these;

- I really like it
- I can't live without it.
- In fact I'd say, it's the best X I have ever had/seen/bought...
- In fact, I'd go as far as to say, it's the best X I have ever had/seen/bought...

Describe a time when you shared something with others

You should say

What you shared?

Who you shared with?

Why you shared it?

And explain how you felt about sharing it.

There is no denying this conviction that sharing is caring. Being an altruist, I have this habit of going beyond the conventional domain while helping others. Recently I shared my car with my friend Siam because he needed it urgently. Siam is not only my friend but also my neighbor. He always supports me during tough times. So this time, it was my turn to reciprocate. After passing graduation, he tried to find a job but did not get much success. Recently he got an appointment with a multinational company as a business development manager. The salary package was also good with a condition, and that was he needed his car for office work. Although Siam didn't have a car, he bought it from his savings. He joined the new job and started raking in big bucks. Everything was going smoothly, but one day, the higher authorities' change in the law put Siam's position in jeopardy.

Since my city has much pollution, the local government passed a new rule called Odd-even rationing under which the car with an even number would ply on even dates. Those with odd numbers would run on irregular dates. According to the law, Siam could use his car for a max of 15 days in a month because his car's number was even. This development put Siam into depression because he feared losing his job. Being his bosom friend, I decided to help him. Since my car was of an odd number, I decided to share my car with him on irregular dates. Initially, he was not ready for it, but later on, he agreed. I felt jubilant because I managed to save the job of my buddy.

Describe a gift you gave someone

You Should Say

What was the gift?

Who did you give it to?

Why did you give it?

Everyone loves to receive gifts on their birthdays and special occasions. Last month, it was my closest friend's birthday, and I wanted to give him something handmade, so it made me ruminate until it finally hit me. I like to paint and doodle a lot in my respite and for my close ones like my family and friends. It was a set of two different bookmarks, a random doodle, a design, scented candles, a diffuser, a bouquet, and his favorite 'paul and mike' chocolate pack. I gave the gifts to one of my closest friends, Kushagra. He is my childhood friend. He has been with me since we were five, and we have seen each other grow and evolve. We know each other's preferences and personalities. He had always been a big fan of my artwork and demanded to draw him a piece, but I've always said no just to tease him. So to flabbergast him on his 21st birthday, I poured my heart into making my handmade gifts. He is very enamored of scented candles and likes that his room should be filled with redolence whenever he enters it. I tried my best to celebrate his birthday as perfectly as possible, and he loved it.

SPEAKING PART-2

Describe a piece of art you like. You should say:

- what the work of art is
- when you first saw it
- what you know about it
- and explain why you like it.

Describe a book you have recently read. You should say:

- what kind of book it is
- what it is about
- what sort of people would enjoy it
- and explain why you liked it.

Describe a piece of advice you recently received. You should say:

- when this happened
- who gave you the advice
- what the advice was
- and explain how you felt about the advice.

Describe a time of the day you like. You should say:

- what time of day it is
- what you do at that time
- who you are usually with
- and explain why you like it.

Describe an exercise you know. You should say:

- what it is
- how it is done
- when you first tried it
- what kind of people it is suitable for

- and explain why you think it is a good exercise.

Describe a member of the your family you get on well with. You should say:

- who it is
- what relationship you have to that person
- what that person is like
- what you do together
- and explain why you get on so well.

Describe a gift you recently gave to someone. You should say:

- who you gave it to
- what kind of person he/she is
- what the gift was
- what occasion the gift was for
- and explain why you chose that gift.

Describe an interesting hobby. You should say:

- what it is
- what kind of people do it
- how it is done
- and explain why you think it is interesting.

Describe a useful website. You should say:

- what it is
- how often you visit it
- what kind of site it is
- what kind of information it offers
- and explain why you think it is useful.

Describe a journey that didn't go as planned. You should say:

- where you were going
- how you were travelling
- who you were with
- what went wrong
- and explain what you would do differently.

