

IELTS SPEAKING AND ACTUAL TESTS

SUGGESTED ANSWERS WITH AUDIO

(JANUARY- APRIL 2019)

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Preface

Most candidates like to read model answers as a very powerful way to get the best possible Band score when they are preparing for the IELTS speaking module. This ebook provides model answers for IELTS Speaking Actual Tests that appears in the IELTS speaking module. Even if your English is not perfect, you can transform your IELTS Band score by using this book.
The model answers are intended as a guide and candidates should modify the answers to suit their own circumstances and add to them wherever appropriate. In other words, candidates should consider using the vocabulary and grammatical structures in this book to help them to create their own answers.

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PART I

1. Science

1.1. Do you like science?

That's an interesting question. I feel that science is always a subject I had to pass in school, but it was never my favorite. Actually, I found the topics quite fascinating, especially biology and chemistry, but it never came easily to me. However, I always wished that I was better at science, since it's a life-applicable subject.

1.2. What science have you studied?

Hmm.. let me think. Back in high school, I remember taking Biology, Chemistry, Ecology, Physics, and even one semester of Meteorology. I can recall needing to take extensive Biology and Chemistry classes, whereas I chose Physics, Ecology, and Meteorology were **electives (classes I chose on my own).**

1.3. How do you study science?

Definitely **hands-on learning**. I remember all of my classes were based on interactive activities, especially experiments or group projects. When it came to studying, memorization of formulas and facts seemed to be the only way. I would do this by making flashcards or having a friend or family member quiz me.

1.4. What's the most difficult part of studying science?

Definitely the mathematical aspect of it. Since I've never been good at Math, this is the area of Science that **kept me down (prevented me from succeeding)**. For example, I got decent grades in Biology class, but Chemistry and Physics were a huge struggle for me due to the Mathematical nature of them.

1.5. How has the science that you have studied helped you?

Although I'm not often conscious of it, I cannot deny that my scientific studies have been beneficial. I especially see how Biology, Life Science, Anatomy, Chemistry, and Ecology have helped me understand my body and the world around me better, including animals. Furthermore, Chemistry has helped me to understand the chemical make-up of the items around me and what causes explosive reactions. For example, I know now not to drop a mento in my Diet Coke!

2. Dream

2.1. How long can you remember your dream when you wake up?

Well, when it comes to nightmares, I usually wake up in the middle of the night in a state of terror for a few minutes, then fall back asleep, forgetting the dream. On the other hand, if I have a **vivid (detailed)** dream that leaves an impression on me, I could quite possibly remember it for a long time, even a **lifetime (entire life).**

2.2. Do you like hearing about others' dream?

Yes I do. I find it quite interesting. As I have a lot of weird dreams myself, I enjoy listening to those of others. By hearing about their dreams, I feel that I can gain a greater **insight (deep understanding)** into their subconscious. On a lighter note, it's simply just humorous!

2.3. Do you think dream will affect life?

Definitely not. I do not believe that dreams mean anything significant. I think that they are simply a **manifestation (showing)** of our subconscious worries, thoughts, fears, desires, etc. For example, if I'm worried about my job, I may have a nightmare about it. All in all, they aren't a sign of what's to come in the future.

2.4. Do you often have dreams at night?

Always. I am a heavy dreamer. I have had many **vivid, impressionable (unforgettable)** dreams in my lifetime that I will never forget. I would say I have

these kind of dreams a few times a week, sometimes even every night depending on how busy my mind is at that particular moment in time.

2.5. Have you had a bad dream before?

Countless times! I would say I have a disturbing nightmare a few times a month ever since I was a child. I was even **notorious (famous)** for going into my parents' room during the night to ask to sleep with them after a bad dream. I've found that I especially tend to have nightmares after hearing a disturbing story or watching a **gory (bloody)** or violent, TV show, or movie close to bedtime. Moreover, I tend to have an overactive mind and imagination, which I believe could be a factor as well.

2.6. What was the strangest dream you have had?

It's hard to choose just one! But let me see. Well, once when I was anxious about to go away to college and furthermore what kind of random roommate I would have, I dreamt that when I got to college, a giant human-sized tarantula was my roommate! Although I dreamt this 8 years ago now, it still **feels like yesterday (doesn't feel like a long time ago)**!

2.7. What do you usually dream about?

I would say I mostly dream about my subconscious thoughts and worries. For example, I often feel anxious about my job, so I dream up crazy scenarios, such as going into a **board meeting (a work meeting)** completely naked. Moreover, I tend to dream about my partner often. Since I'm a bit of the jealous type, I often dream that he will **have an affair (to be unfaithful to your partner)**.

3. Alone

3.1. When was the last time you were alone?

Last night. I had come from a stressful day of work so I decided to stay in for the entire evening with some Netflix and hot tea. Although I'm kind of a **social butterfly (a social person)**, I have come to enjoy nights in by myself from time to time. I think all of us need that as a balance.

3.2. What do you like to do when you are alone?

As I'm a tea addict, that's my number one activity to do alone. Furthermore, I enjoy reading a book or a series on Netflix. I tend to **get lost in (to become fully involved in)** those two activities. Moreover, I enjoy taking a walk alone around town and **people watching (observing strangers)**.

3.3. Do you wish to have more time alone?

Definitely not. As I live alone in a studio apartment, I sometimes get lonely, so I take every opportunity to have social interactions to avoid sitting at home alone. I would consider myself a mixture between introvert and extrovert, but definitely leaning more towards extrovert. Although I definitely appreciate my time alone, I certainly don't **crave (have an an urge to do)** anymore.

3.4. Is it important to have some time alone?

Without a doubt! I think we all need some time alone for **self-reflection (thinking about yourself and what you do)**. Furthermore, when we spend too much time with people, we tend to get annoyed with them, even **take them for granted (not appreciate them)** at times. With this said, we all need a break from people to remember just how great they are.

4. Transportation

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

4.2. How often do you take buses?

Almost every day. Since my house is so far away from my university, it's impossible for me to travel by motorbike. In addition, the air is heavily polluted by **exhaust fumes** and **traffic jams** always take place, especially during **peak hours**. Thus, I'd prefer to take the bus, to save time, save gasoline and causing less pollution.

Vocabulary

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

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

Peak hours/Rush hours (n) the busiest hours

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

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

Vocabulary

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

Cater (v) provide with what is needed or required

4.4. Is driving to work popular in your country?

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

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

If you're talking about India, no, I don't think it's possible, even in the future. Cars and gasoline are becoming unaffordable for many people these days.

Plus, the **transport infrastructure** in various regions in India is not appropriate for cars.

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

4.10. Do you prefer public transport or private transport ?

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

Vocabulary

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

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

5. Films

5.1. Do you like watch films?

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

5.2. What kinds of movies do you like best?

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

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

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

5.4. How often do you watch films?

Well, I am quite a **busy bee (a busy person)**, but I manage to see about one or two films a week at home. After a long day of studying, I love **snuggling up**

(getting comfortable with blankets) on the sofa and watching a film to unwind. I tend to do this on Friday and Sunday evenings with my friends.

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

Not too often actually. As the prices in my country are quite high, I usually **opt to (choose)** watch a movie at home instead to save on costs. Actually, I think it's kind of a waste of money to see a movie at a cinema when you can watch it from the comfort of your living room. I only go when a friend invites me, which is maybe 4 times a year.

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

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

5.7. What was the first film that you watched?

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

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

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

5.9. Would you like to be in a movie?

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

6. Efficiency

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

Definitely in the morning. I feel at my optimal level of performance when I first wake up in the morning after a cup of coffee. So, I like to **get** my studying **out of the way (to get something done so you don't have to worry about it)** so I can relax more throughout the day. When I try to study in the evening, I tend to be too tired and unfocused.

6.2. Why do some people find it difficult to focus in the morning?

Well, there could be a few different reasons. For one, I think many people don't feel energized. Second of all, they may be distracted by all of the tasks they must complete that day. Lastly, they simply just may not be **morning people (people who like the morning).**

6.3. What do you do to improve your efficiency?

Exercise! When I feel unmotivated or unfocused, exercise is the number one thing that **keeps me on track (keep me focused)**. Second of all, taking a short break and coming back to my work with new, fresh ideas helps **a bunch (a lot)**. Last of all, balancing work and my personal life helps me to perform to my best ability.

7. Sound/Noise

7.1. What natural sound(s) do you like (the most)? (Why?)

Hmm that's an interesting question. Well, I'm quite a morning person, and furthermore I find almost nothing more relaxing than the sound of birds **chirping (the noise birds make)** in the morning. I find that sound to be so fresh and

innocent, which immediately starts my day off at ease. Even though I live in a big city now, it **takes me back** to my childhood in the countryside.

7.2. What sounds do you dislike? (Why?)

My biggest **pet peeve (something that annoys you)** is the sound of honking horns. They **drive me absolutely mad**! I find this noise almost **unbearable (impossible to put up with)**, mostly because of it's loud, **abrupt (unexpected)** sound which instantly disturbs my peace. Furthermore, it's usually the sound of a frustrated or angry driver, which makes it even more unpleasant.

7.3. What sounds remind you of your childhood?

I would say the sound of 90's pop music. As my family was really into music, we would always take a spin around my country town with 90's pop **blaring (playing at a high volume),** such as Britney Spears, Counting Crows, Nsync, etc. Although this music may have not been my parents' preference, they would always play it for my sister and I. We have many family memories singing along to these **catchy (a song that you remember)** hits. Because of this, I would say these tunes are the **soundtrack (the songs of a movie)** of my childhood.

7.4. What (kinds of) music do you like the most?

Well, that's a tough question because **I'm a fan (I really like)** of various kinds of music, but I'd have to **go with (decide)** 90's music. I think I mostly prefer this kind of music because it's quite **nostalgic (making you miss the past)** for me, as **I'm a 90's baby (someone born in the 1990's).** Of this **decade (10 years)** of music, I prefer the pop, alternative, and punk rock. I believe I'm most **fond of (really like)** this **era (point in time)** because of the **light-hearted (not deep or sad meaning)**, easy-listening way of this music.

7.5. Does your school have any quiet places for studying?

As the library **strictly enforces (makes you follow the laws strictly)** the silence policy in the library of my university, this opens up a quiet, tranquil place for students to study in peace. Although she can be **a pain (annoying)** at times, I appreciate that the librarian, Ms. Schauerman, takes her job duties quite seriously. If someone speaks, she will abruptly come over and say "shhh! This

is a library!" in a **stern (sharp and serious)** voice. Furthermore, the library is arranged with beanbags, desks, a computer lab, and conference-like desks, which makes it a comfortable place to get work done.

7.6. What are some places where there is a lot of noise?

As I'm from a **bustling (busy)** city, it's nearly impossible to escape the noise. Sounds from street sellers, honking horns, motorbikes, barking dogs, and construction sites fill the streets nearly 24 hours a day. I'd have to say that the noisiest part of the city is the old town, as there is a **higher concentration (high numbers in one area)** of street sellers there, more new construction projects, as well as more traffic passing through, as it's the liveliest part of the city.

7.7. Do you mind noises? (Do any noises bother you?)

As I'm quite a **light sleeper (wake up easily)**, I become quite irritated by the sounds of noises around me. I'd have to say the most **aggravating (annoying)** is the sound of a barking dog. It's just so **shrill (something that gets in your head) !** I find it very disturbing and almost impossible to focus on anything else. Moreover, it makes me sad to hear that a dog is in such a state of distress that they must bark like that.

7.8. What type of noise do you come across in your daily life?

Well, quite a **cacophony (a mix of sounds)!** It varies from the sound of **screaming matches (fights)** from the partners and families in my apartment, street sellers shouting out their product for all to hear, motorbikes speeding by, all the way to the sound of blaring horns. I would say the sound that defines my city most would be the sound of horns. As it has major traffic issues and non-defined lanes on the roads, it makes sense that the sound of horns would fill the streets.

8. Sports/Physical Exercises

8.1. Do you like to watch sports on TV?

Not at all! I **despise (hate)** 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.

8.2. Do you play any sports?

Not anymore. I was an **avid (enthusiastic)** 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.

8.3. 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.

8.4. 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 (attracted to)** because of his looks.

8.5. 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.

8.6. Do you do any physical exercise?

You could call me a **couch potato (a lazy person who sits on the sofa a lot. "Couch" is another word for sofa)**. I'm naturally thin without any exercise, so I'm quite lazy when it comes to exercise. I do go for mountain hikes, but I should definitely do more to gain muscle.

8.7. Do young people in your country like to do exercise?

Gyms are not very popular in my country because of the cost, but I would say that people get their fair share of exercise everyday because of the hills in the city. Many people climb a mountain to their home every single day! I used to live in a house that was unreachable by car and a total of 200 stairs to get there!

8.8. Do you think people are keen on doing physical activity? Why?

Well, I think they are quite accustomed to it. I don't think they would be too keen on going to the gym, but they really enjoy going on mountain hikes. Since our religion is based upon the Mother Earth and the Mountain Gods, these treks are a spiritual journey.

9. Drinking Water

9.1. How often do you drink water?

Well, everyday of course! Staying hydrated is a priority for me since I easily get a headache if I don't, not to mention my weight loss goals. Drinking enough water is critical for our health.

9.2. What kinds of water do you like to drink?

All different kinds; I'm not too **picky (selective)**! I either drink tap water that I put in a Brita filter or bottled water from time to time. I usually put water in my refillable water bottle and carry it around me with me all day.

9.3. Do you drink bottled water or water from water machines?

Bottled water. Since the water in my country is **potable (drinkable)**, I usually opt for that with a filter to improve the flavor. If this isn't available to me, I buy a bottle of water, although I prefer not to because of my environmental concerns.

10. Flats/Houses/Accommodation

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

Troublesome (adj) causing difficulty or annoyance

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

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

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

Chill out (phrasal verb) relax

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

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

10.4. Who do you live with?

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

10.5. How long have you lived there?

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

Torture (n) great physical or mental suffering

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

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

Vocabulary

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

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

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

downs with me. So yeah, I would always miss my house, my room whenever I'm away.

Vocabulary

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vocabulary

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

Harmonious (adj) friendly and peaceful

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ownership (n): the fact of owning something

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

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

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

It heavily depends on people's preference and **affordability** since each type of property has its own **perks**. If one enjoys the modern **amenities** that an apartment complex can provide such as gyms, swimming pools and convenience stores and, of course, he has money, an apartment would be a great choice. In contrast, houses are usually suitable those who prefer privacy and a quiet lifestyle.

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

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

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

11. Morning

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

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

11.2. Do you think breakfast is important?

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

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

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

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

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

12. Pollution

12.1. Is there anything being polluted in your hometown?

Absolutely. As the industry and economy are **on the rise (increasing)**, more and more factories are showing up, causing air pollution. Moreover, as people's salaries have increased, more people can afford their own personal vehicles, which worsens this problem. Furthermore, there is waste **dumped (thrown into)** in the bodies of water, causing water pollution. Lastly, as there are many new construction projects and traffic jams, noise pollution is also on the rise.

12.2. What are the common types of pollutions in the countryside?

As many of the factories are built in rural areas, they are a cause of air pollution in the countryside. Moreover, the use of **pesticides (chemicals to keep bugs and animals away from plants)** and **chemical fertilizers (chemicals added**

to make soil stronger) in farming does not help this problem. Furthermore, some people dispose of their personal waste into bodies of water, causing water pollution.

12.3. What are the causes of those pollutions?

Although there are many different factors to these **complex (complicated with many parts)** problems, I will talk about a few. I would say that the cause of these pollutions are due to industry, such as the factories. Moreover, farming contributes to this problem, as there is a high demand to have enough food for the increasing population. Lastly, water pollution **stems from (starts from)** poor waste management systems in rural areas, as well as ineffective operation of waste treatment facilities.

12.4. Have you ever done anything to help the environment?

I could definitely do more! However, I think that small actions do count. I always carry my trash home with me to throw away if there isn't a public garbage bin available. I would feel so guilty **blatantly littering**! Moreover, I choose to ride my bicycle or walk when transportation isn't needed. Lastly, I **opt (choose)** to not get a plastic bag when they are unnecessary in stores.

