

IELTS SPEAKING AND ACTUAL TESTS

SUGGESTED ANSWERS

(MAY - AUGUST 2019)

IELTSMATERIAL.COM

IELTS Speaking Actual Tests and Suggested Answers (May – August 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. Smiling

1.1. Do you like to smile?

I love it! I have traveled extensively and seen that some other cultures smile more than others. When someone smiles, it brings me positive energy and instantly improves my mood. With this said, I have taken it upon myself to smile as much as possible to give others a warm feeling.

1.2. How often do you smile?

As much as possible! I've noticed that even when I'm having a bad day, a smile or laugh always helps. So, I try to smile whenever I meet or pass someone, as well as after a bad day.

1.3. Do you smile when you are having your picture taken?

Yes, I do! Although I prefer a more serious look for my selfies which shows off my bone structure more, I always smile in a group photo. Actually, sometimes I can't help but to smile because I am having such a good time!

1.4. When do people smile to others?

In many different cases, but I would say usually when they make eye contact with someone or to people in their workplace. In my country, people usually don't smile at everyone on the streets because that person may suspect us of wanting something from them.

1.5. Can you sense (or feel, or tell) if someone's smile is fake?

Yes, I can! I can sense a fake smile but how much it looks forced. When someone's smile is fake, they smile with just their mouth instead of their eyes. With this said, you can always tell a genuine smile by the eyes.

2. Time management

2.1 How do you organize your time?

Hmm, well I'm not always the most organized person, but the good thing is that I'm not a **procrastinator (someone who waits until the last minute).** I always do what needs to be done first, such as my errands or work tasks. After I do what I need to do, I will then allow myself to relax.

2.2. Do you make plans every day?

No, I don't. I'm more of a **spontaneous (unplanned)** person. I don't like to plan every second of every day, as plans can quickly change. I only plan out what I need to do and how to get it done, but I let my social interactions **come up (arise)** unplanned.

2.3. Would you say you manage your time well?

More or less. I'm not the most organized nor disorganized person on the planet. However, I can say with certainty that I always complete what is asked of me. On the other hand, I sometimes can't do things like plan vacations very well.

2.4. Are you ever late for anything?

Once in a blue moon (very rarely)! I am a **stickler (serious)** about time, so I am almost never late. When I think about it, the only times I've been late for work were because of a traffic jam or an accident.

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

No, I don't. I think that's too general of a question. I believe everyone organizes their time in different ways. However, young people tend to have heavy work and study schedules, so they may not be able to manage their time and tasks as well as someone who doesn't. So, in this case, young people have to **prioritize(decide what is most important)** more.

2.6. What's the biggest difficulty you have when managing time?

I would have to say my social life. As I have a demanding work schedule, I tend to lose track of time and forget to add in time to spend with my friends and family. I am looking for a way to manage this better.

3. Perfume

3.1. Do you like perfume?

Yes, I do! As I'm an athlete who sweats a lot, I t**end to (usually)** have a strong odor. Because of this. I buy perfume incase I don't have time to take a shower before I go out.

3.2. Do you use perfume?

Everyday! I always use it after my soccer practice as well as before dates with my boyfriend. It makes me feel a lot more feminine and confident.

3.3. How much money do you spend on perfume?

Although I don't earn a great salary, I **budget (plan an amount of money to be spent)** to be able to buy a new bottle of Chanel perfume every few months. It costs around $80 a bottle. Sometimes when I **run out (to finish)** of perfume, I temporarily use a body spray which is around $15 a bottle.

3.4. Have you ever given perfume as a gift?

Hmm let me think. Actually, I haven't. I feel nervous to choose a scent for someone in case they don't like it, so I would **rather** (give them a gift card to a department store so they can choose their own.

3.5. Would you ever give perfume as a gift?

Although I don't prefer it, I would definitely give it as a gift. However, I would make sure that I knew the brand or scent that they like before I buy it. I know that perfume is a sensitive gift to give someone!

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. Borrowing & Lending

6.1. Have you ever borrowed books from others?

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

6.2. Have you ever borrowed money from others?

Yes, I have. When I was in high school, I was frequently short of cash and often asked my friends to lend me small sums of money, but now I have got a job and make quite a bundle! so I feel little or no need.

6.3. Do you like to lend things to others?

Truth be told, we'd better be too easygoing and lend stuff to others. What I mean is that the recipient might become over reliant on the thing he or she borrows and ask for more next time. Only when others are in dire straits that we should lend a helping hand; otherwise, they should get to grips with the problems on their own.

6.4. How do you feel when people don't return things they borrowed from you?

For me, it's a real let-down when my friends won't return what they borrow from me, going back on their promise!. I don't have an intention of reminding them that they owe me money or the related things, but expect them to be conscious of the duty to pay things back.

6.5 Do people feel embarrassed when they request the things back from friends?

My ears often turn red out of embarrassment when I ask things back from my friends. It's natural because I don't want to undermine the relationship we are having and requesting stuff back can hurt others' pride and self-respect.

7. Mathematics

7.1. At what age did you start studying mathematics?

Well, I can't exactly remember, but Math is a compulsory subject in primary school. All children have to learn this complex subject from the first grade. So I probably learnt simple addition at that age.

7.2. Do you like math?

To be honest, I was not really into Math when I was young because I found it **extremely tedious**. But when I got into high school, I gradually found myself more comfortable when studying Math and usually got high marks in this subject and this just made me keen on learning Math even more.

7.3 Do you like to use a calculator?

Yes, I do love using a calculator to make everything simpler! It allows me to calculate numbers more quickly without having to thinking much. I just need to input the figures into the calculator, then the right answers are displayed on the screen.

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. Reading

11.1 Do you read electronic book ?

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

11.2. Have you lent books to other?

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

11.3. Have you borrowed books from others?

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

11.4. Do you read professional books ?

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

12. Rubbish/ Garbage

12.1. How do you feel when you see people throw garbage on the street?

To a larger extent, I deem littering is a socially unacceptable act as this habit tends to take a heavy toll on the environment!. Suppose that everyone drops a piece of trash on the street, the cumulative amount would be unimaginable.

