

# IELTS

# SPEAKING

**Actual Tests With  
Suggested Answers**

**JAN 2021 - OCT 2021**



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## **PART 1**

### **1. Home/ accommodation**

#### **What kind of housing/accommodation do you live in?**

I live in a terraced house that has a living room, a kitchen, three bed rooms, two bathrooms and a lovely back garden. It's not really a spacious house, but it's just right for me and my family.

#### **Who do you live with?**

I live with my parents and my siblings. We always get on well with each other and have a lot of fun.

#### **How long have you lived there?**

I've lived there since I was a child, until I graduated from high school and moved to the city to enroll at university, where I lived in a student dormitory during the semester.

(If you answer you haven't lived there long)

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

Living in a dorm with other roommates is totally different from living in my own house. My current residential area is quite small and it's very noisy because there are a lot of people there and I don't have my own space. Conversely, when I was living at home, I had my own spacious room and it made me feel comfortable.

#### **Do you plan to live there for a long time?**

To be honest, I intend to buy an apartment in an urban area after I graduate from university. I can decorate and design my ideal home with whatever facilities I want.

#### **Which room does your family spend most of the time in?**

It's definitely the kitchen. Not only lunch or dinner time but all our family reunions take place in the kitchen where all the family members get together to eat tasty meals, and chat to each other – it's a really harmonious atmosphere.

#### **Are the transport facilities to your home very good?**

To be honest, most of the transport facilities to my place are not very modern. The bus service from my work place to home is irregular and usually overcrowded.

### **Do you prefer living in a house or a flat?**

I prefer living in a house to a flat because I value my privacy and need my own space. Owning an independent house, I can plan and design a house layout to suit myself. Moreover, I can modify a house according to the size of the family.

### **Please describe the room you live in.**

My current room is actually more like a bedsit. It is a multi – purpose room, I use it to sleep and study as well. It is painted in pink, that’s my favorite color with a bed, a cupboard and desk. It’s not really spacious but it’s just right for me.

### **What part of your home do you like the most ?**

I prefer my bedroom most due to its convenience and privacy. Because of my stressful work I want to be in a quiet place and concentrate on my work. In my own room, I’m never disturbed by anyone else.

Moreover, in my own space I can do whatever I want without bothering others.

### **VOCABULARY**

Terraced house (noun): (ngôi nhà trong dãy nhà cùng kiểu) a house connected on both sides by other properties

Ex: In England, most people seem to live in terraced houses with lovely back gardens.

Back garden (noun phrase): (vườn ở phía sau nhà) a garden at the rear of the house.

Ex: I live in a terraced house that has a living room, a kitchen, three bed rooms, two bathrooms and a lovely back garden.

Spacious (adjective): (rộng rãi) (of a room or building) large and with plenty of space for people to move around in

Ex: The hotel rooms are spacious and comfortable.

Sibling(s) (noun): (anh/ chị em) a brother or sister

Ex: The younger children were badly treated by older siblings.

Get on well with sb (phrasal verb): (hòa hợp với ai đó) to have a friendly relationship with somebody

Ex: She and her sister have never really got on well with each other.

Dormitory (noun): (kí túc xá) a room for several people to sleep in, especially in a school or other institution

Ex: I've lived there since I was a child, until I graduated high school and moved to the city to enroll in university where I lived in a dormitory.

Residential area (noun): (nơi ở) (of an area of a town) suitable for living in; consisting of houses rather than factories or offices

Ex: It was not safe to locate the chemicals factory in a residential area.

Urban area (noun): (vùng thành thị) connected with a town or city

Ex: Pollution has reached disturbingly high levels in some urban areas.

Reunion (noun): (tụ họp, xum họp) a social occasion or party attended by a group of people who have not seen each other for a long time

Ex: The College has an annual reunion for former students.

Harmonious (adjective): (ấm cúng, yên bình) friendly, peaceful and without any disagreement

Ex: It is important to have harmonious relations between the country's ethnic groups.

Irregular (adjective): not happening at the arranged time intervals

Ex: His irregular attendance at school resulted in his failure in the final exams.

Overcrowded (adjective): with too many people or things in it

Ex: The train was so overcrowded this evening that I was unable to find an empty seat.

Privacy (noun): being alone and not disturbed by other people

Ex: I read the letter in the privacy of my own room.

Suit oneself (verb): to do exactly what you like/want

Ex: Everyone had a different opinion about what colour to paint my room, so in the end I decided to just suit myself.

Modify (verb): (sửa đổi, thay đổi) to change something slightly, especially in order to make it more suitable for a particular purpose

Ex: We found it cheaper to modify the existing equipment rather than buy new.

Bedsit (noun): (phòng vừa để ngủ vừa để học, tiếp khách) a room that a person rents and uses for both living and sleeping in

Ex: He lives in a tiny student bedsit used for both sleeping and studying.

Multi-purpose (adjective): (đa chức năng) having many different uses

Ex: This room is multi-purpose – we use it for meetings, interviews and taking breaks.

## 2. Study

### **Describe your education**

I started primary school when I was 7. 5 years later, I went to secondary school at 12. Then at 16, I made it to a high school for gifted students in my hometown. In my country, highschool education lasts 3 years, then I went onto **higher education** at the Foreign Trade University where I'm currently studying economics.

### **What is your area of specialization?**

Well, my major is External Economics. I have **mastered** the basics of economics and socio-economics, combined with business knowledge mainly related to the import and export business.

### **Why did you choose to study that major?**

I think it would help to **fulfill my dream** of introducing my country's agricultural products to the world. Vietnamese goods have a real potential, but they still struggle to **make a name for themselves**, you know.

### **Do you like your major? (Why?/Why not?)**

Yes, of course. Studying economics, especially external economics is interesting and practical. It helps me to **keep up with** current affairs and it improves my **analytical** and problem-solving skills as well.

### **What kind of school did you go to as a child?**

As a child, I attended a **public elementary school**. It's quite a big school in my hometown which provides both high quality education and a supportive environment, so I think I was quite lucky.

### **What was your favourite subject as a child?**

Well, I used to be very **passionate about** drawing when I was a little girl. It was fun to work with brushes and colors, you know, as it was the time when I could **indulge in** my own creative world.

### **Do you think your country has an effective education system?**



To be honest, I don't think so. Our system has somehow become **unduly** stressful, does not promote creativity and the ability to be critical due to the fact that our society still cares way too much about grades and schools consequently focuses on an **exam-driven curriculum**, which I find quite impractical.

**(Possibly) Are you looking forward to working?**

Absolutely! It's great to join the **workforce**, especially when I can do the job I love. Not only will it **pay the bills**, but it'll also give me the joy of making a contribution. It's hard to be happy and fulfilled without working, you know.

## **VOCABULARY**

Higher education (chương trình đại học) [n] post-18 learning that take places at universities

Example: According to a research, nearly 50 percent of Vietnamese students in U.S. **higher education** are studying either business or engineering, with business-related majors making up 38 percent of all enrollments in 2012/13

Master (tinh thông, nắm vững) [v] learn how to do something well

Example: She lived in Italy for several years but never quite **mastered** the language.

Make a name for oneself ( trở nên nổi tiếng) [idiom] become famous and respected by a lot of people

Example: *By the time he was thirty-five, he had made a name for himself as a successful railway contractor*

Keep up with (cập nhật thông tin về cái gì) [idiom] be aware of

Example: *Even though he's been travelling, he's kept up with what's going on back home*

Analytical (thuộc về phân tích) [adj] using analysis or logical reasoning

Example: **Analytical skills** are essential in the workplace to ensure necessary problem solving occurs to keep productivity and other areas of the workforce functioning smoothly

Elementary school (trường tiểu học) [n] primary school, school for children between 7-11 years old (in Vietnam)

Example: It's essential that children at the official entry age for **elementary school** attend classes fully.

Unduly (quá mức, không chính đáng) [adj] excessively/ to a level that more than is necessary, acceptable, or reasonable

Example:

For every new parents, the decision about whether to vaccinate his or her child has been **unduly** stressful

Exam-driven curriculum (chương trình học để phục vụ cho các kỳ thi) [expression] the courses taught at a school, college, which focus on teaching what will be on the exam

Example: Many parents believe that **exam-driven curriculum** can change their kid's attitude towards school in profoundly negative ways.

Pay the bills (trả tiền cuộc sống) [idioms] provide enough income to sustain one's lifestyle

Example: Being a dentist isn't so glamorous, but it **pays the bills**

### 3. Work

#### **What do you do?**

I'm currently working as a graphic designer for a fashion magazine for youngsters

#### **What are your responsibilities?**

Well I'm mainly responsible for designing the cover of the magazine. I normally work with the concept team to make sure that the final product will both attract the potential buyer's attention and express the **theme** of the magazine.

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

I guess it's because of my **artistic passion**. The process of creating beautiful things is somehow **intriguing** to me, so I chose to be a graphic designer, which combines both art and technology. It's quite interesting, you know.

#### **Is there some other kind of work you would rather do?**

Well, if possible, I'd like to be a freelance writer. Actually I'm a big fan of action movies, and I also care about healthy living, so, I'd love to write about these topics and share my stories with people of the same interest.

#### **Describe the company or organization you work for**

My company is not huge, it's just a small art design office, but is definitely an inspirational workplace with a young, creative, and extremely passionate team. We work **on the basis of** mutual understanding and respect for each other, so it's kind of an ideal environment for me.

### **Do you enjoy your work?**

Most of the time. It's **rewarding** to co-work on projects with amazing people in an open and supportive environment to bring out an art production that will **ultimately** give me a sense of satisfaction and pride.

### **What do you like about your job?**

Well, **the perk of** being a graphic designer is that you'll surround yourself with inspiring images everyday. My daily working life involves seeking out inspiration in all sorts of places, researching incredible illustrations and graphics, and creating them too. It's great, I think.

### **What do you dislike about your job**

What I don't like about this job is that our personal taste in design **varies**, and normally I'll have to do a thousand edits to get the final product that meets the demand of my boss while still \* relating / staying faithful to / remaining true to the initial concept.

\* conform means 'to behave according to the usual standards of behaviour that are expected by a group or society' – this does not relate to things like 'concepts'.

### **(Possibly) Do you miss being a student?**

Sometimes, when I'm burdened with heavy workloads or the pressure of everyday life, I recall the memories of being a student. We were all carefree and innocent back then. It's a precious time that I **cherish**.

## **VOCABULARY**

theme (đề tài, chủ đề) [n] the main subject of a talk, book, film, etc

Example: The father-daughter relationship is a recurring **theme** in her novels.

Intriguing ( hấp dẫn, gợi thích thú) [adj] very interesting because of being unusual or mysterious

Example: The Huns are *intriguing* not only because of their notoriously hawkish history, but also because of their place as middlemen between Mongol and Turkic ethnicity

On the basis of (trên cơ sở) [idiom] base on

Example: Discrimination **on the basis of** race, gender, age or disability is not allowed.

Rewarding (bổ ích, đáng làm) [adj] giving pleasure, satisfaction

Example: The most **rewarding** aspect of living forever is you have unlimited time to perfect your abilities and accumulate wealth.

Ultimately (cuối cùng thì, rút cục) [adv] at the end of a process, period of time, etc.

Example: Everything will **ultimately** depend on what is said at the meeting with the directors next week.

Perk ( đặc quyền, thù lao thêm) [n] an advantage or something extra that you are given because of your job

Example: A company car and a mobile phone are some of **the perks** that come with the job.

Conform (to sth) (tuân theo) [v] obey the rule or reach the necessary stated standard

Example: Before buying the baby's car seat, make sure that it **conforms to** the official safety standards.

Cherish (yêu mến, coi trọng) [v] keep hopes, memories in your mind because they are important to you and bring you pleasure

Example: I **cherish** the memories of the time we spent together

#### 4. Trees

1. Have you planted trees?

I haven't really planted any trees but we have a lot of little plants planted at our home. My mom has planted many trees in our home. And I do water them sometimes as well.

2. Where did you plant trees?

Back to my hometown where my family has a back yard garden, I have planted many trees since my childhood with my mother, most of them are fruit trees and flowers. When I was a kid, I loved to look at them, touch them, walk among them.

3. Do you keep plants at home?

Well, yes I do, back when I lived with my family. Now my college life is completely based in our hostel so, I haven't planted any trees these days.

4. Do you know anything about growing a plant?

Yes, I do. I think I know how to plant seedlings, water and feed them with **fertiliser**, prune them after blooming if necessary. Anyway, different plants need different care, so I need to read the instructions before planting any of them.

### **Vocabulary:**

**fertiliser** (noun) a substance added to soil to make plants grow more successfully

⇒ *He spread fertilizer on the field with a rake.*

## **4. Museums**

*1. (Do you go on field trips to museums to learn history?)*

*(Answer)* Yes, I sometimes do.

*(Give a reason for your answer)* As I see it, this kind of educational trip is a beneficial way for a student to acquire both knowledge and experience. History teachers in my school often organize trips to museums **with a view to** familiarizing students with historical events or figures in a more **fascinating** way. I remember all students were always in eager **anticipation** before trips to museums like this.

**2. (Do you learn much history at school?)**

*(Answer)* Well, history is actually my favorite subject at school

*(Give a reason for your answer)* I'm quite **enthusiastic about** delving into the past and learning from the mistakes our forefathers used to make. Besides, my History teacher in high school always delivered engaging lessons, and unlike other teachers who compelled students to learn to get good grades, she showed the beauty of learning and encouraged us to **pursue** our own interests. After entering **higher education**, I still contact her **from time to time**.

**3. (When was the last time you read a history publication?)**

*(Answer)* I'm genuinely interested in history books, so I read them on a frequent basis.

*(Give a reason for your answer)* The recent one I read has an **unpredictable** plot and it has received widespread **acclaim** from book critics around the world.

**Vocabulary from Education:**

• **higher education:**

Meaning: education, usually in a college or university that is followed after high school or secondary school

Example: Higher education is only suitable for those committed enough to learning.

**Other vocabulary:**

1. **with a view to [expression]:** with an intention to do sth: với mục đích làm gì đó

Eg: The politician reveals the truth with a view to gaining more faith from the public.

2. **fascinating [adj]:** extremely interesting and attractive: thú vị, lôi cuốn

Eg: Your trip to Alaska sounds absolutely fascinating.

3. **anticipation [n]:** a feeling of excitement about something that is going to happen in the near future: sự mong chờ

Eg: The postponement of the film's sequel has held cinemagoers in eager anticipation for several months.

4. **(be) enthusiastic about** [adj]: showing enthusiasm: hào hứng về

Eg: Marcias's lifelong interest in science learning stems from growing up as the oldest child in a family enthusiastic about learning.

5. **pursue** [v]: to try to achieve something: theo đuổi

Eg: Liam plans to pursue a career in advertising.

6. **from time to time** [expression]: sometimes: thỉnh thoảng

Eg: I meet my old friends from time to time.

7. **unpredictable** [adj]: likely to change suddenly and without reason and therefore not able to be predicted (= expected before it happens) or depended on: không đoán trước được

Eg: The weather there can be unpredictable - one minute it's blue skies and the next minute it's pouring rain.

8. **acclaim** [n]: public approval and praise: sự nán dương

Eg: Despite the critical acclaim, the novel did not sell well.

**Vinegar (n)** a liquid with a bitter taste made from wine or malt, used to add taste to food or to preserve it

- *onions pickled in vinegar*

## 6. Taking a break

### Do you prefer a long break or several breaks?

I think that I would choose several breaks rather than a long break. Life is getting **harsh** these days and I believe that several breaks can help me **relieve stress** from working and studying effectively.

### **How often do you take a break?**

Well, I often take breaks when studying or working for a long time to give my eyes a short rest. If I had to focus on one task for a long time, I could not perform well.

### **What do you usually do during a break?**

If it is a short break, I will drink a cup of coffee, which helps me stay **awake** and refresh my mind. However, during long breaks, I will **take a nap** or grab something to eat to get more energy before turning back to my work.

### **When do you usually have a break?**

I am currently a student; therefore, my studying schedule is quite **tense**. However, we always have long breaks in summers, which can take up to 2 or 3 months.

### **Vocabulary**

**Harsh** (adjective): Khắc nghiệt

The children had had a **harsh** upbringing

**To relieve stress** (verb): Giải tỏa căng thẳng

I need to travel so that I can **relieve stress**.

**Awake** (adjective): Thức, tỉnh táo.

Are the children still **awake**?

**Take a nap** (verb): Chợp mắt (1 giấc nghỉ ngắn)

I need to **take a nap**; otherwise, I would skip the afternoon class.

**Tense** (adjective): Căng thẳng.

Example: The situation between the USA and North Korea is getting **tense**.

## **7. Farms and Farming**

### **Have you visited a farm?**

Yes. I have. Last summer when I traveled to Dalat on vacation, I had the chance to visit a hanging strawberry garden there. I was truly impressed by the garden as the growers adopted a technological, hanging **hydroponics** method in the **greenhouse** to grow strawberries instead of planting them in the ground to avoid rats, limit pests, and diseases for the strawberries.

### **What can you do on a farm?**



Customers going there will have the opportunity to pick fresh strawberries and take pictures with the garden. Moreover, they are also introduced to the farming process and techniques, as well as how to take care of the plants, such as pulling out the stubs when harvesting and avoiding touching the body of the strawberries. It's good to be sure those strawberries are grown without pesticides and we can eat them fresh in the garden.

### **Do you think farming is important?**

Yes, it is. The most obvious reason is that we need food to eat. You would starve without them. All your food comes from a farm. All your clothes also come from a cotton farm, or a sheep farm for wool. So without farming you would starve, be naked and probably without shelter as all wood comes from lumber that is farmed and none of the workers would have food to build your home either.

### **Vocabulary**

**Hydroponics** (n) the process of growing plants in water or sand, rather than in soil

*In the hydroponics system, over the two weeks after defoliation, the water use of plants with 33 % and 67 % defoliation was 88 % and 70 % that of non-defoliated control, respectively*

**Greenhouse** (n) a building with glass sides and a glass roof for growing plants in

*Gladys grows a lot of tomatoes in her greenhouse.*

## **8. TV program**

### **Do you often watch programs on the TV or on your cellphone?**

I rarely watch programs on TV since I have my own cellphone. I only watch TV when someone offers to watch it with me, or I will never turn it on by myself. You know, with the development of technology, we can watch almost everything on the internet, including programs on the TV.

### **What kind of TV programs do you like?**

Well, I'm interested in watching TV drama series and reality shows. I feel they are a good source of entertainment, giving people minutes of relaxation after a stressful day.

**Do you like watching the same kind of program all the time?**

Yes, I do. I don't know why but there are some shows that I am so into it that I re-watch them all over and over again. Those TV shows somehow convey many lessons, which motivate me a lot in my life. For example, I really love the series How I Met Your Mother and I've been re-watching it like over 5 times. Every time I watch the show again, I realize something new that I apparently missed last time.

**Do you talk with your friends about the program you watched?**

Yes. I do. Every time I find a new movie, I will immediately share it with my friends and make them watch it. After that, we will talk to each other how we hate or love the character, predict the next scene, adore how handsome the actor is or admit which actress is our crush, and sometime pick out the scene you can relate to in life. At the end of the movie, we discuss the movie, how the movie could end better and the list goes on.

## **9. Decoration**

**What's the decoration like in your home?**

In all honesty, I guess I'd have to say my home is "traditional". I've had some of my furniture for a very long time and have added to it over the years and I've never made the decision about what to call my version of decorating. I just try to arrange things in an attractive and practical way and it seems to work.

**What kind of decoration do you want to have?**

Well, I like using something unique for decor my house, like recently I've been thinking of buying some indoor plants. They are the best trendy decor idea and they look fabulous in any corner of the house. There are even air purifying plants also available in the market.

### **Do Vietnamese people like redecorating their home?**

I think it depends on the preference of each person. For example, my dad doesn't like the idea of redecorating our house but my mom always wants to buy new stuff to decorate the home.

### **What's your favorite color when decorating your home?**

I would like to paint my home with **neutral** and easy-to-obtain colors, neither of which are particularly difficult to repaint with in case a need for them comes. They don't need to be fashionable nor my favorites.

### **Vocabulary**

**Neutral (adj)** not very bright or strong, such as grey or light brown

- *Neutral tones will give the room a feeling of space.*

## **10. New Year celebrations**

### **How do you celebrate New Year?**

On this special occasion, because I live far from my home, when New Year comes, I will go back to my hometown and spend the holiday with my family. My mother and I prepare a lot of food and decorations for this occasion, like nuts(candied fruits and jams), traditional cakes, and fresh fruit and flowers. For me, New Year means a lot in that it is not only the time for gathering and relaxing but also represents the start of the new year.