13. Tea or coffee

13.1. What do you prefer, tea or coffee?

I'm definitely more of a tea person. However, I need a cup or two of coffee to **shift myself into gear (to get started)** in the morning. After this, I always **stick with (choose)** tea. Coffee tends to make me feel a bit anxious, whereas tea gives me a natural, energized feeling. Moreover, tea has more health benefits for me, especially since I'm **prone to (easily get)** colds and coughs.

13.2. What do you usually prepare for your guests, tea or coffee?

Definitely tea. As I don't have a coffee-maker or **French press**, I wouldn't want to serve instant coffee, so I always heat up water in my kettle and serve some

tea, either in bags or fresh. Since I have quite a collection of different teas, I feel prouder to share this with my guests.

13.3. When was the last time you drank coffee or tea?

Just before this exam actually! I drank 2 cups of green tea this morning with my breakfast. As I was a tad nervous, I decided not to drink coffee this morning, as it sometimes causes me to feel **jittery (nervous and shaking).**

14. Sky

14.1. Do you like to watch the sky?

Yes, I do! Actually, my region in Spain, Andalucia, is known for having over 300 days of sun a year! With this said, there are few things more relaxing than lying out on the beach on summer afternoons, staring up at the cloudless sky. Furthermore, the sunsets here are just magnificent, often displaying colors like cotton candy. Since I live on the tenth floor of my building, I almost always watch the sunset.

14.2. What is the sky like at night in your hometown?

Marvelous! Since there isn't much light pollution here, you can see the stars very clearly at night. I sometimes like to go out on the beach at night with a blanket and **gaze (watch)** at the brilliance of the shining stars. It makes me feel in awe of just how amazing the universe is. There are few things more romantic than that!

14.3. Do you like to watch stars?

Absolutely! For one, it's a very romantic activity, so I like to do it with my boyfriend. Moreover, I like to go out to star-gaze with my friends. We have a fun activity where we try to find different shapes in the stars then call them out to each other.

14.5. Have you ever taken a course about stars?

No, I have never formally studied Astronomy since it wasn't available at my school. However, I think it would be interesting. Fortunately, my grandfather was really into astronomy so he shared his knowledge with me, as well as gifted me an encyclopedia loaded with useful information.

14.6. What's your favorite star?

I'd have to say the star constellation Orion, which is easily spotted on winter nights. I find this constellation interesting because it has everything, including a giant red star which could explode at any moment, a young blue star, and even a **nebula (a cloud of gas)** where new stars are being born. It's complex and magnificent!

15. Cooking

15.1. Do you like cooking?

Moderately! Since I'm a vegetarian in a town with few options, it's critical for me to cook for myself. I wouldn't say that I love it, but it is **growing on me (starting to like)**. I feel accomplished when my own concoctions turn out well!

15.2. How often do you cook?

Pretty much everyday. Since I'm a **busy bee (busy person)**, I usually prepare meals for the week on Sunday afternoons. For example, I prep some tofu, beans, and rice then just heat them up with some stir-fried vegetables throughout the week.

15.3. How good are you at cooking?/ What dish are you best at cooking?

I would consider myself to be average. I've mastered some dishes, but could still **use work (need to practice)** on others. For example, I'm quite good at preparing vegetable curry and falafel. That it what I usually prepare when I have guests.

15.4. What cooking experience have you had?

Not too much actually; it's been self-created. My family had a housekeeper when I was a child so I never learned from her or my parents. As I got older, I started to look up more recipes online from sites like Tasty and then tried them out on my own. It's been **trial and error (learning by trying and failing**!

15.5. Does anyone in your family like to cook?

Not really. I can remember that my grandmother enjoyed entertaining and preparing food for family and friends. I distinctly remember her corned beef and cabbage. However, she died when I was quite young along with that tradition.

15.6. Who taught you how to cook?

No one really, considering my family members do not cook and I didn't have a close relationship with the housekeeper. So, I taught myself thanks to facebook and online pages with video tutorials like Tasty.

15.7. When you were a child, did you ever help your parents to prepare a meal?

Very rarely. There were a few incidences in which our housekeeper could not make it, so then my parents would cook for us. I can only recall one time that I helped them stuff dumplings before boiling them.

15.8. Do you want to learn how to cook?

Yes I do! I want to keep improving the skills that I have. Moreover, I want to learn how to prepare Chinese style dumplings and Polish perogies, which are among my favorite foods.

15.9. Who usually do the cooking in your home?

As I live alone, now just me. I eat at home nearly everyday and often invite my friends over for meals on weekends.

15.10. Who is the best cook you know?

My ex boyfriend. He had magic hands! Everything he cooked was **packed with (full of)** flavor and never missing anything. I was lucky to have been with him for 4 years!

16. Running

16.1. Where do you run?

Lucky for me, there's a lake about 300 meters from my house! It has a 14 kilometer path around it, so I often take advantage of this. I've always been an **avid** (**keen)** runner, so I can even complete the entire circumference of the lake, not to say I do this every time though. It really starts my morning off right!

16.2. How often do you run?

As I have a toddler, I don't sleep as much as I used to, so I find it to be a struggle to get out of bed at 5am to run before work at times. With this said, I now go running about 3 times per week, whereas I used to go 5 or 6 times. My aim is to go back to at least 4 times a week, as my work schedule will soon reduce from 5 to 4 days a week.

16.3. Is running a good exercise?

For sure! Although it's high intensity, it is an exercise that is easily accessible and one of the most straightforward ways to get health benefits. Since it improves aerobic fitness, it improves your cardiovascular health, not to mention it burns a lot of calories and can help you build strength, among other things. Lastly, it allows you to spend time outdoors and can be a stress relief for many, including me!

16.4. Do you run more now than you did you in the past?

Just the opposite! Since my life has gotten busier since my daughter **came into the picture (came into my life)**, exercise isn't my top priority anymore. As I don't often sleep through the night anymore, I sometimes find it unbearable to get up at 5am in the cold and dark to go for a run around the lake. Still, I manage to do it 3 times per week, whereas I used to do it 5 or 6.

17. Parks/ Public Gardens

17.1 Are public gardens very important in your country?

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

17.2. Are there many public gardens in your country?

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

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

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

18. Sunglasses

18.1. Do people in your country wear sunglasses?

Absolutely. But since the UK has a rainy climate, they aren't as needed as in other places. Still, people like to wear them as a **fashion statement** or as an accessory to their outfit.

18.2. Do you like to wear sunglasses?

Why yes of course, especially when I feel that I look tired. Moreover, I like that they can **tie a whole outfit together (make the outfit look better)**. Moreover, when I drive on sunny days, sunglasses are a must.

18.3. Do you often wear sunglasses?

Not too often actually because of the climate here. I'd say I have to wear them a couple times a month on the rare occasion that the sun comes out. As I mentioned before, I feel I need them most when I drive on sunny days or when I go on holiday to the beach.

18.4. Where do you buy sunglasses?

I'm not one to **splurge on (spend a lot of money; luxury)** sunglasses since I have the tendency to lose or break them, so I usually just buy **knock-off (copy)** brands from street vendors. I've bought and lost several pairs of knock-off Ray Bans which were just fine for me. I feel that the shape of them suits my round face shape.

19. Work/Study

Work

What is your job?

I'm the founder and project manager for a volunteer organization called Corazon de Apus. We find local children living in poverty or with difficult family situations and bring them to a safe place after school where they can learn English with the volunteers from Western countries, get homework help, and simply play and escape their problems. We also **pitch in (everyone gives some money)** to provide them with school supplies, dental care, and uniforms.

How long have you been doing your job?

This is my 4th year on the job. Actually, at university I studied Finance, but I realized a 9- 5 isn't for me. I knew I needed to do a job that helps those in need. However, my finance skills do **come in handy (are useful)** in this job!

How was your first day at work?

I felt a little overwhelmed with all the volunteers coming to me asking all the **ins and outs (all the details)**, but very excited at the same time. All of the stress was worth it when I saw the smiles of the children. Actually, they **tackled me (to jump on and push to the ground)** to ground with hugs!

Do you prefer part time or full time job? Why?

Well, of course I would rather have a part-time job! If I had a part-time job, I would invest the rest of my time to do the things that truly interest me, such as yoga, meditation, see family and friends, etc. I'm sure we would all feel happier if we were able to do this. Unfortunately, the problem is the money though!

Which job did you want to do when you were a child?

I used to dream of being a zookeeper. I have no clue why I thought it would be enjoyable to clean up after large, exotic animals! I guess I always loved animals. Anyway, this dream has passed!

Which job do you prefer in the future?

I would like to continue in the volunteer field, but keep expanding the projects. For example, I have dreamt of going to remote villages in the mountains and educating the people about public health, as it is a big problem in Peru. I hope to **aid in (to help)** reducing preventable disease.

Study

Describe your education

I'm on a 5 year study plan, so I'll finish in 2 years. Next year, I'll begin my internship at a clinic for substance addicts. I really look forward to that hands on experience. After my Bachelor's, I plan to go onto my Master's, perhaps even my PhD.

What is your area of specialization?

I'm a Psychology major with a minor in Spanish language.

Why did you choose to study that major?

As I've always been fascinated by how the mind works, I felt that Psychology was the ideal field of study for me. Furthermore, I believe I have wonderful interpersonal skills and can easily connect and empathize with others, making me the perfect fit.

What was your favourite subject as a child?

I've always loved Art because it helps me relax and well, I'm quite good at it. After all the strenuous hours of book work in the other classes, it was always a relief for me to come to my canvas. I feel that Art is an incredible **outlet (a way to express feelings)** for me.

Do you think your country has an effective education system?

To an extent yes, but I also think it can be too theoretical at times. I think they need to teach us how to use the information we learn more rather than just have us memorize for the exam. All in all, I cannot complain too much though.

Are you looking forward to working?

Absolutely! I cannot wait to put into effect what I've been learning for years now. I'm eager to help people with the psychological struggles that they face. I believe I can make a difference in the world.

20. Travel & Festival

20.1. Do you like traveling?

Not really actually! I'm more of a **creature of habit (someone who doesn't like changes to routine)**, so I'm usually not keen to change my daily routine. When I change it up, I often feel anxious and **disoriented (not a clear mind)**. Furthermore, I have a fear or airplanes and get carsick, so traveling just isn't for me.

20.2. Do you often travel by air?

Not at all! I try to avoid it **at all costs (very seriously).** If I must travel, I will take some **motion sickness (getting sick from any kind of transportation)** medicine and go by car or train. I was once on an airplane on my honeymoon that came very near to crashing, so my **phobia (strong fear) stems from (comes from. Stem is the part where the flower grows)** this.

20.3. How long was the longest trip you took?

I once had to go on business to the Philippines. It was a 24 hour flight! It was a **nightmare (we saw this when something is very terrible)**. On top of this, I was seated next to a child who was **relentlessly (not stopping)** crying during the entire journey.

20.4. Which country would you like to travel to in the future?

I'm dying to (I really want to) go to Egypt. I've always dreamt of going there since I was a child, actually. I'm really fascinated by their ancient culture. I would

be **in awe of (amazed by)** the Grand Pyramids I'm sure. Unfortunately, since I **despise (hate)** flying, I dont think I'll ever get there.

20.5. Would you like to travel to space?

Perhaps! I'm not sure how it feels to be in a rocket. I think it would be incredible to see a completely foreign **galaxy (another world)**. I'm curious if other **life forms (aliens)** exist, so I would definitely go along on this journey to find out for myself. I also wonder if the moon is made out of cheese!

20.6. What is your favorite festival?

Hmm, that's a tough question because I'm definitely a **holiday person (a person who likes holidays)**, but I would have to say New Years Eve. I'm always **keen (want)** for change and new beginnings, so I love setting new goals at the start of each new year, not to mention I really enjoy the parties. Second to this would be Valentine's Day, since I'm a **hopeless romantic (a very romantic person)**.

20.7. How do you celebrate the festival?

In my culture, it's more very family-oriented holiday. We usually have a special family dinner at home followed by the countdown to midnight. However, in my culture we add something special to it. At the clock ticks down to midnight, we eat 12 grapes which signify a different wish for each month. After this, we go out to the city or town streets to drink with our friends and wish them a happy new year.

20.8. What is the most popular festival in your country?

Definitely Christmas, since I'm from a Catholic country. Nearly every town and city goes out of the way to **deck (decorate)** the streets out with Christmas lights and decorations. However, unlike other countries, we celebrate the epiphany, or day of the three wise men, on January 6 just as much at the 25th. This is the day in which we exchange gifts and watch parades.

20.9. Do you like western festivals?

Of course! They are part of my culture. I especially love Christmas, Easter, and New Years since they have always been part of my **upbringing (childhood).**

However, I also find eastern festivals interesting. I lived in Vietnam for 2 years, and I was **in awe (amazed)** of the Lunar New Year and Mid-Autumn festival.

20.10. Where do people usually go during festivals?

Between homes and the streets. We hold meals in our homes for the holidays, as we value home-cooked meals. However, we are people who enjoy going out, so we often go out to celebrate at bars or even in the streets. For example, the Christmas Eve celebration entails going to a bar with friends until the **wee hours (early hours)** of the morning, followed by a family lunch the next day.

21. Shoes

21.1. Do you like shoes?

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

21.2. How often do you buy shoes?

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

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

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

21.4. What is your favorite type of shoes?

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

21.5. Why do some people have too many shoes?

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

21.6. Have you ever bought shoes online?

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

21.7. Are people willing to buy expensive shoes?

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

22. Colors

22.1. What is your favorite color?

I would have to say **it's a tie (equal)** between deep purple and golden yellow. Actually, these colors quite complement each other. I love how mysterious purple is, and yet how bright and versatile yellow is.

22.2. What is the color of your home?

Since I rent my apartment, I am not allowed to paint the walls, so they are plain white. However, I do have a lime green **backsplash (the area behind the kitchen sink)**. To go along with this, I have a dark purplish-blue bedspread, gray sofa, dark blue bean bag chair, and yellow and teal lanterns hanging around.

22.3. Did you use bright color when you were a child?

Absolutely. I was so into it that I convinced my father to paint each wall in my bedroom a different color. So, I lived in a cube of lime green, light orange, bright yellow, and a medium pink color during my high school years. Looking back, it was quite **distasteful (ugly, not fashionable)**!

22.4. What color would you like to paint your bedroom?

If I could, I would paint my room a turquoise color. Considering the decorations and furniture I already have, I think this would be suitable. Moreover, I think turquoise is a cheerful color which could change the environment in my dark apartment.

22.5. Are there any colors you dislike?

Orange! Especially highlighter orange, like hunters wear. I find that orange doesn't look good on anyone, especially not me, considering I'm a redhead. Whenever I wear orange, I feel like a pumpkin. Eek!

22.6. Is color very important to you when you are buying something?

Depending on what I'm buying. Color is critical when I'm buying clothes, accessories, furniture, or decorations. On the other hand, I don't really mind what color if I'm buying non-fashionable items like school supplies, bathroom rugs, laundry hampers, etc.

22.7. Do you prefer light or dark color?

Definitely dark. In my later years I've become more into bold colors than bright. I like the mystery of dark colors and I think they look better as decorations. Moreover, I prefer darker colors for my own personal fashion sense. As I have a **beer belly (a fat stomach from drinking beer)**, I think black helps **camouflage (hide)** that.

23. Letters / Handwriting

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

In today's age, I much prefer writing an email. With a mail system that cannot be trusted, a letter is just **out of the question (not an option)** sometimes. I

love that email is immediate and that you can know for sure if the recipient has viewed it or not. However, there is still a certain charm about receiving a hand-written letter.

23.2. Do you think emails are useful?

Very! They are major time savers. They replace meetings and phone calls. They are a quick, easy way to send information and share links, which cannot easily be done over the phone. Furthermore, I have more courage to say things over email that I would be too shy to say in person or over the phone; I like having the extra time to think about the exact words. As I'm **not much of a phone talker (don't like talking on the phone)**, I'm grateful for emails!

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

Absolutely! It's already on the way there. For example, when I got hired at my last company, I was able to sign all documents via email instead of sending in a letter or doing it in person. I think many companies are f**ollowing this trend** now.