Describe a person you know who is kind. You should say:

- who it is
- how you know this person
- what sort of person he/she is
- and explain why you think they are kind.

Describe a language you have learned. You should say:

- what it is
- when you started learning
- how you learned it
- what was difficult about it
- and why you decided to learn that language.

Describe a song you like. You should say:

- what kind of song it is
- what the song is about
- when you first heard it
- and explain why you like it.

Describe some good news you recently received. You should say:

- what the news was
- how you received the news
- who gave it to you
- and explain why this was good news.

Describe an old person you know. You should say:

- who this person is
- how old he/she is
- what this person is like
- and explain why you like this person.

Describe a photograph you like. You should say:

- what can be seen in the photo
- when it was taken
- who took it
- and explain why you like it.

Describe someone you respect. You should say:

- who the person is
- how you know about this person
- what this person does
- what this person is like
- and explain why you respect this person.

Describe a sports you would like to learn. You should say:

- what it is
- what equipment is needed for it
- how you would learn it
- and explain why you would like to learn this sport.

Describe a place you have recently visited. You should say:

- where you went
- who you went with
- how you got there
- and explain why you enjoyed it.

Describe an unexpected event. You should say:

- what it was
- when it happened
- who was there
- why it was unexpected
- and explain why you enjoyed it.

Describe a vocation you think is useful to society. You should say:

- what it is
- what it involves
- what kind of people usually do this work
- and explain why you think it is useful to society.

Describe a place near water. You should say:

- where it is
- how you get there
- how often you do there
- what you can do there
- and explain why you like it.

Describe your favourite shop. You should say:

- where it is
- how often you go there
- what it sells
- and explain why you think it is a good shop.

Describe a place with animals. You should say:

- where it is
- how you heard of it
- what animals can be seen
- and explain why it might be an interesting place to visit.

Speaking Part-3

Question type-1: description

strategy- general statement +point-1+point-2+point-3.....

sample question- why do friends meet up?

sample answer:

general statement: I think there are various reasons.

point one- the first is to spend time together because doing things together is more fun for most people than doing things alone.

point two- secondly, I think it is to talk, share, get advice on matters, and so on.

Useful language

starting off- ok, then, actually, well,

general statement-

- ✓ there are several....
- ✓ there are numerous....
- ✓ **there are a myriad number of....**
- ✓ there are a plethora of.....

point one:

- ❖ I'd like to begin by saying....
- ❖ **the first thing I'd like to mention is....**
- ❖ **the main thing you need to know is....**

point two:

- **on top of that I can also add that...**
- another interesting point.....
- **not only that but is also exceedingly**

point three:

- ✓ finally, I'd also like to mention.....
- ✓ and, I shouldn't forget to mention.....
- ✓ I guess I could also say that it's sort of....

Sample question-What are the **advantages** and **disadvantages** of vacations at the seaside?

Answer: Seaside holidays provide numerous rewards. The main attraction is the enticing sights and opportunity to indulge in water games. On the contrary, tourists can experience heat strokes and body tans if they remain under the sun for a more extended period. Apart from this, there is a possibility of drowning in the sea.

Sample question – How do you feel about sharing accommodation with others on campus?

Answer: It is a good practice as it helps you pass your leisure time prudently. Moreover, it leads to an exchange of ideas, and you also learn how to do daily chores together.

Practice questions:

- ❖ How do you celebrate happy events?
- ❖ Why do you think **documentary films** are not so popular?
- ❖ What are the benefits of making handicrafts?
- ❖ What can we do to make young people pay more attention to traditional art?
- ❖ What are the **advantages and disadvantages** of using social media? ad: 1. connect with people
2. sharing opinions and thoughts on matters
disad: 1. consumes a lot of time
2. false information, mislead.