### **Do you still remember a new year that you celebrated?**

Yes. I remember last year, my family and I, as is family tradition, spent New Year's Eve at home. We don't go out to party, to a concert or spend it in another house. We believe that we all have to stick together in our own home as the new year rolls in as it signifies unity.

### **Why do people think New Year is a new beginning?**

I think people regard New Year as a new beginning because this is an occasion for people to remember last year's achievements and failures and look forward to the

promise of a new year - a new beginning. On New Year's Day, when the singing, fireworks and champagne **toasts** are over, many of us become more serious about life; then we start planning new courses of action to better our lives. You know, sometimes, people want to enjoy the sense of purpose, **accomplishment** and pleasure that one feels when achieving new goals.

## **Vocabulary**

**Accomplishment (n)** an impressive thing that is done or achieved after a lot of work

- *It was one of the President's greatest accomplishments.*

**Toasts (n)** slices of bread that have been made brown and dry by heating them on both sides in a toaster or under a grill

- *cheese on toast*

## **11. Places where people like to read**

1. Where do you like to read? (Why?)

Well, In the summer, I love to read outside. Usually I sit on the grass under a tree. Park benches are also nice. Being outside is my favorite place. During the cold season, or when it rains, I like to read at the library. They have some comfy chairs, and big windows to let in lots of light. And libraries are very pleasant places in general.

2. What makes somewhere a good place for reading? (Why?)

I think it varies depending on the book you are reading. If the book you are reading interests you then you can read it anywhere, on a bus, in a cab, at home, in a park, in public places, anywhere. On the other hand, if you need a certain level of concentration and have to focus on your reading, you should find somewhere quiet and comfortable.

3. Do you prefer to read on your own or with people around you?

Well I love a nice **solitary** read. However, sometimes I like reading some books at the same time with others. The Harry Potter books, for example. My best friend and I read some pre-selected books at the same time so that we are free to discuss them with each other.

### **Vocabulary:**

**Solitary (adj)** done alone; without other people

⇒ *She enjoys long solitary walks*

## **12. Singing**

### **Do you often sing?**

I love to sing, but I don't sing in public. I sing almost every day when I'm alone in my room. I'm not too good at singing, I can't reach high or too low notes, and sometimes I forget words to songs, but I do heavily lip-sync. By heavy, I mean intense expressions, movements as if I'm in the song. I always imagine myself doing some **intense** singing at a talent show, but I know I can't do that.

### **When do you like to sing?**

Honestly, I mostly feel like singing when I'm feeling emotional and need a way to release my emotions. I also sing when I hear a catchy song or just a song I love!

### **Is it difficult to sing well?**

Yes. It is. Even those with a natural talent for singing have to learn the correct technique, which can only really be taught/coached.

### **Do you want to be a singer?**

I'd love to, but I am not talented enough to pursue it. Sometimes you have to recognise what you are good at to be able to make your career decisions.

### **What kinds of music do you like to sing?**

I sing for myself, and not in front of people I don't know, so I can sing whatever I like. Mostly I sing ballads, R&B, country, and other genres.

## Vocabulary

**Intense (adj)** very great; very strong

- *We were all suffering in the **intense** heat.*

**Technique (n)** a particular way of doing something, especially one in which you have to learn special skills

- *We have **developed** a new **technique** that corrects the problem.*

## 13. Studying Mathematics

### 14. Happiness

**Is there anything that makes you feel happy lately?**

Yes. There is. My mom visited me three days ago and will stay with me for one week. I am truly happy to see her and have her by my side. The moment I get home after a long hard working day and see her making dinner for me, this makes me really emotional, recalling the old days when I was still a kid, living with the **unconditional** love of my mother.

**What do you do to stay happy?**

Well, I just stop caring about things that annoy me, disturb me or make me angry. I just leave them alone if I can't deal with them. This is mostly meant for people I dislike or requests I can't fulfill; maybe questions I can't answer. Then I will try to focus my energy on something that gives me **fulfillment** instead.

**Can you stay happy all the time?**

Truthfully, I believe it's impossible to remain *always* happy. There will always be times when you'll feel sad, depressed. The feeling of sadness is inevitable in life, but I always try to be optimistic about the situation I'm dealing with as much as possible. This helps not only myself but others around too, being positive about life helps those around us by in a way somehow sharing the positivity.

### **Is it important to be happy?**

Yes. It is. In my opinion, happiness has been linked to better decision-making and improved creativity. So, rather than success being the key to happiness, I believe that happiness could in fact be the key to success.

### **Vocabulary**

**Unconditional (adj)** without any conditions or limits

- *She gave her children unconditional love.*

**Fulfillment (n)** the feeling of being happy and satisfied with what you are doing or have done

- *to find personal fulfilment*

## **15. Remembering people's name**

### **Is it easy to remember names in the remember category?**

No. It isn't. Names are difficult to remember because they are arbitrary information. And humans are terrible at remembering **arbitrary** information.

### **Will you forget other people's names if others forget your name?**

I think this is irrelevant. How I forget or remember a name depends on my memory system.

### **How to strengthen your memory**

My teacher once said that memory strength is just like muscular strength. The more you use it, the stronger it gets. But you can't lift the same size weight every day and expect to get stronger. You'll need to keep your brain constantly challenged. Therefore, learning a new skill is an excellent way to strengthen your brain's memory capacity.

## **Vocabulary**

**Arbitrary (adj)** (of an action, a decision, a rule, etc.) not seeming to be based on a reason, system or plan and sometimes seeming unfair

- *The choice of players for the team seemed completely arbitrary.*

## **16. Mornings**

### **Do you like to get up early in the morning?**

Well, I don't really like waking up early in the morning because I'm a **night owl** and I work at night.

### **What do you do in the morning? What is your morning routine?**

I **start my day** with **tidying myself up** and then have breakfast and a cup of coffee. After that, I rush to the bus station to go to school. My morning routine is almost always the same but I sometimes do yoga if it's the weekend.

### **Is breakfast important?**

Yes, I believe that breakfast plays an important role in our daily routines since it provides us with nutrition to work and **lifts up our spirits**.

### **VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS:**

To let one's hair down (idiom): Thư giãn, nghỉ ngơi.

VD: I've been too busy with my new job. So, tonight I'm going to let my hair down and enjoy myself.

A solo trip (expression): Đi du lịch 1 mình.

VD: I find it strange when you are making a solo trip to Europe.

Contemplate sunset (expression): Ngắm hoàng hôn.



VD: This is the best place to contemplate sunset.

## **17. Your country**

### **Which part of your country do you want to live in?**

If I were to choose where to live in Vietnam, I would go for Hue - a city in central Vietnam. I have a bias for Hue because of its historic sites, for its street food, trees and wide **boulevard**, for the dessert shop on the **esplanade** and for the wonderful people I met there. Hue is much less busy than HCMC or Hanoi, so this guarantees more space for everyone, no matter when you are driving, bicycling or just walking. You don't have to worry so much about traffic, you won't be pushed back and forth by crowds, and you have no pressure to talk and smile a lot.

### **What makes you feel proud of your country?**

There are a lot of reasons why I feel proud to be a Vietnamese. I love Viet Nam firstly for its food. Vietnamese food is the best. Vietnamese Pho, Bun cha, banh cuon, etc. All taste amazing while being incredibly healthy and cheap. In addition, Viet Nam has many **scenic** places. Take Ha Noi for example, while it is the city capital, which is supposed to adopt a crazy busy hectic urban life style, you can still find quiet and beautiful places in some corners of this city, like The Old Quarters, Hoan Kiem Lake, Lang Bac, etc.

### **Do you know the history of your country well?**

I may know some common knowledge about my country but not as well informed to qualify as “know well”. The history of Vietnam is all about War & War. In the past, Vietnam had to beat China to protect our border, Vietnam had to beat France to gain independence and had to beat America to completely get real independence for all Vietnam.

## Vocabulary

**Boulevard (n)** a wide city street, often with trees on either side

- *It is a city of broad boulevards and spacious parks.*

**Esplanade (n)** a level area of open ground in a town for people to walk along, often by the sea or a river

- *People were lying on the beach and strolling along the esplanade.*

**Scenic (adj)** having beautiful natural scenery

*an area of scenic beauty*

## 18. Special costumes

1. Do you like to wear special costumes?

Yes, I love to wear special costumes on special occasions because these kinds of clothes items may enhance our outlook and give us great pleasure.

2. Did you try any special costumes when you were young?

Yes, I did. I remember when I was in high school, there was a fancy dress competition and I wore a Snow White dress. It was a charming dress and I got second prize in that competition.

3. When was your last time to wear special costumes?

Last year, I wore one at my best friend's wedding. We have a group of friends and we decided to dress up as celebrities. These outfits gave us a royal look and attracted a lot of attention from others.

4. Do you ever buy special costumes?

Yes, I bought a number of special costumes because I am fond of wearing special outfits. Whenever I get the chance, I'll wear them.

## 19. Car trip

1. Do you like to travel by car?

Yes. I love to commute by car because of its flexibility. I can stop whenever I want, take any street, any shortcut that suits my commute hours.

2. Where is the farthest place you have traveled to by car?

Last year my cousin visited me from Sapa and she wanted to go to Ninh Binh. That time we traveled by car and it took only 3 hours for us to get there from Hanoi.

3. Do you like to sit in the front or back when traveling by car?

Well, it depends on the situation. If I go with my family then I'll choose to sit on the back seat but If I go with my partner then I'll tend to sit in the front.

Vocabulary:

**Flexibility (noun)** the ability to change to suit new conditions or situations

⇒ *The new system offers a much greater degree of flexibility in the way work is organized.*

## 20. Sky

**1. Do you like to watch the sky?**

(Answer) Yes, I have to say I am a fan of watching the sky.

(Give a reason for your answer) To me, the sky is a magnificent **work of art** and I really appreciate **the aesthetic qualities of** it. The color, the clouds... are just so beautiful.

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

(Answer) The night sky where I live is simply **a breathtaking view**.

(Give a reason for your answer) As I live in the countryside, the sky is not affected by light pollution, so there are numerous shining stars in a broad blackish background. Therefore, the view is perfect for anyone who **has a thirst for** freedom.

### 3. Do you like to watch stars?

(Answer) I find star-watching extremely interesting.

(Give a reason for your answer) I believe that every star in **the cosmos** has its own function and holds a unique mystery to be discovered. This **is a great inspiration to me**.

### 4. Have you ever taken a course about stars?

(Answer) I haven't ever enrolled in such courses, but I would love to in the future.

(Give a reason for your answer) I have always wanted to know how constellations retain their shape in **zero gravity** without **floating through space**.

### 5. What's your favorite star?

(Answer) The Sun is my favorite star, I would say.

(Give a reason for your answer) This is because of its power and importance to life. If we could find a star similar to the Sun out there in space, we would be able to discover **alien life forms** and complete our **quest for a new homeland**.

## Vocabulary

Từ vựng trong chủ đề **Arts**:

1. **a work of art/a work of music/a work of literature** (expression): a painting, sculpture, book, play, piece of music etc

Nghĩa: một bức họa, tác phẩm điêu khắc, cuốn sách, vở kịch, đoạn nhạc...

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

2. **the aesthetic qualities of something** (expression): The qualities related to beauty and understanding the beauty of something.

Nghĩa: Những đặc trưng liên quan đến vẻ đẹp và sự thấu hiểu vẻ đẹp của cái gì

Example: One advantage of studying the arts is that students learn to appreciate **the aesthetic qualities of** paintings, literature and music.

Từ vựng trong chủ đề **Tourism**:

1. **a breathtaking view** (expression): an extremely beautiful view

Example: From the top of the mountain, there is **a breathtaking view of** the coast.

Nghĩa: cảnh đẹp vô cùng

2. **to have a thirst for something** (expression): to have a strong desire for something

Example: He has been all over the world, but he still **has a thirst for** seeing new places and enjoying new experiences.

Nghĩa: khao khát mãnh liệt được làm gì

Từ vựng chủ đề **Space Exploration**:

1. **The cosmos** (noun): the universe, especially when it is thought of as an ordered system

Example: Although the challenge of exploring and understanding **the cosmos** is exciting, it is also very expensive

Nghĩa: Vũ trụ, đặc biệt khi chỉ vũ trụ là một hệ thống có trật tự

2. **To be an inspiration to** (expression): to make somebody excited about something, especially thinking of the future

Example: The images of the first men on the moon **were an inspiration to** people, and made them more hopeful about the future.

Nghĩa: khiến ai đó hưng phấn vì điều gì, đặc biệt là khi nghĩ về tương lai

3. **Zero gravity** (expression): having no force to pull objects to the ground, so that they float.

Example: Living in conditions of **zero gravity** in space must be extremely tiring and uncomfortable.

Nghĩa: không có lực tác động kéo vật xuống mặt đất nên chúng trôi nổi

4. **To float through space** (expression): to move slowly in the air

Example: Space tourism would be really boring, simply **floating through space** and looking out of the window of the spacecraft.

Nghĩa: di chuyển chậm rãi trong không khí

5. **Alien life forms** (expression): creatures from another world

Example: One of the most exciting possibilities of the space program is finding alien life forms on other planets.

Nghĩa: những sinh vật ở ngoài hành tinh

6. **The quest for a new homeland** (expression): the search for a new place to inhabit

Example: As humans are destroying their own planet, **the quest for a new homeland** in the universe is essential.

Nghĩa: cuộc tìm kiếm địa điểm khác để định cư

## 21. BBQ

1. Do Vietnamese people like barbecue?

I would say yes. I think not only do the Vietnamese but anyone from any country like BBQ as people like gathering together with their family and friends for a meal. Cooking is a part of it. Having a meal with the food you cook is satisfying. You can show your friends your skills and, and when they compliment you, it makes you feel good!

2. What kind of food do you like to eat for barbecue?

I don't know if this sounds weird to you or not but I love the **giblets**. I know in some countries, people might think it's gross but it's really tasty. In our culture, we enjoy eating those types of barbecue.

Vocabulary:

**Giblets (noun)** the inside parts of a chicken or other bird, including the heart and liver, that are usually removed before it is cooked

## 22. Advertisement

**Are there many advertisements in your country?**

I would say yes. You can easily see a wide range of advertisements almost everywhere in my hometown. For example, almost half of a newspaper is made up of ads.

### **Why do you think there are so many advertisements now?**

I guess it's due to their benefits. First, advertising is an essential part of **promotional campaigns** for companies to reach their **end users**. It helps raise the visibility of a company's brand. Second, advertisements can act as decoration on the street. I find a street better-looking with advertisements.

### **What are the various places where we see advertisements?**

Today advertising gets to people through different forms of communication, from **print media** to **electronic ones**, so you can see advertisements on websites, social networks or in the newspapers and magazines. There are also ads you see outdoors as well, for example, large banners and posters hung on the roads, on the buses or trains.

### **How do you feel about advertisements?**

Most people may find those ways of product promotion annoying, but I'm an exception. I'm quite into advertisements. They're colourful, brilliantly designed, illustrated, photographed or typeset pieces and often have useful, **informative** contents.

## **VOCABULARY**

✓ **Promotional campaign:** [noun] A series of advertisements using various marketing tools that share the same message and ideas to promote a business or event to a target audience.

Example: Promotional campaigns play a crucial role in the marketing strategy of a company.

✓ **End users:** [noun] Person or organization that actually uses a product

Example: We provide the best quality products to our end users.

✓ **Print media:** [noun] refers to paper publications circulated in the form of physical editions of newspapers, articles, journals, etc

✓ **Electronic media:** [noun] refers to television, radio, etc

✓ **Informative:** [adjective] giving useful information

Example: The professor's lecture was very informative and I learned a lot from it.

## 23. Window View

### 1. What scenery can you see from the window of your home/dormitory?

Living on a hill in Da Lat, a city in Vietnam's central highlands, I wake up to a **brehtaking** valley view every day. In the morning, the outer side of the windows fogs up after a humid night and excess water vapour condenses into cloud droplets when the first sunlight strikes my house. Meanwhile, we can see the sun gradually disappearing below the horizon from our kitchen window.

### 2. Do you like to watch the scenery from your window?

From what I've described above, no one would ever dare to refuse to stay at my house whenever they happen to be in Da Lat. Many people have fallen in love with the scenery from my window, including me. Honestly, the idea of moving out has never **crossed my mind**.

### 3. Do you want to live in a house with beautiful window views?

Frankly speaking, those saying they never want to live in a house with stunning window views are all liars. I love having a room that gives me a **spectacular** view. When travelling, I also tend to choose a hotel room with a bay view or a garden view instead of a city view full of concrete buildings.

### 4. How do you feel when you can't see any beautiful view from your window?

I have never thought about this, to be honest. But if this ever happened, I would be very sad. But **when push comes to shove**, I would have to **face the music** and continue to live in a house without a nice view from my window.

## Vocabulary

### 1. **Breathtaking** (adj): ngoạn mục

Example: The view from the top of the mountain is breathtaking.

Cảnh quan nhìn từ đỉnh núi thực sự rất ngoạn mục.

### 2. **Spectacular** (adj): đẹp mắt



Example: There was a **spectacular** sunset last night.

Hoàng hôn chiều hôm qua rất đẹp mắt.

3. **To cross someone's mind** (phrase): suy nghĩ.

Example: It **crossed my mind** yesterday that you must be short of staff.

Hôm qua tôi suy nghĩ là bạn ắt hẳn đang thiếu nhân viên.

4. **When/if push comes to the shove** (idiom): khi đến đường cùng (không còn lựa chọn nào khác)

Example: **If push comes to shove**, we can always sell the car.

Khi đến đường cùng, không còn lựa chọn nào khác, chúng ta cần phải bán xe.

5. **To face the music** (phrase): đối mặt với chỉ trích

Example: The others all ran off, leaving me to **face the music**.

Rất cả những người khác chạy trốn, để lại một mình tôi đối mặt với sự chỉ trích.

## 24. Flower

1. Do Vietnamese people like to send flowers to others as gifts?

Yes. I believe not only do the Vietnamese people but people from all cultures prefer to give flowers or a bouquet as gifts. They **convey** meaning and that's why people buy flowers – to say something to the receivers. Something like “Best wishes to you” or “I hope you feel better soon” or “we're here for you”.

2. Have you ever sent flowers to people?

Yes. I used to order flowers through an online florist and it was quite a good experience. That time I was studying in a foreign country and wanted to send flowers to my mother.

3. What kinds of flowers are popular in VietNam?

Well there are a lot of flowers in Vietnam, but I think the top most beautiful Vietnamese blossoms that nature has **bestowed** on the country are Lotus flowers, Peach blossom, roses, Orchid and Chrysanthemum.

4. Are fake flowers popular in VietNam?

Yes, they are. You will easily find lots of beautiful and handmade fake plants and flowers in Vietnam market. They really look like you've just picked them from the

garden. And they are not only realistic for the eye to see but also made from materials that makes you think they are real when you touch them.

### **Vocabulary:**

**Convey (v)** to make ideas, feelings, etc. known to somebody

⇒ *Colours like red convey a sense of energy and strength*

**Bestow (v) bestow something (on/upon somebody)** to give something to somebody, especially to show how much they are respected

⇒ *It was a title bestowed upon him by the king.*

## **25. Relax**

1. What would you do to relax?

Everybody is different and will enjoy relaxing activities at different levels. There is one thing I recommend that works all the time for me. It is going to the park. It is my little retreat when I need a breath of fresh air, when I want some time to think, or miles to run. Being in an office from 9 to 5 makes me appreciate the weather (bad or good) a lot more.

3. Do you think doing sports is a good way to relax?

Yes, I do. I think some sports are very helpful at relieving stress. Some people like jogging, others like fishing, or anything that allows them to participate without having any outside interference. Even more active sports like basketball and swimming can help combat stress as people get lost in the sport and set aside whatever is stressing them.

4. Do you think a vacation is a good time for you to relax?

Yes. I think it is a good chance for us to lower stress and recharge our mind. When we allow ourselves to relax, we're able to open creative parts of our minds that we may not

always be using on a day-to-day basis. You can bring this inspiration back with you upon your return, and you may find new ways of doing things or solving an issue you've been facing.

5. Do you think students need more time for relaxing?

Yes. I think relaxation time helps students **rejuvenate** after extended school hours and assignments. Study breaks can be energising and improve focus and attention. The more study breaks they sneak in, the better they learn and retain information.