12.2. What do you do with garbage when you are on the street?

I proudly say that I'm in the habit of picking up the trash I come across while walking on the street. The reason is that I just want our local environment to look spotlessly clean , such actions are as simple as ABC but mean a lot in terms of environmental protection

12.3. Do you think your city is clean or not?

It's a crying shame but the city I'm living in is not clean and tidy as it should be. Trash is strewn all over the place, from used water bottles, candy wrappers and so on. I guess it's high time people became/should become more environmentally conscious

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. Social Media

15.1. Do you use social networking sites?

Yes, social networking websites have become part of my everyday life. My favorite one is Facebook, one of the most popular websites in the world, with millions of users in different countries.

15.2. Do you like to use Facebook?

Yes, I love it! This social networking website allows me to keep in contact with my friends and find people you've lost touch with.

15.3. How did you first find out about Facebook?

As far as I remember, one of my friends sent me an email inviting me to join Facebook. I signed up and I've been using it ever since.

15.4. Will you use these sites more in the future?

Well, I'm trying to refrain myself from these sites, as I find myself quite addicted to entertaining contents on Facebook, Instagram, Whatsapp, etc and squandering too much time on them. So I'd say I'm about to make a change and make less use of such online networking platforms.

16. Visiting Relatives

16.1. Do you often visit relatives?

Well, because all of us are fully **occupied with (busy)** our schedule, we don't see each other. I can only manage time to **set aside (reserve for a special purpose)** time to visit to my relatives on public holidays such as Christmas Eve or New Year.

16.1. What you always do with your relatives at that time?

For me, the very first thing to do after a long time we haven't in touch is to ask after them. We often have meaningful conversational exchanges to catch up with stuff, filling each other in on the many incidents that took place in our lives!

16.3. When was the last time you visited your relatively?

The last occasion is New Year Eve, when I had a week off work. Since I hadn't drawn up any plans for travelling on such a day, I visited to my uncle and aunt. We did have a blast catching up on much great stuff.

17. Stars

40.1. Who is your favorite film star?

I'd have to say Leonardo DiCaprio. What I like most about him is that he is very **versatile.** For example, he can be funny, crazy, romantic, and serious. I especially liked his role in Wolf on Wall Street. He did an outstanding job acting as if he were on drugs in that flick!

40.2. Are international superstars popular in your country?

Without a doubt! I especially see that pre-teens and teens idolize superstars. For example, Kpop has become an **epidemic (a widespread disease)**, so teenagers go crazy for these singers. Furthermore, soccer is **all the rage (very popular)** in my country, so people closely follow the lives of soccer players, such as Ronaldo and Messi, as well.

40.3. Have you ever met a superstar in real life?

Yes, I have! Luckily enough, I **crossed paths with (met by accident)** Avicii while he was visiting Peru. He was always my EDM idol, so I was **on cloud nine (extremely happy)** when I met him. We chatted for a while and even got a selfie together!

40.4. Do you want to be a superstar?

Absolutely not! Although their lives seem glamorous and care-free, I wouldn't trade my life as an ordinary person for that lifestyle. In my opinion, it would be miserable to have your every move snapshotted by the paparazzi. Moreover, I wouldn't want my entire life **on blast (all details revealed)** on the internet. All in all, I believe there's a reason that many celebrities **fall into (get into by accident)** drug addiction or even suicide.

18. Crowded Places

18.1. What kinds of places are crowded?

Almost everything in my city! However, I would say especially the streets. For one, people really like spending time eating and hanging out on the streets. Secondly, since the old streets are narrow, they tend to become overcrowded with vehicles. Moreover, markets and shopping malls are quite **hectic (stressful)**, as people in my country enjoy shopping.

18.2. Do you like to go to crowded places?

Not one bit! I start to feel extremely overwhelmed and want to exit the area immediately. Moreover, it's unpleasant to be pushed and shoved in overcrowded places. Furthermore, it's even worse in the summer when people are sweating and **have body odor (when your armpits sweat)**!

18.3. Why do some people like to go to crowded places?

Hmm, well I guess they like the **chaos (stress)**. For some, it's exciting to watch **madness (craziness)** unfold around them. Furthermore, I think they like the lively feeling that crowded places carry. Perhaps it's interesting to those who come from smaller places.

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. Street Markets

21.1. Are street markets popular in your country?

Absolutely! Street food and markets are a huge part of my culture. Many, no matter rich or poor, go to the streets in the morning to pick up the freshest

produce from the street vendors. The thing is that the street produce is the best quality and price! You simply cannot find fish or crabs **straight out of (directly)**the water onto your plate in a supermarket.

21.2. What is usually sold there?

Principally food, but also miscellaneous items. For example, there's a street that sells different electrical parts, secondhand clothing, decorations, and shoes. But still, the main event is the fresh produce, fish, and meats. That's what defines our street market.

21.3. Do you think people like street markets?

Definitely. No matter what your **economic status (how much money you have)** is, there is always something for you. Moreover, our street markets are famed for freshness and quality at the lowest prices, so why would dislike that? On the other hand, some people fear **being ripped off (being charged a higher price)**, so they avoid the street markets.

22. Sharing

22.1. Have you shared anything with others recently?

Yes! Actually, I got a box of 6 bottles of red wine as a gift recently. Since I cannot consume all of that, I've shared 3 bottles with my friends, as red wine is a luxury here in Asia. I enjoy sharing alcohol with people, as it's something that puts you in a good mood!

22.2. What do you like to share?

That's an interesting question. I'm a pretty generous person, so I'm happy to share most of my things. However, I particularly enjoy sharing my food with others. I feel that food is one basic thing that undoubtedly makes everyone happy. It's a **win-win (always a benefit)** situation.

22.3. What kinds of things are not suitable for sharing?

Well, for me, I'm extremely **petite (small)**, so it's difficult for me to share clothes with my friends. It's quite a task for me to find clothes my size, so I don't like to risk others **stretching them out (to make bigger).** Furthermore, I think it's unsanitary to share certain items, like a toothbrush or a toothpick.