Question type-2: types of

strategy: general statement+type-1+type-2+type-3+.....

sample question- Can you tell me about the different types of public transportation in your city.

sample answer:

general statement- Well, you know there's quite a mixed variety of public transportation in my city.

type-1- I think the most common one is buses because they seem to go everywhere.

type-2- In addition, the trains are also extremely popular for those people who are lucky enough to live near a train station.

useful language

rephrasing types: kinds, sorts, variety, range of, array

useful phrases to start [general statement]

there's quite a mixed variety of....

there's a fairly wide range of....

there's quite a diverse mixture of..

type-2

in addition to x....., y is also extremely

popular

another kind is....

not only that but x is also exceedingly.....

type-1

I think the most common one is

the main one is.....

the first one that comes to mind is....

type-3[if needed]

and I shouldn't forget to mention that....

I guess I could also say that...

finally, I'd also like to mention.....

Sample question- what kinds of **traditional handicrafts** are there in your country?

Answer- **There's a fairly wide range** of traditional handicrafts in the nation I live in. **The first one that comes to mind** is **pottery** such as ceramic pottery, and terracotta pottery. **Not only that but phulkari, hand-knotted carpets** are **also hugely popular**. I **guess I could also talk** about **puppets**.

practice questions

- ❖ What types of job positions can be found on or near the sea?
- ❖ What kinds of things are popular on social media?
- ❖ What kind of sports do Bangladeshi people like to watch?
- ❖ What kind of puzzles improve people's intelligence?
- ❖ What kinds of things do people in your country often buy from online shops?

Question type-3: liking and disliking

strategy: general statement+ specific statement+ reason

sample question: what kind of animals do you like? {liking}

sample answer:

general statement: well, in general, I'd say I'm pretty fond of small animals.

specific statement: in particular, I'm really keen on cats and dogs.

reason: and, I guess this is because we often kept them when I was growing up and they were good companions for me.

strategy: general statement+ specific statement+ reason

sample question: is there anything you don't like about your hometown? {disliking}

sample answer:

general statement: generally speaking I'm not really fond of the weather.

specific statement: to be more specific, I really can't stand the summer months.

reason: I think this is due to the fact that it is always humid, so it makes me feel quite hot and sweaty.

Useful languages

general statement:

generally speaking...

well, in general, I'd say...

overall I think that...

specific statement:

to be more specific...

specifically...

to be more precise...

rephrasing liking:

I'm pretty fond of...

I'm really keen on...

I'm a big fan of...

I'm extremely passionate about...

rephrasing disliking:

I really can't stand it...

I'm not really fond of...

I'm not much of a fan of...

... simply gets on my nerves.

reason

I think this is due to the fact that...
and I guess this is probably since...
the reason for this is...

Practice questions:

- ❖ Do you like to share?
- ❖ Do different age groups like the same kinds of films?
- ❖ Do you like any particular film star?
- ❖ Why do people like to use social media?
- ❖ Why do some people dislike taking medicine?

Question type-4: habit

structure: depends+ if preference-1+ if preference-2

sample question: what do you usually do at the weekend?

sample answer:

depends: ctually, it is contingent upon how I feel.

if preference-1: if I'm exhausted after working all week, I prefer to do something relaxing like chilling out on the sofa with a book by my favorite author.

if preference-2: but, if I feel energetic, I would rather do something more exciting like go hiking or camping.

Useful language

Depends

well, it is contingent upon...

I think it depends, really...

well, to be honest, I would have to say that it really depends...

Preference-1

If I'm...I prefer to...

Usually, I prefer...

Sometimes, I prefer to...

Preference-2

But, if I ... I would rather ...

Although, sometimes I would rather...

However, if I have...

Practice questions

- ❖ How do you celebrate happy events?
- ❖ How much time do you spend on apps?
- ❖ How do most people plan their future education or careers?
- ❖ What do you usually do on the internet?
- ❖ What do people like to do for holidays?