Vocabulary:

**Rejuvenate (v) rejuvenate somebody/something** to make somebody/something look or feel younger, more lively or more modern

⇒ *His new job seemed to rejuvenate him.*

## 26. Purse or Wallet

1. Do you have a purse or wallet?

Yes, I do. My wallet is one of the **inseparable** things in my daily routine. All my important things like credit cards, debit cards, id card are put in there.

2. Have you lost your purse or wallet before?

Yes, I had my wallet stolen when I went shopping with my friends two years ago. When I realized that I had lost my wallet, I immediately called the bank card companies and cancelled all of my cards. Because my ID was in the wallet as well, I had to make an appointment to get a new one.

3. Have you ever sent others a purse or wallet as a gift?

Yes, I sent a wallet to my close friend as a birthday gift. I think gifting a wallet is a good idea to express your love to the receiver, but remember to put one coin in it as a luck factor because an empty wallet should not be gifted.

Vocabulary:

**Inseparable (adj)** not able to be separated

⇒ *Our economic fortunes are inseparable from those of Europe.*

## 27. Environmental protection

1. Would you like to work in a company related to environmental protection?

I would love to. I have always been passionate about helping the planet and have wanted to find a career where I can make a difference to the world since I was a student.

2. How can we protect the environment?

I think all individuals are responsible for the environment as a whole, and there are a few things that people can definitely do to try to tackle this problem. First, people can try to avoid using single-use products like plastic bottles and plastic bags. Instead, they can buy their own bags and carry them around; that would reduce a lot of plastic consumed in a country. Secondly, people should try not to throw garbage all over the place and put it into the proper bin instead.

3. Do you think you've done enough to protect the environment?

No. I am certainly not doing enough to help the environment. But I do what I can, where I can and how I can. I take the bus, rather than drive. And at lunch, drink from a paper cup with no lid or straw.

## 28. Wild animals

1. Do you like to watch TV programs about wild animals?

When I was a high school student, I loved watching wild animal TV programs. I personally like the big, cinematic documentaries like Planet Earth, Life, North America, and Frozen Planet. They're so incredibly well-made that I could watch them all day.

2. Where can you see wild animals?

Well, you can see wild animals in the zoo. But to tell the truth, I hate the zoo. I like to see them in the wild, in their home. Not in a tiny enclosures where they get sick or overweight due to lack of exercise. I agree, some zoos are good, taking good care of the animals, but most zoos have tiny **enclosures** where animals are cramped.

3. In which country do you think you can see many wild animals?

I think every country has wild animals but it is not easy to see them as they live in the forest. However, if you go to Kangaroo Island, South Australia, you will have the chance to spot not only the Australia's national icon: the kangaroo but also seals, penguins, koalas, echidnas and even whales off the island's shores.

Vocabulary:

**Enclosure (n)** a piece of land that is surrounded by a fence or wall and is used for a particular purpose

=> *the winners' enclosure*

## 29. Holidays

1. Where did you go for the last holiday?

Unfortunately, a new local transmission of the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in Vietnam during the last holiday, so I couldn't go anywhere other than my home. I headed

back to my hometown on the last working day prior to the holiday. The bus was full of people, and there was a severe traffic jam on the expressway.

## 2. Do you like holidays? Why?

Honestly speaking, I wish everyday were a holiday so that I wouldn't have to work while still earning money. I love holidays because they are the only opportunities in a year that I can be **reunited with** my parents and siblings in my hometown. They let me know that my family still believes in me and always waits for me to come back.

## 3. Which public holiday do you like best?

I would say I love Reunification Day the most because it is right next to Labour Day, also known as Mayday; thus we have two consecutive holidays. If this day falls on a Friday or a Monday, then we will have a long weekend and go on a weekend **getaway** to Singapore to meet my friends over there.

## 4. What do you do on holidays?

I usually **refrain from** travelling to **domestic** tourist destinations on public holidays because they tend to be overcrowded and expensive. If I cannot travel abroad, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic when we are encouraged to adhere to **precautionary** measures, one of which is to keep social distancing, I will just head back to my hometown, eat homemade food and share household chores with my parents.

## Vocabulary

### 1. **To reunite** (v): đoàn tụ

Example: Sarah was finally **reunited with** her children at the airport.  
Sarah cuối cùng cùng đã đoàn tụ với con của cô ấy ở sân bay.

### 2. **Getaway** (n): kì nghỉ

Example: a **getaway** in the Poconos

Một kì nghỉ ở Poconos

### 3. **To refrain** (v): tránh xa

Example: You are asked to **refrain** from smoking.

Bạn được yêu cầu không hút thuốc.

### 4. **Domestic** (adj): nội địa

Example: a domestic airline

Một hãng hàng không nội địa

5. **Precautionary** (adj): phòng ngừa

Example: As a **precautionary** measure, she moved her money to another account.

Cô ấy chuyển tiền sang một tài khoản khác như là một biện pháp phòng ngừa.

## 30. Festival

### 1. How do you celebrate festivals in your country?

My country is divided into different cultural zones, and each zone has its own festivals celebrated in various unique ways. For example, one of the biggest festivals in the North is the Huong Temple festival, celebrated on an annual basis in the Huong Temple, Ha Noi. Buddhist adherents, and even those following Vietnam's traditional folk religions, **flock** to this temple on the sixth day of the Lunar New Year to participate in the commencement **ceremony** of the festival. Meanwhile, here in the South, many festivals are held to **venerate** Cá Ông, which is Vietnamese for 'the whale', in coastal areas. And, of course, the Lunar New Year festival is **part and parcel** of Vietnamese culture.

### 2. What special food and activities do you have for these festivals?

During the Lunar New Year festival, we eat lots of meat and fruit, as well as **pickled** vegetables. In the South of Vietnam, we tend to make coconut jam, using coconut flesh and cooking it with a lot of sugar. Also, we also eat nuts and seeds as snacks as these represent fertility and rebirth.

### 3. How do you celebrate the Spring Festival?

The Spring Festival **commences** from the 23rd day of the last month of the year. From that day to New Year's Eve, we clean up the house, also known as the spring cleanup. As per the Vietnamese Catholic tradition, after attending the New Year's Mass, members of an extended family gather under the roof of our grandparents' house to pray for our ancestors. Subsequently, juniors will send wishes to their seniors and receive lucky money in red envelopes before the reunion lunch.

### 4. What is your favourite festival?

My favourite festival is Christmas, which has always been considered the most beautiful time of the year. I prefer Christmas to other festivals partly because my date of birth is in December. Albeit already in my 20s, I still enjoy seeing my birthday illuminated with Christmas lights. Also, as a classical music lover, Christmas is the time for me to listen to classical Christmas carols in free concerts organised by churches all over the country.

## Vocabulary

1. **To flock** (v): đổ xô

Example: People **flocked** to the show.

Nhiều người đổ xô đến show diễn.

2. **Ceremony** (n): nghi lễ

Example: a **marriage** ceremony.

Một nghi lễ đám cưới

3. **To venerate** (v): tôn trọng/tôn kính

Example: In some countries, old people are **venerated** more than in others.

Người già được tôn trọng hơn ở một số quốc gia so với một số quốc gia khác.

4. **To be part and parcel of sth** (phrase): một phần không thể thiếu

Example: Being recognised in the street is **part and parcel of** being a celebrity.

Được nhận ra khi đang ở ngoài đường là một phần không thể thiếu khi trở thành người nổi tiếng.

5. **Pickled** (adj): muối (phương pháp nấu ăn)

Example: **Pickled** onions

Hành muối.

6. **To commence** (v): bắt đầu

Example: We will **commence** building work in August of next year.

Chúng tôi sẽ bắt đầu công trình xây dựng vào tháng tám năm sau.

## 31. Picnic

**Did you go on a picnic when you were a child?**



Well, I'd say I did. I remember when I was about ten years old, my family members often gathered together and had picnics in the backyard of my uncle's house. It was a large and beautiful backyard surrounded with flowers and big trees. Those were one of the most **memorable** moments in my childhood.

### **How often do you go on a picnic now?**

Well at the moment I rarely go on a picnic. Instead, my family and I go on a short holiday at the weekend once a month. It may be a trip to a mountainous area or the beach around 50-100kms from Hanoi.

### **Where do you go on a picnic? Why?**

I think a park or forest with beautiful green surroundings is the ideal green spot to **host a picnic** because it will give you plenty of space to invite a lot of people and keep you entertained with fun games after enjoying your picnic dishes.

## **Vocabulary**

1. **Memorable** (adj) likely to be remembered or worth remembering

*High school is the most memorable time of my life.*

### **32. Primary School**

1. Where did you study in primary school?<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
2. What subject did you like the most when you were in primary school?<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
3. Do you still go back to your primary school for a visit?<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
4. Do you still stay in touch with your classmates from primary school?

### **33. Technology in your work**

#### **1. What is technology in work?**

As the world is **ushering in** the fourth industrial revolution, companies and governments worldwide are applying technological advances to their **operations** to maximise efficiency. Computers, the internet and calculators are some technologies that can be

found in every office nowadays, while some airports are already **employing** advanced technologies like robots and automated border control systems.

## 2. Do you use the Internet in your studies/ work?

Definitely, yes! Most of my work is done online since this practice allows my managers to **monitor** and **keep track of** my progress continuously. The Internet is also a limitless source of information, which plays a vital role in my job as a journalist as I have to collect information and check its authenticity from different online sources before publishing it on our online edition.

## 3. Do you have your own computer?

Yes, I previously owned an Asus laptop, but it became behind the times so I switched to a brand new MacBook Pro 2020. I **mulled the laptop over**, looked at many reviews and compared many different offers before deciding to buy it. So far, I haven't regretted investing an amount of money equivalent to my 2-month salary in buying the laptop as it has helped improve my performance significantly.

## Vocabulary

### 1. **To usher in something** (phrasal verb): khởi đầu

Example: The talks **ushered in** a new era of international co-operation.

Những cuộc đàm phán này đã khởi đầu thời kỳ hợp tác quốc tế mới.

### 2. **Operation** (n): vận hành/hoạt động (công việc)

Example: The construction work will not affect the day-to-day **operation** of the company.

Việc xây dựng sẽ không ảnh hưởng đến hoạt động hằng ngày của công ty.

### 3. **To employ** (verb): sử dụng

Example: Sophisticated statistical analysis was **employed** to obtain these results.

Phương pháp phân tích thống kê phức tạp đã được sử dụng để đưa ra những kết quả này.

### 4. **To monitor** (verb): giám sát

Example: The new findings suggest that women ought to **monitor** their cholesterol levels.

Những phát hiện mới cho rằng phụ nữ nên giám sát mức độ cholesterol của họ.

5. **To keep track of** (phrase): theo dõi

Example: **Keep track of** the hours you work.

Nhớ theo dõi số giờ mà bạn làm việc nhé.

6. **To mull things over** (phrase): suy nghĩ kĩ

Example: I need a few days to **mull things over** before I decide if I'm taking the job.

Tôi cần vài ngày để suy nghĩ kĩ lại trước khi quyết định chấp nhận công việc.

## PART 2

### 1. A time when you encouraged somebody to do something that he/she didn't want to do

**You should say:**

- **Who it was**
- **When it happened**
- **How you encouraged him/ her**
- **And explain why he/she didn't want to do**

(**Who it was**) I remember **talking** to my classmate, Erica, **into** joining the **ensemble** I am playing the organ for because she is an extraordinary classically-trained pianist. As far as I know, Erica has been learning the piano since she was in primary school, and she was lucky to be oriented towards classical music by her piano teacher. Since then, she has practised **relentlessly** to climb the **ladder** into being a professional pianist.

(**When it happened**) I first **encountered** Erica when we were both freshmen at the Singapore Conservatory of Music. Hardly had I heard Erica play the piano for the first time when I was enormously impressed by her outstanding ability and wanted to bring her to my classical ensemble. I believe that a person like Erica, with a gifted natural talent, determination to sharpen her skills, can **make enormous contributions to** the development of our ensemble.

**(How you encouraged him/her)** In our second lesson together, I introduced the ensemble to Erica and asked whether she would like to become a member. To increase the success rate of securing her, I also prepared a beautifully designed letter stating all the benefits she would have as a pianist for the ensemble and a list of awards we have received. Also, I even showed her a video of us competing in the ASEAN Choir Award 2019 in Singapore.

**(And explain why he/she didn't want to do)** To my surprise, Erica **talked me out** of this topic and showed little interest in what I was saying. I **scratched my head** wondering what had gone wrong after that meeting. Not long after that, I realised she had been using autotune **all along** and I felt that it was actually a good thing she had refused to join my ensemble.

## Vocabulary

1. **To talk sb into doing sth** (phrase): khuyến khích/dụ ai làm cái gì đó

Example: I tried to **talk her into** ordering ice cream.

Tôi cố dụ cô ấy đặt kem.

2. **Ensemble** (n): dàn giao hưởng

Example: The Mozart **Ensemble** is/are playing at Carnegie Hall tonight.

Dàn giao hưởng Mozart sẽ biểu diễn tối nay tại Hội trường Carnegie.

3. **Relentlessly** (adv): không ngừng

Example: She has campaigned **relentlessly** for her husband's release from prison.

Cô ấy đã vận động không ngừng để chồng mình được ra tù.

4. **To climb the ladder** (phrase): thăng tiến trong công việc

Example: In only a few years she managed to **climb up the corporate ladder** to become a vice president.

Chỉ trong vài năm, cô ấy đã thăng tiến trong công việc để trở thành phó giám đốc.

5. **To encounter** (v): gặp gỡ/biết đến

Example: She was the most remarkable woman he had ever **encountered**.

Cô ấy là người nổi bật nhất mà anh ấy từng biết đến/gặp được.

6. **To make a contribution to sth** (phrase): đóng góp cho cái gì đó

Example: This invention **made a major contribution to** road safety.

Phát minh này đã góp công lớn cho an toàn đường bộ.

7. **To talk sb out of sth** (phrase): bàn ra/không khuyến khích

Example: He threatened to resign, but his boss managed to **talk him out of it**.

Anh ấy dọa sẽ từ chức, nhưng sếp của anh ấy đã bàn ra (không khuyến khích anh từ chức).

8. **To scratch his/her head** (phrase): bứt tóc.

Example: A lot of people must be **scratching their heads** about which way to vote.

Rất nhiều người đang bứt tóc suy nghĩ không biết nên bầu cho bên nào.

9. **All along** (adv): từ đó tới giờ

Example: Do you think he's been cheating us **all along**?

Cậu có nghĩ anh ấy đã lừa dối mình từ đó tới giờ không?

### Part 3:

#### 1. When do people need to be encouraged?

I believe psychology students would be able to look at this problem from a more diverse perspective than me. But to the best of my knowledge and experience, people truly need encouragement when they fall into **distress** or when they are reluctant to make a life-changing decision. However, not all types of encouragement should be used, as some might be considered toxic positivity, which may exert a negative impact on those who are encouraged.

#### 2. Should we encourage children to study hard?

Our East Asian culture **upholds** the value of education and prioritises children's academic excellence over many other things. As an Asian, I totally agree that we should encourage children to study hard so that they can have a brighter future with many remunerative jobs awaiting. Their hard work will pay **dividends**.

#### 3. Do people now need to be encouraged more than in the past?

I am not so sure, to be honest. But it seems like as society is going online and the COVID-19 pandemic is **reverberating** across the world, people are **confined** to their homes. They use different tools to collect people's opinions on an issue they're being

faced with. Although my lack of knowledge does not allow me to directly answer this question, my opinion is that instead of looking for opinions from in-person conversations and meetings in the past, people now rely on the internet for this purpose.

### **Vocabulary**

1. **Distress** (n): đau khổ

Example: She claimed that the way she had been treated at work had caused her extreme emotional and psychological **distress**.

Cô ấy nói rằng việc bị cách cô bị đối xử trong công việc khiến mình bị đau khổ tuyệt cùng về mặt cảm xúc và tâm lý.

2. **To uphold** (verb): đề cao

Example: We will endeavour to uphold the high educational standards which have become associated with this institution.

Chúng tôi sẽ cố gắng đề cao tiêu chuẩn giáo dục hàng đầu đã gắn liền với tổ chức này.

3. **To pay dividends** (idiom): có lợi

Example: Exercising regularly will **pay dividends** in the end.

Tập thể dục thường xuyên sẽ có lợi về sau này.

4. **To reverberate** (v): ảnh hưởng

Example: The surge in US share prices reverberated **across** the globe.

Giá cổ phiếu Mỹ tăng đang ảnh hưởng toàn thế giới.

5. **To confine** (v): giam giữ

Example: The hostages had been **confined** for so long that they couldn't cope with the outside world.

Các con tin đã bị giam giữ quá lâu, đến nỗi họ không thể đối phó với thế giới bên ngoài.

## **2. Describe a time when you got lost in a town or city**

*You should say:*

*When and where you got lost*

*and explain why you got lost*

**(When and where you got lost)**

I am going to talk about an incident that happened to me, which I never forget. On a trip organized to Bach Ma national park for all students in my high school three years ago, **with a view to** raising students' awareness of the importance of protecting the environment, I got lost and could hardly find my bearings to get back to the class.

**(and explain why you got lost)**

In retrospect, climbing the mountain was great fun, although I was a little scared at first, **apprehensive** to be exact. I still remember the route to reach the mountain peak was **in twists and turns**, so students in my class almost felt the terminal point was **approaching** but it was endless. I got a little exhausted and had to lean against a tree. My friends encouraged me to hold on, take a deep breath and only think about the mountain peak to continue to climb. We were up at the furthest point as the sun was starting to set. Too **enthralled** by the spectacular natural scenery, I decided to go a bit further from our original reaching point to take pictures and forgot the time until it began to turn dark. Suddenly, I realized that I was alone and I could not see any of my classmates. Actually, I was truly scared at that very moment. Luckily, before I totally **lost my bearings**, I **tried my uttermost** to find the trail again by using the digital map on my mobile device to position, and managed to make it back after about two and a half hours, by which time it was full night. I'm glad that I did **overcome** my fears then to find the way back.

## **Vocabulary**

Part 3:

***Do people get lost more than in the past?***

I don't think so. Nowadays, we have a lot of digital GPS tools that help people to navigate so the chances of getting lost are lower than in the past.

***What should we do if one of our family members gets lost?***

If the people we love are missing, the first thing we should do is to contact the police immediately. If you suspect something is wrong for instance, if your father does not arrive home at his regular time, say at around 8 p.m. and you cannot reach him, contact the authorities.

**3. Describe a short trip that you frequently make but dislike**

- **Where you travel from and to**
- **How often you make this trip**
- **Why you make this trip**
- **And explain why you dislike this trip.**

**(Where you travel from and to)** Today, I would like to talk about a short trip that I usually make but I literally have no interest in it. It is the quarterly company team-building trip to Vung Tau, which is my hometown. I go home nearly every single weekend to spend time with my family, especially my newborn cousin. I never want to go to my hometown as a tourist, because it gives me an **awkward** feeling.

**(How often you make this trip)** I absolutely have no idea why my team always chooses Vung Tau as the destination for all the team-building trips no matter how much I complain about it. We go on this trip at the end of every quarter, normally in the last weekends of March, June, September and December.

**(Why you make this trip)** Well, I travel with my team and the majority of my teammates are from mountainous areas. So, they prefer to **let off steam** at a beach resort. Meanwhile, the destination in the vicinity of Ho Chi Minh city that has the best facilities



as well as infrastructure is Vung Tau, making it their **default** choice for every single team-building trip.

**(And explain why you dislike this trip)** As mentioned previously, it is very awkward for me to come back to my hometown as a tourist rather than a son. Although the staycation is **emerging** as a popular trend amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, whenever I head back to my hometown, I just want to spend quality time with my parents in place of my colleagues, who I see every day.

### **Vocabulary**

1. **Awkward** (adj): ngộ ngàng

Example: Some of the questions were rather **awkward**.

Một số câu hỏi khá ngộ ngàng.

2. **To let off steam** (phrase): giải tỏa căng thẳng

Example: She jogs after work to let off steam.

Cô ấy chạy bộ sau giờ làm để giải tỏa căng thẳng.

3. **Default** (n): mặc định

Example: The **default** colour of text on the screen is black.

Màu đen là màu mặc định của chữ hiển thị trên màn hình.

4. **To emerge as** (phrase): nổi lên thành.

Example: He **emerged as** a key figure in the campaign.