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

Complaints for sure! As I prefer to avoid conflict and am sensitive to other's feelings, I find this to be the most difficult. However, emails and text messages make it much easier. As I may be speaking to someone with a native language different than my own, another challenge is finding **just the right words (the exact words)** to say in this situation. I once had to fire an employee over email and it was very painful for me!

24. Hometown

24.1. Please describe your hometown a little

Where do I begin? My hometown is marvelous. It was **the heart of (the center of)** the Inca Empire, and is home many ancient Inca ruins, especially Machu Picchu. It lies at 3,100 meters up in the mountains. You can do a lot of trekking,

site seeing, visit incredible natural landscapes, etc. It's a perfect mixture of the ancient and modern world.

24.2. How long have you been living there?

I was born and raised in Cusco. I've lived there for my entire life, except for when I went to Lima, the capital city, to study my Bachelor's Degree. After that, I needed to escape the **hustle and bustle (noise from a big city)** and come back to my lovely town.

24.3. What do you like (most) about your hometown?

I love that it's a mix between the ancient and modern world. Furthermore, I like the mix of the **indigenous (native people)** and Spanish influence. Sometimes it feels like I'm walking in the shoes of the Incas. Furthermore, there is definitely a warm, friendly feel to the town which makes it a pleasant place to live.

24.4. Would you like to live there in the future?

Although my city is magical, I would consider moving somewhere else in the world. I think sometimes people become too **accustomed to (used to)** their daily routine. So, perhaps when and if I have a family, I would consider moving to another country in South America or to Spain. It would be our adventure!

25. Photographs

25.1. Do you like taking photographs?

Why yes of course. They are a way to capture a moment in time. Moreover, I like to be able to show them to people so they can imagine that they were there with me. As I'm a big traveler, photos are my way of sharing my experiences without words.

25.2. How often do you take photos?

I would say everyday. I'm **a big fan of** selfies, so I often snap a few of them to send to my boyfriend every morning before work. Moreover, I take hundreds of photos when I travel.

25.3. I which situation do you like take photos?

Any situation! But especially when I see something **out of the ordinary**. For example, I like to take photos when the light is setting just right on my street, or when I catch a **glimpse (a look)** of two children holding hands.

25.4. Do you prefer to take pictures of people or of scenery?

Definitely people. I like to capture the **raw (real; candid)** emotions on their faces. I feel that photos of people can be quite powerful. Moreover, I feel that scenery photography never **does the actual place any justice**.

25.5. Do you prefer to take photographs yourself or to have other people take photos?

Definitely myself. As I'm quite picky about the photos that I take and post, I take this responsibility upon myself. Call me a **snob (a person who feels superior to others)**, but I feel that most people don't have any idea of what makes a good photo and end up taking unflattering photos of me.

25.6. How do you keep your photos?

On my iCloud! I'm really grateful for this type of technology that keeps this record of my photos for me. Moreover, I post my photos on social media, such as Facebook and Instagram, so that also keeps them secure.

25.7. Do you keep your photographs on your computer?

Absolutely! It's a must nowadays. Now it's nearly impossible to lose your photos and memories thanks to iCloud.

25.8. Are there any photos on the walls of your house?

In my own personal apartment, no, as I haven't bothered to decorate much. On the other hand, my bedroom at my parents' home is full of collages of my friends, family, and I over the years.

25.9. Do you frame (or have you framed) any of your photos?

Many times! Although not too often anymore, as social media is taking over. However, I've often framed photos to give to my boyfriend or family members as gifts for their special occasions.

25.10. Do you prefer to send postcards to people or to send photos that you took yourself? (Why?)

My own photography, as I feel quite confident with my skill. Furthermore, I feel that my own photos are much more personal. Although some post cards are beautiful, I don't feel that they **hold a candle (compare)** to my own.

26. Weather

26.1. What kind of weather is typical in your hometown?

It's a jungle climate, so it's quite hot all year long. During wet season, it is extremely humid and sticky. For many, the climate is hard to take. For me, I'm used to it. I don't even **sweat profusely (sweat a lot)**.

26.2. How many seasons are there in your place?

Two seasons- wet and dry. They each last about half the year. In wet season, there are **downpours (extreme, heavy rain)** and it's generally humid and sticky. In dry season, it is a dry heat. I find dry season to be a lot more comfortable although the flora in wet season is more impressive.

26.3. What is your favorite season?

I would say dry season. It's difficult to get around during wet season during a downpour since our culture is to go around by motorbike, not to mention that the streets flood easily. All in all, it's a **hassle (annoying or difficult)**. So, I much prefer the dry season since it's a dry, more bearable heat.

26.4. What kind of weather do you like most?

If I could choose, I would say about 28 degrees, dry, with a cool breeze. This would be ideal whether to go for a motorbike ride around the countryside or lie out on the beach. Since I don't like **extremes**, this would be perfect for me.

26.5. Do you prefer dry or wet weather?

Dry! As I said before, heavy rain becomes a hassle in my city. Moreover, the dry heat feels a lot more comfortable, as the humidity is nearly unbearable in this part of the world at times.

27. Music

27.1. Do you like music?

Yes, of course I like music. I couldn't live without it. It's what allows us to **escape from reality**. Furthermore, it connects people. I think no matter what country, religion, or culture we come from, we all enjoy music.

27.2. What kind of music do you like?

Well, this is a bit of a tough question because I have **a diverse taste in music**, but I'll say my favorites are modern pop, 90's alternative, and hip-hop of all ages. I can always **sing along** to pop songs and I enjoy **keeping up with** the modern hits. 90's alternative **takes me back to my childhood** and makes me feel so **nostalgic**. Lastly, who can resist moving and shaking when you hear hip-hop beats?

27.3. Do people in your country like music?

Yes, people in my country are a big fan of music. As the US leads the entertainment industry, I would say people are really into music and that it is a big part of all of our lives. It has **played a large role in telling our history**, such as the **blues** and **jazz**, and will continue into the future.

27.4. Were you listening to music when you were younger?

I would definitely say so! 90's songs are the soundtrack of my childhood. I remember driving along old country roads **bobbing my head** to the sound of 90's **alternative and pop hits.** As my parents were both **into music**, they always **brought their love of music to** my sister and I. When I hear those songs now, it **triggers bittersweet memories.**

27.5. Do you think music will change in the future?

As with all things, I believe music will continue to change in the future. Firstly, I believe it will rely on technology even more than now. I wonder if there will even be like humans playing music then. I could imagine robots playing songs that are programmed into their brains. It's tough to say!

28. Patience

28.1. Do you have patience?

Not at all! I'm quite an impatient person. I often feel **on edge (stressed),** especially when I'm behind the wheel or waiting in line. Moreover, I like immediate gratification, so I tend to lose my patience when I cannot obtain this. This is one my biggest **downfalls (bad personality traits).**

28.2. Do most people in your country have patience?

Not really. Since I come from a country of people who are used to having all conveniences **at their fingertips (something easily accessible),** they often become impatient when this doesn't happen. Furthermore, people spend a lot of time **commuting (traveling from home to work)** to their offices in the mornings, which tends to leave them feeling **antsy (anxious)** as well as angry at other drivers.

28.3. Have you ever lost patience?

Who hasn't? There have been several instances. I once became quite impatient while I was waiting in a convenience store, not to mention with people **cutting the line** repeatedly, and I just left my items there **idly (not doing anything)** and **stormed out (left angrily)** of the store.

28.4. When do you need patience the most?

That's a difficult question. I think having patience in general is quite a **virtue (a good trait)**. I think it's good to have it with your life in general. When you have this, I imagine your life goes more at ease from step to step. Moreover, I think it's important to have it with your children so that they aren't raised in an angry environment, and furthermore so they can develop it later on in life.

29. Swimming

29.1. Can you swim?

Indeed I can! I am an **avid (experienced)** swimmer. My parents actually signed me up for swimming lessons when I was just a baby. I shortly after signed up for a swim team and swam competitively until my high school years. Furthermore, my father is a swimmer and always loved to take me on swimming adventures. So, I've always been a **water person (someone who likes water activities).**

29.2. Are there many places to swim near you?

Yes, there are! As I'm living in a big city pretty far from the coast, there are plenty of public swimming pools. Furthermore, there is a large lake next to my house which some people swim in to beat the **unbearable (impossible)** heat in the summer. However, the lake often emits an unpleasant odor and is full of chemical **run-off waste**, so I would never take part in this.

29.3. Is swimming very popular in your country?

Not really! Surprisingly, there are a lot of people who don't know how to swim in my city, as it isn't very close to the coast. I think it may be related to that. However, people who live along the coastal cities in my country tend to know how to swim well.

29.4. Why do many people like swimming?

Well, I think there are a few reasons. For one, it's a good way to beat the heat in the summer. Secondly, it's a good form of exercise, as it's low intensity and works all body parts at once. Lastly, it's simply a fun and relaxing activity for many and is a way to make people gather.

29.5. What do you think are the benefits of swimming (or, the benefits of knowing how to swim)?

First and foremost, swimming is a tool which can save your life, as well as the lives of others. Secondly, it's a beneficial form of exercise, as it uses all the muscles in your body at the same time and is low-intensity. Lastly, swimming can be a form of therapy if you suffer an injury. All in all, it's certainly worthwhile to learn.

30. Dance

30.1. Do you like to dance? (Why?/Why not?)

Yes, I do! Although I don't know how to formally dance very well, I enjoy l**etting loose (relaxing; not caring what others thing)** and dancing with my friends. There is something about dancing that makes me feel incredibly **carefree (fully relaxed).** Furthermore, it's a good way to exercise.

30.2. Have you ever learned to dance?

Yes, I have! When I was about 4 years old, my parents signed me up for ballet. Actually, I hated it with a burning passion back then. I would often **burst into tears (to cry hard)** before recitals and try to **play sick (pretend to be sick to avoid something).** Furthermore, we learned swing dancing, square-dancing, and ballroom dancing in school, which were humiliating at the time!

30.3. When was the last time you danced?

It's been a while. Since my group of friends aren't into dancing, I haven't been out to a club for a while. However, I often dance around my apartment with music as a way to de-stress.

30.4. What kind of dancing do people in your country like?

It seems like many people are into salsa and bachata these days. I'm seeing more and more Facebook ads for these particular dances. Moreover, are into hip-hop dancing, as well as dancing along to EDM music.

30.5. Why do you think some (or, many) people like dancing?

I would say because it's a way to **let loose**. Moreover, it's a way of self-expression for many, especially those who are more talented. When you **hit (go to)** the dance floor, it seems like all your worries go away and you simply focus on the movements of your body.

30.6. Do you think there are any benefits for young people to go dancing?

Without a doubt! It's important to know how to let loose and have fun, for one. Secondly, it builds confidence. I remember feeling really shy to dance in front

of others as a child, but once I just did it, I stopped caring. Lastly, it's an enjoyable form of exercise and builds certain skills, like flexibility, posture, etc.

31. Neighbors

31.1. Do you know your neighbors?

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

31.2. Do you like your neighbors?

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

31.3. What do you think of your neighbors?

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

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

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

32. City

32.1. Do you like the city you are living in now?

Yes, I really enjoy Ho Chi Minh city. Although it's quite hectic, I love the liveliness of it. Apart from this, I think it's exciting since it is developing **at a rapid pace (quickly)** and I love the international environment. This city never sleeps!

Which city have you been to recently? I recently visited Bangkok for a short holiday. I had about 3 days free, so I went there to visit the floating market, palaces, Buddhist temples, and vibrant city center.

32.2. Do you prefer the city or the countryside?

I would say I'm definitely a city person. I enjoy the **hustle and bustle (craziness)** of city life, along with the endless opportunities to meet new people from all over. I feel too limited in the countryside, not to mention I'm terrified of **critters (small animals, like spiders, etc**!

32.3. What kinds of city do you like?

A mix of modern and old. I like when there is an old historic quarter, but also a district with skyscrapers and a more futuristic look. Moreover, I require a city with friendly people and smiles- I couldn't live in fast-paced, **robotic (people moving so fast that they don't have any expression)** place like New York City for example.

32.4. Which city do you want to go to?

I've always dreamt of going to San Francisco. I've always seen the Golden Gate Bridge, charming doll-house like homes, and cable cars on TV and imagined

myself there. Moreover, San Francisco seems to be a very liberal city which I would be into.

33. Driving

1. Do you drive often?
Luckily not, as I despise driving. I usually take Ubers around the city, cycle, or walk when possible. I try to avoid driving **at all costs (avoid no matter what)**, considering the traffic in my city is incredibly chaotic. Furthermore, there is a huge air pollution problem in my city, so I try to take this step to be more **green (environmentally friendly)**.
2. Do you want your children to drive in future?
Out of necessity, yes. I would like for them to go through the process of getting their driver's license just in case. For example, it would be helpful if their friend who drove them to a place gets too drunk to drive them home, etc. However, I would **urge (push)** them to drive as little as possible, since it's quite risky and not environmentally friendly.

34. Teacher

34.1. Do you like any teachers of yours?

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

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

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

34.3. Do you want to be a teacher?

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

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

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

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

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

34.6. What qualities should a good teacher have?

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

35. Sleep

35.1. How many hours do you sleep a day?

Since I work **from sun up to sun down (all day long)**, it's **essential (very important)** for me to get a healthy amount of sleep. I usually go to bed between 10:30 and 11pm and get up between 4:30 and 5am. To be honest, I always set my alarm for 4:30 but I have a habit of pressing the **snooze button (the button you press when your alarm goes off and you want to sleep more; usually lasts 5-10 minutes)** 2 or 3 times so usually end up getting out of bed closer to 5.

35.2. Do you think it is enough? Why?

I think the minimum amount of sleep to be healthy is 6 hours a night. So yes, I do sleep an acceptable amount of hours. But, to be honest, I think it's unnatural to get up before the sunrise; I think we need natural light. Although I sleep about 6 hours, I still feel sleepy throughout the day. I think getting up at 6 would feel a lot more refreshing.

35.3. What do you do to improve sleeping quality?

With all the stressors that I face throughout the day, it's important to take some deep breaths at the end of the day. I downloaded a meditation app called HeadSpace a few months ago and have started doing some meditation before sleep. Furthermore, I try to avoid looking at my phone at least 30 minutes before bed because it stimulates my mind too much. I truly believe that meditation leads to a much more restful sleep.

35.4. Do you like sleeping during the day? Why?

When I take a nap, I tend to keep pressing the snooze button and **end up (do something without wanting or trying to)** sleeping for at least an hour and a half! Although it feels amazing to escape the heat with an afternoon nap in an

air conditioned room, I try to avoid it because I end up feeling more tired afterwards. I think a 30-45 minute nap would be ideal.

35.5. Do you think elderly people need more or less sleep than young? Why?

I imagine that an aging body **exerts (use)** much more energy for simple tasks that seem easy to a young, able body. Furthermore, they may be more sensitive to extreme weather. With this said, I would say that the elderly require more rest. I believe if they have more rest, they can keep healthier and perhaps live a longer life.

36. Animals

36.1. Do you like animals?

Yes, of course! I was raised by **animal lovers**, so I have definitely inherited that trait. I believe that all living things are connected, so we should respect and love animals. I think it's incredible that pets like dogs for example are incredibly loyal and never fail to be excited and **wag (move back and forth)** their tails when you come home even if you've only been gone for 30 minutes.

36.2. What is your favorite animal?

Ever since I was a child, I've had a fascination with whales. I think they are absolutely **majestic (amazing, beautiful)** creatures. I know that they are intelligent creatures that speak their own languages and are very family-oriented which makes me love and respect them. Furthermore, I think especially orcas are just gorgeous with their smooth, black bodies and white circles around their eyes. I've always dreamt of going whale- watching!

36.3. Did you have any pets when you were a child?

Since my mother was an animal lover, our house was full of pets! I used to have **geckos (a type of lizard),** hermit crabs, 2 cats, and 2 dogs. The most special animal I ever had was my cat named Blackie. I still remember his plump (fat), round body and his short little legs. Actually, he acted more like a dog than a cat. He was amazingly affectionate and loving.