22.4. Did your parents teach you to share when you were a child?

Of course! Actually, since I'm one of 7 children, sharing was unavoidable. After one child grew bigger, we always shared their **hand-me-downs (secondhand clothing)**. Furthermore, during a meal, we each started with a small portion to make sure everyone got enough, then would go back for **seconds (second portion of food)**

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. Sleep

27.1. 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.

27.2. 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.

27.3. 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.

27.4. 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.

27.5. 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.

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. Pets/Animals

29.1. What's your favorite animal?

Hm.. I would have to say whales. I've been fascinated by them ever since I was a child. There's just something so majestic about them, maybe it **has to do with (is related to)** their size. Plus they are highly intelligent and family-oriented creatures. It's believed that they even speak their own languages!

29.2. Do you like to see animals in the zoo?

Not really. Sure, it's interesting to see them, but I also feel sad seeing them in cages. In my opinion, wild animals should not be **in captivity (caged)** unless they have some sort of injury. Actually, I think it's a shame that humans feel the need to see nature so badly that they cage them and charge people to enter.

29.3. Do you keep a pet?

Not currently. I would like to, but I'm actually not allowed to because of my apartment regulations. Additionally, I live in a small studio apartment so it wouldn't be the best environment for a pet, unless it were a cat or small animal. Moreover, I work full-time so I wouldn't have a lot of time to tend to the pet.

29.4. Did you have a pet when you were young?

Yes, I did. My parents were both **animal lovers (people who love animals)**, so we always had a house full of pets. My first pet was a lizard named Charlie, then onto my very own black kitten named Pal. Although I played too hard with my pets and made them annoyed, I still got a lot of joy from them. Additionally, I also learned a sense of responsibility from a young age.

29.5.What pet will you have later?

Hmm. I think I want a dog and a cat. When I think about it more, I cannot imagine having a family without a dog for my children one day. I can envision them playing with a Golden Retriever or a Labrador retriever, as they have a friendly **demeanor (way of being)**. On the other hand, I'm more of a **cat person (a person who prefers cats to dogs),** so I would like to have one as well.

29.6. If you raise children in the future, will you allow them to keep a pet?

Yes, for sure. I would like to make their dreams come true of having a pet, as many children want. Moreover, I feel a pet is a great addition to a family. Lastly, I think allowing them to have a pet is a good opportunity for them to begin to

have a sense of responsibility when it comes to walking their pet, changing the **litter box (the box where cats go to the bathroom)**, feeding them, cleaning the cage, etc.

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

33.1. 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)**.

33.2. 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.

33.3. Do you have a driver's license?

Yes, I do. I've had one for 10 years now. I still remember initially failing the test my first two tries, then eventually **nailing it (doing it perfectly)**. Although I don't use it very often, as I much prefer cycling or walking when possible, it's still a benefit to have it.

33.4. At what age are people allowed to drive a car in your country?

Since I'm from a country that was made for cars with hardly any public transportation available, it's almost necessary to have a car unless you live in a big city. With this said, we allow teenagers to get their license when they're 16. Although it seems really young, I think it's necessary to make life more convenient!

33.5. Do you think it's difficult to drive a car?

It depends. For example, it's no **piece of cake (something easy)** on narrow, crowded streets in a city. In my opinion, it's extremely difficult to parallel park, so that's always a big issue for me. Apart from that, I start to feel **on edge (stressed)** when aggressive drivers **tail-gate (drive closely behind you)** or beep their horns at me. However, I find driving on wide highways quite easy.

PART II & III

1/ Describe a friend or a person who encouraged you to achieve a goal.

You should say:
Who this person is
What this person encourage you to do
What this person have help
And explain why this encouragement help you to achieve the goal

I'm going to talk about a friend and ex-coworker of mine named Billy. He has been a friend of mine for years now, and is always a **shoulder to lean on (someone you can rely on)**. He has always been there for me t**hrough thick and thin (good and bad times)**, and I don't know where I would be today without him. Let me tell you more.
I've always dreamt of being an entrepreneur but was unsure of myself before. I first met Billy at the International School I used to work for before. We were both teachers and hating our lives working under someone. So, one day we got together and started sharing ideas about starting our own language school. I'm good with people and thinking of creative ideas, while Billy is more apt to deal with numbers and the business side of things. He encouraged me to fulfill my dreams and put my creative ideas to test, while I encouraged him to put his number and business skills to use. He would tell me that my ideas could change the world, which made me feel on top of the world. I needed someone to believe in me t**o this degree (to this extent)**, as I didn't feel that my ideas were good enough to start my own business before. Through mutual encouragement, we ended up where we are today.

We have now owned our own school for 3 years and counting! We have had success because we always **build each other up** and focus on our strengths rather than our weaknesses. By helping one another, we both felt enough confidence to achieve our dreams. We certainly make a great team!

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 a water sport you would like to try in the future.

You should say:
what sport it is
When and where would you do it
What preparations and equipment you would need
and explain why you would like to try this sport

I'm going to tell you about my interest in paddle boarding. As I grew up about 3 hours from the coast, I frequently went to the beach but I didn't usually do anything other than just relax on the beach. However, I've always seen people do paddle boarding on the intercoastal waterways and ocean itself, and have wondered what it's like.
I would like to try it in Miami, Florida, about 3 hours from my house. There are lots of opportunities to do paddle boarding and almost any other water sport activity there. For example, there's sailing, kayaking, canoeing jet skiing, parasailing, etc. For this activity in particular, I would just need to rent the paddle board and the paddle, as I don't own either of them- there are countless places that offer this. I'm sure the company would provide instructions and make you sign a waiver acknowledging the possible risks. I don't think there is any preparation other than having decent upper body strength, generally being in shape, and listening to the paddling instructions.
I'm particularly interested in this sport because it is a good way to exercise while enjoying a nice view. While I've tried kayaking, I've always wondered if paddle boarding is a whole new challenge, since it involves you to be standing while

you do it. All in all, I think it would be a good way to stay in shape and explore the seas.