Anh ấy nổi lên thành một nhân vật chủ chốt trong chiến dịch.

### **Part 3:**

#### **1. Do Vietnamese people like travelling abroad?**

Despite the poor performance of the Vietnamese passport in global rankings, the number of Vietnamese **outbound** tourists has yet to show any **signs** of slowing in recent years as the growth rate **hovers** at 30% per year, reflecting Vietnamese people's growing demand for travel to other countries. The first foreign destinations of many Vietnamese tourists are Singapore and Thailand before flying to more **far-off** destinations like South Korea and Japan.

#### **2. Who prefers travelling abroad? The young or the old?**

My answer to this question is the young. Firstly, youngsters nowadays have a limitless source of information about the world on the internet, particularly social media, where users share about their experiences in travelling abroad, while the elderly's access to such information remains limited. Another reason for my belief is youngsters' growing **proficiency** in the English language, which partly breaks down the language barrier.

### **3. How much time do you think people should spend on a trip abroad?**

It depends on the destinations, tourists' purposes as well as their financial capabilities. People tend to spend more time when travelling to far-off destinations like Europe, the US, and the countries they never expect to have a second chance to return to. Meanwhile, people tend to spend less time in neighbouring countries such as Thailand, Singapore.

### **4. Which is better for knowing more about a country? Travelling or reading books about it?**

From my point of view, gaining **hands-on experience** is always a better way to know about something or even knowledge compared to reading books. Particularly, when travelling, people can interact and exchange information with the locals, thus acquiring knowledge about that country. That being said, reading books remains an important step for better absorption of knowledge when travelling as it offers travellers a **glimpse** of the locals, history and culinary culture of their destinations beforehand.

### **Vocabulary**

#### **1. Outbound** (adj): ra nước ngoài

Example: There has been an increase in **outbound** traffic leaving Toronto airport for the Caribbean resorts

Giao thông hàng không đi ngược ngoài từ Toronto đến những khu nghỉ dưỡng ở Ca-ri-bê ghi nhận tăng trưởng gần đây.

#### **2. Sign** (n): dấu hiệu

Example: Billy's work at school has **shown signs of** improvement this year.

Việc học tập của Billy đã có dấu hiệu tiến bộ trong năm nay.

#### **3. To hover** (v): xoay quanh

Example: Inflation is **hovering at** three percent.

Tỉ lệ lạm phát đang xoay quanh khoảng 3%.

4. **Far-off** (adj): xa

Example: a **far-off** land

một vùng đất xa xôi

5. **Proficiency** (n): thông thạo

Example: The job ad said they wanted **proficiency in** at least two languages.

Bản tin công việc nói họ cần ứng viên thông thạo ít nhất hai ngôn ngữ.

6. **Hands-on experience** (n): kinh nghiệm thực tế

Example: They will participate in workshops and **get hands-on experience** leading classes.

Họ sẽ tham gia các cuộc hội thảo và có được kinh nghiệm đứng lớp thực tế.

7. **Glimpse** (n): một vài thông tin

Example: This biography **offers a few glimpses of** his life before he became famous.

Cuốn tiểu sử này sẽ cung cấp người đọc một vài thông tin về cuộc sống của anh ấy trước khi nổi tiếng.

#### 4. **Something important to you that your family has had for a long time.**

- **What it is**
- **When your family had it**
- **How your family got it**
- **And explain why it is important for your family**

**(What it is)** My dad has a hobby of keeping valuable pieces of furniture in our home, some of which have become **antiques** and are worth up to thousands of dollars now. Among all the antiques in my home, the one of greatest significance to me is an 80-year-old piano used by four generations of my family. Currently, my niece is learning her first lessons on that instrument.

**(When your family had it)** **Rumour has it** that this instrument was a result of the collaboration between a **renowned** piano manufacturer, Steinway and Sons, and my great grandfather, who was gifted with outstanding carpentry skills. The later generations are now totally **in the dark** about the exact year it was completed as the

instrument is generally believed to have **come into use** during the late 1930s. Until now, the instrument has undergone a total of two main restoration projects and been maintained on an annual **basis**.

**(How your family got it)** To be honest, the later generations, including myself, have no clue how my great grandfather got the chance to directly work with Steinway and Sons in designing and building the piano. All I know is that as a carpenter, he was mainly in charge of designing the piano and assuring the quality of the wood Steinway opted for. Meanwhile, the world-renowned piano manufacturer was responsible for building and **assembling** the parts of the piano.

**(And explain why it is important for your family)** I proudly **hail from** a long **lineage** of professional musicians. My great grandfather and my grandfather were successful musicians, while my father is currently a music director of a cathedral's choir. Nearly everyone in my family can play at least the piano and the pipe organ. This piano is where we learn our first lessons and have **nourished** generations of talent.

### **Vocabulary**

1. **Antique** (n): đồ cổ

Example: My mother collects **antiques**.

Mẹ tôi thu thập đồ cổ.

2. **Rumour has it (that)** (phrase): người ta đồn

Example: **Rumour has it (that)** you're going to be the next managing director. Is it true?

Người ta đồn là cậu sắp thành giám đốc điều hành hả. Thật không vậy?

3. **Renowned** (adj): nổi tiếng

Example: The region is **renowned for** its natural beauty.

Vùng này rất nổi tiếng vì vẻ đẹp tự nhiên của nó

4. **To be in the dark** (idiom): không biết gì/không được cung cấp thông tin

Example: Our boss tends to keep us **in the dark** most of the time.

Sếp thường rất ít khi cung cấp thông tin gì cho chúng tôi.

5. **To come into use** (phrase): bắt đầu được sử dụng

Example: Computers first **came into use** in the early 1950s.

Máy vi tính bắt đầu được sử dụng vào những năm đầu của thập niên 50.

6. **On a monthly/regular/yearly basis** (phrase): hằng tháng/thường xuyên/hàng năm

Example: Skills need to be updated **on an ongoing basis**.

Kỹ năng cần được cập nhật liên tục.

7. **To hail from** (phrase): đến từ

Example: Joe originally **hails from** Toronto.

Joe đến từ Toronto.

8. **Lineage** (n): dòng dõi

Example: She's very proud of her ancient royal **lineage**.

Cô ấy rất tự hào về dòng dõi hoàng gia của mình.

### **Part 3:**

#### **1. What things do families keep for a long time?**

Well, I hold the opinion that families tend to keep things that are meaningful for them, such as an old book that has been **passed on** from generation to generation or an old photo album. Sometimes, several families do keep empty wine bottles as decorations for their houses like my house.

#### **2. What's the difference between things valued by people in the past and today?**

From my own perspective, as materialism and technology are **gaining ground** these days, things that used to be valued in the past like old photographs and books are of significantly less importance to people's modern lives. Instead, people nowadays place their focus on exorbitant things such as the the newest phone model or an LV bag.

#### **3. What kinds of things are kept in museums?**

**Artefacts** holding important cultural, historical and societal significance are usually well-protected and **exhibited** in museums. Each museum has its own theme and the growth in number of museums has yet to show any sign of slowing down. For example, some newly built museums are holding plastic exhibitions to raise people's awareness of the convenience of plastic that comes **at the expense of** our habitat.

#### **4. What's the influence of technology on museums?**

A rising number of museums are applying technological advances to their operations to raise **customer satisfaction**. For example, ArtScience Museum, located in the world-renowned Marina Bay, Singapore, illuminates its exhibitions with astonishing lighting

effects. Meanwhile, most of the museums in Singapore are already offering audio guides for visitors, which help them explore the museums at their own pace.

## Vocabulary

1. **To pass on sth to sb** (phrase): truyền lại

Example: You may want a way to **pass on** money to your children.

Bạn có thể muốn một cách truyền lại tiền cho con bạn.

2. **To make/gain ground** (phrase): trở nên phổ biến/ảnh hưởng

Example: Despite **making/gaining ground** within her own party, she still has to watch her back.

Mặc dù đã có sức ảnh hưởng trong đảng phái, cô ấy vẫn cần phải thận trọng.

3. **Artefact** (n): cổ vật

Example: The museum's collection includes **artefacts** dating back to prehistoric times.

Bộ sưu tập của bảo tàng bao gồm các cổ vật từ thời tiền sử.

4. **To exhibit** (v): triển lãm

Example: My picture is to be **exhibited** in the art gallery.

Bức vẽ của tôi sẽ được triển lãm ở phòng trưng bày nghệ thuật.

5. **At the expense of something** (phrase): lơ là cái gì đó, làm nó bị thiệt.

Example: Singapore shows that academic brilliance need not **come at the expense of** personal skills.

Singapore đã cho chúng ta thấy không cần học quá nhiều mà lơ là kỹ năng cá nhân.

6. **Customer satisfaction** (phrase): sự hài lòng khách hàng

Example: The car manufacturer receives consistently high **customer satisfaction** ratings.

Hiệu xe này luôn nhận được đánh giá cao về mức độ hài lòng khách hàng.

**5. Describe an occasion when you were not allowed to use your mobile phone.**

*You should say:*

*When it was and where it was*

*Why you could not use your mobile phone*

*How you felt about it*

***(When it was and where it was)***

I'm going to describe a time when I didn't use the mobile phone. Well, I was not allowed to use it to be correct. I remember during our Math lessons in 12<sup>th</sup> grade in high school, the teacher decided to ban the use of mobile phones, considering its **adverse** impacts on students' performance. At first, she wasn't **set in her ways** to impose such a strict rule, however, **on second thoughts**; she believed the total disappearance of mobile phones in the class would be **in the interest of** all students.

***(Why you could not use your mobile phone)***

Well, our teacher was convinced that such a **gadget** would constantly generate great **distractions** among students during class, and **accordingly**, discouraging their learning spirit. Indeed, this was really the case for many. In my class, those who owned a mobile phone could hardly pay full attention as they were constantly checking their phones for messages and the like. As a result, our teachers found it **worrisome** and disturbing when students were using phones in their class and we ended up not being able to bring cellphones to school at all. If anyone needed to call their parents, they were allowed to use the telephone in a supervisor's room anytime.

***(How you felt about it)***

Honestly, at that time, the price of mobile phones was **beyond my means**; therefore, only those with money in my class were able to afford them. This rule exerted no effects on me or my studying. However, many of my friends felt irritated because they had

**grown accustomed to** performing **calculations** with the assistance of a cell phone instead of a calculator.

### **Vocabulary from *Technology*:**

#### • **gadget**

Meaning: a technological tool like a mobile phone or camera

Example: Such a gadget would help you considerably in studying.

### **Other vocabulary:**

1. **adverse** [adj]: preventing success or development; harmful; unfavorable: bất lợi

Eg: Of course, there is also the adverse publicity that could dog them for years to come.

2. **set in one's ways** [expression]: to do the same things every day and to not want to change those habits: không thay đổi

Eg: As people get older, they often become set in their ways.

3. **on second thoughts** [expression]: used when you want to change a decision you have made: khi suy nghĩ lại

Eg: Can I have a cup of coffee, please? - actually, on second thoughts, I'll have a beer.

4. **in the interest of** [expression]: to the advantage or advancement of: có lợi cho ai

Eg: New students may be accommodated in halls of residence in the interest of the school.

5. **distraction** (n): something that prevents someone from giving their attention to something else: chuyện gây xao nhãng

Eg: You can turn the television off if you find it a distraction.

6. **accordingly** [adv]: in a way that suits the situation: theo sau đó, vì vậy



Eg: They accordingly stressed that the unqualified trust in reason could dangerously erode this relationship.

7. **worrisome** (adj): worrying: đáng lo ngại

Eg: Alcohol and tobacco consumption by young people is especially worrisome because habits formed early are likely to persist.

8. **beyond one's means** (expression): Too costly for one, more than one can afford: quá đắt so với ai

Eg: A second vacation this year is well beyond our means.

9. **(be)/ grow accustomed to** [expression]: familiar with something: trở nên quen với

Eg: She quickly became accustomed to his messy ways.

10. **calculation** (n): a mathematical determination of the size or number of something.: sự tính toán

Eg: A calculation is a deliberate process that transforms one or more inputs into one or more results, with variable change.

### PART 3: PHONES

#### 1. Do you think it is necessary to have laws on the use of mobile phones?

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* Well, this issue is quite complicated. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* From my perspective, cell phone usage should be restricted in public places **for the sake of** the surrounding people. For example, in a nice restaurant, it would be rude to answer your phone and talk to the other person because it would interrupt other peoples' dates or dinners or get-togethers. Or in places like the library, movies and especially in class while listening to a lecture, it can be very disruptive when someone next to you starts using his/her cell phone.

#### 2. How do you like children having mobile phones?

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* I don't really approve of this, as having a cellphone would affect their scholastic performances. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* Such a **gadget** would constantly generate great **distractions** among students during class, and **accordingly**, discourage their learning spirit. Indeed, this has really been the case for many. *(Give an example)* When I was in secondary school, those who owned a

mobile phone could hardly pay full attention as they were constantly checking their phones for messages and the like. As a result, our teachers found it **worrisome** and disturbing when students were using phones in their class and we ended up not being able to bring cellphones to school at all.

### 3. At what age should children have mobile phones?

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* Probably those above the age of 16 should have mobile phones, as this would be **in the interest of** their health. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* Children below the age of sixteen should not be given mobile phones since their brain is too sensitive to **withstand** the effects of mobile radiation. Under the absorption of radiation, children can have **adverse** health issues. Although adults also get affected by the radiation it will be more consequential in children because of the increased absorption of these radiation levels.

#### **Vocabulary from Technology:**

##### • **gadget**

Meaning: a technological tool like a mobile phone or camera

Example: Such a gadget would help you considerably in studying.

#### **Other vocabulary:**

11. **for the sake of** [expression]: in order to help or bring advantage to someone: vì lợi ích của

Eg: If you do something for the sake of something, you do it for that purpose or in order to achieve that result.

12. **distraction** (n): something that prevents someone from giving their attention to something else: chuyện gây xao nhãng

Eg: You can turn the television off if you find it a distraction.

13. **accordingly** [adv]: in a way that suits the situation: theo sau đó, vì vậy

Eg: They accordingly stressed that the unqualified trust in reason could dangerously erode this relationship.

14. **worrisome** (adj): worrying: đáng lo ngại

Eg: Alcohol and tobacco consumption by young people is especially worrisome because habits formed early are likely to persist.

15. **in the interest of** [expression]: to the advantage or advancement of: có lợi cho ai

Eg: New students may be accommodated in halls of residence in the interest of the school.

16. **adverse** [adj]: preventing success or development; harmful; unfavorable: bất lợi

Eg: Of course, there is also the adverse publicity that could dog them for years to come.

17. **withstand** [v]: remain undamaged or unaffected by; resist.: chịu đựng

Eg: The structure had been designed to withstand winds of more than 100 mph

## 6. Describe an argument two of your friends had.

- **When it was**
- **What the argument was about**
- **How it was solved**
- **And how you felt about it**

**(When it was)** Most of my friends are pretty easy-going and do not normally quarrel with one another, but whenever they do, it is always a heated argument. The most heated one happened during the Thailand trip in 2016, which nearly tore our friendship apart. While I was immersing myself in a bath full of soft bubbles, I heard very loud Vietnamese shouts, quickly realising it was my friend's voice.

**(What the argument was about)** When I reached their room, Duyen, my best friend, was just about to burst into tears, while Chau, my cousin, couldn't stop **hurling** insults at Duyen **while having a fit**. To the best of my memory, Chau was trying to talk Duyen out of going on a Tinder date with a Thai boy because Chau believed it was disgraceful

to do that and Duyen, by meeting a stranger in a foreign country, could **put herself in jeopardy**. Duyen didn't like her being judged by Chau, so she started to defend herself before Chau exerted her influence as the team leader to prevent Duyen from going out. **(How it was solved)** I quickly calmed Chau down and brought her to my room and told my roommate, who is her younger brother, to talk to her. In the meantime, I also tried to calm Duyen down and brought her downstairs to buy her a big cup of milk tea, which she really liked. At that day's dinner, we discussed a bit about the issue, in a peaceful and respectful manner, and **reconciled** Chau and Duyen.

**(And how you felt about it)** I knew that Chau overreacted when concerned that Duyen would be in trouble. Although it was an argument, I was able to understand how much we, as friends, care about each other. After that day, people thought our friendship was on the brink of collapse, but it turned out even stronger.

### **Vocabulary**

1. **To hurl** (v): quăng/phang

Example: In a fit of temper he **hurled** the book across the room.

Trong cơn nóng giận, anh ấy phang cuốn sách ngang phòng.

2. **To have a fit** (phrase): nổi điên

Example: My mom's going to **have a fit** when she sees what happened to the car!

Mẹ tôi sẽ nổi điên khi thấy những gì đã xảy ra với chiếc xe này!

3. **In jeopardy** (phrase): trong cơn nguy khốn

Example: Bad investments have put the company's future **in jeopardy**.

Đầu tư không khôn ngoan sẽ đẩy tương lai của công ty vào cơn nguy khốn.

4. **Reconcile** (v): kết nối lại/dung hòa

Example: It's difficult to **reconcile** such different points of view.

Rất khó để dung hòa những quan điểm khác nhau.

### **7. Describe someone whose music or song you like.**

You should say:

- Who this person is

- What type of songs she sings
- And explain why she is your favorite singer

**(Who this person is)**

There are so many famous people that I adore but the one I'm going to describe today is my all-time favorite singer –Taylor Swift. Born in America in 1989, this 30-year-old woman currently plays a very important role in American music. As one of the world's leading **contemporary** recording artists, she is known for narrative songs about her personal life, which have received widespread media coverage. No one would have believed that this small town girl would become a worldwide **phenomenon**. She is one of twelve women to appear in Time's 100 most **influential** people in the world at least three times (2010, 2015, 2019), and Forbes' lists of top-earning women in music (2011–2015), 100 most powerful women (2015), and Celebrity 100 (2016).

**(What type of songs she sings)**

Taylor's first single, "Tim McGraw," was a huge success, which **cemented** Taylor's position as an up-and-coming country star. 4 years later, it was during the time between Speak Now and the release of "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" that Taylor's personal style began to change. Her **signature** ringlets were replaced with smooth, straight locks and her princess-like dresses were replaced with trendy shorts and bowler hats. The new single's **upbeat** tempo and hard-hitting lyrics also marked a change in Taylor, firmly establishing her as a pop princess.

**(And explain why she is your favorite singer)**

Taylor Swift interests me and numerous other fans for different reasons. On the one hand, her products are awesome in both music and images, which show complete **commitment to** her singing career. Especially, with her recent **inspirational** songs, especially written for women, she really gets out of her **comfort zone** and I feel her songs somehow express her inner true character. Above all, Taylor always works with

her gift through **perspiration**, which is the very factor for her worldwide popularity. Her story encourages you never to lose yourself when you're in trouble. To make your dream come true is the best way to prove yourself.

Vocabulary:

18. **contemporary** [adj]: existing or happening now: đương thời, hiện tại

Eg: These are radical changes which will alter the complexion of the British contemporary dance scene.

19. **phenomenon** [n]: something that exists and can be seen, felt, tasted, etc., especially something unusual or interesting: hiện tượng

Eg: Do you believe in the paranormal and other psychic phenomena?

20. **influential** [adj]: having a lot of influence on someone or something: có tầm ảnh hưởng

Eg: He has his own ways of beating the system, making sure that he has good relationships with influential people.

21. **cement** [v]: to make something stronger: củng cố

Eg: The university's exchange scheme has cemented its links with many other academic institutions.

22. **signature** [adj]: used to describe the product or service that a company or person is known for: đặc trưng

Eg: Rock Fish is the signature dish of his favourite restaurant.

23. **upbeat** [adj]: full of hope, happiness, and good feelings: lạc quan, vui vẻ

Eg: Live music and a parade set an upbeat mood for the official opening.

24. **commitment** [n]: a willingness to give your time and energy to something that you believe in, or a promise or firm decision to do something: sự tận tâm

Eg: We must make a commitment to universities and to research and development, because that is very clear now.

25. **inspirational** [adj]: making you feel full of hope or encouraged: truyền cảm hứng

Eg: He gave an inspirational reading of his own poems.

26. **comfort zone** [expression]: a situation in which you feel comfortable and in which your ability and determination are not being tested: vùng an toàn

Eg: Rock climbing pushes many people beyond their comfort zones.

27. **perspiration** [n]: the process of sweating: sự đổ mồ hôi

Eg: He failed to do this, but found that shed blood and perspiration had no more attraction for females than had water.