36.4. Do many people in your country keep a pet at home?

Having pets is definitely a trend nowadays. Although cats and dogs have always been popular, people are now expanding their horizons. For example, mini pigs are becoming more common in homes. It's said that they act like dogs. Apart from this, more **exotic (not average; from a different area of the world)** creatures are ending up as pets, such as boas, squirrels, chinchillas, tarantulas, etc. In my opinion, I think these animals **belong (should be)** outdoors!

PART II & III

1/ Describe a good law in your country

You should say:

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

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

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

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

Sadly, humans have a tendency to choose to see only what they want. None of us want to believe the **gravity of (how serious something is)** just how much we are harming the planet and cannot always directly see it in front of us; we live just for today. With this said, people usually don't take initiative to protect the environment unless there are laws. So, I think this law is critical to give

people incentive to not litter. As the fine is drastically high, it will scare people into making sure their trash goes into the bins. Although it must go hand in hand with education, I think it's impossible to keep a clean country without strict laws. I wish more countries enforced laws like these.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Is there any situation people disobey the law?

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

Do people like being a policeman in your country?

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

What qualities should a police officer have?

Firstly, I believe that a police officer must have a high sense of integrity. As corruption is a problem in many countries which prevents progress in a place, it is important that the police officer has a sense of integrity along with morality, honesty, and a genuine concern to make the country safer. Furthermore, they must be hard-working and not too relaxed as there are always people trying to

slip through the cracks (do something without being caught) of the law. All in all, they must be a strict, no tolerance sort of individual to be efficient.

Why some people want to become a lawyer?

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

2/ Describe a healthy lifestyle you know

You should say:

- *what it is*
- *how you know it*
- *what one would do to live this healthy lifestyle*
- *and explain why it is healthy*

I'm going to tell you about a new **trend** I've been hearing more and more about, **intermittent fasting**. Let me explain it to you, as many might automatically reject the idea, as we are programmed to believe that we should eat 3 full meals a day.

Intermittent fasting is when you cannot consume anything other than **calorie-less beverages** such as water, green tea, or black coffee except for in an hour window. Some can choose to keep up to an eight hour time window for eating- it's **up to you**. You can choose to do it everyday or even just once a week. For example, a friend of mine has been fasting all day everyday except from 7pm-8pm. During this time, he can eat anything he wants, **regardless of** whether it's

low-calorie or not. During just a two week period, he has lost 5 kilograms and claims to be feeling well.

To my surprise, I've read that there are several benefits to fasting. It is said that it aids in weight-loss, concentration, protection against disease, improved memory, and lower cholesterol. It came as a shock to me at first, as I thought that we unarguably need 3 meals per day. However, now I believe that that may not be the case, which I find **intriguing (interesting)**.

3/ Describe something you do to help you study or work

You should say:
- what it is
- how you learn it
- when you do it
- and how you feel about the method

I'm going to tell you about the thing which helps me stay focused most: exercise. I often get **bogged down (busy)** with work, and it seems like I cannot stay concentrated if I don't **take a short break** to exercise. Thinking back, I didn't often exercise during my teen years, which was the period when I did the worst in school. I believe there is a **correlation** here. When I first starting regularly exercising at about 18 years old, I was surprised to see how much my grades improved.

So, this is when I starting incorporating this habit into my lifestyle. More specifically, when I know I have to get some work done or study for an exam, I **deliberately (purposely) set my alarm** for 45 minutes earlier so I can **run on my treadmill** and do some mat exercises before I begin. Since I work remotely from home, I tend to do this 5 days a week, during my work hours. When I fail

to follow this routine of exercising before work, I seem to not be able to focus, or better yet even **muster up (to get)** the energy to start my day.
I feel like a new person after sweating a bit in the morning. Actually, I feel like I wouldn't be able to function without exercise- it's what gives me energy. I feel proud of myself that this is what keeps me focused, as it is also a healthy habit to have. I can **re-charge my brain** and work on my fitness **simultaneously (at the same time)**! All in all, I'm in love with this method and it makes me feel amazing!

4/ Describe an occasion that you wore formal clothes

You should say:

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

I'm going to tell you about the time I was a bridesmaid in my cousin's wedding last year. It was a spring wedding, so she wanted us to wear light shades of purple with the men in silky, gray suits that were just divine. The exact date was May 13, 2017 held in a town known for its beautiful horse farms and **sprawling (open, never-ending)** fields called Hunt Valley. My cousin is a **devout Christian (serious Christian)**, so she decided to get married in a Catholic Church with a backdrop of the gorgeous fields behind us.
Although the wedding was held on this day, I ordered my dress 3 months in advance and had it altered two times before the big day. I had put on weight during the months leading up, as I was going through a stressful **break-up (end of a relationship)**. So although I had ordered a size 10, I had to have it taken out by a tailor to make it a size 12. Moreover, at the last minute, I realized my

heels weren't tall enough so the bottom of the dress was dragging along the floor, picking up dirt. So, I had it altered again by about 6cm. When all was said and done, the **dress fit me like a glove (fit perfectly)**. The day before I went to get a French manicure and tips and had my hair and make-up done the morning of. My cousin provided us with bouquets, a flower bracelet, and a set of gold earrings to thank us for being a part of her special day.

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

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What kinds of clothes do people wear after work?

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

What kinds of clothes should people wear at work?

Actually, I think it depends on what people do. One of the most popular types among manual laborers is thick pieces of garments with protective gear as these help them to prevent injuries and dirt. However, those working in the office

have different dress code for sure. To be more precise, office workers tend to dress more formally like a pair of trousers and shirts for males or a dress for females. This is probably because they have to present a professional Image in the eyes of the customers or wearing such clothes gives staff more confidence in their ability.

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

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

Where do people in your country buy clothes?

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

When do people wear formal clothes?

Formal attire is often a must on important occasions such as meetings, ceremonies and other solemn events. Having said this, it's becoming more and

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

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

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

Will the way we dress influence the way we behave?

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

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

You should say:

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

- *How you felt about it*

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

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

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

6/ Describe a person you have seen who is beautiful or handsome

You should say:

- where you saw this person
- when you saw this person
- what the person looked like
- why you think this person is beautiful or handsome

I'm going to tell you about the most gorgeous man I've ever seen. Although I don't like to admit it, there is a certain **prototype (specific type)** of men that I always find attractive. That would be a dark-skinned, dark-haired man, maybe Latino or Mediterranean. There is something about this look that is so exotic to me, as a fair-skinned, light haired **freckly (with freckles)** woman.

I'll never forget this man I saw during my trip in Costa Rica once. As I was walking along the street one day, I **caught a glimpse (saw)** of his gorgeous face behind the bar of a small, local restaurant and bar. After this, I couldn't get him off my mind. The next day, I decided to go in that bar with some friends of mine to see if I could get to know him more. Unfortunately, it turned out that he was already taken. However, he was quite friendly so we still chatted for a bit.

I'll never forget the dimensions of his face. He had dark brown eyes with long, dark eyelashes paired with a pearly white smile. Everything was perfectly **symmetrical (even)** on his face. Furthermore, he has a **chiseled (defined)** jaw line which is quite manly and attractive to me. He had short black hair which fell perfectly on his face with a slight **swoop (falling across his face).** I'm a pretty tall woman, standing at about 1.68, but I noticed that he was significantly taller than me, perhaps about 1.85, which is uncommon for his country. As I'm not into super **buff (super muscular)** men, I liked his slightly muscular, lean build. Although he was gorgeous, what **stood out (caught my attention)** to me most was his smile. He had a friendly **demeanor (way of being)**, which tends to attract me above all. It seems that we always tend to want what we don't have, so I really enjoyed how different looking he was from me, as I was used to seeing blonde-haired, blue eyed guys in my own country.

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

You should say:

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

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

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

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

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Who is more important to you, friends or family?

In the deepest part of my heart, I think family natters more to me, although sometimes I may spend more time with my friends. You know, we can only be born once by our parents, but we can make new friends all the time. Besides, in this benefit-oriented society, only parents truly love us. Therefore, family should, carry more weight.

In a typical family, who plays the leading role?

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

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

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

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

Frankly speaking, unlike in Western countries where it is common to send older grandparents to nursing homes, most people are bound by their duty, which

means that they should or, in another sense, have to **pay back** what their parents have given them. As a consequence, the young generations and **middle- aged** people tend to share the same house with older people. This can be beneficial since small children can receive special care from their grandparents, obtain invaluable hands-on experience and tend to develop a good code of conduct later on.

What would children do to make their parents proud?

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

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

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

What are parents' responsibilities for their children?

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

What's the influence of parents on their children?

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

8/ Describe a skill you need long time to learn

You should say:

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

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

You can begin to learn a language in various ways. For one, you can learn it in school and a language center, which is a good base for grammar especially. Secondly, you can study it on your own, maybe even by watching youtube

videos, series/ movies, listening to music, etc. which is becoming more of a trend nowadays due to the high costs of studying at a language center. Moreover, you can learn it by **starting a relationship** with someone and **figuring out** a way to communicate after some time - I think it usually happens fast when you **catch feelings (to start feeling emotions for someone)** for someone who doesn't speak the same language! Lastly, you can move to that country and **pick it up** there. I would say this is the best way, although many don't have this opportunity.

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

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

You should say:

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

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

I watched almost the entire series by myself, with the exception of a few episodes with my ex-boyfriend. We both **chuckled at** this **goofy sitcom**. As I'm now in my late 20's like the characters in the show, it made me laugh a lot almost every episode because I can **relate to** many of the same situations and

challenges that they face, especially dating. For example, they all are trying to get married and have children but keep finding many dating failures before finding the **real thing (true love)**.Furthermore, I think the characters in the show are quite well-developed and each have their own unique personality, like Joey's **goofball (silly)** self and Phoebe's hippy, **zany (uncommon)** way of being. I think this is what made me want to keep watching.

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

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Why do children laugh so much?

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

Why don't adults laugh easily?

Well, this really depends on the adult. Actually, I know a lot of adults with a great sense of humor, although darker than children. I believe that laughter comes

more easily to adults because they have lived through more experiences, so they can simply laugh at their misfortunes at times. On the other hand, some adults are completely consumed by their work, which may make uptight and not often laugh. Moreover, adults are more developed, so it takes a lot more to make them truly laugh- they will usually not laugh at potty talk or peek-a-boo.

What kind of people can make people laugh?

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

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

You should say:

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

I'm going to tell you about my love for reading. Ever since I was a child, I've always been more of the introverted type and have loved to **have my face buried (expression for someone reading)** in a book. Since my parents often

fought when I was a child, I felt that it was an escape from reality. Moreover, I am also really into writing and I think it's impossible to be a great writer without reading. Through reading books, I can **bask in (deeply enjoy; get lost in)** the literary geniuses of the book and find inspiration for my own books in the future. I read every single day. Actually, I can't recall a single day in my life that I didn't read. Sometimes I feel as if books are my entire life. Whether the book is my **taste (preference)** or not, the **suspense always kills me (not knowing what will happen next is exciting)** and I cannot stop flipping the pages to find out what happens next. However, **duty calls (responsibilities call)** and I must go to work at the boutique from 10-6 Monday-Friday, so I have to pull myself away from my books during that time. I usually get up around 7am and read a bit before work then come home, have dinner, and get lost in a book for the rest of the evening.

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

11/Describe a piece of good news you heard (from TV or the Internet)

You should say:
- what the news was about
- when you got this news
- where you got this news from
- and why you think it was good news

In a world where negative news seems to take front and center, I'm really pleased to tell you about a positive news article I **came across (saw without looking for it)** the other day. I was looking up some highlights from 2018 online, and stumbled across some information about how France is becoming a leader in **curbing (stopping)** food waste. Let me tell you about the actions they are taking.

The article talked about how France has banned supermarkets from throwing away leftover food that is either **edible (can be eaten)** or usable as animal feed. Moreover, they have made laws to demand that restaurants donate their food waste. If they don't comply to this law, they will be faced with a fine from 3,500-75,000 euros, or even up to 2 years in prison. There were some people who were **skeptical (suspicious; unsure about)** of these laws, but they commented at the end of the article that supermarkets and restaurants have since changed their practices in general, and are becoming much more environmentally-friendly.

I was really moved to read this article. It reminded me of when I read years ago that we could solve world hunger with the amount of food we waste. Since global food waste is a **colossal (huge)** problem, it's excellent to know that some action is being taken against this world issue. Although the laws could be seen as excessive, I think that this is an effective way to enforce them. Unfortunately, often times it takes new laws and threatens of fines or jail time to make people change. After reading this, I hope that more countries follow in France's footsteps.

12/ Describe a family business you know

You should say:

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

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

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

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

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

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Do more expensive shops provide better service?

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

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

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

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

Not surprisingly, there's always someone for you to make enquiries 11I ease you want for more information on a particular item. The shop assistant would just be pleased to show you around, explain the features and functions v>f something. for you. A prime example is when I went to purchase a smartphone, I met a nice shop assistant who instructed me in detail about different brands, and I ended up picking the most suitable one.

What kinds of businesses are popular in this city?

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

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

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

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

13/ Describe a time when someone didn't tell you the whole truth about something

You should say:

- when this happened

- what the situation was

- who you were with

- and why the person didn't tell the whole truth

I'm going to tell you about a time I was really upset about someone lying to me. As I **whole-heartedly** value the truth, I feel very disappointed when I find out that someone has lied to me, especially when it's someone **close to** me. So, I'll share this situation with you.

I had just started dating a new guy and felt that I really liked him. I was 24 at the time, and he had said that he was 30. He appeared to be a bit older than that, so I tried to clarify his age twice, which he insisted was exactly 30. So, I decided

to believe him. I was chatting with his best friend one day who was 32, and he made a comment saying that he was younger than Manny, which I was **confused about** at first. Later that day, I **called Manny out (confronted)** about that over text, in which after several lies finally confessed that he was actually 33 years old. I knew it wasn't the most terrible lie someone could tell, but I felt that my trust in him was tested. I thought, "if someone lies about simple personal details, what else do they lie about?"

He never stated his intentions about his lie, but I would imagine that maybe he felt he was too old for me. I guess that he was afraid to lose me if I knew he was 33, which wasn't a problem for me. Furthermore, maybe he was struggling with accepting his age himself, so he wanted to keep believing that he was 30. I'm sure it was related to his insecurities one way or another. Anyway, whatever his reasons were, I decided to give him another chance although I wasn't happy that he was dishonest.

14/ Describe a party that you joined

You should say:

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

I'm going to tell you about a New Years Party I went to about 2 weeks ago now. Since I don't much enjoy crowds on New Years Eve, I thought of just staying at home and watching movies. However, my friends convinced me to come to their

party, which I was hesitant about, since the party only included couples and myself.

Anyway, I went and it **turned out (in the end...)** being fun! We started off the evening by going out to a Japanese restaurant for sushi. It was delicious! After this, we went back to my friend's house for the party. We drank wine, smoked hookah, and played board games until we finally reached the time to do the **countdown (the 10 seconds before New Year's)**. We, of course, had a glass of champagne ready for when the clock struck midnight. Followed by the cheers, everyone turned to their significant other for the first kiss of the New Year, except me, of course.

All in all, I had a pretty nice time at this party. As I've gotten older, I enjoy **low-key (relaxed)** social events more than big, crowded parties, so this was ideal for me. I really liked sitting around drinking and smoking hookah and conversing. Additionally, the food was great and my friend sat out some tasty snacks at his house, such as cheese, crackers, and olives. This definitely beat staying at home by myself! Even as the only single, I had a great time.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

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

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

Should parents spend much money on children's party?

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

Why some people dislike attending parties?

People are being increasingly on the go land can hardly manage time for drinks or parties as they are overly occupied with work-related matter Given this, a 2-hour wedding reception party, for example, can take away their precious time for work, making them delay their progress. Besides, some families fire running short of cash to cover the expenses for attending parties, so every time there's a wedding invitation, they're often Worried and helpless.

Why do people throw parties?