Question type-5: yes/no

structure: depends+ if preference-1+ if preference-2

sample question: Do you have a healthy diet?

sample answer:

depends: well, to be honest, I'd have to say it really depends.

preference-1: usually, I prefer to eat something quick and convenient such as instant noodles, because I am very busy with my studies.

preference-2: although, sometimes, I would rather spend a little more time and cook something healthier, such as rice and veggies.

Useful language

LOOK UP TO THE USEFUL LANGUAGES OF HABIT. YOU CAN APPLY THE SAME PHRASES FOR ANSWERING YES/NO QUESTIONS

practice questions

- ❖ Is kindness an essential quality of a police officer?
- ❖ Should big companies donate more to charities?
- ❖ Is it easier for you to have arguments with your friends or family members?
- ❖ Is it a good thing that everyone has his/her car?
- ❖ Does personality affect how people choose what to wear?

Question type-6

opinion

One thing you should not do is start every sentence with 'I think...' or 'in my opinion...' the IELTS examiner will be looking for how you vary your language. Below are a number of ways you could do that:

- as I see it,
- personally,
- for me,

If you feel very strongly about something you could use:

- I'm convinced that....
- I'm sure that....
- I'm certain that....

If you are less sure about your opinion you could give a weaker opinion by using:

- I guess that...
- I suppose that....
- I'd say that.....

Example question

What are some of the ways people can help others in the community?

As I see it, there are many ways one can help the needy, but the best way is by making charitable donations. people can choose a charity and simply donate a sum of money and leave it to them to help others in need. for instance, I recently gave money to an orphanage. I don't have time to help them personally, so I'll leave it up to them to use the money as they see fit.

Evaluate

In these kinds of questions, you will be asked what you think about someone else's opinion. We will therefore need to use expressions that allow us to agree or disagree.

For the **agreement** we can use:

- I couldn't agree with you more.
- That's so true.
- That's for sure.
- That's exactly how I feel.
- No doubt about it.
- I suppose so./I guess so.
- You/they have a point there.

For **disagreement** we can use:

- I don't think so.
- I'm afraid I disagree.
- I totally disagree.
- I beg to differ.
- I'd say the exact opposite.
- Not necessarily.
- That's not always true.

remember that you will have to extend your answers with explanations and examples.

Example question

Some people say that people helped others more in the past than they do now. Do you agree or disagree?

I don't think so. when it comes to my parents' generation I think they are quite skeptical about helping other people in the community, but my generation is regularly doing things to improve it, **such as** volunteering for various environmental and charitable organizations. young people are actively encouraged to help out in the community and I don't think this happened in the past, so **I'm afraid I'd disagree.**

Practice questions

1. Do you think arguments are essential?
2. What's your definition of success?
3. Do you think people would be happier if they didn't have any goals to achieve?
4. What is your opinion about selfies?
5. Do you think people should have to pay to visit art exhibitions?

Question type-7: comparison

strategy: avoidance

structure: avoiding phrase+ answer the question

sample question: Do you prefer to read a book or watch tv?

sample answer:

avoiding phrase: oh, I like them both, so it's hard to choose only one.

answer the question: but I guess that if I had to choose one, then I would rather read a novel and the main reason for this is because I slightly prefer the storylines of novels to tv.

Useful phrases

avoiding phrases:

Oh, I like them both, so it's hard to choose only one.
Well, to be honest, I don't really have...
Actually, I'm not really sure about that.

answering the question:

....but I guess I'll probably...
... but I guess that if I had to choose one. then I'd...
.... perhaps the end result will be...

comparatives:

I slightly prefer a to b...

I'd much rather enjoy a than b...

I enjoy x much more than y...

Practice questions

- ❖ Which do you think is better? A detective movie or its original novel?
- ❖ Which one is more important, cooking or driving a car?
- ❖ Do people in your country prefer to share public transport or do they prefer to use private vehicles?
- ❖ Do you like to look for new apps or keep using old ones?
- ❖ Do people prefer local or international news?