## 8. Describe a town or city where you would like to live in the future

*You should say:*

*What it is*

*Where it is located*

*Why you would like to live there*

### **(What it is)**

I would like to talk about the city of Melbourne, which is known as the city with the best quality of life worldwide, and also the place where I want to spend my life.

### **(Where it is located)**

To give you more information, Melbourne is the **state capital** of Victoria, situated in the south of Australia. It took me about 8 hours to fly there from my hometown. In addition to having a uniquely favourable location, to me Melbourne is also special in many other ways.

### **(Why you would like to live there)**

There are three main reasons why I want to live in Melbourne. The first thing I want to mention is the **extraordinary** weather there. There can be four seasons to be felt in just a single day. People may wake up **getting slight goosebumps** because of the chill morning, only to feel quite hot at noon, then get surprised by the strong winds of the afternoon, and finally go to bed with winter clothes, because the temperatures can drop very sharply at the end of the day. Although the **changeable weather** may sound

annoying and uncomfortable, it is **bearable** because the changes take place slowly and naturally during the course of the days and seasons.

Secondly, I love Melbourne for its **high level of safety and security**. The **crime rate** in this city is really low and police officers **work really closely with** the community. They are always **easy to reach** and quick **to show up** when people need help. There are no dangerous **inner-city areas** to avoid, and **suburban life** in particular is very safe for families with children and the elderly.

Last but not least, Melbourne is **a diverse community**, with people from many **minority groups** who bring their own contribution to the life of the city. People come from all over the world and from all classes to reside here. If I lived in Melbourne, I would have invaluable opportunities to meet people from various **backgrounds**, and to learn a lot in such a **multicultural society** through the **cuisine**, the customs and the stories people bring with them. Life there would never be boring.

## **Vocabulary:**

### **Các từ thuộc chủ đề *Cities*:**

#### **1. inner city areas**

Meaning: the parts near the centre of a city, which often have social problems

Example: Recent immigrants to cities often have to live in crowded **inner city areas** which have huge problems of crime and poverty.

#### **2. suburban life**

Meaning: life in areas where people live outside the centre of a city

Example: Most people prefer a quiet **suburban life** to living in a noisy and crowded inner city area.

### **Các từ thuộc chủ đề *Society*:**

#### **1. minority groups**



Meaning: small groups within a community that are different because of their origin, religion, language or traditions

Example: Children from **minority groups** are sometimes victims of bullying at school.

## 2. a multicultural society

Meaning: a society which includes people of different origins, traditions and languages

Example: Immigration has led to the development of **multicultural societies** in the US, Europe and Australia.

### Vocabulary:

- **state capital** [noun]: the capital city of a particular state within a country: thủ phủ bang

Eg: While Melbourne is the **state capital** of Victoria, Canberra is the capital of Australia.

- **extraordinary** [adjective]: unusual and surprising: lạ thường, độc đáo

Eg: It is extraordinary how English has become an international language, spoken by many millions of people.

- **to get goosebumps** [expression]: to be so cold that you get small pimples on your skin: nổi da gà

Eg: When I came out of the shower, the changing room in the gym was so cold that I **got goosebumps** and so I got dressed very quickly.

- **changeable weather** [expression]: weather that changes frequently, for example from rain to sunshine, or from hot to cold: thời tiết thay đổi liên tục

Eg: I don't mind the **changeable weather** in London, but I always take my umbrella with me in the morning.

- **bearable** [adjective]: that can be tolerated: chịu đựng được

Eg: The heat in summer in Australia is **bearable**, but drink plenty of water.

- **high level of safety and security** [expression]: being very safe and well-protected against crime: mức độ an toàn và bảo mật cao

Eg: She lives in a quiet area of the city, which has a **high level of safety and security**.

- **(low) crime rate** [noun]: the number of crimes committed in a particular place: tỷ lệ tội phạm (thấp)

Eg: The **low crime rate** in the city this year means that people are less afraid of attacks by criminals.

- **to work closely with** [expression]: to work in cooperation with others, in regular communication: làm việc rất mật thiết, gần gũi với

Eg: Local residents **are working closely with** the police to reduce crime in the neighbourhood.

- **easy to reach** [expression]: easy to get into contact with: dễ liên lạc

Eg: She's **easy to reach**, she's always got her mobile phone with her.

- **to show up** [phrasal verb]: to arrive:

Eg: Charles **showed up** 5 minutes late for his interview, so he didn't get the job.

- **diverse community** [expression]: a community with people from many different origins and cultures: cộng đồng đa dạng

Eg: New York has such a **diverse community** that you can hear 100 different languages if you walk through Times Square.

- **backgrounds** [noun]: origins of place and social class: nền tảng

Eg: Rich people with privileged **backgrounds** have many more opportunities and choices in life.

- **cuisine** [noun]: style and tradition of cooking: ẩm thực

Eg: In Paris, it is easy to find restaurants which serve Vietnamese **cuisine**.

### **Part 3:**

1. Why do more and more people live in the city?
2. How does this affect the environment and nature?
3. Is there a way to balance city and nature?
4. What can be done to prevent damage to the nature? Are governmental controls more important than businesses?

### **9. Describe someone who is older than you that you admire**

*Who he / she is*

*What he / she did*

*What you know about his / her life story*

*And explain how much you know about sports.*

(Who he is)

Today I'm going to talk about a football player who has recently caught the attention of the entire nation of Vietnam – Bui Tien Dung. Dung is a professional football player competing in the Vietnam national team as a goalkeeper. Even though Dung is pretty young, he has managed to gain the respect of football fans for his skills, as well as **adulation** from females because of his handsome appearance.

(What he did)

What makes Bui Tien Dung **stand out** is his remarkable goalkeeping skill which, together with the skill of his teammates who were competing with a **steely** determination, has enabled Vietnam to qualify for the final of the AFC U23 for the first time. Every TV channel and newspaper **carried the story**. Dung is praised by **sports commentators**, professionals and fans in general as bold and reliable. His **saves**, especially those in penalty rounds, contributed to the strengthening of Vietnam's

**defence** and gave his teammates the confidence to **push forward** and attack the opposing team.

(What you know about his life story + explain how much you know about sports)

Frankly, I'm not much of an **avid sports fan**, and I only watch sports matches occasionally. Therefore, I rarely **dig deep into** the personal life of sports stars. However, what I do know about Bui Tien Dung is that he came from a rather underprivileged family, and was not exposed to professional training right from the start. It was his passion for football that convinced his parents to allow Dung to pursue it professionally and his **perseverance** led to his recognition.

## Vocabulary

Từ vựng chủ đề *Media and advertising*

### 1. **to carry a story**

Meaning: to include an item in a news report

Example: The media nowadays **carries too many stories** about celebrities and not enough serious news.

Từ vựng chủ đề *Sports and exercise*

### 1. **sports commentators**

Meaning: people who are experts on sport and talk or write about it in the media

Example: Not only sports stars, but even some **sports commentators** have become well-known celebrities.

### 2. **a sports fan**

Meaning: a person who takes a keen interest in sport

Example: While I think that it is healthy to be a **sports fan**, people should remember that for most people, sport is just entertainment, not a matter of life and death.

## Other vocabulary:

### 1. **adulation** (sự ngưỡng mộ) [noun]

Meaning: admiration and praise, sometimes when this is exaggerated

Example: TV celebrities enjoy the **adulation** of their fans wherever they go.

2. **to stand out** (nổi bật) [phrasal verb]

Meaning: to be much better or more important than somebody/something

Example: Her ability at mathematics makes her **stand out** from the rest of the class.

3. **steely** (cứng rắn, sắt đá) [adjective]

Meaning: having a strong, hard character

Example: During the race, her expression had a look of **steely** determination to win.

4. **save** (pha cứu bóng) [noun]

Meaning: an action by a goalkeeper that stops a goal being scored

Example: During the match, there were great **saves** by the goalkeepers of both teams.

5. **defence** (sự phòng ngự, phòng thủ, bảo vệ) [noun]

Meaning: the players in a sports team whose main role is to prevent the opponents from scoring a goal

Example: The success of the team was based on their strong **defence**.

6. **to push forward** (tiến về phía trước) [phrasal verb]

Meaning: to advance, despite difficulties or opposition

Example: The soldiers **pushed forward** to attack the enemy.

7. **avid** (cuồng nhiệt) [adjective]

Meaning: very enthusiastic about something (often a hobby)

Example: She has taken an **avid** interest in Western music.

8. **to dig deep into something** (tìm hiểu sâu hơn về cái gì) [expression]

Meaning: to search thoroughly for information

Example: You'll need **to dig deep into** the records to find the figures you want.

9. **perseverance** (sự kiên trì) [noun]

Meaning: the quality of continuing to try to achieve a particular aim despite difficulties

Example: They showed great **perseverance** in the face of the challenge of climbing the mountain.

**10. Describe a leisure activity you would like to do on or near the sea.**

## What it is

Once in a while when I get the chance to, I really do enjoy going to the beach. Every time I visit the beach, I love to sit down and watch the waves which often drives me into deep thoughts.

## How easy it would be and explain why you would like to do this activity.

I remember 2 years ago, I had a chance to visit Da Nang with my friends and stayed in a hotel by the beach. While my friends were busy building sand castles, I took off my shoes, rolled up my pants and then I walked along the shore, letting my feet sink into the wet sand, leaving impressions in my wake. I breathed in the salty air and let the water lapping at my feet carry all my worries away for a while. I then found a lounge chair with an umbrella to sit down and relax, a little far from the crowd, and dropped my shoes next to me.

I don't know why but there is this feeling of inner **tranquility** that comes with beach visits for me, I really can not explain it. Honestly, there is nothing not to love about sitting and just enjoying the scene.

Vocabulary:

**Tranquility (n)** the state of being quiet and peaceful

⇒ *an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity*

## 11. Describe a tall building in your city you like or dislike

You should say:

- Where it is
- What it is used for
- What it looks like
- And explain why you like it

Answer:

**(Where it is)**

I'd like to describe a modern structure that has left a **striking** impression on me since the first time I saw it. It's called the Bitexco Financial Tower which is the second tallest building in Vietnam with 68 floors. The building has a **prime location** right in the Ho Chi Minh center and can be recognized from any angle in the city.

**(What it is used for)**

Due to the rapid development of the economy in Saigon, this **skyscraper** is constructed to fulfill the need for international standard office space in the city. In addition, it also functions as a commercial and leisure center for **city dwellers** and tourists.

**(What it looks like)**

The Bitexco Financial Tower is covered with glass and steel with the design concept taken from the shape of a lotus bud, the Vietnamese national flower. Thus, this **high-rise building** is not only the symbol of rapid development but also represents Vietnamese culture. From a distance, the building is still huge, rising up to the sky.

**(And explain why you like it)**

I really like this building because of its unique structure and symbolic meaning making it definitively **stand out**. This is also the reason why nowadays it has become one of the **must-see** attractions in the city. You can enjoy the spectacular **panoramic view** overlooking the city from the upper part of the building.

**Good vocabulary:**

**Striking (adj):** interesting and unusual enough to attract attention

Ex: She bears a **striking resemblance** to her older sister.

**Prime (adj):** excellent, the best available

Ex: The store has a prime position at the entrance of the shopping center.

**Skyscraper (noun):** a very tall building in a city

Ex: The contractor is building a new eighty-story residential skyscraper in downtown Houston.

**High-rise (adj):** a building that is very tall and has a lot of floors

Ex: The city was overlooked by a ring of high-rise buildings.

**Stand out (phrasal verb):** to be easily seen; to be noticeable

Ex: She's the sort of person who **stands out in a crowd**.

**Must-see:** used to tell people that something is so good or interesting that they should see it.

Ex: Sydney is one of the world's must-see cities.

**Panoramic (adj):** with a view of a wide area of land

Ex: As my friend showed me his panoramic photo of the mountain, I could point out the entire mountain system and all of the valleys.

### Part 3:

1. How easy is it to find a place to live in your country?

Answer:

*(Give a direct answer to the question).* Well, finding a **residential area** in Vietnam is not so difficult. *(Explain your reason or reasons).* Anyone can find a place they want to live in, such as a house or an apartment. Thus, it **depends mostly on how** much they can pay to meet the basic residential requirements and where exactly they want to live. *(Give an example (often a personal example)).* Most of the time, those young adults on a **tight budget** like me, find it hard to buy a house because of the unaffordable prices so we usually choose a rental one. Wealthier people, by contrast, can purchase a house more easily.

**Good vocabulary:**

**Residential (adj):** suitable for living in; consisting of houses rather than factories or offices

Ex: Nictheroy is practically a **residential** suburb of Rio de Janeiro.



**Depend on how/ what (phrasal verb):** to be affected or decided by something

Ex: Whether we need more food depends on how many people turn up.

**Be on a tight budget (phrase):** doesn't have lot of money to spend

Ex: I'm on a tight budget this month, so I can't go out to dinner with you.

**Unaffordable (adj):** costing so much that people do not have enough money to pay for it

Ex: Health insurance is now unaffordable for many people.

2. Do you think it's better to rent or to buy a place to live in?

Answer:

*(Give a direct answer to the question).* Well, it is hard to give a **definitive** choice because both renting and buying a place to live have their own perks. However, my **priority** is always to buy a place to reside. *(Explain your reason or reasons).* Although in a short time, a rented accommodation may be reasonable, it costs a **substantial** amount of money in the long term and we will never get it back. *(Give an example (often a personal example)).* During the 4 years at university, for instance, I had to pay nearly VND 100 mill just for a small rental dorm. Being a house owner, by contrast, helps to save money and bring a **sense of satisfaction and ownership**.

**Good vocabulary:**

**Definitive (adj):** considered to be the best of its kind and almost impossible to improve

Ex: It's too early for a **definitive** answer.

**Priority (noun):** something that you think is more important than other things and should be dealt with first

Ex: Financial security was high on his **list of priorities**.

**Substantial (adj):** large in amount, value or importance

Ex: Substantial numbers of people support the reforms.

**Satisfaction (noun):** the good feeling that you have when you have achieved something or when something that you wanted to happen does happen; something that gives you this feeling

Ex: The company is trying to improve **customer satisfaction**.

**Ownership (noun):** the state of having or owning something such as property.

**Ex:** Do you have proof of ownership for this car? It looks stolen to me!

3. What are some of the pleasures involved in making a home for ourselves?

Answer:

*(Give a direct answer to the question).* I suppose that making a home allows **house-hunters** to satisfy their wishes and demands for an ideal living place. *(Explain your reason or reasons).* Some people prefer buying old houses and **doing them up** to give them a new lease of life. For example, I'm always **dreaming of** changing and redecorating my **old-fashioned** house in a Gothic style design fitted with all the **home comforts**. I think it would be very exciting and satisfying to do all that I want to create a **homey ambiance** for my living space. *(Explain the opposite or alternative).* If people did not have the desire to make their own home and live in the same space, life would be very boring and tedious.

**Good vocabulary:**

**House-hunters (noun):** a person who is looking for a house to buy

Ex: Many house-hunters spend a lot of time looking to buy their ideal house.

**Do up (phrasal verb):** to repair and decorate a house, etc.

Ex: He makes money by buying old houses and doing them up.

**Dream (verb):** to imagine and think about something that you would like to happen

Ex: She dreams of running her own business.

**Old-fashioned (adj):** not modern; no longer fashionable

Ex: The house was dull, old-fashioned and in a bad condition.

**Home comforts:** things in a house that make it comfortable

Ex: Their apartment is devoid of all home comforts.

**Homey (adj):** pleasant and comfortable, like home

Ex: The hotel had a nice, homey atmosphere.

**Ambiance (noun):** the character and atmosphere of a place

Ex: The gentle color scheme creates a relaxing ambiance.

12. Describe an occasion when many people were smiling

You should say:

When it happened

What happened

And explain why many people were smiling

### **When it happened**

It was about a couple of years ago when one of my cousins was getting married. All of our family members, relatives and many other distinguished guests had come to attend the marriage ceremony.

### **What happened**

What I vividly remember is wherever I looked, I saw smiling people. I think this is because smiling is contagious. When you see someone smile at you, even if you don't know who the person is, you can't help smiling back.

### **And explain why many people were smiling**

The main reason why everyone was smiling at the wedding is that the atmosphere was warm and everyone was in a good mood. The ceremony was very beautiful and the bride was simply **irresistible**. The venue was more than perfect as it is a nice spot by the lake, surrounded by **woodland**. So, the guests were genuinely happy. By the time we gathered together for a group shot, we all were so happy that we had very broad smiles on our faces.

Vocabulary:

**Irresistible (adj)** so attractive that you feel you must have it

⇒ *On such a hot day, the water was irresistible*

**Woodland (n)** an area of land that is covered with trees

⇒ *The house is fringed by fields and woodlands.*

### 13. Describe a time when you helped your friend

You should say:

- Where you helped him or her
- Why you helped
- How you helped
- And how you felt about it

**(Where you helped him or her)** Ignoring someone who is in need of help is considered as **the height of bad manners**, I believe. Therefore, I try to give others a hand whenever I can. Helping my classmate to improve his English proficiency has been one of the most successful and meaningful achievements I've ever had in my life. My classmate, John, struggled with every single English test due to his low level of language **command**. It can be said that John's exposure to English was too little for him to have the chance to practice his skills, the reason for which was probably his financial background. I was **assigned** to taking the responsibility of tutoring him by the teacher. I usually helped John in cafés. However, sometimes we also went to the parks where there were foreigners for him to practice with.

**(Why you helped them)** I love helping others. That's the first reason. Another reason is that English has been of great significance to me, so I believe that if John can develop a strong command of English, he will open up a new chapter in his life.

**(How you helped them)** John and I went to a café each weekend in order to review all the knowledge acquired during the whole week. John offered to treat me but as I could recognise his suffering from hardship, we **reached a consensus** on this and agreed that we would **take turns** to treat each other. During week days, we would go to the park in which an immense number of foreigners jogged so that John could have the chance to

practice his listening and speaking skills, as well as **expand his vocabulary**. At weekends, as aforementioned, we would review the phrases he had learned throughout the whole week so that they would be **imprinted on his memory** clearly and always be ready for use.

(**And explain how you felt about it**) And finally, my belief has **turned out** to be true, at least in the case of John. He emerged as one of the best performers in class. Also, he was able to get a job in this field, which ensured his quality of life and improved his living standards as he was able to **feed** himself at the age of 17. John's considerable success made me feel more than just happy and proud. This is indeed one of the few things in which I take pride.

### **Vocabulary from education:**

1. **Command** (n): một lượng kiến thức về môn học/ngôn ngữ

Example: She has an impressive **command** of the English language.

2. **Expand sb's vocabulary** (phrase): mở rộng vốn từ.

Example: Reading books plays a pivotal role in **expanding your vocabulary**.

Đọc sách đóng vai trò quan trọng trong việc mở rộng vốn từ.

### **Vocabulary:**

3. **The height of something** (phrase): đỉnh cao của cái gì đó.

Example: She was at **the height of** her career when they met.

Cô ấy đang trên đỉnh cao của sự nghiệp khi họ gặp nhau.

Cô ấy có lượng kiến thức Anh ngữ tuyệt vời.

4. **Assign** (v): ra nhiệm vụ

Example: UN troops were **assigned** the task of rebuilding the hospital.

Quân đội của Liên Hợp Quốc được ra nhiệm vụ là xây lại bệnh viện.

5. **Reach a consensus on sth** (phrase): thỏa thuận được về cái gì đó.

Example: Could we reach a consensus on this matter? Let's take a vote.

Liệu chúng ta có thể thỏa thuận chung được về vấn đề này không? Hãy bầu chọn đi.

6. **Take turns** (phrase): theo lượt

Example: The mothers in our group **take turns** driving the children to school.

Những người mẹ trong nhóm chúng tôi theo lượt chở tụi nhỏ đến trường.

7. **Imprint** (phrase): ghi vào.

Example: That look of grief would be **imprinted** on her mind forever.

Cái nhìn đầy giận giữ đó sẽ bị ghi vào trí nhớ của cô ấy mãi mãi.

8. **Turn out** (phrase): thành ra

Example: The truth turned out to be stranger than we had expected.

Sự thật thành ra lạ hơn so với những gì chúng tôi dự đoán.

9. **Feed oneself** (phrase): nuôi sống ai đó

Example: Earning 10.000 dollars per month, he is able to **feed** himself and his whole family.

Với 10.000 kiếm được mỗi tháng, anh ấy có khả năng nuôi sống chính mình và cả gia đình.