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

15/ Describe an old person who is interesting

You should say:

- who this person is

- how you know this person
- what you do with this person
- and why you think this person is interesting

I would like to talk about my grandfather. I've always **looked up to him (respected)**, as he has traveled the entire world on a low budget. Actually, as I'm now an **avid (regular)** traveler too, I feel that he planted some seeds in my head about this, since the rest of my family isn't very **fond of (like)** travel.
To give you some more background, my grandfather and I have always had a close relationship. He always used to **go out of his way (inconvenience himself to help me)** to come visit me when I was a child. I remember he used to come pick me up from school pretty often as well. As I would sit in the backseat, he would tell me stories about his life and travels. Moreover, he was a history major, so he would always **fill me in (tell me about)** with facts about the world. If it weren't for him, I would have never known about the history of these countries at such a young age. Although I don't see him as often anymore, we always like to exchange travel photography, stories, and discuss history with one another.
I find him really interesting because he has traveled to 111 countries and counting at 81 years old. Furthermore, he has traveled to places that aren't the typical tourist destinations, which shows how adventurous he is. Even though his body is aging, his mind is still sharp and full of knowledge about many worldly topics. Furthermore, he has a unique sense of humor which makes time with him enjoyable. All in all, there aren't many people like my grandfather so I **treasure (value)** him.

16/ Describe a time you taught something new to a younger person

You should say:

- when it happened
- who and what you taught
- why you taught this person
- and how you felt about the teaching

Well, since I'm a teacher, I teach new things to younger people on a daily basis. However, I will highlight one experience in particular that was really **rewarding (gave me a personal benefit)** to me. This would be when I taught a 4 year old student how to hold a pencil correctly and begin to write her first letters.
Thinking back, this was about 2 years ago now. I usually teach high-school aged kids, but in this particular time I decided to take on a summer school program with 4-5 year old students. This girl who I taught to write was 4 years old, while the others were 5 years old, already having experience in kindergarten. I planned a lesson on the alphabet, assuming that all of them had previous knowledge of this. However, I had to sit beside the 4 year old girl to further assist her as she didn't have previous knowledge of this. We started off by holding the pencil together to form the letters, followed by me slowly **easing (taking off easily)** my hand off of it. I stayed beside her until she was able to write out her first letters. I'll never forget the excited look on her face when she finally **got the hang of it**! As the class progressed, she was easily able to **keep up (stay at the same speed as)** with the 5 year olds.
This was an extremely rewarding experience for me; I was just so excited. Since I had never experienced teaching a child a basic skill, it was really special to me. It made me start to think about raising my own family one day, especially standing beside my children at their **milestones (big life events).** I had never thought about how exciting it must be to be a parent! All in all, it was an emotional moment for me.

17/ Describe a book you want to write

You should say:

- when you had this idea

- what kind of book you want to write

- what the book is about

- and why you want to write this kind of book

Well, to be honest, I've **never in a million years** thought of writing my own book. However, I'll tell you about an experience which gave me some motivation to write once. When I was about 14 years old, I woke up from a dream in which I was writing a book about how to try to explain the concept of colors to blind people. After this dream, I **fixated on (focused on)** this idea for weeks, even tried to start writing, but all in all I didn't know where to begin.

I thought this would be an interesting book, as I'm sure it isn't a common topic. Furthermore, I'm sure it's not a question that often comes to the minds of others. However, I've always been really fascinated in thinking about the concept of color. When I close my eyes, I try to imagine what it would be like to be blind. I wonder what they see- like is it all blackness? I try to figure out how I could paint the colors of the world to someone who has never experienced sight. I thought about making an audio book or training others about my book to start a movement to do this with the blind.

In my 14 year old mind, I had a lot of compassion for the blind and deaf. I grew up with a sister who has significant hearing loss, so I learned from a young age not to **take** my sights **for granted (to not appreciate)**. I think it would be an interesting concept to try to explain how the world looks using other sights, as well as not using color. Although this dream of mine has passed, I still think of it from time to time.

18/ Describe an item you bought but don't often use

You should say:

- When you bought it
- Where you bought it
- Why you bought it
- and explain why you don't often use it

Sadly, I have bought many things in my lifetime that I never ended up using, which now that I think about it makes me feel guilty. I will highlight one of these instances today. I remember I was dying to get an **upscale (fancy)** hair-straightener for my hair when I was in high school. So, I worked as hard as I could to save up money to finally be able to buy it. Looking back, I see that it was a complete waste of money.

I found it on an acclaimed website called Sedoo.com, where people had left positive comments about their satisfaction with the product. It was over $100, which was not easy task for a 16 year old working at a fast-food chain for minimum wage to save up. Even though I already had relatively straight hair, I wanted it to try to achieve that silky, perfectly straight hair that many girls in my high school had at the time. More specifically, I wanted to be like my cousin who achieved that **flawless (perfect)** hair with this straightener, as I always **looked up to her (respected her; wanted to be like her)**.

To be surprise, this straightener fried and made my hair look **frizzy (not smooth) right off the bat (immediately)**! It sometimes even made it **staticky (with static energy)**, which was not very attractive. Moreover, my hair is very thing, so I feel it made it look even thinner. Thinking back, I should have embraced my **natural wave (naturally wavy hair)**, which gives my hair more **volume (not flat)** and body! All in all, I learned from this experience not to buy something just because everyone else has it.

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

You should say:

- *When this happened.*
- *What made you change the plan.*
- *What the new plan was.*
- *And how you felt about the change.*

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

This has affected my life in many different areas. For one, my parents have always put pressure on me to work in business. However, I've always known that **that wasn't for me (not suitable for me)**. After this experience, I decided to be an Art teacher to children in a part of town with many Spanish speakers. If I had never stayed for 2 years, I wouldn't have the fluency that I have in Spanish today. Moreover, I've become a lot more **well-rounded (educated, experienced)** from this. I've gotten the opportunity to travel around South America and see the way others live, as well as the **breath-taking (extremely beautiful)** landscapes. Most importantly, I met the love of my life there! He moved back to Canada with me and I'm now pregnant with our second child.

Looking back, my life wouldn't be nearly what it is today without this change of plans!

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

How did people around you respond to it?

My family was quite happy for me, but it was **bittersweet (happy and sad at the same time)**for them because they really missed me. Since my parents were immigrants to Canada, they never had these opportunities when they were young, so they were joyous that I was able to. However, they were concerned that I would party too much instead of study! Moreover, they would stress about my **whereabouts (where I was, what I was doing)** and well-being while in Chile.

Do you like changes? Why?

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

Why do some people hate changes?

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

How can you change people's opinions?

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

20/ Describe a time you received horrible service

You should say:

- when it happened

- where you received

- what happened

- and why the service was horrible

I'm going to tell you about a time I received horrible service just near my house at a coffee shop the other day. First off, they were out of nearly all the food on their menu, which **started off the visit on a bad note (started badly)**. I was especially hungry that day, so I was not too happy about this. I thought, "how can you not have the food listed on your menu?" Anyway, let me tell you more about this experience.

Apart from being **out of** food, the waitstaff was extremely inattentive and left the tables dirty as new guests arrived. Moreover, they weren't friendly and were completely unapologetic about their l It took them about 20 minutes to make my smoothie, and when it arrived, they gave me strawberry flavor instead of mango. Since I'm not one who likes to **cause a fuss (make a problem),** I simply just drank the strawberry smoothie. As if it couldn't get any worse, when I went to pay the bill, their card machine was broken and they didn't have change for my cash. So, I had to walk one kilometer to withdraw cash. Again, no apologies for this.

I saw this is as really poor service because they were out of almost everything they offered on their menu. In my opinion, this isn't acceptable. I understand that sometimes restaurants run out of some items, but it's excessive to be out of almost everything. Furthermore, I believe that attitude is very important when you're working. It would have all been okay if the waitstaff had been more gracious about all of their **shortcomings (mistakes)**.

21/ Describe a beautiful city you've visited/ Describe an interesting part of your country

You should say:

- *Where is it?*
- *When did you go there?*
- *What did you do there?*
- *And explain why you like it*

I'm going to tell you about one of the most beautiful cities in the world in my opinion, Budapest, Hungary located in eastern Europe. I had always seen photos of the impressive parliament building and dreamt of seeing it in person, and just finally **bit the bullet (made a fast decision)** and took a solo trip there back in 2015. I was only 22 years old and had little experience traveling alone, but I knew I needed to **make it there (go there)**.

During my trip, I visited the famous parliament building, did a boat ride along the Danube river which separates Buda and Pest, visited local markets, visited Trinity square, visited the thermal baths, and ate the local foods, such as sausage and **goulash**. It all started on the first day when I joined a free walking tour to **get to know** the city from a local's **perspective**. After this, I **had a better idea of** what I should do while I was there. So, I visited some of these sites on

my tour then did the rest **on my own (alone, by yourself)**, all guided with a map, since google maps and SIM cards weren't available then. I felt proud of myself for finding my way around all by my lonesome.

I really enjoyed this city for many reasons. Firstly, the sites were absolutely **stunning (beautiful).** I discovered that Hungary has a long and interesting history with many different influences. Furthermore, the thermal baths were unlike anything I had ever experienced before and were just **divinely relaxing**, especially on a cool day. Moreover, the food and beer were absolutely delicious and cheap, which made the trip even more enjoyable. **All in all**, I highly recommend Budapest.

22/ Describe a person you wanted to be similar to when you were growing up

You should say:

- who this person was

- when you first met the person

- what the person did

- and you would like to become this person

Today I'll tell you about how I used to want to be like my sister when I was younger. She was always the popular, scholarly type, while I was sort of the unfocused, **social outcast (unpopular)**type. I always struggled with my weight when I was younger even though I ate pretty healthily, whereas my sister always had a perfect, thin **physique (fitness)** even while eating junk food constantly. I'll explain it more in depth.

My sister is 2 years older than me, and we grew up together. She was always the at the top of her class, even though she studied very little. I remember her saying that she would forget to study, but still get nearly 100% on her exams, even through her college years. Moreover, she had a natural athletic ability with

very little effort. She could take up a new sport and be good at it at the drop of a hat! I envied her swimming and basketball skills, especially. Apart from this, she was the thin, pretty blonde girl that everyone wanted to be friends with, although she didn't have to put effort into being nice to people. Another thing I looked up to her for was that it was easy for her to speak her mind. When I was younger especially, I always found it difficult to speak up even when I was being treated unfairly.

Reflecting back, I think what I most wished to inherit from her was her ability to do everything at ease. It seems like I always had to put more effort into school to get good grades, be fit, have friends, etc, so I wished those things could come easier. I especially wished I had her athletic ability, as I would like to do more physical activity. Furthermore, I wish I didn't have to spend countless hours studying and even meeting with a tutor to get good grades. However, as I've gotten older, I realize that we cannot compare ourselves to other people because we all have different strengths and weaknesses. Still, I admire her for her abilities as well as her outspokenness.

23/ Describe an interesting talk or lecture you heard

You should say:
When you heard it
Where you heard it
What it was about
And explain why you think it was interesting

I'm going to talk about a Philosophy Forum held every Wednesday evening in my town at a local bar/restaurant. I have been interested in going, but I was a bit hesitant since none of my friends wanted to join. However, I **bit the bullet (quickly made the decision)** and decided to attend this past Wednesday,

especially because the topic called “East meets West” what particularly intriguing to me.

I came across this event via Facebook. Furthermore, an **acquaintance (someone I know, but not a close friend)** of mine had mentioned it. This week’s topic was about the differences between Eastern and Western philosophies. They discussed the ideas of the most famous philosophers, such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, and mostly focused on Confucius for the Eastern philosophies. We drew contrasts between the two sides of the world, such as the language, environment, and the attitudes toward conflict. They had supporting evidence that Western and Asian people have some differences in their way of thought. For example, the speaker stated that there is more of a **gray area (not a clear answer)** in Eastern way of thinking, whereas things are more **black and white (a clear answer)** in Western thinking. Furthermore, he said that Eastern people tend to focus on community more, meanwhile westerners tend to be more **individualistic (focusing on themselves)**.

I found it especially interesting because the first speaker was an American philosopher, and the second was a Vietnamese man. After the entire speech of the American, the Vietnamese man **countered (argued against)** everything that was said. You could say he was playing the **devil’s advocate (to argue the opposite of what someone says)**. I thought it was really fascinating to see the two different ways of thinking. Although we mostly spoke of the differences, I learned that we are all still one human race. All in all, that is what fascinated me and kept me **on the edge of my seat (excited; suspenseful)**.

24/ Describe a time you enjoyed your free time

You should say:

- when it was

- where you were

- what you did

- and how you felt about it

Wow! That is difficult to just think of one instance, as I tend to always enjoy my free time. However, I'll tell you about one day last week when I had a **snow day (day when you can't leave the house because of a snowstorm)** and couldn't leave the house. I'm not a fan of the snow, so I often get down in the dumps during the winter season. But, this day I decided to **cheer up (get happy).** I was home alone, so I started off the day by making myself pancakes, eggs, and a few cups of coffee. I think even just this kicked off the day better for me, as I'm usually **scrambling around (running around quickly)** at the last minute to get to work on time in the mornings.

After breakfast, I went outside in my yard for a bit and just sat in the snow in my apartment complex. Then I decided to **trigger my inner child (act like a child)** and build a snowman and make snow angels. This really made my day! After this, **for old time's sake (to remember old memories)**, I went inside and made myself a cup of hot chocolate with marshmallows, as my mother used to do for my brother and I when we were kids. Following this, I stayed in my apartment all day **sprawled out (lied)** across the floor with blankets and pillows watching Netflix. I watched everything from childhood classics like Lion King to conspiracy theory documentaries.

I truly felt relaxed and at ease on this day. As I tend to get lost in the demands of my boss as well as drama with my boyfriend, I really needed a day like this. Actually, this day changed my attitude about snow. I used to think of it as just an inconvenient, inefficient day, whereas now I see it in a different light. Now I see them as opportunities to awake my inner child and take me back to the good old days!

25/ Describe an intelligent person you know

You should say:

- who this person is
- how you know this person
- what this person does
- and why you think this person is intelligent

I will tell you about someone who I would consider to be intelligent on many different levels, my aunt. To provide you with some background, I don't consider someone to be intelligent **solely (only)** based upon their scholastic abilities. I would define intelligence as a balance of common sense, book knowledge, social intelligence, as well as emotional intelligence. I decided to talk about my aunt because I feel she possesses all of these qualities.

As she's my family member, I've known her forever. However, I feel we became especially close during my high school years. She has always had a gentle, healing spirit, so I always got along with her. She is a nurse for patients with mental illnesses. She does home visits to make sure that they take their medications and helps them to stay **integrated (a part of)** in society. I think her profession says a lot about her character.

I find her to be intelligent because she was always at the top of her class at school. Moreover, it's incredible that I can ask her seemingly any question in the world related to health and she can provide me with a detailed response. Apart from this, she has a lot of common sense, or **street smarts (knows how to manage in difficult life situations)** some say. She can figure out situations and think of a **make-shift (last minute)** solution even at the last minute. On the other hand, she possesses a lot of social intelligence. I feel that she can read **social cues (social signals)** well and behave accordingly. Lastly, her emotional intelligence is out of this world. She has an unbelievable sensitivity and empathy towards all living beings. All in all, she **paints a picture (is the ideal)** of an intelligent person in my mind.

26/ Describe something you made by hand that you gave to other people

You should say:

- *What it was*
- *Who you gave it to and when*
- *How you made it by hand*
- *And explain why you gave that handmade gift to that person*

I'm going to tell you about the gifts I used to make for my mother when I was child. Looking back, I cannot believe my mother actually wore my gifts out because they looked very unfashionable. But, I'm glad that she did because I felt an extreme sense of accomplishment back then. Well, let me tell you about it.

Back in pre-school and kindergarten times, we used to have arts and crafts time at school. This included painting, making bracelets, making Christmas ornaments, etc. I remember one day the teacher brought in pasta noodles, like macaroni since it has a hole in it, of all different shapes and sizes along with some necklace string. So, we **strung together (put together on a string)** different pasta, some even a green or pink color, to make jewelry for our mothers or other family members. I remember that I really liked one wheel-shaped pasta so I made my mother a necklace like that, alternating plain color and green color.