5/ Describe a person who has interesting ideas or opinions.

You should say:
Who the person is
How you know the person
What the interesting ideas the person has
And explain why you think the ideas interesting

Our world is full of talented people and creativity is now thought a highly valuable commodity in modem times. Off the top of my head, Sungha Jung is the ingenious guy with many innovative ideas in his music performance, a person I want to share with you today.

As I am really into musical instruments and play the guitar as a hobby, I came across him on Youtube while I was browsing for some guitar tutorials. If I remember rightly, he was only 10 years old back then, but with a stunning artistic ability as well as his creative power. He arranges his own songs and performs them impeccably, which many people often call him a guitar prodigy.

What struck me most about this child is how he arranges all the notes and fits them perfectly well into his own songs. Maybe you don’t know, but the guitar only has 6 strings and getting all the combinations of notes melodiously is an astonishing feat. At such a small age, he has cleverly composed hundreds of songs, and his channel has 50 million viewers following. His guitar arrangements seem unique and stand out from other guitarists that I know as he combine traditional and modern styles in rendering a song. It means that the

songs he play can appeal to a broad audience regardless of age or gender, which is what other players are having a hard time doing.

He has been highly influential in my life, thanks to him and his inventiveness in acoustic performances, I learn how to play “finger style”, a difficult skill that requires playing both the melody and vocals at the same time.

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 singer that you like.

You should say:
Who the person is
How you know the person
What songs the singer sings
And explain why yon like the person

A public figure I wanna talk about is a member of a music band called Maroon 5, Adam Levine. He's the lead vocalist and also in charge of playing the guitar and composing songs for the band. He was born and grew up in America. It has been over 20 years since the day he embarked an his career. And there's no room for doubt that he's one of the most popular singers all over the world.

Let me tell you more about the occasion when I happened to catch a glimpse of him on TV. It was the time when he and his co-workers were promoting a TV program called The Voice on NBC channel as the coaches. Although the news was really short, I totally fell in love with his looks as well as his sense of humor.

You know what, in my op mien he is the symbol of an attractive man. After that, I Googled everything about this guy, watched every single performance of the band as well as TV shows in which he appeared. And I came to realize he is not only a good-looking guy but also an absolutely amazing artist. I am really keen on the way he gives his heart and soul into each song, each performance. He used to come up against a hard time in the first days of his career, but he didn't give up but chased after his passion till the end. Therefore I personally think that he well deserves the popularity he has today.

As I mentioned above, I am crazy about this singer. You know , whenever I feel down in the dumps, I put his records on and those songs like Lost Stars, One Mote Night or This Love help me out a lot. It is the best way e to relieve pressure and recharge my batteries after a tough day. I really rave for a chance to meet him once in real life, not just through the computer screen.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What are the benefits of singing? Do people learn to sing nowadays?

A number of benefits can be gained if people sing, whether they sing beautifully or awfully. Singing at first helps us get over stresses and worries. Singing out loud our favorite song, the brain muscles are softened greatly, so it's an effective stress buster. Another benefit worthy of consideration is singing can strengthen our memory. This is due to the fact that we need to memorize the lyrics and appreciate the messages conveyed by the composers.

Do you think women can sing better than men?

I can't agree with you more. Women are definitely more cable than men when it comes to singing; the reason behind this is females how a better capacity In controlling their emotions and actions! They can fed the music. Control their mouth, throat and tongue to produce correct notes so as not to be out of tone!

to say that most elderly people just tend to listen to Vietnamese musk.

8/ Describe a meal yon invited your friends to in your home or in a restaurant.

You should say:
when you had this meal
where you had it
what you ate and drank
and explain why you invited your friends to this meal.

Today I am going to share with you a special meal that my friends and I had together in my house. It was on one of my friend’s birthday party that we decided to chip in some money and throw a big party.
At first, we assigned the tasks equally. Some went to the market to purchase some ingredients like vegetable, fruits while others were supposed to order a cake from the local bakery. We didn't forget to prepare some ribbons and banners and decorate the house extremely well on that day.
About food, as it’s a grand occasion, we got a whole lot of dishes cooked, including what I particularly love: toasted chickens and fried rice. I ate to my heart’s content and we did have some beer together so I got drunk at the end of the party.
The party strengthened the bonds between us, and it also marked a milestone in my close friend's life, which is his 29th birthday.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

How important do you think it is for members of a family to eat together?

I have to admit that it's extremely vital that family members spend their time together at the dinner table. The most obvious explanation for this is that it can strengthen family bonds and help the whole family get on well with one another. To be more specific, during a meal, they can share their stories and trouble in life, receive valuable advice to sort out their problem. At the end of the day, people can build a happy close-knit family and forget about all the difficulties in their life.

Why do some people not always eat with their family?

I personally feel that a number of factors are responsible for why some people in modern society refuse to have a meal with other family members. One of the reasons is the lack of time caused by increasing pressure from work. Many people are always up to ears in work all day long and don't have any time left for their beloved family. The second explanation is the generation gap. To put it simply, youngsters today prefer eating out with their friends who have a lot in common with them to having dinner at home with their parents.

9/ Describe an occasion you got up early in the morning.

You should say:
When this happened
what you needed to do that day
who you were with
and how you felt about getting up early that day

To be honest, I was rarely out of bed by 8.00 AM apart from some specific occasions. However, there is an occasion I had to wake up earlier than usual which is my trip to ABC last summer vacation.

I was supposed to get everything prepared the night before, so I did pack my suitcases with all the essential items that I might need for my vacation trip, like suntan cream or some swimming costumes. When the preparation was over, I try to send myself to sleep but ended up tossing and turning in bed, so you see, I hardly got a wink of sleep. When the dawn came, I went out to feel the gentle touch of a cool breeze on my face, then I also took a sip of coffee to get myself fully awake. After some minutes, the coach showed up and I got in no time.
I took the trip with 2 of my besties, so we had the chance to catch up on gossip with one another. We also had fun at many outdoor activities on the beach like surfing. Although I was a bit exhausted at the end of the journey due to lack of sleep, it was definitely an enjoyable time. Since then, I have been less of a night owl and got up earlier, which I think is a better and healthier habit.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Do people in your country like naps?