### **Part 3**

#### **1. Should parents help their kids in their homework?**

It is **essential** that parents help their children with homework that is within their capabilities instead of sending them to tuition classes. This can act as an incentive for children to study independently instead of relying too much on their teachers, thus sharpening their self-studying skills.

#### **2. What kind of advice should parents give their children?**

Parents should give their children advice on how to **learn things by heart** effectively and tell them to not to **skip class** so as not to **fall behind with their studies**. Moreover,

if possible, parents should help their children answer questions that are beyond their children's capabilities.

### 3. Should parents give children advice? Why?

Definitely yes, parents should give their children advice without **losing their temper**. I believe that parents' advice, if given in a correct way, will be instrumental in transforming them into useful members of society and **keep social evils off**.

### 4. Can kids provide any help to parents?

Yes of course. They can share **household chores** with their parents. Also, children can assist their parents with groceries when their parents are too busy with their work.

#### **Vocabulary from education:**

#### 1. **To learn by heart** (phrase): học thuộc lòng

Example: My father can still recite the poems he learned by heart at school.

Bố tôi vẫn có thể đọc lại các bài thơ mà ông ấy học thuộc lòng ở trường

#### 2. **Skip class** (phrase): cúp tiết

Example: I **skipped** class and went to the park instead.

Tôi cúp tiết và thay vào đó đi đến công viên.

#### 3. **Fall behind with studies** (phrase): học tuột dốc

Example: He was ill for six weeks and fell behind with his studies.

Anh ấy bị ốm 6 tuần và học bị tuột lại với tiến độ trên trường.

#### **Other vocabulary:**

#### 1. **Keep something off** (phrase): tránh cái gì đó

Example: Wear a hat to keep the sun off

Đội mũ để tránh ánh nắng.

#### 2. **Household chores** (phrase): chia sẻ việc nhà

Example: By the time he'd finished all the household **chores** it was mid-afternoon.

Vào lúc anh ấy xong hết việc nhà, trời đã giữa trưa.

3. **Lose temper** (phrase): mất bình tĩnh

Example: The children behaved so badly that I lost **my temper**.

Những đứa trẻ quá quậy đến nỗi tôi mất bình tĩnh.

**14. Describe an article on health you read on magazine or the internet**

**(What it was)** Health is emerging as one of the most popular topics of magazines and newspapers today. Articles on health have been **all the rage** these days, one of the most prominent ones was an extract of a book on the use of tretinoin in treating skin problems.

**(Where you read it)** I **stumbled on** this article on Facebook. I'm a member of a group which reviews beauty and cosmetics. Someone, who appeared to be a dermatologist, shared this article. It was such a **coincidence** that I was also **on medication** using tretinoin to treat acne.

**(Why you read it)** Thus, I decided to spend a whole day off reading this article and finding other articles about tretinoin so as to check the authenticity of the article. I wanted to read this article because I heard that this substance was a **double-edged** sword because if you use it in a correct way, it'll deliver better-than-expected results. If you fail to use it properly, you'll likely end up having burnt and flaky skin.

**(And how you felt about it)** I believe that this article changed my life as it transformed my acne-prone skin into healthier skin. Also, it also helped me **set aside** a large amount of money otherwise spent on night skincare products as I'm not supposed to use any other products when using tretinoin to maximise the strength of it.

**Vocabulary from *health*:**

1. **To be on medication** (phrase): đang uống thuốc

Example: He is currently **on/taking medication** for his heart.



Hiện nay thì anh ấy đang uống thuốc chữa bệnh tim.

### Other vocabulary:

#### 1. **To be all the rage** (idiom): rất phổ biến

Example: In China, Mercedes-Benz cars are **all the rage** among the moneyed elite.

Ở Trung Quốc, xe Mercedes-Benz rất phổ biến ở giới thượng lưu nhiều tiền.

#### 2. **To stumble across/on** (phrase): vô tình thấy cái gì đó.

Example: Look at what I **stumbled across/on** at the flea market!

Hãy nhìn coi mình thấy cái gì ở ngoài chợ trời nè!

#### 3. **Coincidence** (n): sự trùng hợp

Example: You chose exactly the same wallpaper as us - **what a coincidence!**

Bạn có cái tấm dán tường y chang chúng tôi – thực sự là một sự trùng hợp!

#### 4. **Double-edged** (adj): hai mặt

Example: The government's programme to grow cash crops for export is a **double-edged sword** because it has created a local food shortage.

Chương trình chính phủ trồng các sản phẩm nông nghiệp để xuất khẩu là một con dao hai lưỡi/hai mặt vì nó tạo ra sự thiếu hụt thực phẩm trong nước.

#### 5. **To set aside** (phrasal verb): dành

Example: He **sets aside** some time every day to read to his children.

Anh ấy dành một số thời gian mỗi ngày để đọc sách cho con.

### Part 3

#### 1. **What can governments do to improve people's health?**

It is common knowledge that governments play an integral role in people's health, because they can **formulate essential policies** that are beneficial for the well-being of their citizens. For example, food should be subject to **scrutiny** so as to ensure safety for

consumption. Also, heavy fines should be imposed on companies that **dump** chemical waste into water bodies.

## 2. What activities can school organize for children to keep fit?

There are a wide range of activities school can organise. For example, Singapore's education system requires every student to participate in at least one sport as a requirement for graduation. Also, on a smaller scale, classes can organise team-building activities so as to improve the physical health of their members.

## 3. How can you tell whether a website is reliable or not?

The reliability of websites has sparked many **boisterous** debates for years. To the best of my experience, a website is reliable if it is recognised by the government, such as Dân Trí, Tuổi Trẻ, CNN or the Straits Times. Also, a simpler way to check the reliability of a website is its ability to use a language, in terms of grammar, coherence and cohesion, lexical resource.

## 4. Do you think people are healthier now than in the past?

I believe people are healthier now in the past **in the sense that** life expectancy of people is longer than ever. Also, this can be **attributed** to the advances and breakthroughs witnessed in the medical field.

### Vocabulary:

#### 1. To formulate a policy (phrase): tạo ra một chính sách

Example: The Administration said it was **formulating** a **new policy** for the Middle East.

Chính quyền cho biết họ đang xây dựng một chính sách mới cho Trung Đông.

#### 2. Scrutiny (n): sự xem xét/kiểm tra kỹ lưỡng

Example: The government's record will **be subjected to/come under** (close) **scrutiny** in the weeks before the election.

Hồ sơ chính phủ sẽ phải chịu sự kiểm tra chặt chẽ trong vài tuần trước cuộc bầu cử.

3. **To dump** (v): trút/đổ xuống

Example: He came in with four shopping bags and **dumped** them on the table.

Anh ta vào nhà với bốn túi mua sắm và trút xuống trên cái bàn.

4. **Boisterous** (adj): ồn ào/không kiểm soát

Example: The audience burst into **boisterous** laughter.

Khán giả bật cười một cách ồn ào/không kiểm soát.

5. **in a sense that ...**: ở khía cạnh là ...

Example: It's voluntary **in the sense that** the government will not require anyone to take the test

Đây là một bài kiểm tra tùy ý, ở khía cạnh là chính phủ không bắt buộc ai phải làm nó.

6. **To be attributed to something** (phrase): được gây ra bởi cái gì

Example: Her success can **be attributed to** three main factors.

Sự thành công của cô ấy được gây ra bởi ba yếu tố chính.

### **15. Describe a time when you shared something with others (or a another person)**

You should say:

What you shared

Why you shared it

And explain how you felt about sharing it

#### **What you shared**

Here I would like to talk about a thing which I have shared with my friends. When I was a student at University, I once shared my laptop with one of my classmates: Lisa.

#### **Why you shared it**

I remember that time, my class teacher gave us a presentation and he suggested to us that we should prepare it with the help of a computer. I had my laptop. But unfortunately,

Lisa was having her laptop repaired at a local computer store for some days. She was so worried because she was unable to prepare it. Then I decided to help her. We had to prepare this presentation in 4 days. I prepared my presentation quickly with the help of my laptop in 2 days and then gave my laptop to Lisa to help her. So, she also prepared the given presentation on time. On the day of the class presentation, we both presented it in front of the whole class one by one. We both got **compliments** from our teacher. Lisa got an A+ grade in it.

### **And explain how you felt about sharing it**

After that, Lisa thanked me for sharing a laptop with her. That was the time when I shared my laptop with my friends which helped me a lot to make a strong relationship with Lisa which has lasted up to now.

Vocabulary:

**Compliment (n)** a comment that expresses praise or approval of somebody

⇒ *It's a **great compliment** to be asked to do the job.*

## **16. Describe an activity you often enjoy doing when your work or school day ends**

You should say:

- what you do
- how often you do it
- and explain why you like to do this activity

**(what you do)** What I like to do in my free time after school is reading. I have had this hobby since grade 7 in 2013. From then on, I have spent a lot of money on my hobby, and I've read more than 70 books, which means that I read 10 books a year **on average**.

**(how often I do it)** Since I do so many extracurricular activities **in hopes of** sharpening my skills, as well as **putting what I've learned from reading into practice**, I hardly have time to read regularly. But normally, I try to read at least 15 minutes every night before going to bed. I also spend every Sunday afternoon reading. I believe that self-help books can **really help** my life and studies, so I often read self-help books to make me a better person, although they are not as fun to read as fiction.

**(why I like to do this activity)** There are two main reasons I like reading. First, books **pave the way** to success if used correctly. By reading books, my knowledge is always **on the rise**, which I believe will help me pursue excellence. Second, I find books especially helpful whenever I am **down in the dumps**. When I'm **engrossed in** books, which are a great source of inspiration and motivation, I can easily relieve myself of stress and negative attitudes.

1. **To allocate** (n): dành ra

Example: The government is **allocating** £10 million **for** health education.

Chính phủ sẽ dành ra 10 triệu Bảng Anh cho giáo dục y tế.

2. **On average** (phrase): trung bình

Example: **On average**, people who don't smoke are healthier than people who do.

Nhìn về mặt trung bình, những người không hút thuốc sẽ khỏe mạnh hơn những người hút thuốc.

3. **In hopes of something** (phrase): với ước vọng gì đó.

Example: Police are carrying out house-to-house enquiries **in the hope of finding** the missing girl.

Cảnh sát đang điều tra từng nhà với hi vọng sẽ tìm ra cô gái bị mất tích

4. **To put something into practice/action** (phrase): đưa cái gì đó vào hiện thực.

Example: Our plans aren't quite ready to be **put into action**.

Các kế hoạch của chúng tôi chưa sẵn sàng để được đưa vào hiện thực.

5. **To be of assistance** (phrase) = help someone: giúp đỡ

Example: Can I **be of assistance**?

Tôi có thể giúp đỡ được gì không?

6. **Strive** (v): cố gắng rất nhiều để đạt được cái gì đó.

We **strive** to be accurate, but some mistakes are inevitable.

Chúng tôi rất cố gắng để chính xác, nhưng mà lỗi sai thì đương nhiên không thể tránh được.

7. **To pave the way for/to something** (phrase): dẫn đường tới cái gì đó.

Scientists hope that data from the probe will **pave the way for** a more detailed exploration of Mars.

Các nhà khoa học hi vọng rằng dữ liệu từ cuộc thăm dò sẽ dẫn đến sự hiểu biết chi tiết hơn về Sao Hỏa.

8. **To be on the rise** (phrase): tăng

Police say that youth crime is **on the rise** again.

Cảnh sát cho rằng trẻ em vướng vào tội phạm đang tăng trở lại.

9. **To be down in the dumps** (idiom): buồn

She's a bit down in the dumps because she failed one of her exams.

Cô ấy khá buồn vì bị rớt một môn trong kì thi.

10. **To be engrossed by/in something**: say mê vào cái gì đó.

She was so **engrossed by/in** the book that she forgot the cookies in the oven.

Cô ấy quá say mê với cuốn sách mà quên luôn mấy cái bánh đang nướng trong lò.

### **PART 3: FLEXIBLE WORK TIME**

**What are the advantages and disadvantages of flexible work time?**

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* Intended to attract better talent and **motivate** employees, flexitime has both advantages and disadvantages. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* On the one hand, if employees are entitled to a flexible work schedule, they are able to maintain a better work/life balance. *(Give an example (often a personal example))* Whether it means attending their child's parent-teacher conferences, picking them up from school, or taking up yoga on Thursday afternoons, it's no secret that having a little extra time in your working week for yourself and your family makes a mountain of difference. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* On the other hand, employees who **thrive** in an office environment may find it difficult to work when his **colleagues** don't hold the same schedule. *(Give an example (often a personal example))* In team-

oriented departments, it may be nearly impossible to **implement** flexible working schedules as teams must meet almost daily.

### **How do you usually spend your free time?**

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* Well, I do quite a lot of sport actually. Whenever my free time is available, I go swimming to **relieve** myself from the pressure of work and study. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* You probably know that swimming is one of the healthiest sports because it strengthens all of the **muscles** equally. I also cycle to work when I can, as a way to **stay lean**. Apart from that, I used to do a lot of reading and photography. *(Explain the opposite or alternative)* Unfortunately, at the moment, the workload I shoulder is highly **demanding**, so quality free time is quite an unfamiliar term for me.

### **Do young people in your country work longer hours now than in the past?**

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* Yes, the case is probably so for most young adults nowadays. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* With employment opportunities for young people still **thin on the ground**, employees might be tempted to make themselves available 24/7. In a society where people whose careers have achieved **resounding** success are treated with respect and appreciation, if not reverence, young adults have no choice but overwork. *(Give an example (often a personal example))* Apart from the standard working hours, they are constantly connected to work through their smartphones and digital devices. *(Explain the opposite or alternative)* Yet, extra desk time doesn't necessarily translate to better **productivity**. A decent **work ethic** actually comes from a genuine passion for the job.

### Vocabulary:

**motivate** [v]: to make someone want to do something well: động viên

Eg: Teaching is all about motivating people to learn.

**thrive** [v]: to grow, develop, or be successful: phát triển

Eg: By serving and creating a healthy-whole community, the businesses would naturally thrive.

**colleague** [n]: one of a group of people who work together: đồng nghiệp

Eg: We're having a small drinks party for one of our colleagues who's leaving next week.

**implement** [v]: to start using a plan or system: thi hành

Eg: Local councils will be given some leeway as to how they implement the legislation.

**relieve** [v]: to make an unpleasant feeling, such as pain or worry, less strong: xoa dịu

Eg: Rubbing dock leaves on nettle stings helps to relieve the pain.

**muscle** [n]: one of many tissues in the body that can tighten and relax to produce movement: cơ

Eg: These exercises build muscle and increase stamina.

**stay lean** [expression]: stay healthy and fit: cân đối, khỏe mạnh

Eg: Staying lean is a challenge for office employees.

**demanding** [adj]: needing a lot of time, attention, or energy: đòi hỏi cao

Eg: The last part of a piece of music is often more technically demanding than the rest.

**thin on the ground** [expression]: to exist only in small numbers or amounts: ít

Eg: Traditional bookshops are thin on the ground these days.

**resounding** [adj]: very great: xuất sắc, vang dội

Eg: The plan was a resounding success.

**productivity** [n]: the rate at which a company or country makes goods, usually judged in connection with the number of people and the amount of materials necessary to produce the goods: năng suất

Eg: Studies show that if a working environment is pleasant, productivity increases.

**work ethic** [n]: a belief that hard work and diligence have a moral benefit and an inherent ability, virtue or value to strengthen character and individual abilities: đạo đức nghề nghiệp

Eg: When interviewing prospective employees and doing reference checks, I exert great effort to find out about their past work ethics.



## 17. Describe a time when you had a problem with using the computer.

- When it happened
- Where it happened
- Why the computer couldn't work
- And explain how you solved the problem at last

**(When it happened)** I had the honour of working as a front desk agent at one of the most beautiful resorts in Southeast Asia named JW Marriott Phu Quoc Emerald Bay in July 2020. As a **front desk** agent, I relied on the computer a lot as it was the place in which all the information was stored. I was preparing for the arrival of Mr. Barack Obama while I found out that the computer I was using had suffered from a major **breakdown**.

**(Where it was)** The computer was located right at the front desk of the resort, which was the hub of the whole resort. I was **on edge** and didn't know how I could check Mr. Obama in with the computer being broken like this. Everything just messed up and I lost my own control and temper, starting to **pour scorn on** IT associates as well as some of my front desk colleagues.

**(Why the computer couldn't work)** After **working around** the problem, I managed to solve the issue just 10 minutes before the arrival of Mr. Obama to the resort. I came to the realization that the OPERA software, which was the property management system, **crashed**, causing the whole computer to stop working as well. It took me quite a long time to restart the computer as well as the software.

**(And explain how you solved the problem at last)** I quickly **got to the root** of the problem. Usually, for cases like this, there is no other choice but to press the start button on the PC until the computer is shut down and restarts. I used this way and it turned out relatively successfully.

Vocabulary:

1. Front desk agent (n): nhân viên lễ tân

A front desk agent is responsible for checking in and checking out hotel guests.

Nhân viên lễ tân có nhiệm vụ check in và check out khách lưu trú.

2. Breakdown (n): sự cố

*Their car trip was a disaster – they had frequent breakdowns and never reached their destination.*

*Chuyến du lịch bằng ô tô của họ là một thảm họa vì những sự cố liên tục và họ đã không đến được đích.*

3. **to be on edge** (phrase): lo lắng

Is something wrong? You seem a bit on edge this morning.

Có gì đó không ổn hả? Bạn trông có vẻ lo lắng sáng nay.

4. **to pour scorn on something/someone** (idiom): chửi ai đó/cái gì đó

Critics of the president have been pouring scorn on the plan ever since it was first proposed.

Các nhà phê bình của tổng thống liên tục mắng nhiếc cái kế hoạch từ khi nó được đưa ra lần đầu tiên.

5. Crash (v): bị hư

*My laptop's crashed again.*

Laptop của tôi lại hư nữa rồi.

6. Root (n): nguyên nhân gốc rễ

*We must **get to the root of** (= discover the cause of) this problem.*

Chúng ta cần phải tìm ra nguyên nhân gốc rễ của vấn đề.

18. Describe a polite person you know.

You should say:

**Who he/she is**

In fact, I have met a number of polite persons in my life, and picking just one of them as the politest person is not going to be an easy thing. Anyway, the person, I want to talk about, is one of my neighbors. His name is Henry.

***How you knew him/her***

I first met him after he moved to our neighborhood around 7 years ago. One day my mother had me go to his home to deliver some homemade cookies and food for a major festival. The way he greeted and thanked me was simply amazing. I was around 17-18 years old but he treated me as if I was a more mature and experienced person.

***What he/she is like***

Well, he is a gentleman and a sober person. Almost everyone in our neighborhood likes him for his polite manner. He is a great problem solver and has a natural gift for Mathematics. He often helps children around our area in studying Math.

***And explain why you think he/she is polite***

We all have our own perceptions about polite persons and in my opinion, he is a perfect example of how people can be polite whilst being very brave, intelligent and righteous.

Part 3

***What's the standard of being polite?***

Well, I think politeness requires good intentions and cultural awareness. For example, opening the door for others, smiling, nodding, waving, offering to help carry something, maintaining personal space, keeping compliments short, sincere and non-sexual are what is considered to be politeness.

***What behavior will be regarded as impolite?***

Impolite behavior means you have been rude to someone by violating accepted standards of courteous behavior within a culture like: not responding to a personal greeting, chewing your food with your mouth open, or pushing in front of someone in line.



## 19. Describe an art or craft activity you did when you were at school

You should say:

What it was

What you did for this activity

Who you did it with

And explain how you felt about this activity.

### *(What it was)*

Today, I'm going to tell you about origami- a **compelling** craft activity organized in my primary school when I was young. At its **essence**, origami is the traditional Japanese activity of folding elaborately designed paper into a myriad of shapes, typically plants, animals, and other living things. Part of what makes origami unique is the fact that it simply requires a piece of paper and creative imagination. The word **derives from** the Japanese word 'oru' which means "to fold", and 'kami' which means "paper".

### *(What you did for this activity?)*

To participate in this craft activity, I had to learn the basics of origami. In fact, creating an origami from scratch can be very difficult. Therefore, the teacher showed us what the finished product looks like and patiently helped us follow the directions. I spent about 2 hours memorizing the techniques of paper folding and the combination of colours, shapes and sizes of paper. Gradually, I quickly **grew accustomed to** the paper folding, it was much less **cumbersome** for us once we got the hang of it.