I gave it to my mother because I knew she was really into jewelry, often wearing necklaces and earrings especially. Moreover, I chose that color-scheme because green was her favorite color. I think it's natural that children like to please their parents, so I simply wanted to make her happy. All in all, it was a thoughtful gift in my young mind.

27/ Describe a kind of food people eat during a special event

You should say:
- what it was
- what event people usually eat it
- how it is cooked/made
- and explain why it is for the special event

I'm going to tell you about a the traditional dish of Tet, the Vietnamese version of the Lunar New year. If you aren't **familiar with** it, it's a 10 day, **family-oriented** holiday to celebrate the New Year. It is called "Banh Trung", which could roughly be translated to "Trung Cake", "Mung Bean Cake," or "Rice cake" in English. I'm unsure of its origins, but I do know that Tet wouldn't be Tet without it. Although it's a bit difficult to explain, I will **try my best**. First, let me tell you what **goes into** the dish.

It's no easy task to prepare the Trung cake, actually, it usually requires several people to make it. The main ingredients are glutinous rice, pork, and beans wrapped in a square bamboo leaf. Another important detail is that the rice needs to be **soaked** in water for an entire day beforehand. You must carefully wrap the ingredients in the bamboo leaf, neither too tight nor too loose, then boil it 12 hours in a wooden container.

As I said before, I'm not certain of the actual origin, but I believe that it could have something to do with our tradition of eating rice. Furthermore, the Vietnamese generally **regard our ancestors**, so we can feel closer to them by **carrying out their tradition** of eating the Trung cake. Moreover, I have heard that it was believed in ancient **conception** that the world was square, so this could have some **correlation (relationship)** to the tradition of eating this cake. **All in all**, eating Trung cake is an original **mix of flavors** that I feel define my culture. I'm **looking forward (excited to)** to eating some this year!

28/ Describe an important plant in your country

You should say:

- *What it is*
- *What it looks like*
- *Where and how it is grown*
- *Why you like or dislike it*
- *And explain why it is important*

I'm going to tell you about an extremely widespread plant in my country, the coca leaf. Although it's controversial in other countries, as this plant is used to produce cocaine, it's said to heal the symptoms of altitude sickness and give you a boost of energy while climbing the high Andes Mountains. Actually, it's considered a sacred plant in my country due to its healing tendencies. Let me tell you more about it!

It's a green color and not very large in size. I'd say each individual leaf is about 4-5 cm in length and 2-3 in width. This plant is native to western South America, meaning Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, and Ecuador, cultivated in both the lowlands and highlands of the Andes mountains. Moreover, people can also grow this plant in the comfort of their homes with seeds. It's recommended to keep the plant inside in a warm, sunny environment.

I really **cherish (appreciate)** the coca leaf because I believe it carries medicial value. I really believe that it cures the headaches, nausea, and light-headedness associated with altitude sickness. Furthermore, it's what I turn to when I get any type of headache, not associated with altitude sickness and I feel that it's a healthy alternative to drinking coffee. All in all, I feel it's better to use something natural rather than a manufactured pill.

Coca is important to the people of my country for several reasons. Firstly, it is a cash crop. Secondly, this plant is regarded as a sacred plant, so they play an

important role in our offering ceremonies to Mother Earth. Lastly, it cures a multitude of illnesses! As you can see, we love this plant.

29/ Describe a time you looked for information from the internet

You should say

- *When you did that*
- *What information you searched*
- *Why you looked for it on the internet*

I'm going to tell you about a time I used the internet to look for information about social events online, which is very useful nowadays. I had just moved to Seoul and **didn't know a soul (didn't know anyone)**, so I began searching on Facebook. I found an expat page called "Expats in Seoul" which became one of my greatest resources for meeting locals and expats in the city. I believe that social media can be a great **blessing (something great)**!

I've now been living in Seoul for 10 months, so I began this search my first month here. I initially wanted to find a meditation group and a language exchange group, and I found just that by scrolling up and down the feed and even writing a post myself; there were countless people who informed me about events in the area. So, since my first month I have been attending a meditation group on Thursday evenings and have met several friends via the expat meet up. Since then, I've **expanded my horizons (opened up more opportunities for myself)** and even began regularly attending a Philosophy Forum on Wednesdays and have joined a yoga club, too!

I decided to opt for the internet to start building my social life because I didn't see many other options, as I am a freelancer. With this said, I don't have co-workers and I can be a bit **standoffish (shy; doesn't approach people)** when I go out to the bar. Although you must use your judgment when meeting people

from the internet, I think it can be a great tool when you first arrive in a new city alone. I find it to be quite an efficient way to **put yourself out there (put effort into)** to meet others. Although it can certainly be a curse at times, I certainly feel thankful for it!

30/ Describe a time you were scared/ Describe a frightening experience you had

You should say:

- *When it happened*
- *Where it happened*
- *Why you were scared*
- *How you felt about it*

I'm going to tell you about a time that I feel I may have had a **run in (experience)** with a ghost. First, let me give you some background. After my mother's death, my father, sister, and I moved into a new house that was built in the 60's. Upon moving in, we got to know the old couple who had this house built and lived their entire lives there, now moving into a nursing home. They seemed to be quite friendly.

I know that Ruth, the woman who lived there before, had a strong connection to her kitchen. When they moved out, she left a sign in the kitchen saying "Ruth's kitchen". I left it there to pay her respect for a while. However, one day I got tired of looking at that sign and decided to put it away in a drawer in the kitchen. To my surprise, when I came home later, the sign was hung up again. I quickly asked my sister and dad if they had put it up again, which they both denied. A sense of curiosity grew inside of me and I googled her and her husband's names. Oddly enough, I found both of their names in the local obituary and discovered that they had both died just months ago, very close to one another.

I felt frightened because I was worried that Ruth felt that I was disrespecting her kitchen. I questioned if she would come to **haunt me (be evil to)** for doing such a thing; I felt that she was taking her kitchen back. With this said, I **slept with one eye open (slept in fear)** for the next following weeks. I left her sign hanging and decided to just **go on (continue)** with my life. Since this, nothing like this ever happened again and I feel that if her spirit is in the house, it is a friendly one.

31/ Describe a time that you took medicine

You should say:

- *When it happened*
- *Who gave it to you*
- *Why you had it*
- *How you felt about it*

I am going to tell you about how I am currently taking medicine for a **fungal infection** that I **picked up** in my city, either by the hot, humid air, touching an infected object, or some other unknown way- the doctor was unsure. After noticing some itchy spots **showing up (appearing)** on my body, I took the initiative to see a doctor. He **prescribed** me an anti-fungus cream to lightly rub on the spots. He said it was a mix between an anti-fungal cream and an **anti-biotic**. It seems to work at first but after a week the infection came back and this time spread to more parts of my body!

So, I am now taking a strong anti-fungal pill called Diflazon to kill the fungal infection in my body. I was instructed to take 150 mg once a week. If this still doesn't improve, he told me to come back to visit him and that he would up the dosage of this pill or find out some other treatment methods.

During this infection, I have felt very itchy, uncomfortable, and worried that I could pass this infection to my friends through direct skin contact. Moreover, when I put on the cream, I didn't feel any relief from the itching and I worried that I was **sweating it off** during the day in this jungle climate of my country. After taking Diflazon, I felt a bit **nauseous**, but so far this treatment seems **promising (reliable)**, as I am noticing that my spots are starting to look better.

32/ Describe something lost by others but found by you

You should say:
- who it belonged to
- when it was lost
- how the person lost it
- how you found it

I'm going to tell you about a time I found a large sum of money, $3,000 to be exact, in a parking lot during the Christmas season about 10 years ago now. As I know this is a fragile financial time for people, I certainly didn't want to simply pick it up and claim it as my own. As I'm also a firm believer in **karma (the belief that what goes around, comes around)**, I was afraid to do such a thing. So, I immediately turned it in to customer service. As I was approaching the desk, I saw the mother standing there panicking asking about the money she had lost and requesting to see the security camera. To her surprise, I **tapped (lightly touched)** her on the shoulder to return her cash.
It turned out to belong to a mother of 4 children who was **frantically (stressfully)** doing last minute Christmas shopping. She was walking across the parking lot with a baby in her arms, a toddler in the other, and two older children arguing. Needless to say, she was quite overwhelmed and mistakenly

dropped the cash near her parking spot. She soon after realized and went inside to the customer service desk just minutes before I arrived. I'm sure her **faith was restored in humanity (the happiness you get when someone does something nice for you)**!

I **spotted (saw)** it in rolled up and pinned together by a belt clip near my parking space. Hesitant at first, I picked it up and immediately scanned the area for someone with a frantic look on their face, which I didn't see in the moment. Minutes after, I took the cash inside and found the mother there. In conclusion, it's feels better to be honest!

33/ Describe a subject you used to dislike but now have interest in

You should say:
- what the subject is
- why you disliked it
- what you are interested in now
- and explain why you become interested in it

I'm going to tell you a very **ironic (funny)** story. Well, as you know, now I am a language major in school, but that wasn't always my dream. Actually, I really **despised (hated)** learning languages back in elementary, middle, and high school. I started learning English from primary school, and consistently hated every minute of it. At that time, I couldn't see the value of learning another language. My student would often pick on me, while other students would **mock (make fun of)** my pronunciation. Apart from English, I was also required to take 2 semesters of Spanish in high school. I hated it with a burning passion, of course. I simply could not memorize all the **language conjugations (the way**

verbs change in different tenses) and could never even form a complete sentence or find any practical life for this language in my life.
To give more detail, I think I really hated language courses because I've always had weak pronunciation skills. Moreover, I can be pretty timid, so I always felt terrified to speak out in front of my classmates. Lastly, I think having a good teacher makes the experience. I never had teachers who obligated us to use the target language in class, so it made it really difficult to be motivated to learn. Now to tell you about this complete turn of events. Now I absolutely adore languages! During my college years I had an opportunity to go abroad to Costa Rica for a month. Since then I've not only fallen in love with Spanish, but also other languages. I also study Mandarin, French, and Arabic. Since I have the **travel bug (always wanting to travel)** now, these languages can make my experiences even better if I can communicate with the locals. Moreover, I simply believe that every language makes you better, due to the positive effects it has on your **cognitive (brain)** abilities. It's funny how things change!

34/ Describe a present you received which was made by hand

You should say:
- what it was
- what it was like
- who gave it to you
- and how you felt about the present

I'm going to tell you about a sweet and romantic period of my life- my first boyfriend! I was 16 at the time and completely **smitten (in love)**. Since neither of us worked at the time, we would always make each other gifts for special

occasions, such as anniversaries, birthdays, or the holidays. I'll tell you about one gift that I'll never forget.

He made me a **collage (art made with several cut up pictures)** of all the stages of our friendship and relationship. He must have gone to a print shop to print out all these pictures that carefully cut them out and made a tasteful wall collage with them. The special part of the gift was that he formed the letters of our names out of pictures, Anna and Dave. I thought this was a really creative way to celebrate our love.

Looking back, this gift is a bit **corny (foolish or not tasteful)**, but at that time I felt completely **blown away (really happy and surprised)** by it. We had been friends since we were children, so we had a ton of memories together. Furthermore, our relationship was 4 years long! I liked that he was thoughtful enough to put the effort into this kind of gift. Moreover, I felt really emotional looking at the way he told the story of our friendship that turned into love through photos. In conclusion, these sort of acts were the **key to my heart** as a teen girl!

35/ Describe a book you have read recently

You should say:

- *What it is*
- *Who wrote it*
- *What it is about*
- *And explain how you felt about it*

I'm going to tell you about a well-known book I just read called The Alchemist. It was written by Paolo Coelho, an author who has also written many other best sellers. Now I don't want to **spoil (give too many details)** it for you, but this book tells the story of a shepherd boy, Santiago, from Andalusia, the southern

part of Spain, traveling to Tangier, Morocco and across the Egyptian deserts in search of treasure.

At the end of the story, Santiago discovers that the treasure was in the ruins of the old church in Spain the entire time, right behind the tree spot where he often passed his days. With this said, the story teaches us that the treasures we often seek in life are already **at our feet (already within us)**, which we often don't even realize. Although he didn't find what he was looking for, the book was about his own personal journey.

I felt really inspired by this book because it is something that I can apply to my own life. I think that it's human nature to **take** our homes **for granted (to not appreciate something)** and believe that all treasures of life are in a far away place. For example, I've never been a fan of my hometown and have always traveled in search of finding happiness. Although I'm still doing this, 4 years and counting, it occurred to me that I can still discover new things, even in my small town. Some of the quotes in the book really moved me, such as the one that says "When we love, we **strive (try hard)** to become better than we are. When we love, everything around us becomes better to." This made me prioritize loving my own family, even thogh they are difficult to love at times. All in all, this book was a positive self-reflection for me. It would be difficult to dislike this book!

36/ Describe a newly built public facility (such as parks, cinemas..) that influences your city

You should say:

- where this facility is

- when it was built

- what people can do there

- and what influences this facility have

I'm going to tell you about the new cinema which is **all the rage (something popular)** in my town nowadays. Before this one, we had a very basic movie theater which sometimes even had a bad smell. It wasn't a place for a romantic date! So, we are all very pleased with this advancement in our city, especially since it's nearly always raining and cloudy here.

They strategically built the new cinema in the city center, within walking distance of all the other main attractions. It was finished about 5 months ago now, I believe. Since it's the only cinema in town, it's constantly packed. The lines even come out of the building! **I wouldn't even dare (I'd be scared to try)** to try to get a ticket on a Friday or Saturday night!

It's a modern theater with 3D options available, as well as an arcade. So, there is plenty to do for kids there. An interesting aspect is that they offer films in both English and Arabic, since both languages are popular in my town. They offer both **dubbed (when the voices in the movies are changed to the other language)** versions or originals with subtitles. Furthermore, they offer flicks from both America and Egypt- as their cinema is also quite popular in the Arabic-speaking world. Since I'm fluent in both languages, I really enjoy having these options. I sometimes **crave (really want)** a good, dramatic Egyptian film.

I would say this new facility has offered more opportunities for families to get out of the house. I constantly see that it's full of families enjoying their time together. Moreover, it's a good way for people to practice their language skills and become educated about new topics. All in all, it's a positive form of entertainment for all!

37/ Describe someone you haven't seen before but you would like to know

You should say:
Who he/she is
How you knew this person
What you want to know about this person
Why you want to know more about him/her

I'm going to talk about a huge **role model (someone you want to be like)** for me, His Holiness Dalai Lama. He is a Tibetan monk who was **exiled (forced to leave)** from Tibet and is now residing in India. I can't remember when I first came to know of him exactly, but I know that I felt very **moved (emotionally affected)** by his peaceful words. I often watch speeches by him on Youtube and have read one of his novels called "The Key to Happiness". I really have taken a like to him because his philosophies are quite simple and applicable to life, but also very wise and profound. Apart from this, he **exudes (gives off energy)** a remarkable sense of joy.

If I were able to meet him, I would like to ask him more about his exile from Tibet. I'm intrigued to learn how he dealt with these **hardships (difficulties)** and remained at peace while his whole world was falling apart. Moreover, I would like to know about his daily routine. Often times we only see our idols on TV, but we cannot imagine how their life really is. Furthermore, I know we are all humans, so I would like to learn about the struggles he faces and how he deals with them. Lastly, I would like to ask for advice on developing **inner peace (peace within one's self)**.

Ever since I saw his face, I felt that I had a connection with him. I really agree with the majority of his life advice and want to learn more about him. I think that he is revolutionary in connecting the Eastern and Western world. All in all, it's a big **bucket list item (something you want to do before you die)** for me to meet him.