Frankly speaking, the majority of people in my country seem to like taking a siesta in the afternoon. Understandably, it has been a proven fact that a short nap can recharge people's batteries after an arduous morning working or studying. Having said that, some of my friends, for instance, aren't in the habit of taking such a short rest as they think a cup of coffee can do the trick and they'd rather save that time to complete their outstanding tasks at hand.

What time is better for teenagers to study, in the morning or at night?

Personally, I'd pick study in the morning simply because teenagers can have better concentration span. Specifically, after a night's rest, your body fully recovers and your minds are more refreshed, which can be conducive to the acquisition of knowledge. By contrast, after a backbreaking day at school or work, most teenagers often become lazy or sleepy, at this time what they wish to do is go to sleep right off the bat.

Why do people always say it's healthy to eat breakfast?

Without a shadow of a doubt, breakfast is of great importance if we expect to have a productive day of working or studying. After a long night's rest, the body extremely needs energy which can be met by a supply of nutrients from a sumptuous breakfast. Also at this time of the day, the body's absorption rate is highest which means that the foods consumed would be digested properly and absorbed quickly into the body and turned into energy for the next working period.

Will working late at night influence the next day's work?

Absolutely yes. If you are being pressurized by a backbreaking deadline and have to burn the midnight oil completing it in time, the chances are that you will feel completely fatigued and lose your appetite the next working day. This is simply because a good sleep is important for your body to recover from exhaustion. What I mean here is that it's better if you turn in early and wake up earlier than being a night owl and lie in the next morning

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 the information that was incorrect that you got.

You should say:
When it happened
What the information was
How you found it incorrect
And explain how yon felt about it

Today I'm going to share with you an occasion on which I got messed up on an important piece of news. It was an announcement on the internet that A, my favorite singer, was going to show up in my neighborhood.
At first, I was thrilled to bits upon hearing it through the grapevine that my idol would show up; but then I became quite gob smacked and felt quite dubious about the trustworthiness of the news, as it might have spread by some unethical guys trying to trick other vulnerable and gullible net users. Having this in mind, I searched low and high on the internet again, and found out that the news was actually a hoax.

The post on his timeline on Facebook stated that he was going to film a comedy show in a city quite far away from my house, which would be out of the question for me to make it to see his performance.
After finding out the reality, I was simply just bored to tears and quite let down, enraged by the misleading information; but I guess I had to accept the reality.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What's the difference between giving information by phone and by email?
The difference is the time gap. For conveying information via phone calls, instant replies are often expected as people are reached by phone most quickly,

so it's quite efficient, particularly when the person need to be informed immediately of an urgent issue. By contrast, email, though a fast means of communication, often gives users plenty of time to deliberate on the pros and cons before answering the email.

How can people check whether a piece of information is correct or not?
There are various means that can help people tell the right information from the wrong one. The first approach is to gain access to reliable sources of information, and make a comparison with the fraudulent information to see the differences. Dependable sources of news can be established newspapers like BBC, the New York Times and other verified news agencies. The second method is that people can ask for advice of professionals in the field, either by phone or email, and wait for some days to receive their feedback.

What are the most common ways in which people obtain information?
I think people obtain the larger share of their information from books and mass media like TV, newspapers and radio. And today since the Internet has grown exponentially, more and more people are getting their information from the web. There is an eclectic mix of stuff that those who go online can take advantage from, such as newsfeeds on social networking websites like Facebook, or informative contents from other electronic news platforms.

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 time you received a call from somebody you don't know in the public.

You should say:
When it happened
Where it was
What the call was about
And explain how you felt about it

Mobile phones are **a dime a dozen** in modem society. White they're convenient, there can be times they can become a **pain in the neck** to everyone. Speaking of a call from an anonymous user, **off the top of my head**, it is the call from a **real estate** agency, persuading me to buy a piece of land, which was unfortunately not my interest at the time.

If I remember correctly, it was when I was sitting on the bus that a call from a strange person just **popped up** from my smartphone's screen. **As a rule**, I would bother answering calls from strangers, but since I'm not too much **on the go**, I decided to slide the screen to accept the call.

A gentle female voice quickly introduced her service, saying that she has a lot of land in a big city, and convinced me to buy it since the owner was **in the red**, and really needed cash so the land was sold **at a dirt-cheap price**. Not having

even a second thought, I just **hung up** the phone out of my mere disinterest in the information she provided.

Such calls absolutely **get on my nerves** and I'd say that I can't stand that marketing way. Since people now are mostly **swamped with** assignments and deadline, how can they manage to answer such calls which are merely not their business or interest. Blocking all those numbers is often my remedy to save myself from the hassle of nonsensical conversational exchanges.

QUESTIONS FOR PART3

Why do yon think some people talk aloud on public transport?

It is quite understandable as to why some have to resort to loud talking in places which they are supposed to speak softly or remain in silence. Take me as an example, while sitting on the bus, especially during peak time, when it is **packed in like sardines** and there is not even room to **swing a cat**, it is normal that people would **have a chit chat** with their friends sitting next to them, or do some work like answering phone calls from their boss or partners. It's nothing but a mess, so people have to raise their voice so that their counterparts can **get the hang of** what they are talking about.

Should people be banned from talking aloud in public places?

Currently, there's no rule which prohibits people from talking out loud in public places. But I guess there shouldn't be one, as it seems **out of the question** to **carry out** such a law. As I have mentioned, there are not too many times when people **make a racket,** only when it's **jam packed** and there is a need to talk out loudly to attract others' attention. Besides, every person has a different character, which means some are born talkative, while others would love to remain silent, so I reckon education should **take priority** rather than establishing rules and regulations.

Is it bad to talk on the phone in public places?

It is not totally gross o talk on the phone in public places as the need to reach others via phone is a basic one. Having said that, t's well-advised to keep the

conversations concise and to the point instead off going round-about or sharing private information publicly like that. Also, it’s not socially unacceptable if people keep their voice down a bit, speaking in a way that both the caller and the recipient can understand each other.