Question type-8: future questions

strategy: avoidance

structure: avoiding phrase+ answer the question

sample question: where would you like to go for your next vacation?

sample answer:

avoiding phrase: well, to be honest, I really don't have any clear plan

answer the question: but I guess that I'll probably go overseas to some exotic location like Nepal because I'm really into hiking and exploring new areas.

Useful phrases

avoiding phrases:

well, to be honest, i don't really have...

actually, I'm not really sure about that.

oh, I've never really thought about that.

answering the question:

....but I guess I'll probably...

... but I guess that if I had to choose one. then I'd...

.... perhaps the end result will be...

Practice questions

- ❖ Would you learn a new language in the future?
- ❖ Will people work less in the future?
- ❖ How do you think people will travel in the future?
- ❖ Do you think there will be many women leaders in the future?
- ❖ Do you think machines could replace manual labour in the future?

Question type-9: past questions

The difference between contrast and concession.

Look at these two sentences:

- Mary prefers coffee, but Peter prefers tea
- although Mary usually prefers coffee, today she's drinking tea.

In the first example, we have a simple contrast. There's no reason why Peter should prefer coffee just because Mary does.

But in the second example, we have something a little unexpected, something slightly surprising. Because Mary prefers coffee, we might expect her to be drinking coffee today, but no, she's decided to have tea instead.

The second sentence is an example of concession when something unexpected happens - Mary's drinking tea today - even though we have conceded something else - that is to admit that something else is true - that Mary usually prefers coffee.

note - with simple contrast, we are usually comparing a similar aspect of two different people, things, or situations. with concession, we are often contrasting two different aspects of the same person, thing or situation.

strategy: concession

structure: main point+ concession

sample question: what games did you enjoy playing when you were a child?

sample answer:

main point: well, I was always very keen on playing video games. I spent almost all my leisure time playing them.

concession: however, I'm quite aware that it wasn't the healthiest to spend my childhood, and perhaps it's contributed to my myopia.

Useful phrases

concession:

however, I'm quite aware that...

nevertheless, it's worth remembering that...

although, I suppose it could be argued that...

Practice questions

- ❖ Have you attended any lessons about art?
- ❖ Are parents these days stricter than in the past?
- ❖ What type of food did you like when you were a kid?
- ❖ What type of indoor activities did you do as a child?
- ❖ What colors did you like when you were a child?

SPEAKING PART-3

Advertising 1. describe a useful advertisement that you've watched 2. describe an ad that you didn't like

- Do you think adverts have a big impact on what people buy?
- Are adverts useful for people?
- What kinds of adverts are most common in your country?
- Which are more effective: adverts on TV or adverts on social media?
- Do you think advertising aimed at children is acceptable?
- What do you think about advertising for fast food?
- Do you think some types of adverts should be banned?

Art 1. describe a painting you like 2. describe an art activity you had at school.

- What kind of art do you enjoy?
- What are the tradition art forms in your country?
- What makes a good painting?
- Do you think children should study art at school?
- How can children benefit from learning art?
- How has art changed in the last few decades in your country? *compare -[past-present]-technology*

Books

1. describe a story or novel you've recently studied.

- What kinds of books do children in your country like to read?
- Do you think children can learn a lot from books?
- Do you think fairy tales are useful books for children?
- Why do some adults read books written for children?
- Do you think paper books will some day disappear?
- What are the advantages of e-books?
- Do you think libraries are still useful in today's society? *past-present-compare*

Business *1.describe a large company
2.describe a small business that you know
3. describe a businessman*

- What are popular small businesses in your country?
- What kinds of products does your country produce?
- Do you think it's important to purchase products from your own country rather than from abroad?
- Why do some people like to run their own business?
- Do you think family business are problematic?
- What does it take for a business to be successful?
- Has globalisation affected small businesses in your country?