38/ Describe a teenager you know

Who she/he is
What she/he looks like
How you got to know him or her
Why do you like him/her
And explain how you feel about him or her

I'm going to tell you about a family friend of ours named Edward. He is 16 years old and **bright (clever; intelligent)** as can be. We have known him ever since he was 6 years old, and I've enjoyed watching him transform into the young man he is today. Nowadays, he's even taller than me! I would say he's almost 6 feet tall. He has a dark complexion and nearly black hair, now cut into one of the trendy styles with one side of it shaved. He's **blossoming into (changing into; like a flower)** a handsome **fellow (another word for boy or man)**.
Well, although there was a 10 year age gap in between his mother and my mother, they immediately **hit it off (liked each other immediately)** when they starting work at a real estate agency together 10 years ago. Their friendship continued to grow within the office until they decided to open their own **brokerage (real estate company)** about 4 years later. So, our families have grown close over the years. We often have meals together, visit each other during the holidays, and even vacation together some years.
I really care for Edward because he has always been an honest, polite kid and a joy to be around. He isn't like the typical rebellious teenager who feels they are too cool for everything and everyone around them. He always greets me with a hug and shows me a lot of respect. For this reason, I have really t**aken a liking to** him. On another note, he is extremely hard-working and intelligent. We often get into deep conversations about the **underlying(hidden)** meanings of popular music hits or the history of the world- we both share a love of history. Although I'm 10 years older, I feel that Edward and I can still be friends. I

cherish (deeply appreciate) him and always wish him the best. All in all, he is like a little brother to me.

39/ Describe an equipment of yours that had problems/Describe a time that a piece of equipment of yours was broken (such as TV)

You should say:

- *What it was*
- *What problem it had*
- *How you fixed it*
- *And explain how you felt about it*

I'm going to tell you about a time my MacBook CD drive broke during my **prime (most important)** college years when it was needed. It was a stressful time, as I highly depended on my computer then. I tried to fix this problem on my own and take it to my **tech savvy (good with technology)** friends, but this simply wasn't enough. Let me tell you how it happened.

Well, I accidentally inserted a disc which I urgently needed to download for my class, not realizing that another disc was already inside. This caused a jam, which wouldn't allow me to get the disc drive open. With this said, I stupidly tried to stick a knife inside to **pry it open (open slowly)** to retrieve the disc for my class, which held important data. I shortly after realized that this wasn't a smart idea, so I took it to my friend to have a look. He was scratching his head about it, so I decided to take it to the Apple store, which was 2 hours away. Luckily, they were able to retrieve the discs, but unfortunately could not fix my disc drive. So, I spent the rest of my college years doing all disc-based activities at the local library.

At this point in time, I felt very frustrated, as I was in a high-pressure environment at my university. I was scared that I would turn in the assignment late and risk harming my **GPA (grade point average).** However, I felt relieved and lucky that I was able to fix it quickly, although it was inconvenient to do the activity at the library, outside of the comfort of my home. All in all, technology can be a huge stressor when it fails!

40/ Describe a complaint that you made and you were satisfied with the result

You should say:

- *When it happened*
- *Who you complained it to*
- *What you complained about*
- *And explain why you were satisfied with the result*

I'm going to tell you about a time I had a huge problem in a restaurant near my house. As I'm **highly allergic (dangerously allergic)** to shrimp, it is very important that I convey this to a restaurant before they prepare my food. My allergy is so serious that if the cook doesn't change their gloves after preparing shrimp, my body can break into hives and go into shock.

So, one evening my boyfriend and I went out for dinner. He ordered Shrimp Scampi and I ordered Chicken Parmesan. I let the waiter know the severity of my allergy as he was taking our order, and he assured me that the cook would change gloves before handling my order. As soon as I took a few bites of my food, my throat started feeling tight and I started breaking out in hives. I then had to be taken to the hospital to get my allergic reaction under control.

I **had some choice words (said unkind or curse words to)** with the waiter, but I mostly waited until after I got out of the hospital to call the manager of the restaurant to let him know what had happened and he apologized countless times. Since this was a grand mistake on the restaurant's part, they offered to cover my medical expenses. I was extremely pleased with this because I had received a pretty costly bill. Although I felt pretty angry at the restaurant for making a mistake, I realize that they are only humans. I was satisfied that the manager immediately apologized and offered to cover my expenses. If he had put up a fight, it would have been another story. All in all, I was happy with the outcome.

41/ Describe a person who helps protect the environment

You should say:

- *Who this person is*
- *What he/she does to protect the environment*
- *How difficult it is to do that*
- *And explain how you feel about the things he/she does*

I'm going to talk about my aunt who is an **advocate (someone who supports)** for the environment. She not only lives this way in her daily life, but also participates in many events and protects for the environment in Washington D.C. I really admire her green way of living and try to implement it into my own life and share these ideas with my students here in Vietnam. Well, let me explain exactly what she does.

In her daily life, she tries to use as little plastic as possible. She and her husband use paper bags in their garbage bins, as well as separate it into paper, plastic, glass etc. After doing this, they recycle their waste. Moreover, she takes their

leftovers and **composts (making old food material soil)** them in their backyard which is quite clever I think. Furthermore, they eat a plant-based, vegan diet and actually are quite self-sufficient, growing the majority of their vegetables in their garden. Apart from all of these daily activities, she participates in **environmental rallies (environmental demonstrations or protests)** and even goes around her local community to distribute recycle bins. There was one occasion in which she even spoke in front of hundreds of people about the environmental benefits of a plant-based diet. All in all, I admire how she **embodies (follows her ideals in her way of being)** and promotes her way of living to the community.

Maybe it would be difficult for some to speak in front of that number of people which is understandable, but I think it's quite simple to be environmentally friendly in your daily life. I don't think it's a hassle to recycle, separate garbage, choose paper over plastic, etc. I really appreciate my aunt for teaching me these kinds of ideals and that even small acts count towards building a more sustainable environment. Moreover, she is not **pretentious (snobby; feeling superior to others)** or judgmental towards others who aren't as aware of environmental issues. She uses education instead of threat, which I really admire, as we live in a world where people use harsh methods to push their ideals on others.

42/ Describe a game you played in your childhood

You should say:

- *What the game was*
- *When you played it*
- *Who you played it with*
- *How you felt about the game*

I'm going to tell you about a **hand game (a game like Mary Mack, etc.)** I used to play with my sister and friends. It was called "Concentration 64". At the time it seemed like so much fun, but now seems silly when I think about it. Anyway, let me tell you how we used to play it.

The game started with a **chant (song)** along with claps that went "Concentration 64, no repeats or hesitations, I'll start, you'll finish, the category is _____" then the person leading the game would choose a category, usually consisting of colors, animals, foods, etc. The two people had to name 64 things under that category. If one repeated or hesitated, they were automatically out.

We started playing in in elementary school during recess, so between the ages of 6 and 10, so from the late 1990's to early 2000's. I remember my sister and I especially playing it on the way home from school, since it was about a 45 minute drive there and back everyday. It was a good way to pass the time!

I used to really enjoy this game at that time. I was really into other hand games at the time as well, like Mary Mack for example, so they were **kind of my thing (something I really liked)** in general. I would usually **beat (win)** my sister and friends at it, so maybe that adds to why I used to like it so much. I thought it was an interesting way to generate competition, not to mention I found it thrilling to think of all the words I could think of under the chosen category. All in all, it was a fun way to pass the time and **boost (improve)** my confidence.

43/ Describe another language (not English) you would like to learn

You should say:

- *What language it would be*
- *How you would learn it*
- *What difficulties you think you would have*

- *And explain why you would choose to study this language*

I'm going to tell you about another language that interests me- Spanish. For one, it's quite useful, with 21 countries speaking Spanish worldwide. Apart from the logical reasons to learn it, I associate it with being a passionate language, which is appealing to me; it sounds romantic. I'm even more interested since I've always had a **guilty pleasure (something you are embarrassed to enjoy)** of watching **soap operas (Latin drama shows; telenovelas)** and enjoyed Latin dance.

I think I would start by watching some Youtube videos, listening to music, and by changing the English subtitles on my soap operas to Spanish. Furthermore, I would like to find a teacher online or in person. Of these two options, I think I'd like to find a one-on-one Spanish tutor online to save time and amplify learning time. Since I would prefer to learn this way, there isn't much equipment I would need- simply a good pair of headphones and a solid wifi connection.

I can imagine that pronunciation may be an issue for me, since Russian is my mother tongue. However, since I already have adequate mastery of English, I feel that there may be some **cognates (words that look similar in two languages)**. Furthermore, I worry about the writing, since that was a struggle for me in English. However, all in all, I seem to **have a knack for (to be good at)** languages, so I feel confident in myself.

Apart from my reasons listed above, I think Spanish can open up new career opportunities for me, as I work in Telecommunications. Furthermore, since I'm thinking about re-locating to a warmer climate, Spain could be an option for me. Lastly, I've always dreamt of having a Latin lover, so perhaps learning the language could open up this window of opportunity for me. All in all, every language stretches your mind to new dimensions and **opens new doors (new opportunities)**, so it's never a waste!

44/ Describe a situation when you didn't have enough time

You should say:
- when it was
- where you were
- what you tried to do or finish
- and explain why you didn't have enough time for it

I'm going to tell you about a time I was **overwhelmed**. I was doing extra hours at work for a co-worker who was ill, so I already had **plenty on my plate (to have a lot to do)**. To add to this, my friend asked me to help her out with an online project of her, which required a lot of time, energy, and research. Let me give you more details.

Well, this was just the other week actually in my hometown. She's been a long-time friend of mine, so I really wanted to **give her a hand**, but I simply couldn't manage it. It was a very **time-sensitive** project, so I didn't want to accept it then later give up. However, she pushed me into it so I **ended up** doing what I could of it. The thing that really **bugged** me was that she made it seem like it would be a simple activity, but it required me to research online for several hours, not to mention then writing out documents for about 6 hours each; there were 4 separate assignments. So, **in the end**, I did one assignment part of it then sent it back to her and told her she will have to make other arrangements.

I usually work about 40 hours a week, however, it was over 50 with my extra hours that week, so I simply didn't have much time **to spare (extra)**. Actually, I don't think it would have been possible to add another 24 hours of work onto that week. Furthermore, I have to be **energetic** at my job to be able to effectively sell new products, so I definitely cannot **neglect my sleep schedule**. All in all, it was just an inconvenient time!

45/ Describe an important decision made with the help of other people

You should say:
- when it happened
- who helped you to make the decision
- what the decision was
- and how you felt about it

Sample 1:

I'm going to tell you about the stressful period in my life when I had to choose which college to go to. As I was accepted to several different colleges in my region of the USA, it was no easy task. Actually, I relied on myself quite a bit to **feel out (test)** what was best for me, but I couldn't have done it without the help of my aunt and uncle, as my father doesn't have any experience with college and my mother passed away when I was 13 years old. So, I was very fortunate to have two **role models (people who i respect and model)** to help me set of the next stage of my life positively.

This was back in 2010. Oh, how **time flies (time goes fast)**! I began looking for colleges during my senior year of high school, so this search even started in 2009. My aunt, uncle, and I used to have dinners to **weigh the pros and cons (count the positives and negatives)** of the different options I had. After repeating this several times, we finally **narrowed it down (came to a few options)** to 3 different colleges, two public universities in my state and one out of state. Since out of state college prices **skyrocket**, I quickly eliminated that option. Then there was the decision between the two in-state colleges. My aunt, uncle, and I came to the conclusion that I wanted some distance from my hometown, but not too far. As one college was only 40 minutes away while the other was 3 hours away on the coast, I chose the **latter (the last mentioned)**.

All in all, I felt extremely satisfied with this decision. After I chose this, I felt extremely excited to have space from my hometown, not to mention to be close to the beach. However, I was a bit apprehensive because I had heard that this was a **big party school (a college famous for drinking and parties),** but I trusted in myself to make good decisions. These **ended up (finally)** being some of the best years of my life.

Sample 2:

I'm going to tell you about when I had to make the hardest decision of my life, which was whether to get a divorce or not. It was no easy task, as divorce is **frowned upon (seen negatively)** in my country, not to mention that we have a 3 year old daughter together. However, I knew I needed to do something to fix my happiness.

So, I decided to divorce my husband back in 2015. We had attended marriage counseling together and had endless conversations with our friends and family members about it. However, ultimately the decision was up to us. We tried to make it work for a year, but we simply couldn't **cope with (put up with)** one another. Luckily, we sat down on the sofa together one day and came to the mutual agreement that we wanted to get a divorce. 3 weeks later, we signed the official papers.

To be honest, I'm still suffering from this decision. Although I know my ex-husband and I weren't compatible, it **tears me apart (makes me extremely sad)** inside to see us break up the family for our daughter. My ex-husband and I wish we could give her the "perfect" family that all parents and children dream of. Although I'm still **plagued (overcome with)** by sadness and disappointment some days, I feel clarity in knowing husband and I made the right decision. I'm beginning to feel hopeful for the future. Unfortunately the right decisions are often the most difficult!

46/ Describe a historical period you are interested in

You should say:
- what the historical period is
- how you know it
- what happened during that period
- why you find it interesting

I'm going to tell you about the Spanish conquest of the Incas, as I studied Latin American History at University. Simply put, The Incas always left me **in awe (amazed).** Furthermore, this has always been an important subject to me, because the Incas made **groundbreaking (amazing, new)** achievements in mathematics, architecture, astronomy, and art. When I **analyze (deeply study)** the Spanish conquest, I reflect on the Inca's historical significance, which has persevered despite the loss of the civilization. This has really **moved (had an emotional effect)** me. Now that you now why I'm **fond of (like)** this, let me give you a summary of the **ins and outs (details)** of their story.

During this period, between 1532 and 1574, Spanish and Inca nobles **brutally (bloody, cruel)** fought for dominance in the region. The Spaniards believed that they should rule, and that their moral beliefs were superior to the Incas. The Incas fought to protect their home territory. However, this is a complicated period in history, because many indigenous subjects joined the Spaniards in these battles. They **saw red (to be angry)** when it came to the the Inca rule. The extra help ultimately led the Spanish to victory. I find this period fascinating because we can learn a lot from it in the present; you can clearly see the **correlation (relationship)**. Many scholars would like to know more about the Inca past, but learn very little because colonial Spanish writings are often **dismissive (don't accept)** of Inca technology, and we don't have Inca writings to help us understand them better. All in all, we learn that there are tragic historical consequences of colonial conquests, and we hope to learn from them in the present.

47/ Describe someone you would like to study or work with

You should say:
- who this person is
- how long you have known this person
- what you have done together
- and why you you would like to study or work with this person

I'm going to tell you about my friend Veronica. She is the type of friend that you know always has **good intentions (kind, means well)** and would never do anything to hurt you. Furthermore, she is extremely loyal, understanding, and **down to earth (not thinking she is better than others)**. Even though she is a highly educated and intelligent person, she would never use these qualities to be condescending to another person.

We first met back in 2016 in a month-long, intensive Spanish class in Cusco, Peru. The nature of our class there was very open, causing us to share private details about our lives and even embarrassing stories, so this made it easier to get closer as a class. We spent 7 hours a day together in that class, along with about 10 others, so I would say we got to know each other very well. When we **broke into (divided)** groups, we would often work together which always went well. I felt that she was always a helpful classmate, never one to make you feel dumb for not knowing an answer. After the class, we remained close friends throughout our entire year in Cusco. During that entire time, she never did anything that **rubbed me the wrong way (to make angry).**

With all this said, this is why I would enjoy studying or working with Veronica. I feel that she would always remain sincere, regardless of any **cutthroat (bad intentions)** workplace environment or competitive or **prestigious (of high class)** academia. Furthermore, I feel that she would always be there to help me out, and I would never worry that she would be conniving. Lastly, I see that she

is a hard-working, dedicated person, so that would make her an even better candidate. Since we already have some experience as classmates and even more as friends, this is why I chose to talk about her.

48/ Describe something interesting happened in your school

You should say:

- *What it was*
- *Where it happened*
- *Who was there*
- *And explain how you felt about it*

I'm going to talk about one of the **highlights** of my high school years. First, let me give you some background. In American culture, we tend to **go all out (celebrate fully) when it comes to** entertainment or sporting events. At the beginning of a new school year, we have a formal school danced called "homecoming". Leading up to this dance, we have a special football game to **kick off (start)** the year. Before these two events, we have an event called the pep rally in which cheerleaders perform in the school **gymnasium** as well as have special guest speakers to motivate us for this year. This specific year we were in **for a special treat!**

Well, my school organized for a very special guest, Kel from a famous TV show called "Kenan and Kel" from the 90's. As the cheerleaders were leading their cheers, suddenly he appeared singing the song from the famous TV show, which was the soundtrack of the childhood of many in that gymnasium. In the TV show, he was famous for drinking orange soda, so our school even provided

this for us to wave in the air during his dance or even ask for **autographs** afterwards.