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

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 historic building that you have visited.

You should say:
where it was
what people were doing there
why you went there
and explain how you felt about this building.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Do you think tourists prefer to see old buildings or new buildings?
Without a doubt, I'd say tourists definitely prefer to see old buildings, the main reason being that old buildings have a lot more history and culture attached to them. So when you visit them, they give you a deep insight into the history of a place as well as the local lifestyle, which you don't really get from looking at a new building.

Do you think historic buildings should be preserved?

Yes, definitely! There's a lot of culture which is **embedded in** historical building and if they weren't preserved, then a lot of culture would **die out** which would be a terrible shame. So that's one thing, and as well as this, I think it's also true to say that if it weren't for historical buildings, then most cities would look pretty much the same. And if you think about all the famous landmarks around the world, like Big Ben in London and the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, for example, a lot of them are historic buildings, so they actually play a very strong role in giving a city its identity.

What is the value of learning about history?

Well I'd say there's a lot of value in learning it, and one of the main reasons would be that history quite often repeats itself, so if we've learnt history well, we should be able to avoid making the same mistakes as we did in the past. And as well as this, I guess another important aspect is that history plays a big part in helping us understand how **things came to being**. For example, through learning history, we get to understand things like why we speak the language we do, and how our country developed the way it did. And in a way, I think this kind of makes us better appreciate everything we have around us, instead of just **taking it for granted.**

Do you think it necessary to protect old buildings?

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

How important are traditions and cultural relics?

Traditions and cultural relic are part of history. Modern society has **derived from** and been built upon the past. We should respect what we have in tradition. Of course, it doesn't mean we should **stick to** the tradition and cultural relics. Actually tradition and modern things can coexist and even interact in a positive

way. For example, one good way for preserving historic buildings is to develop sound local tourism industry.

What have been done to preserve the cultural and historic relics?

Government has organized experts in anthropology, architecture and artists to collect and preserve traditional folk cultures and arts in minority region. In addition, the government has funded to maintain cultural relics and historical sites. Museums and cultural centers have also been established in various places for the collection of cultural relics of ethnic minorities.

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 a quiz program or game show on TV.

You should say:
What it is
When you watch it
What it is about
And explain how you feel about the program

Quiz programs or game shows give us refreshing moment after stressful **backbreaking** days, and **off the top of my head**, a quiz show I'm quite **drawn by** is called “As quick as lightning’.

The quiz show revolves around quizzes front various disciplines in life, requiring the contestants to have a sober mind to answer all the 10 questions consecutively to achieve the highest prize. The qualities of winner are decisiveness, a comprehensive **interdisciplinary** knowledge and an element of luck combined, the prize is quite tempting, more or less $1000 per person, a **handsome sum of money** that almost candidate **craves for** when they join the game.

I often **flick through** Youtube channels and this show just **pops up right off the bat** and seems to dominate the top videos, maybe due to its popularity. The programme fulfills its role of **disseminating** useful knowledge to the mass audience while bringing entertaining moments to **recharge our batteries** after a tiring week. I hope to be given a chance to join this show, not just to win the **coveted** award but also test my general knowledge.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What is the difference between the games people play now and those people played in the past?

In the past, traditional games were **all the rage** as people live in era untouched by hi-tech. I still **vividly** recall a time when I played football in a big field and went fishing in a small pond near my house. Such games get people **in the great outdoor**, breathe the fresh air, **feel the breezes in their cheeks** and **become one with natur**e. However, today games are a world away from the past. Youngsters in modern society rely on online games, games that **integrate**d in their smartphones or those downloaded from Google Play or Apple Store: PUBG or Temple Run, **to name but a few**.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

Why do some people dislike watching TV?

Well, two main reasons are responsible for some distaste of TV programs. The first one is that people can hardly manage time to turn on the TV for their favorite channels as they are constantly **tied up** at the workplace and have to struggle against the deadlines. In addition, although it may sound ridiculous but some are **fed up with the box** simply because it is **packed with commercials**. Instead, many youths would **log on** Youtube and watch the shows later.

Do you think advertisement on TV should be banned?

No, it shouldn't. Although it's true that many viewers are **fed up with** the repeated appearance of some commercials at the interval of their favorite programs, it is not to say we should **put a ban on** it. This is simply because the advertising companies usually sponsor the fees of broadcasting a certain program, which gives people the chance to watch free of charge. Moreover, advertising helps us to take a short rest before we continue to enjoy the show, which **eases eye strains** and gives us some time to go to the toilet or eat something to gain some energy.

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 a prize you want to get

You should say:
What it is
When you know the prize
What you need to do
And explain why you would like to win it

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

How to reward successful people?

Truth be told, rewards for successful people should come in plenty of forms. If they make an enormous contribution to the nation, then they should be given proper publicity. For example, a veteran who fought bravely or a hero who sacrificed their life for the peace of a country should be remembered forever in sculptures and paintings. On the other hand, successful businesspeople who play a significant role in the development of their nation's economy should be awarded with medals or certifications so as to stimulate them to make even greater contributions in the future

Should schools establish awards? What rewards can children get from school?

From what I see, I guess it is quite well-advised for schools to have a reward system to encourage good deeds and academic performance amongst students. Students would be a helpful citizen if schools add extra points to their academic record for talking an elder across the street, offering to lift a heavy object for a passer by on the street, for example. On top of that, academically poor students can feel the motivation to strive further in their studies to **reap** the rewards, like they can obtain some **pocket money** for being the top student in the class during a semester. This can greatly **spur** their scholastic progress.

Should parents push their children to get prizes?

Children are at an **impressionable** age, so adults can **interfere in** their ways of thinking. Some measures can be adopted to change children's mindset, and one is by raising their awareness via realistic and practical action. Parents can show their kids that they can do rapid calculations if they learn math properly at school, or they can sing well when they grow up if they don't skip music classes.

What do you think employers can do to help motivate their employees to perform better at work, besides giving them a pay raise?