Celebrities

- How does someone become a celebrity?
- Are all celebrities actors or singers?
- Do you think a person needs to be talented to be a celebrity?
- Are all celebrities good role models?
- What do you think about celebrities who behave badly in public?
- Do you think children should learn from celebrities?
- How do celebrities have a positive impact on the world?
- Are there any downsides to fame?
- Do you think famous people have the right to privacy?
- Are modern celebrities different to celebrities a few decades ago?

Clothes

- Can clothing tell you much about a person?
- Why do some companies ask their staff to wear uniforms?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of having uniforms at work?
- When do people wear traditional clothing in your country?
- How have clothes fashions change in your country over the last few decades?
- What is the difference between clothes that young people and old people like to wear?

Culture

- What popular traditions do you have in your country?
- Do you think it's important to keep these traditions alive?
- Are young people less interested in traditions these days?
- Do you think foreign culture is influencing the culture of your country?
- How has your country's culture changed over the last few decades?
- What can be done to keep culture alive?
- What kinds of traditional foods are there in your country?
- When do people wear traditional clothing in your country?
- What popular festivals are typical of your country's culture?

Decision Making

- Why do some people find it difficult to make decisions?
- What kinds of big decisions do people have to make in their lives?
- Do you think people ought to get advice before making big decisions?
- Do you think young people today have different types of decisions to make about their lives compared to young people in the past?
- Should children be allowed to make decisions on their own?
- What do you think about people who change their minds after making a decision?

Education

- What makes a good student?
- What role should the teacher have in the classroom?
- Do you think computers will one day replace teachers in the classroom?
- How has teaching changed in your country in the last few decades?
- What is the difference between the way children learn and the way adults learn?
- How can a teacher make lessons for children more interesting?

Environment

- What are the biggest environmental problems in your country?
- What should individuals be doing to protect the natural environment?
- Is pollution a problem in your country?
- How could the government help prevent pollution?

- Do you think young people today are more aware of environmental problems compared to the older generation?
- Do you think it's important to protect trees?
- Do you think more money should be spent on protecting wild animals?
- Do you think zoos are important?

Family

- Is family important in your country?
- How has the size of the family changed in the last few decades in your country?
- How do you think the family will change in the future?
- What role do grandparents play in the family in your country?
- Who do you think should be responsible for the care of the elderly, the family or the government?

Food

- Do you think diet is important?
- What is a balanced diet?
- What is the typical diet of people in your country?
- Do many people eat in restaurants in your country?
- Why do some people enjoy eating out?
- What's the difference between restaurant food and home cooked food?

Health

- How can people improve their health?
- Do elderly people do much exercise in your country?
- Do you think all illness can be prevented?
- Do you think there will be less illness in the future?
- Do you think health care should be free?
- What makes a good doctor?

Internet

- Do most people have a computer at home in your country?
- Do you think all information on the internet is true?
- How can people find reliable information on the internet?
- How has the internet changed the way we live?

- How has the internet changed the way we work?
- Do you think the internet is safe for children to use unsupervised?

Language

- At what age should children start learning a foreign language?
- Why do some people struggle to learn a new language?
- Do you think it's easier to learn a new language if you are in the country where the language is spoken?
- What kinds of dictionaries do people use to learn a language?
- Why do some people want to learn a new language?
- Do you think it is important to learn the language of a country that you are visiting on holiday?

Leadership

- What traits does a good leader have?
- Do you think leaders should be physically attractive?
- Is there a leader in your country who is or has been greatly admired?
- Why do some leaders lose popularity?
- Do you think people are born to be a good leader or is it something someone can learn?
- How could leadership be taught in schools?
- Do you think leaders should be good listeners?
- How do leaders motivate people to follow them?

Media & News

- Do you believe everything you read in the newspapers?
- How do most people get their news in your country?
- How do you think people will get their news in the future?
- How has TV changed our lives?
- Do you think TV influences the way we think?
- Should children be allowed to watch a lot of TV?
- Are all people on TV famous?
- Do you think famous people have a responsibility to act as role models for the younger generation?