*(Who you did it with?)*

At first, the majority of my classmates passionately **embraced** the origami class. But at the end of the day, few of them were able to hold their attention. Actually, every one in class was tired and **demotivated** by the difficulties of origami. On the other hand, I was still persistent with this artistic work and because I also thought that it would be a chance for me to really produce something. Like group singing, hand games, and dancing, the pleasure comes in recreating the finished product and sharing it with others.

*(And explain how you felt about this activity.)*

Well, having experienced this challenging yet delightful activity, I believe that origami definitely helps in developing a child's creativity, builds their **willpower** to complete whatever they start, in other words, stay determined. For many students, it engenders a sense of **triumph** in one's work, the ability to focus energy, and increased self-esteem. It's a world of creativity and imagination in itself; a medium to increase the **dexterity** of little hands.

Vocabulary:

28. **compelling** [adj]: evoking interest, attention, or admiration in a powerfully irresistible way: hấp dẫn, thú vị

Eg: She gave a compelling and intensely dramatic performance.

29. **essence** [adj]: the basic meaning or importance of something: bản chất

Eg: The essence of his argument was that education should continue throughout life.

30. **(to) derive** [v]: to get something from something: có được, lấy được

Eg: He derived great pleasure from painting.

31. **(be)/ grow accustomed to** [expression]: familiar with something: trở nên quen với

Eg: She quickly became accustomed to his messy ways.

32. **cumbersome** [adj]: difficult to do or manage and taking a lot of time and effort: nhọc nhằn, khó khăn

Eg: Critics say that the process for amending the Constitution is cumbersome, but others defend it.

33. **embrace** [v]: to accept something with great interest or enthusiasm: đón nhận

Eg: He has wholeheartedly embraced life in south Louisiana.

34. **demotivate** [v]: to make someone less enthusiastic about sth: làm nhụt chí

Eg: She was very demotivated by being told she had little chance of being promoted.

35. **willpower** [n]: the ability to control your own thoughts and the way in which you behave: ý chí

Eg: It took a lot of willpower to stay calm.

36. **triumph** [v]: to have a very great success or victory: chiến thắng

Eg: I believe that sooner or later good must triumph over evil.

37. **dexterity** [n]: the ability to use the hands skillfully in doing something: sự khéo léo

Eg: Playing with blocks improves a child's manual dexterity.

## 20. Describe a law about environment you like to see in the future

You should say:

What this law would be about and how it will take effects?

Why it is important to have this law?

And what changes will happen because of this law?

*(What this law would be about and how it will take effects?)*

Today, I would like to talk about a law about the environment that I would like to see being **implemented** and enforced in my country in the future. Practically, big cities in my nation such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh are developing at a rapid rate, economically.

Such low quality of air in such cities is caused by construction, a growing number of cars and motorcycles and heavy industry. For most periods of the day, the sky in these two cities is **hazy**. Only in the evening, does air quality slightly improve but remains at an unhealthy level, with visible dense haze **engulfing** the entire city. Therefore, I hope that there will be some environmental laws introduced by government to close or move these factories to other remote, suburban areas.

*(Why it is important to have this law?)*

**Needless to say**, such dangerous levels of pollution exert adverse impacts on people's lives **appreciably**. Due to the toxic air quality here, children, seniors and individuals with respiratory and heart diseases have to avoid sustained and high-intensity outdoor exercise, which presents them with lots of **discomfort**. So I feel that a strict pollution control policy can force coal-fired power plants and factories to close in the future. Only by doing this with **determination** and utter commitment could we enjoy more fresh air in the city.

*(And what changes will happen because of this law)*

The changes resulting from this law is worthy of our **anticipation**. From my perspective, the further factories are located from the city, the better the overall quality of the environment. Once the dire **degradation** in air quality is properly controlled, residents will enjoy a much cleaner atmosphere and improved health. The current state of air pollution is not only causing acute respiratory diseases, but also worsening the situation for those with **chronic** diseases. With enhanced physical and mental health, we will have more opportunities to do outdoor activities and be frequently bathed in warm sunshine and clean air.

Vocabulary:

1. **implement** [v]: to start using a plan or system: triển khai thực hiện

Eg: The changes to the national health system will be implemented next year.

2. **hazy** [adj]: Hazy air or weather is not clear, especially because of heat: mù sương

Eg: Daniel is extremely sensitive to hazy weather.

3. **engulf** [v]: to surround and cover something or someone completely: bao phủ, nhấn chìm

Eg: Floodwaters engulfed midwestern farmlands.

4. **needless to say** [expression]: of course: dĩ nhiên, tất nhiên

Eg: Needless to say, he'll be off work for a while.

5. **appreciably** [adv]: considerably: đáng kể

Eg: The risk of infection is appreciably higher among children.

6. **discomfort** [n]: the feeling of not being comfortable, either from a physical cause or from a situation, or something that causes this feeling: sự khó chịu

Eg: It's clear that both parties have some degree of discomfort with the idea.

7. **determination** [n]: the quality that makes you continue trying to do sth : quyết tâm

Eg: He fought the illness with courage and determination.

8. **anticipation** [n]: a feeling of excitement about something that is going to happen in the near future: sự mong chờ

Eg: As with most pleasures, it's not so much the experience itself as the anticipation that is enjoyable.

9. **degradation** [n]: the process by which something is made worse, esp. the quality of land: sự giảm chất lượng, suy thoái

Eg: One of the effects of environmental degradation is the absence of fish in that river.

10. **chronic** [adj]: (esp. of a disease or something bad) continuing for a long time: kinh niên

Eg: Mr. George is resigning because of chronic heart disease.

## 21. Describe a natural talent you want to improve (like sports, music).

You should say:

What is it?



When you discovered it?  
How do you want to improve it?  
and explain how you will feel after improving it.

*(What is it?)*

Honestly, there are several natural skills that I would love to improve to be a more **well-rounded** individual. Today, I'm going to describe a specific skill for which I consider that there is room for improvement. It is public speaking, which I have wanted to improve **by any means** in the interest of my **career prospects**.

*(When you discovered it?)*

Looking back, I really don't remember how the thought of improving this skill **sprang to mind**, but I'm glad it did. A few weeks ago, our class was required to present in front of all the classmates to talk for about 3 minutes about their favorite celebrity. I am quite reserved by nature and can hardly feel **at ease** in public, so I feel my public speaking is obviously **inadequate**.

*(How do you want to improve it?)*

Having gathered all of my determination, I discussed this with my teacher, and he suggested to me a few tips to improve it. He told me that becoming a competent public speaker means engaging your audience and retaining its attention. My teacher focused on 3 main things for me to improve, which include: verbal delivery (pitch, volume, pace, emphasis, etc.), physical delivery (stance, movement, facial expressions and use of hands), and content. What he taught me was **enlightening** and **motivational** at the same time, which gave me the incentive to overcome my speaking hesitancy.

*(And explain how you will feel after improving it)*

I believe my future improvements in public speaking will give me a great sense of **contentment**. With thorough preparation and practice, I think anyone can overcome their nervousness and perform exceptionally well. The more you push yourself to speak

in front of others, the better you'll become, and the more confidence you'll have. Consistent practice in public speaking will always be **worth your while**.

Vocabulary:

38. **well-rounded** [adj]: involving or having experience in a wide range of ideas or activities: toàn diện

Eg: She describes herself as a "well-rounded individual" who works hard but has a varied social life.

39. **by any means** [expression]: at any costs: bằng bất cứ giá nào

Eg: We need to court that big investor by any means, so shameless flattery is a fine place to start.

40. **career prospect** [n]: the probability or chance for future success in a profession: triển vọng nghề nghiệp

Eg: The training awards can improve career prospects for trainees and apprentices.

41. **spring to mind** [expression]: to come quickly into your mind: hiện ra trong tâm trí

Eg: Say the word "Australia" and a vision of beaches and blue seas immediately springs to mind.

42. **at ease** [expression]: relaxed: thư giãn

Eg: She soon put/set me at ease (= made me relaxed).

43. **inadequate** [adj]: not good enough or too low in quality: không đủ

Eg: This work is woefully (= extremely) inadequate - you'll have to do it again.

44. **enlightening** [adj]: giving you more information and understanding of something: giúp khai sáng

Eg: That was a very enlightening programme.

45. **motivational** [adj]: making sb want to do sth : có tính khích lệ

Eg: Her motivational support gives him strength to pass the difficult exam.

46. **contentment** [n]: a feeling of happiness and satisfaction: sự thỏa mãn

## 22. Describe local news that was interesting to you

You should say:

What the news was about

When you got this news

And explain why the local news was interesting to you

*(What the news was about)*

I'm going to describe local news that was interesting to me. The weather of my locality has been experiencing serious **turbulence** these days, which is only about a week ahead of the summer holiday. It has been raining for the past few days which has intruded on our ordinary life **to a great extent**. Therefore, when I watched the daily weather forecast on TV informing that the weather would be okay in the next month, with sunlight and warmth, I felt great joy inside me.

*(When you got this news)*

Actually, the rainy season has become one of the **specialties** of my ancient city. Due to the foul weather and heavy rain, life in the city has been standing still. It has been immensely uncomfortable for most residents to go out and even work in such heavy **showers**. Yesterday, while I was having dinner with my family, we felt a sense of relief to hear on the local channel about the beautiful weather of our city during this summer holiday, because we were planning on a summer vacation. The rainy season last summer **fell short of our expectations**, so I really expected a **balmy** summer this year.

*(And explain why the local news was interesting to you)*

The most important thing is that if the weather is stable and nice as described, people in my city will be able to enjoy their summer holiday to the fullest. Amid the **unfavorable** weather, everybody seems to be **sluggish** and demotivated. To be honest, the thought of being forced to repeat tasks in the rain virtually exhausts me and I'm really scared that

the situation would ruin my precious days off of the year. So, when the information was officially **revealed**, I became cheerful. I plan to do a lot of activities during this long break in an **upbeat** mood.

Vocabulary:

47. **turbulence** [n]: a state of confusion without any order: sự hỗn loạn

Eg: The era was characterized by political and cultural turbulence.

48. **to a great extent** [expression]: virtually, a great deal: rất nhiều

Eg: Divisions of property, to a great extent, depended on the family's size and economic wealth.

49. **specialty** [n]: a product that is unusually good in a particular place: đặc sản

Eg: Paella is the specialty of the house at this restaurant.

50. **shower** [n]: a short period of rain or snow: cơn mưa

Eg: There will be thundery/wintry showers over many parts of the country.

51. **falling short of** [expression]: to be less than the amount or standard that is needed or that you want: không đạt tới

Eg: He would sack any of his staff who fell short of his high standards.

52. **balmy** [adj]: (of the weather) pleasantly warm.: dễ chịu

Eg: The exhibition was held in the balmy days of late summer.

53. **unfavorable** [adj]: (of winds or weather) tending to hinder or oppose: không thuận lợi

Eg: The play received generally unfavorable reviews.

54. **sluggish** [adj]: moving or operating more slowly than usual and with less energy or power: uể oải, chậm chạp

Eg: Something is wrong with the car - the engine feels sluggish.

55. **reveal** [v]: to allow something to be seen that, until then, had been hidden: tiết lộ

Eg: The journalist refused to reveal her sources.

56. **upbeat** [adj]: full of hope, happiness, and good feelings: lạc quan, vui vẻ

Eg: Live music and a parade set an upbeat mood for the official opening.

## 23. Describe a company or organisation where you live which employs a lot of people

You should say:

What type of company it is

How many people work there

What type of qualification they require

*(What type of company it is?)*

Thank you for this opportunity to let me talk about a company in my hometown that employs a **sizeable** number of people from the locality. The company's name is quite familiar to people in my nation, which is Vinamilk. It is the largest dairy company in Vietnam and formerly the most valuable public company listed in Vietnam. Having been **established** and developed over the past 40 years, Vinamilk has become one of the leading brands in Vietnam and it has expanded the business globally.

*(How many people work there?)*

The total size of Vinamilk's labor force is around 6000 people with diverse professions, age, and professional level. The company always holds the view of respecting and treating employees equally, with no **discrimination** on gender, region, religion. The company focuses on creating a professional, friendly and **cutting-edge** working environment to encourage each individual to discover their potential ability. Every person is **facilitated** to express their values and are part of the general success of the organization.

*(What type of qualification they require?)*

Well, **as far as I'm concerned**, Vinamilk's goal is to be a **multidisciplinary** group, a global brand with a professional workforce. Therefore, the recruitment policy **is geared towards** diversifying the sources of candidates for leadership, management and staff. Apart from basic qualifications, the company also **puts an emphasis on** recruiting candidates with outstanding attributes, such as good communication abilities, negotiation, problem-solving and planning skills. **Prospective** employees should also be dedicated and hard-working, and most importantly, equipped with a good command of English to work for a global brand.

Vocabulary:

57. **sizable** [adj]: fairly large in size: khá lớn

Eg: Emanuel already has a sizable amount of money saved up for college.

58. **establish** [v]: to start having a relationship with, or communicating with another person, company, country, or organization: thiết lập

Eg: There is a strong need to establish effective communication links between staff, parents, pupils, and external bodies.

59. **discrimination** [n]: the treatment of a person or particular group of people differently, in a way that is worse than the way people are usually treated: sự phân biệt

Eg: Some immigrants were victims of discrimination.

60. **cutting-edge** [adj]: very modern and with all the newest features: tiên tiến

Eg: This is an ambitious book, which aims to pull together cutting-edge research in formal semantics, lexical aspect, and event structure.

61. **facilitate** [v]: to make something possible or easier: tạo điều kiện

Eg: The current structure does not facilitate efficient work flow.

62. **as far as I'm concerned** [expression]: according to what someone thinks or feels: theo như tôi biết

Eg: There's no reason to wait, as far as I'm concerned.

63. **multidisciplinary** [adj]: not good enough or too low in quality: không đủ

Eg: This work is woefully (= extremely) inadequate - you'll have to do it again.

64. **geared towards** [v]: to design or organize something so that it is suitable for a particular purpose, situation, or group of people: hướng đến

Eg: Most public places are simply not geared to the needs of people with disabilities.

65. **put an emphasis on** [expression]: concentrate on sh: chú ý vào việc gì đó

Eg: His parents put a great emphasis on his academic performances.

66. **prospective** [adj]: people who are expected to buy something, employ someone, become parents, etc.: có triển vọng, trong tương lai

Eg: We've had three sets of prospective buyers looking at the house.

## 24. Describe your favourite film/movie

You should say:

What it is

Where you watched it

Who you watched it with

And why you want to share it with your friend

### (What it is)

The film that I would love to share with my friend is Parasite, a 2019 South Korean black comedy thriller film directed by Bong Joon-ho. The film stars Song Kang-ho, Lee Sun-kyun, Cho Yeo-jeong, Choi Woo-shik and Park So-dam. It received widespread critical **acclaim** and won the Palme d'Or at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival, becoming the first Korean film to receive the award. It was selected as the South Korean entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 92nd Academy Awards.

### **(Where you watched it)**

I watched this movie in the cinema right on the day it was **premiered**, because I was totally **enthralled** by the mysterious trailer and the unique name of the movie. The experience at the cinema was also **rewarding**, with a huge screen, the super sound-system, the darkened atmosphere, and diverse audience reaction.

### **(Who you watched it with)**

Well, it was my sister who introduced me to this movie, so I enjoyed it with her. We both share an **immense** love for movies with exotic themes and twisting plots, as these excite our curiosity. As expected, the film left an unforgettable impression on us, and we also recommended it to other friends.

### **(And why you want to share it with your friend)**

Well, this movie is just beyond your wildest expectations. Parasite **inveigles** its way into our consciousness. We laughed, at first, at its skewing of reality and the sheer **temerity** of its main characters. But laughter soon gave way to fright and then to **despair**, so I want my friend to experience these very special feelings. Parasite is generally **gripping** and finely crafted, standing up well as Bong's most mature state-of-the-nation statement since Memories of Murder in 2003. I certainly won't give away any spoilers here, but **suffice it to say** that you won't guess any of the secrets, and once the story goes down the rabbit hole, it stays very dark till the end.

Vocabulary:

**acclaim** [n]: public approval and praise: sự nán dương

Eg: Despite the critical acclaim, the novel did not sell well.

**premiere** [v]: if a show, film, etc. premieres or if it is premiered, the first public performance or showing takes place: trình chiếu lần đầu

Eg: The play was premiered in New York.

**enthrall** [v]: to keep someone completely interested: gây ấn tượng

Eg: was always enthralled by the rotary engine, and thought it was a neat idea.



**rewarding** [adj]: giving a reward, especially by making you feel satisfied that you have done something important or useful, or done something well: xứng đáng

Eg: Textbook writing can be an intellectually and financially rewarding activity.

**immense** [adj]: extremely large in size or degree: to lớn

Eg: They spent an immense amount of time getting the engine into perfect condition.

**inveigle** [v]: to persuade someone to do something in a clever and dishonest way, when they do not want to do it: dụ dỗ

Eg: Her son tried to inveigle her into giving him the money for a car.

**temerity** [n]: a willingness to do or say something that shocks or upsets other people: can đảm

Eg: He had the temerity to call me a liar.

**despair** [n]: the feeling that there is no hope and that you can do nothing to improve a difficult or worrying situation: sự tuyệt vọng

Eg: To her teacher's despair, Nicole never does the work that she's told to do.

**gripping** [adj]: something that is gripping is so interesting or exciting that it holds your attention completely: thú vị

Eg: I found the book so gripping that I couldn't put it down.

**suffice it to say** [expression]: it is enough to say: có thể nói rằng

Eg: Suffice (it) to say, Mike won't be going to Tina's birthday party after what he said about her to her boss.

## 25. Describe a piece of equipment which is important to you in your home

- **What it is**
- **When your family had it**
- **How your family got it**
- **And explain why it is important for your family**

**(What it is)** My dad has a hobby of keeping valuable pieces of furniture in our home, some of which have become **antiques** and are worth up to thousands of dollars now.

Among all the antiques in my home, the one of greatest significance to me is the 80-year-old piano used by four generations of my family. Currently, my niece is learning her first lessons on that instrument.

**(When your family had it) Rumour has it** that this instrument was a result of the collaboration of a **renowned** piano manufacturer, Steinway and Sons, and my great grandfather, who was gifted with outstanding carpentry skills. The later generations are now totally **in the dark** about the exact year it was completed as the instrument is generally believed to have **come into use** during the late 1930s. Until now, the instrument has undergone a total of two main restoration projects and been maintained on an annual **basis**.

**(How your family got it)** To be honest, the later generations, including myself, have no clue how my great grandfather got the chance to directly work with Steinway and Sons in designing and building the piano. All I know is that as a carpenter, he was mainly in charge of designing the piano and assuring the quality of the wood Steinway opted for. Meanwhile, the world-renowned piano manufacturer was responsible for building and **assembling** the parts of the piano.

**(And explain why it is important for your family)** I proudly **hail from** a long **lineage** of professional musicians. My great grandfather and my grandfather were successful musicians, while my father is currently a music director of a cathedral's choir. Nearly everyone in my family can play at least the piano and the pipe organ. This piano is where we learn our first lessons and have **nourished** generations of talents.

### **Vocabulary**

1. **Antique** (n): đồ cổ

Example: My mother collects **antiques**.

Mẹ tôi thu thập đồ cổ.

2. **Rumour has it (that)** (phrase): người ta đồn

Example: **Rumour has it (that)** you're going to be the next managing director. Is it true?

Người ta đồn là cậu sắp thành giám đốc điều hành hả. Thật không vậy?

3. **Renowned** (adj): nổi tiếng

Example: The region is **renowned for** its natural beauty.

Vùng này rất nổi tiếng vì vẻ đẹp tự nhiên của nó

4. **To be in the dark** (idiom): không biết gì/không được cung cấp thông tin

Example: Our boss tends to keep us **in the dark** most of the time.

Sếp thường rất ít khi cung cấp thông tin gì cho chúng tôi.

5. **To come into use** (phrase): bắt đầu được sử dụng

Example: Computers first **came into use** in the early 1950s.

Máy vi tính bắt đầu được sử dụng vào những năm đầu của thập niên 50.

6. **On a monthly/regular/yearly basis** (phrase): hằng tháng/thường xuyên/hằng năm

Example: Skills need to be updated **on an ongoing basis**.

Kỹ năng cần được cập nhật liên tục.

7. **To hail from** (phrase): đến từ

Example: Joe originally **hails from** Toronto.

Joe đến từ Toronto.