There is a number of ways that bosses or supervisors can adopt to raise their employees' morale and enhance the overall work productivity apart from offering them higher salary. I guess the most effective approach would be for companies to organize annual excursions so that their workers can socialize with one another and **cultivate team spirit** while they can escape from the stress for a while. The second one is that more a flexible working schedule should be **brought in**, because this would allow workers to have more quality family time and a **worry-free** set of mind at work.

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 traditional dish of New Year in my country. If you aren't **familiar with** it, it's a **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 New Year Eve wouldn't be New Year Eve 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 something that you brought home from a tourist attraction

You should say:
What it is
Where you got it
Why you brought it home
How do you feel

Well, the first thing that came to my mind when I read this topic was olive oil, because I bought a bottle of it not that long ago, if I'm not mistaken. I think it was from either Italy or Spain, so that's what I've decided to talk about.

And as for where I got it, well, it was actually just from my local supermarket, because it's now started selling quite a few imported products, which I'm really happy about, as I always enjoy trying new things, especially stuff from other countries.

With regards to what I use the olive oil for, well I'd say I use it for most of my cooking now. Because it goes well with pretty much everything, especially bread and pasta, as you probably know, I'm getting through it quite quickly, and I think I'm actually turning into a bit of an addict!

But anyway, as for what made me decide to buy it, well firstly, it's apparently meant to be really good for you, so it's basically a lot healthier than most other kinds of cooking oil. And another thing to mention would be that I remember tasting some olive oil at a Western restaurant I went to a couple of weeks ago. and I liked it so much that I made a mental note to get some when I next went to the supermarket.

So yeah, I guess these would be the main reasons, and even though it's quite a bit more expensive than ordinary cooking oil I reckon it's definitely worth it.

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 person who made you laugh happily when you were a child

You should say:
Who this person is
What this person did to make you laugh
Why this person made you laugh
And how you felt about it

When I was knee high to a grasshopper, I was fond of those at the same age as me, especially those funny people who often tad me in stitches with their hilarious stuff. I usually find their cuteness and sense of humor overwhelming Speaking of such a person, I wouldn't hesitate to mention Julie, a young public figure on TV. I still vividly recall a time, as I was surfing the Internet. I came across hilarious video of her.

Julie used to be widely acclaimed for her roles in many comedy films, assisting other experienced comedians in the entertainment field. What strikes me most about her is her innocent sense of humor, which can be hardly found in any other. Now she is has been over 30 years old, but I'd admit that character trait is still pretty manifest in her.

Speaking of what made me laugh hysterically, she was holding a microphone in the video, and singing along one hit of Justin Bieber named "Baby", with her own parody version. The way she sang and danced around the room made me burst out laughing as her choreography was incredibly adorable. I remember that she was crawling hip-hoping and waving her hands enthusiastically, while the lyrics were really creative with many funny buzzwords and phrases, totally different from the original version.

Besides, what made it so funny about her was the fact that she danced exactly the same way an adult would, with the deep feelings and perfect timing and rhythms and everything. You know, it was completely out of the blue. The video quickly went viral and became an Internet phenomenon, attracting millions of viewers on YouTube.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What are the benefits of laughing?

Laughing can refresh your mind and help you let your hair down after stressful moments at work or study. When we laugh out loud hysterical, all the stresses and worries just seem to vanish. Not only that relaxation effect is so marvellous, laughing regularly also can make the muscles on our face flexible, helping us to look younger than we are.

Why do kids always laugh? Some people believe that the school time is the happiest time in their life - what do you think?

Yes definitely I reckon. Almost all will agree that being a schoolboy or schoolgirl is the stage where people derive the greatest sense of happiness in life. At this time, all that one needs is to take responsibility for his performance at school: how to get good grades in Maths or English and try to be on good terms with his peers. Besides, small children are encouraged to play to their heart's content without having to worry about how to earn a living or taking care of the whole family like their parents have to.

Why do people smile?

Smiling is a way to express one’s satisfaction and happiness for most of the cases. For example, when you finish off something challenging, it's typical to give a smile as a sigh of relief after you sail through a period of difficult. On other occasions, a smile is treated as symbol of friendliness, and it's commonly used as a part of our daily greetings! When we meet some acquaintance or a stranger, giving a smile shows our hospitality towards others, and helps to break the ice amongst people.

How would you define happiness?

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

Can people be happy after a retirement?

Obviously, people would definitely feel happier when they retire. The reason is that after their retirement, people can manage more time to travel, which seems virtually impossible when they are still working. To be more specific, retirees have more chances to go on a tour to far-away countries, get to know about the local cuisine, their exotic customs and traditions; or people can find time to pursue their old hobbies and interests such as planting trees and doing the gardening. These things are what make people blissfully happy when they grow older.

31/ Describe an unusual experience of traveling/ Describe a place you visited with your friends and you had a good time.

You should say:
Where you went
When you went there
Who you were with
What you did there

And explain why it is unusual

Today I'm going to share with you a short vacation to the countryside that left a profound impression on me. It was a trip to the hometown of one of my classmates at university, who lives in quite a remote provincial city.

At the end of the second semester, our group at the university was invited to pay a 5-day visit to the house of one of our group members, who lives in quite remote area in the countryside, located in A, a 6-hour drive from the city centre. We had 5 people in total and bought train tickets to reach our destination.

On arriving at the countryside where is quite secluded from the bustle and bustle of the city, we were greatly impressed by the picturesque landscapes there. The atmosphere was refreshing and the air is unpolluted unlike in the city where many of us were living in. My friend acted as a tour guide as he was very accustomed to the local lifestyles and tourist attractions there. We took the motorbikes to tour the city and stopped at some street vendors to taste the local cuisine, which I personally found tasty and delicate. After doing the sights, we gathered in the evening for some small games and gossip about our study and our future career paths.

What made it not an ordinary journey is that it filled me with great delight which I can't feel in modern cities. On top of this, the pace of life is incredibly slow giving me a chance to enjoy every moment of a trip, which Is a weird but exciting experience to me.

QUESTIONS FOR PART 3

What are the differences between traveling to other countries and living there?