I felt extremely overjoyed about this. More than **overjoyed (extremely happy)**, I felt shocked that my small public school was able to arrange and afford such a famous star to come to our school of any, as I went to a simple public high school in a small, rural town. As he entered the gym, I felt as if my hard were going to explode from excitement. After his performance, I asked him to sign my orange soda bottle. I have kept it dearly since this special day!

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

1, What courses will be added in your high school?

Hmm, nowadays there are many new courses on the rise. In my country, Art hasn't always been an area of focus, as there is more **emphasis (more attention)** on Math, Science, and Literature. With this said, they have decided to add more Art courses, including performing arts. Moreover, they are adding more Home Economics courses, to learn skills such as sewing, cooking, and managing personal finances. Lastly, they are adding more related to health, such as Sexual Education and Mental Health. I think these will all contribute to a brighter future.

2, What courses will be helpful in the future work?

All of these new courses! I think the Arts will undoubtedly benefit students in the future, as it helps them to channel their creativity in which ever field of work they choose. Furthermore, Home Economics courses will provide students with hands-on experiences in the real world, such as managing a budget, cooking for their families, etc. Moreover, I believe it's of extreme importance for students to have information about their sexual health to avoid unwanted pregnancies, **STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases)**, health risks of our genitals, etc.

Lastly, as the world is becoming more conscious of mental health, it's critical for the new generation to be informed, and later empathetic towards those suffering with those kind of conditions.

3, Will it be more effective to read online than books?
Hmm, well although reading online can be beneficial towards the cutting down of trees, I think there is something about the the value of holding a book. I'm not sure that we as humans will ever fully **get rid of (eliminate)** this. Moreover, staring at a screen can be damaging to the eyes. On the other hand, with new technologies on the rise, it may be more effective to buy E-books or novels from your Kindle, iPod, etc. So, I think there are definitely two sides to this.

4, What do students do after school in your country?
Well, it varies depending on the financial status and demands of the parents. Some parents insist that their children go to extra classes or tutors so that they can excel above others in their classes, while others simply let their kids go home and play or go to their friends' houses to hang out. Furthermore, some kids go to extracurricular activities, such as sports or learning instruments. A popular sport is basketball or soccer, or to take piano or violin lessons. Lastly, some schools offer after-school programs for parents who work late. In these programs, they organize activities such as games, tutoring, language learning, etc.

49/ Describe a radio programme that you found interesting

You should say:

- *what this programme was*
- *when and where you listened to this programme*
- *what the contents of the programme were*

- *and explain why you liked this programme*

Well, to be honest I'm not very into radio programs anymore as Spotify and iTunes are on the rise, but let me tell you about one I used to be into **back in the day (in the past)**. When my mother used to drive me to school in the morning, we used to listen to a radio show. Actually, I can't even remember the name and I definitely don't think it was a program intended for children, but I recall that it was on station 99.5.

It was a morning talk show with various topics, from news, pranks, competitions, and trivia. As it usually started around 7:30am, the typical **commute time** for adults. In between the talk shows, they would play pop or **alternative hits** from the 90's. As many of the topics that they talked about were **way over my head**, I much preferred the musical bits of it.

During the news parts of it, they would discuss the current events of that week and allow people to **call in** to share their opinions as well. The **pranks** sometimes involved the ex lovers of the callers who called in to **play this trick on** them. Furthermore, they often held competitions or **trivia** with a prize, such as concert or theater tickets. I remember my mom and I got up extra early to call in to try to win tickets to the Backstreet Boys concert, which we unfortunately didn't win.

At the time, I really only liked the pranking part of it. Since I was a child, this was the only content I found humorous. Looking back, I can appreciate that my mother **put on** this program so that I could hear trivia questions and news stories as a child, although the horrifying news stories were disturbing to me **at times**. **All and all**, this program defined my mornings in the 90's.

50/ Describe an outdoor sport you played for the first time

You should say:
- what it is
- when you first played
- how you learned to play the sport
- and how you felt about the sport

I'm going to tell you about my true love: soccer. I've been playing for my entire life. Actually, I would say it's my number one passion. I've even gone as far as to pursue a career in this field! I'm now a football coach for an adult's league, as well as my son's.

I first kicked around a soccer ball when I was about 3 years old, if I remember correctly. My father was an **avid (regular; expert)** soccer player, so quickly wanted to make me passionate about his game at a young age. He used to take me a local park in our city until dark to share his skills with me when I was about 5-6 years old. Moreover, we would always kick around a ball at home, but mostly **goofing off (playing)** rather than playing for real. Shortly after, I joined a league, which he coached. This is one of the fondest memories I have with my father who has since passed.

Apart from this, we would always watch soccer together as a family for as long as I can remember. I can recall watching the moves of the players in the games and trying to imitate them, which further helped me learn more skill.

I've adored the sport since I was first introduced to it. However, sometimes it was difficult to balance my school work with my passion for soccer, as I tended to neglect my homework due to soccer practice. However, all in all, soccer has taught me a sense of discipline, team-work, and was a way for my family and I to **bond (have a close relationship)**. I wouldn't be the same without it!

51/ Describe an ideal house

You should say:
- where this place is
- what it is like
- when you want to live there
- and explain why you think it is ideal for you

Well, to be honest, I'm not interested in buying a home anytime soon, nor do I put a lot of emphasis on my home, but I'm going to tell you about my dream house, which I often dreamt of as a child.

I used to imagine a log cabin style house **tucked into (hidden in)** the Alp mountain range. As I've always been a huge fan of snow and lakes, I'm confident that this would be an ideal location for me. If it weren't in the Alps, I would want it in the Rocky Mountains or Andes. All in all, it just has to be in a tranquil area with breath-taking scenery.

More specifically, I imagine a two-story house with all wooden floors and a red and black color scheme; I feel like this adds to the effect of the log cabin feel. I would like to have a large living room and dining room area with a fireplace inside. Moreover, I would like large kitchen where I can cook for my family and entertain guests- perhaps with a large island area with stools around it. I would like to have 4 bedrooms, 2 for my children, 1 for my husband and 1 for a guest. In my bedroom, I'm **dying to (really want)** have our own fireplace as well as a jacuzzi for bubble baths. I would hope that each room has it's own balcony with mountain views.

Actually, I haven't put any pressure on myself about when I should try to buy my own property, but I would imagine sometime between age 30-35. I ideally see myself in this house with my husband and children, as there would be plenty of space for them to play, as well as go on mountain treks. I could imagine all

of us **bundled up (covered by blankets)** by the fire after a day of hiking in the snow!
I think this would be the ideal house for me, as I am a fan of quiet, secluded places surrounded by nature. For now I'm happy living in the city, but I imagine I would like to **settle down (establish one's self)** in a quieter place one day. Moreover, I know that I like to entertain, so I want to have ample space to do so- not to mention in a beautiful place. In conclusion, I desire this mountain life with my family by my side!

52. Describe a time that a piece of equipment was broken (such as TV)

You should say:
- what the equipment was
- what the problem was
- what you did after it was broken

Wow! Technology seems to always fail me. However, I'll try to highlight one specific incident. I was so excited when I got my first Iphone at 18 years old that I had worked hard for. Of course, the second day I ended up dropping it off of my moving bike and cracking the screen! I can be such a **klutz (a clumsy person)** sometimes!
Well, to be more specific, it was an Iphone 4- the latest and greatest technology of that time. As I said, at first I cracked the screen. Following this, my nephew spilled my steaming hot cup of coffee on my phone which leaked into the cracks, causing it to malfunction and stop working. I couldn't even get it to turn on, which caused me to lose all my pictures and other data at the time. It was easy to be frustrated with him in that moment, but I shortly after realized that it was my fault in the beginning!

After this, I **switched back (changed back)** to my former Blackberry phone for a while. I was really disappointed in myself, so I **picked up (added)** extra hours at my restaurant to save up to get another. After about 8 months of working very hard, I was able to buy a new Iphone. This time, you bet I invested in a screen cover and heavy-duty case to make sure to protect it against drops or liquids. In conclusion, I **learned my lesson (expression when you learn not to make the same mistake again)**!

53/ Describe an interesting place in your country that not many tourists get to

You should say

- *Where it is located*
- *Why it is interesting*
- *What you can do there*
- *Why are few people go there*

I'm going to tell you about one of the hidden gems of Peru, Rainbow Mountain or the "Mountain of Seven Colors". First, let me give you some background. Sadly, it just became visible a few years ago due to global warming. In previous years, it was covered in snow, which has since melted. So, as it was recently discovered, it's not often known about nor visited by tourists. Moreover, it isn't an easy task to trek through the Andes at high altitude, so it wouldn't be a **feasible (possible)** for everyone to do.

It is **tucked into (within)** the Andes mountains, about 3 hours from the city of Cusco. You can access it by taking a vehicle from Cusco to a certain point, in which you then trek about 4 hours to the mountain range. Along this trek, you pass by secluded Andean villages, open fields of alpacas and llamas, and impressive snow-covered mountain ranges which are extremely fascinating to me. Actually, although the Rainbow Mountain is the highlight, I enjoyed the

entire trek due to this scenery as well. Anyway, as you are trekking along this breath-taking landscape, you suddenly start to **catch a glimpse (see)** of a rainbow-colored mountain range. As you get closer, you can observe the seven different colors of the mountain, formed by mineral layers. It is a must-see!
Once you arrive there, the popular activity is to have a picnic lunch while basking in this amazing scenery as well as taking a rest, and of course, selfies! It can even be difficult to get the exact shot that you want due to all the photographs being taken at this point. However, all in all, it is truly a unique site, and very worth the **arduous (difficult)** journey there.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What kinds of tourist sites are popular in your country?

Wow, it's hard to **sum it up (simply describe)**! Peru has everything from beaches, mountains, valleys cities, small towns, floating islands, even a desert! As I'm from the Andean region in Peru, there are a variety of natural sites for tourists, as well as Cusco, the former Inca capital still rich with Spanish architecture. Most importantly, we are near Machu Picchu, one of the seven wonders of the world. Apart from this, there are countless mountain ranges, turquoise colored lakes, several-day long treks, and interesting indigenous villages to visit and see their textiles. All in all, Peru is very rich in culture and nature.

What can governments do to prevent pollution in tourist sites?

Good question! This is a growing problem, as **eco-tourism** is on the rise. Firstly, they need to set a limit of visitors and vehicles and enforce it strictly. For example, as the number of visitors to Rainbow Mountain is not being monitored, the land is quickly being **exploited (used for human benefits)**. More than just that, the number of vehicles transporting people to this area is causing pollution. Moreover, the government should limit construction near natural sites, as this causes the air to become unclean. Lastly, they must set strict littering laws and

enforce them to make sure that the land and water doesn't become **tainted (dirty; polluted).**

What are the advantages of visiting less known places?

In my opinion, visiting less known places is even better than the most well-known ones. As I'm not into large crowds, I very much prefer the relaxation of being able to **wander (walk aimlessly)** around without selfie sticks and tourist groups pushing their way past me. Moreover, I think you can have a more authentic experience this way. Furthermore, I think you can meet more genuine locals this way, as places with a **high concentration (high numbers in one place)** of tourists tend to attract **ripping off (charging a higher price)**, scams, or **pick-pocketing (stealing when you aren't paying attention).**

What are the disadvantages when there are too many tourists in one site?

Well, there are many. For one, it has negative impacts to the environment. The environment cannot sustain the sudden **influx (rush)** of people and vehicles in one place. Secondly, it is unpleasant when you cannot even enjoy an amazing view because of all the tourists fighting to get to the front to take a picture. Thirdly, I find it difficult to have a true authentic experience when the place is overrun with tourists. Lastly, you may be subject to more **petty crimes (non-violent crimes)**, such as pick-pocketing, scams, or rip offs in highly touristy zones.

54/ Describe a time when you arrived early for an appointment

You should say:

- when and where it happened;
- why you arrived early;
- what you did while waiting;

- and explain how you felt about arriving early.

I'm going to tell you about my dentist appointment last week. To give you some background information, I'm a very **punctual (on-time)** person, so I am always very careful about giving myself enough time to get somewhere. So, for this appointment, I anxiously anticipated traffic jams, which commonly happen in my city. Moreover, it is my friend's dentist office, so I especially did not want to **make a bad impression (make people think badly of me)** by being late. My appointment was at 8am, so I got up extra early and left the house at 7am. Although the dentist office is only 8km away, it can often take up to an hour to get there in the morning **rush hour (the hour when everyone goes to work).** To my surprise, there ended up being nearly no traffic at all, so I arrived at 7:20am.

Later, my friend ended up getting **held up with (busy with)** a **wisdom teeth extraction**, so my appointment didn't end up starting until 8:30am. While I waited, I kept myself occupied with a few different activities. For one, I called my parents since we have a 12 hour time difference, so that was a convenient time for them to chat after work. Secondly, I played Words with Friends on my phone, an online Scrabble game. Lastly, I looked through my pictures this month to reminisce, and even found a picture I had overlooked and decided to edit it and put in on my Instagram account.

Since I often arrive early and end up sitting around waiting, I didn't feel any special sort of way about this experience. I know that I have anxiety about being early, so I've found ways to make use of my waiting time. For example, sometimes I even bring online work to do while I sit in waiting rooms. So all in all, I'm glad to be an **early bird (a person who is always early).**

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What occasions should people arrive early?

Hmm, there are some occasions where it is critical for one to arrive early. For example, job interviews, first day at a new job, or weddings. Since a job interview is your chance to prove yourself as a responsible employee, it would greatly reduce your chances of getting the job if you arrived late. Moreover, I think it's very important to be early on the first day, even the first few weeks or months especially, as this is your time to show how hard-working and responsible you are. Lastly, I think a wedding is very important because it is perhaps the most important day in the lives of the couple getting married, so I would find it disrespectful to show up late. Furthermore, if you are too late, you could even miss the official declaration of their marriage!

When do you think people should arrive on time?

In my opinion, I think it's respectful for students to arrive to class on time. As entering the classroom may cause a distraction for other learners, it's critical to get in the classroom before the door officially closes. Moreover, arriving late for class causes you to **fall behind (get behind)** in the lesson, which can cause further distractions for your classmates if you have to ask extra questions. Lastly, in my view, arriving early to class is a sign of respect for your teacher. Since they work hard to create time-sensitive lessons for us, I believe the least we can do is get there on time.

Why do people need to be on time?

I believe it's a sign of respect for the other person. As humans, it's common to occasionally get caught up in uncontrollable circumstances which cause us to be late, such as traffic jams or last minute emergencies. This is certainly excusable. However, we could always try to plan ahead to avoid being late to not waste the time of the person waiting for us. Furthermore, it shows the other person how responsible we are, which is critical if you are seeking employment or want to **make a good impression (make something think well of you)** on a teacher or boss.

Do you think doing nothing means a waste of time?

I agree with this. Of course we all need moments of doing nothing as a form of self-care or relaxation, but we cannot solely do nothing in our lives, even if we have the **means (money)** to do so. In my opinion, we have duties as humans to contribute something to this planet. So, I feel that I am wasting my time if I am not doing anything useful. For example, I could not stand being unemployed for long, as I am a **busy body (a busy person)**!

Do you think if it is important to be punctual?

I totally think so. Although there are some moments where it's acceptable to be **fashionably late (slightly late)**, such as parties especially. However, it's best to arrive on time to be respectful to the person waiting for you. For example, I have had moments where I have had to stand outside in the cold waiting for a late friend for up to 45 minutes or an hour, which made me feel extremely irritated. With this said, I wouldn't want to cause another person to feel this way. Moreover, it's **essential (important)** to arrive early to things related to work or school, as that is a time where you wouldn't want to miss important details, not to mention make a good impression.