Movies

- Is going to the cinema to watch a movie popular in your country?
- What kinds of films are popular in your country?
- Do many people enjoy watching foreign films in your country?
- Do you think it's better to have subtitles or dubbing in a foreign film?
- What does it take for a film to become successful?
- Which do you think are more important to the success of a film: the director or the stars?
- Are drama series popular in your country?
- Do you think people prefer watching films at home or in the cinema?
- Are there any films which are not suitable for children to watch?
- Do you think films about real life events should be 100% true to the actual facts?

Nature

- What are the main environmental problems in your country?
- Why should people be concerned about the environment?
- How can people protect the environment?
- Do you think money should be spent on protecting animals?
- Do you think more should be done to protect natural beauty spots in your country?

Photography

- Do many people like taking photos in your country?
- Which device do they usually use to take photos?
- What types of photos do people like to take?
- What do you think of selfies?
- Do you think it's ok to share photos online without people's permission?
- What makes a good photo?
- How does a photo differ from a painting?
- Is it true that a photo can tell no lies?
- What does it take to be a good photographer?

Punctuality

- Is punctuality important in your country?
- Do you think being on time is more important now than in the past?
- How do people make sure they are on time for an appointment?

- Do people in your country usually wear a watch?
- Why do you think some people are frequently late?
- Is it easy to control one's time?
- How can a person balance their daily schedule?
- What is the main reason people run out of time?

Socialising

- How do people in your country meet new people?
- Do you think it's safe to meet new people online?
- Do you think it's important for friends to spend time together?
- What kinds of things do friends in your country like to do together?
- Do you think families spend enough time together these days?
- How has socialising changed over the last few decades?
- Do you think it's safe for children to socialise online?

Society

- What social problems are there in your country?
- What can be done to alleviate poverty?
- Are there many charities in your country?
- What is the difference between major crime and minor crime?
- Do you think all criminals should go to prison?
- Why do so many people move to live in cities?
- What problems does over population cause?

Toys

- What are popular toys for children in your country?
- Have the toys for children changed over the last few decades?
- Do you think boys and girls like the same toys?
- Do you think it's ok for boys to play with toys made for girls?
- What kinds of games do children like most?
- Do you think games and toys are educational for children?
- Do you think it's ok for children to spend a lot of time playing games on their devices?
- What benefits can children gain from playing games with other children?

Transportation

- How do most people travel around cities in your country?
- How do most people travel around your country?
- What do you think of the public transportation in your country?
- How could the public transportation be improved?
- How has transport changed over the last few decades?
- Do you think trains are better than buses?
- What do you think of budget air travel?
- Do you think all transport will one day be run on green energy?
- Do you think people should walk more rather than use cars?

Travel

- Why do some people prefer to travel abroad rather than in their own country?
- Do you think traveling to another country can change the way people think?
- Do you think it is good for children to experience life in a foreign country?
- How have holidays changed over the past few decades?
- Do you think it is safer to travel now than in the past?

Weather

- How many seasons are there in your country?
- Does your country ever have extreme weather?
- Does weather ever disrupt things in your country?
- Why do you think some people enjoy living in a hot climate?
- What types of activities can people do in cold climates?
- What do you think it must be like to live in a country with only one type of weather all year round?
- Is the weather easy to predict in your country?
- Do you think weather influences people's moods?
- Do you think the world's climate is changing?
- What do you think is affecting the world's climate?
- Do you think individuals should take responsibility for the world's global climate?

Work

- Do you think job satisfaction is more important than salary when choosing a job?
- What skills do you think are needed to get a good job these days?
- Do you think women should be able to do all the same jobs that men do?
- How has technology changed the way we work?
- What is the difference between white collar and blue collar jobs?
- What jobs do you think are most valuable to society?
- At what age should people be allowed to retire?