Well, obviously there are a number of clear differences between going on a tour abroad and actually living there. Perhaps the most significant difference is that travelling only paints a rosy picture of life in our destination country like we can enjoy the delicacies, experience ignored. In addition, with the company of tour guide, there is no need to learn the language, search for directions since everything is properly prepared. Conversely an immigrant is supposed to experience culture shock, food adaptability and other issues if they start living there

Do you think we need to respect the region and culture when you go to other countries?

Yes, I'd suppose. In the cases, immigrants or tourists to another country tend to suffer from culture shock, food adaptability and racial discrimination and stuff like that. So, it’s quite advisable that they make real efforts to pay decent respect to the host country's culture when people come to a new land. For example, if you know that beef is banned in Muslim countries and try to avoid including it in your daily diet, you can save yourself from religious prejudice and lead a life like the natives.

What are the advantages of travelling?

Clearly, there are a number of merits brought by travelling. But I would probably say that the thing that really stands out that we can broaden our horizons of the world. To be more specific, when coming to a new region or a country, we have the chances to sample, the local life, enjoy the and learn many interesting stuff. Besides, a second positive point could be that we can let our hair down after stressful periods of hard work or study. A short visit to somewhere can help us recharge our batteries and work more effectively afterwards.

What are the advantages for a nationwide travel?

If I were to choose between the two, I would opt for domestic trips simply because I am not a wealthy person at all. Therefore, travelling to different parts of my country can be economical at first. Besides, there are no language barriers compared to when you make a tour to a far-away land where you can't use your mother tongue. In a nutshell, such a nationwide journey can satisfy my sense of adventure.

What advice would you give to he foreigners travelling to your country?
To be honest with you, for a person who wants to make a trip to my country, there are a lot of necessary preparations. First of all, you must get prepared to deal with problems in daily life, which can be hard to be found in developed countries. For example, you are faced with traffic jam, particularly during peak hours; or run the risk of being stolen in public places like buses. Besides, polluted air and hot weather is another tumbling block that foreigners need to overcome. You have to breathe dirty air and stand the scorching heat of the summers or heat all year round if you live in HCM city

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 free day off study or work

You should say:
What would you do?
Who would you do it with?
Why would you like to do it?

To be honest, I cannot remember the last time I actually had time to let my hair down; therefore, I am desperately looking forward to having a day off to freshen myself up.

If I were to have a day off, I would spend the whole morning laying in my bed and turn my phone off so nobody can bother me. Actually, I wouldn't even call my bestie since I just simply want to spend time for myself. After that, let's see, maybe I would dress myself up a little bit and dine out at my favorite restaurant. In the afternoon, I guess shopping would definitely lift my spirits since it is one of idea ways for me to release stress and take care of myself better. Then, I would attend an art class and draw a painting, which is what I have wanted to do for a long time but the chaos at work has prevented me from doing this. There is no specific reason why I want to do these things. I just simply think that socializing and working under pressure really stress me out and this couldn't be a more perfect time for me to let off some steam. Obviously, I do believe that after doing these, my productivity and spirit will surely be enhanced.

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 though 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 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!

50/ 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!

51. Describe a success your friend has achieved

You should say:

- who your friend is

- what the success was

- what he or she did

- how you felt about the success

Wow, I tend to **hang out with (spend time with)** a quite successful crowd, but I will try to focus on just one for now. Well, actually, I haven't known this friend for very long, even less than a year, but I feel especially **fond of (like)** her. Although she has studied very hard and has endured a lof of parental pressure, she still navigates through life with a smile on her face and a laid-back attitude. Let me tell you more about her business success.

Since she is a big fan of **cozy (cute; friendly)** cafes, she always dreamt of having one of her own. As the universities aren't the greatest in her country, she fortunately had the opportunity to **go abroad (go to another country)** to France

to complete her Business Degree. Additionally, she was able to perfect her English and has become completely fluent in French, which she hadn't previously known. All of these steps aided her to open her very own cafe and restaurant right in the center of her city! Since foreigners are the main customers, she is now able to communicate with and tend to nearly all customers, no matter where they come from. This makes her restaurant **stand out (be remembered; be different)**!

I felt really proud of her, as I know she worked very hard for this. To support her, I was there on opening night, and even brought some friends of mine. Whenever possible, I recommend her restaurant to others and try to bring as much business as possible to her. It **fills me with joy (makes me happy)** to see my friends achieve their dreams!

52. Describe your grandparent's job

You should say:
- what it was
- how long he or she had this job
- how he or she got the job
- and whether you would like to have this job

Since I don't exactly understand what my grandfathers did as a job, I will tell you about my grandmother's career. As it was uncommon for a woman to have a university degree and their own career other than being a **stay at home mom (mother who doesn't work; stays at home to care for the house),** I really **looked up to her (admired)** for this my entire life. She always motivated me to be a strong, independent woman. Now, let me give you more details.

She was a Registered Nurse, mostly focused on caring for the mentally ill. I really admired her for her career choice, as her brother committed suicide when she was young. Because of this, she wanted to provide help to those suffering from mental illnesses. She studied at a famed university in Washington, DC and directly after got a job at a hospital nearby. As she was at the top of her class, she was an extremely attractive candidate for any position, so she got the one she most **sought after (desired)**. I know that she greatly cared for her patients there, as my father used to tell me stories about how she would even invite her patients over to have dinner with their family sometimes! Apart from working as a full-time nurse, she also **tended to (took care of)** her home and four children. She had this job from her post university years all the way to her retirement at age 65. All in all, I admire her for **having a lot on her plate (having a lot to do)** but still taking the time to take good care of her husband and children, while still **taking the extra mile (doing more than expected of her)** to make her patients feel part of her family, as well.

Although I do believe that nursing is a fulfilling career, I wouldn't want it for myself. For one, I **cringe (movement in disgust)** at the sight of blood. Moreover, mathematics and the sciences aren't my strong point, so I don't believe I would be a good candidate for this vocation. At the same time, I certainly respect others in this field. To sum it up, my grandmother was **a woman ahead of her time (a modern, forward woman)**!