8. **Lineage** (n): dòng dõi

Example: She's very proud of her ancient royal **lineage**.

Cô ấy rất tự hào về dòng dõi hoàng gia của mình.

## 26. Describe a toy you liked in your childhood

*You should say*

- *What the toy was*
- *Who gave it to you*
- *How you used this*
- *And explain how you felt when you got this toy*

(What the toy was)

Although I have received numerous toys, the one I **treasure** the most was a Lego car. I can't remember exactly how old I was, but I was probably about eight or nine. Back in those days, before the latest **advances in technology**, Lego was one of the most

**desirable** toy brand names for children of my age, to the extent that every kid would cast **envious** glances at their peers who **possessed** a Lego toy. I guess that Lego **has become obsolete and has been superseded by** computerised playthings today.

(Who gave it to you)

It was a birthday gift from my parents. Even though I lived in a **dual-income family**, a Lego car was still considered an **extravagant** thing at that time. To hold a birthday party for me and afford the gift, my parents sacrificed a portion of their savings, because they knew I really wanted to have that car for my toy collection.

(How you used this)

The special thing about this car was that I had to build it myself out of hundreds of pieces of Lego. The pieces came in a box with a picture of the finished car on the front, and I had to put all the pieces together in the correct way. This was not an easy task, because the car even had an engine, movable seats and gears. It took me a day or two to make, which required a lot of concentration. When the car was finished it looked great, and I felt a **sense of accomplishment**.

(And explain how you felt when you got this toy)

As a kid that time, I was **on cloud nine** to receive such a gift. Honestly, that Lego car was **beyond my wildest expectations**, as I thought that only rich kids were supposed to get toys like that. Most importantly, I **was extremely grateful** to my parents, who always gave me unconditional and **immeasurable** love.

## Vocabulary

### • CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ: **Technology**

#### 1. **advances in technology**

Meaning: improvements or developments in technology

Example: Recent **advances in** medical **technology** are making a great contribution to the search for a cure for Aids.

#### 2. **(to) become obsolete**

Meaning: to be no longer used because something new has been invented

Example: Technological innovation is now so rapid, that even the latest electronic devices soon **become obsolete**.

### 3. (to) be superseded by

Meaning: to be replaced by something which is better or newer

Example: The latest technological innovations **are usually superseded by** new and more advanced devices.

## • CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ: G. **Family and Children** (sách collocations)

### 1. a **dual-income family**

Meaning: a family where both the father and mother work

Example: Changes in society have resulted in the **dual-income family** becoming the most common family type.

Dịch đại ý

A dual-income family: gia đình có 2 thu nhập

Nghĩa: gia đình có cả mẹ và cha cùng đi làm có thu nhập

Ví dụ: Những thay đổi trong xã hội dẫn tới việc gia đình có 2 thu nhập đang là loại gia đình phổ biến nhất.

## • CÁC TỪ KHÁC:

### 1. (to) **treasure** [verb]:

Meaning: to highly value sb/sth : trân quý, coi trọng cái gì

Example: Liz **treasured** all her happy memories of her years at high school.

### 2. **desirable** [adjective]:

Meaning: that you would like to have or do; worth having or doing: đáng mong muốn, thèm khát

Example: The house has many **desirable** features, and lots of people would love to buy it.

### 3. **envious** [adjective]:

Meaning: wanting to be in the same situation as somebody else; wanting something that somebody else has: ghen tị

Example: Minh saw the **envious** look in the other boy's eyes when he won the prize.

4. **(to) possess** [verb]:

Meaning: to have or own something: sở hữu

Example: Belgium was the first European country **to possess** a fully-fledged rail network.

5. **extravagant** [adjective]:

Meaning: costing a lot more money than you can afford or is necessary : xa xỉ, quá đắt đỏ

Example: That diamond ring was such an **extravagant** present that she could not receive it.

6. **a sense of accomplishment** [expression]:

Meaning: a feeling of success in sth or when you complete sth: cảm giác mãn nguyện

Example: Graduating from high school gave Matty **a sense of accomplishment**.

7. **on cloud nine** [expression]:

Meaning: extremely happy : cực kì sung sướng, ở tận mây xanh

Example: Minh was **on cloud nine** when he heard that he had passed the exam.

8. **beyond one's wildest expectations** [expression]:

Meaning: unexpected, unbelievable: không tưởng tượng được

Example: Receiving such a prestigious scholarship was **beyond her wildest expectations**.

9. **(to be) grateful to** [adjective]:

Meaning: feeling or showing thanks because somebody has done something kind for you or has done as you asked: cảm thấy biết ơn

Example: I **am extremely grateful to** all the teachers for their help.

10. **immeasurable** [adjective]:

Meaning: too large, great, etc. to be measured: quá to lớn, không thể đo đếm được

Example: Her contribution to the success of the project was of **immeasurable** importance.

## 27. Describe a time when it is important to tell your friend a truth

You should say:

When it was

Who your friend is

What the truth was

And explain why you think it was important to tell your friend the truth

*(When it was)*

**Practically**, trust is one of the most crucial factors of an **enduring** friendship. It takes time and a lot of effort to rebuild once lost. Today, I will describe a time when I realized the importance of telling my friend the truth. The scenario happened a long time ago while we were in the last year of high school.

*(Who your friend is)*

At that time, we both applied for a **prestigious** university exceptionally renowned for its educational quality. It has been our mutual dream to be accepted by this university together and we **tried our utmost** to be eligible for the university's rigid selection process. However, in the end, my close friend was rejected by the university. At that time, she did not know that I had been admitted and asked me about my result.

*(What the truth was)*

At first, I decided to hide this **poignant** truth from her to avoid disheartening her at such a devastating moment. I was just afraid that this truth would cause some kind of **discomfort** between us, so given the choice, I preferred to ignore it. However, on reflection, I realized that secrets and lies kill relationships, no matter how careful you are. Sooner or later, she may later find out that I lied to her when seeing the results publicized on the university's website. Therefore, I **took the initiative** to tell her the whole truth the next day of the competition, but she did not believe me. Then I showed her a recording.

*(And explain why you think it was important to tell your friend the truth)*

After all, I believe trust is the foundation of any relationship. Good friends should not be afraid to share uncomfortable truths with each other. Admittedly, white lies can sometimes be **inconsequential**, but secrets and frequent lies heavily **jeopardize** trust and can damage us and our relationships — sometimes **irreparably**.

Vocabulary:

67. **practically** [adv]: virtually; almost.: gần như là

Eg: The place was practically empty

68. **enduring** [adj]: existing for a long time: lâu bền

Eg: I shall be left with many enduring memories of the time I spent in India.

69. **prestigious** [adj]: inspiring respect and admiration; having high status.: có uy tín

Eg: The car won some of the industry's most prestigious awards.

70. **tried one's utmost** [expression]: to do something as well as you can by making a great effort: cố gắng hết sức

Eg: She tried her utmost to finish on time.

71. **poignant** [adj]: evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret: chua chát

Eg: This is a poignant reminder of the passing of time.

72. **discomfort** [n]: a feeling of being uncomfortable physically or mentally, or something that causes this: sự khó chịu

Eg: You may feel a little discomfort for a few days after the operation.

73. **take the initiative to do sth** [expression]: to be the first one to do something, esp. to solve a problem: chủ động làm gì

Eg: Don't be afraid to take the initiative and say what you think.

74. **inconsequential** [adj]: not important: không quan trọng

Eg: Most of what she said was pretty inconsequential.

75. **jeopardize** [v]: to put something such as a plan or system in danger of being harmed or damaged: đe dọa, làm hại

Eg: She knew that by failing her finals she could jeopardize her whole future.



76. **irreparably** [adv]: impossible to repair or make right again: không thể chữa lại  
Eg: The ship has been irreparably damaged.

### Part 3

1. Do you think telling truth is important?
2. Do you think we should tell the truth at all times?
3. How do you know when others are telling lies?
4. Do you think it's more important to win a game or follow the rules in sports?

#### 1. Do you think telling truth is important?

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* Of course it is. *(Explain your reason or reasons)*

Telling the truth is never easy but, truth has incredible power in itself and is a necessary component for a **fulfilling** life. It is not only beneficial for the person who is telling the truth, but also for the person who is told the truth. *(Explain the opposite or alternative)*

As individuals, being truthful means that we can grow and mature, learning from our mistakes. For society, truthfulness makes social bonds, and lying and **hypocrisy** break them.

#### 2. Do you think people need to tell the truth all the time?

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* I believe most people would agree that they should always be honest. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* Friends who are honest with others and not pretentious usually share a good **rapport** with everyone. People will always **confide** in these individuals. *(Give an example (often a personal example))* I think no matter how badly you think someone will react when you tell them something,

you can **rest assured** that they will be a thousand times more upset if they find out that you'd lied to them.

### 3. How do you know when others are telling lies?

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* When it comes to detecting lies, I think people often focus on body language, or **subtle** physical and behavioral signs that reveal **deception**. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* Shrugging, lack of expression, and a bored posture can be signs of lying since the person is trying to avoid conveying emotions and possible tells. *(Give an example (often a personal example))* However, we should be aware that relying too heavily on certain signals may impair the ability to detect lies.

### 4. Do you think it's more important to win a game or follow the rules in sports?

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* From my perspective, both are equally important. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* Most people love sports, and it's easy to become too focused on winning and even playing foul to others **in the heat of the moment**. Yet there is much more to be gained from the sports experience than a winning record. When we are involved in sports, we can learn and put into practice values that will stay with us for the rest of our lives. Good **sportsmanship** is one of the life lessons that we can learn from sports. By winning and following the rules, one learn that they can win without cheating, but by accepting the same set of rules that the opponent has to follow.

Vocabulary:

77. **fulfilling** [adj]: making you feel happy and satisfied: làm mãn nguyện

Eg: Nursing is hard work, but it can be very fulfilling.

78. **hypocrisy** [n]: insincerity by virtue of pretending to have qualities or beliefs that you do not really have: sự đạo đức giả

Eg: Critics are accusing him of hypocrisy and deceit.

79. **confide in sb** [v]: to tell something secret or personal to someone who you trust not to tell anyone else: tâm sự

Eg: As sisters, they have always confided in each other.

80. **rest assured** [expression]: to be certain that something will happen: chắc chắn về điều gì

Eg: You can rest assured that you're going to get a good deal.

81. **subtle** [adj]: not loud, bright, noticeable, or obvious: tế nhị, tinh tế

Eg: The fragrance is a subtle blend of jasmine and sandalwood.

82. **deception** [n]: the act of deliberately making somebody believe something that is not true (= of deceiving them): sự đánh lừa

Eg: His elaborate deception fooled everyone.

83. **in the heat of the moment** [expression]: be in the moment of strong feelings, especially of anger or excitement: trong lúc giận dữ, kích động

Eg: In the heat of the moment, Linda forgot what she wanted to say to her mother.

84. **sportsmanship** [n]: behaviour in sport that is fair and shows respect to the other players: tinh thần thể thao

Eg: In this competition, we look for great acts of sportsmanship.

## 28. Describe a time when you found out something very interesting through social media

You should say:

When and where you saw it?

What is it about?

And explain why you think it was interesting?

*(When and where you saw it?)*

Today, I'm going to describe a time when I found out something very interesting through social. It was last week when I was **browsing through** videos on Youtube- a global media platform. Then, the video called "Inside the Mind of a Master Procrastinator", captured my attention. The video was delivered by Tim Urban, who **exuded** much

confidence and experience through his words, quite effortlessly. His talk impressed me right away, because it was **hilarious** yet **insightful** at the same time.

*(What is it about?)*

In his Talk, Tim Urban explains what happens in the mind of a procrastinator—and why one specific form of waiting until the last minute leaves a lot of people feeling unfulfilled. He explains that for procrastinators and non-procrastinators alike, both brains have a **rational** decision-maker in them. It's just that procrastinators **fall prey to** the instant **gratification** monkey, a feeling that encourages fun tasks over productive, sensible ones. Ultimately, he says rational decisions and instant gratification are both needed— but just at the right times.

*(And explain why you think it was interesting?)*

I think his message in the video offered me a new **perspective** on procrastination. Furthermore, it has reasonably **illuminated** the consequences of short-term and long-term procrastination, which may restrict my potential and eventually **undermine** my career. I have recommended this video to many of my friends and many of them find it fascinating.

Vocabulary:

85. **browse through** [v]: to casually or quickly peruse or look through something.: lướt qua

Eg: I like to browse through their clearance section and see if I can find any great deals.

86. **exude** [v]: if you exude love, confidence, pain, etc., you show that you have a lot of that feeling: toát ra

Eg: She just exudes confidence and captivates everyone in the room.

87. **hilarious** [adj]: extremely funny and causing a lot of laughter: khôi hài

Eg: Daniell's evaluation of the many twentieth-century translations is sometimes hilarious.

88. **insightful** [adj]: showing a clear and usually original understanding of a complicated problem or situation: sâu sắc

Eg: She has written an insightful account of the modern art world.

89. **rational** [adj]: based on clear thought and reason: có lý trí

Eg: There must be some rational explanation for what happened.

90. **fall prey to** [expression]: to be influenced by someone or something: bị ảnh hưởng xấu bởi

Eg: We worry that our children will fall prey to the influence of bad kids.

91. **gratification** [n]: pleasure or satisfaction, or something which provides this: sự hài lòng

Eg: I have the gratification of knowing that you have fulfilled your duty

92. **perspective** [n]: a particular way of considering something: quan điểm

Eg: Her attitude lends a fresh perspective to the subject.

93. **illuminate**[v]: to explain and show more clearly something that is difficult to understand: giải thích

Eg: Do you believe in the article which illuminates the issues at stake?

94. **undermine** [v]: to make someone less confident, less powerful, or less likely to succeed, or to make something weaker, often gradually: hủy hoại

Eg: Criticism just undermines their confidence.

## 29. Describe a skill that you think you can teach other people.

You should say:

What it is

Who you can teach?

How you can teach others

And explain how you feel about teaching others

*(What it is)*

Well, first of all, I have learned many skills that I can share or teach to others. And I would like to talk about the one which took me a long time to master. It's playing the piano.

*(Who you can teach)*

During my school days, I attended piano classes from a professional trainer at my school. I remembered the sessions were full of laughter because there were other people who also tried to play the piano with me. I had been learning the piano for more than 10 years, and didn't skip for a long time. I believe I have all the skills required to teach Piano either individually or in a group now.

*(How you can teach others)*

Actually, my brothers intended to send their kids to my home to learn the piano sometimes. Well, I am not hesitant to teach them. However, learning piano is quite challenging as you might find the students difficult to teach and think of giving up sometimes. But if that happens to my nieces, I'll try to inspire them so that they can get rid of negative thoughts and get back on track soon.

*And explain how you feel*

Overall, from my point of view, playing piano is not too difficult if you are passionate about it. It only takes people around 1 year to learn to play confidently and smoothly for the services.

Part 3

***Should teachers be funny when they teach?***

I think it depends on each teaching style. Educators should only use humor with which they are comfortable. A teacher does not have to be funny to be effective.

***What qualities should teachers have?***

Well, I think a teacher should have the ability to speak clearly and audibly, and can modulate voice where necessary for effect. And they also should have the ability to explain difficult materials succinctly. Avoid the over-use of technical jargon — if used, they must explain the meanings and relevance.

***Which age group is the best at learning new things?***

Learning is a life-long process. There is no specific age to learning something new. However, it is said that the age 5 to early twenties are the best for academic learning as at those ages, concentration levels are better.

**30. Describe a live sport event you watched before**

- **When it happened**
- **Where it took place**
- **Who you watched it with**
- **And explain how you felt about this experience**

**(When it happened)** One of the most memorable experiences of my academic journey in the UK was to have the honour of being invited to watch the championship match showcasing the all-time rivalry between Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray in 2013. The UK had been thirsty for a Wimbledon trophy for nearly a decade before Andy Murray, a Scottish tennis player, narrowly defeated Novak Djokovic to finally **bring the Wimbledon Championships host's gloomy years to an end.**

**(Where it took place)** This final match took place under the roof of the world **renowned** Centre Court, the main court at The Championships, Wimbledon, the third annual Grand Slam event of the tennis calendar. It is considered the world's most famous tennis court. It incorporates the clubhouse of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club. Its only regular use for play is during the two weeks a year that the Championships take place.

Centre Court has a premier box, known as the Royal Box, for use by the Royal Family and other distinguished guests. It is the sixth largest tennis-specific stadium in the world by capacity.

**(Who you watched it with)** I watched it with one of my closest classmates, John. John was also my tennis buddy with whom I practised tennis every weekend at our hall's courts. Before the match, John predicted that Djokovic would win. However, Andy's historic victory proved him wrong.

**(And explain how you felt about this experience)** It was an **eye-opening** experience as it was the first time that I had attended a live sporting event and seen my idol, Novak Djokovic, in person. The thing that made it special was that Andy Murray satisfied the country's 77-year **thirst for** a Wimbledon trophy by **triumphing** at the All England Club. The whole UK went crazy, creating an unforgettable atmosphere in the final weeks of June 2013.

1. **Bring something to an end** (phrase): kết thúc cái gì đó

*Having agreed upon the matter of payment, he **brought the interview to an end.***

*Sau khi tiến được đến sự đồng thuận trong việc deal lương, anh ấy kết thúc buổi phỏng vấn.*

2. **Renowned** (adj): nổi tiếng

*The region is **renowned for** its outstanding natural beauty.*

*Khu vực này rất nổi tiếng vì vẻ đẹp tự nhiên của nó*

3. **Thirst** (n): khao khát

*He's always had **a thirst for** adventure.*

*Anh ấy luôn có khao khát cho những chuyến phiêu lưu*

4. **Triumph** (v): chiến thắng

*I believe that sooner or later good must **triumph over** evil.*

*Tôi tin rằng sớm hay muộn thì việc thiện cũng chiến thắng việc ác.*



**31. Describe a person's home you visited that you liked, but would not want to live in**

- **Where it is**
- **What it is like**
- **Why you visited it**
- **and explain why you would not like to live there**

**(Where it is)** Today, I would like to share with you some information about the house of my best Singaporean friend, Jia Jing, that really impresses me. It is located in one of the largest heartland neighbourhoods in Singapore called Yishun. The thing I like most about this

house is that it **bristles with** many different kinds of plants and has a minimalist design.

**(Why you visited it)** Jia Jing invited me to a year-end party which he hosted right at his apartment. Despite my packed schedule, I tried my best to attend the party.

**(What it is like)** As far as I know, his condo had just undergone a substantial transformation, from a **mediocre** condo flat into a spacious, streamlined home. Arriving on his doorstep, I was greeted not by the usual metal gate/wooden front door combo, but by a padlocked glass door that opens onto a small **foyer**. Inside the apartment, a sophisticated backdrop of dark and light wood panels and mirrors is punctuated starkly yet strikingly with Zen accents such as a bonsai tree and a Japanese lantern.

**(And explain why you would not like to live there)** There are two main reasons why the idea of residing in this house has never **crossed my mind**. First, this house is located in Singapore, which has the highest living costs in the world. Also, since this is a private condo, the maintenance fee residents have to pay on a monthly basis is relatively high. Thus, living in this fancy condo is not an ideal choice for those who are financially disadvantaged like me.

**Vocabulary:**

**1. Bristle with** (phrasal verb): rất nhiều cái gì đó

Singapore **bristles with** magnificent skyscrapers.

Singapore có rất nhiều nhà cao tầng đẹp.

2. **Mediocre** (adj): tầm thường

*The film's plot is predictable and the acting is **mediocre**.*

Câu chuyện trong cuốn phim hoàn toàn có thể được đoán trước, và kỹ năng diễn còn khá tầm thường.

3. **Cross someone's mind** (phrase): suy nghĩ.

It **crossed my mind yesterday** that you must be short of staff.

Hôm qua tôi suy nghĩ là bạn ắt hẳn đang thiếu nhân viên.

### **32. Describe an interesting conversation you had with someone**

**Who this person was**

**What the conversation was about**

**Why you had this conversation**

**How you felt about it**

**(Who this person was)** Well, I'm going to tell you a moment when I had a chat with a woman selling beverages during my very first trip to Bangkok, Thailand. It just happened 2 months ago I can still remember it quite well.

**(What the conversation was about)** I was just an 18-year-old boy back then, and I was unable to **find my way** to the Bus Station where I was about to hop on a bus and go to Pattaya. However, Google Maps wasn't as popular as it is nowadays, so the only way I could figure out the way was by asking a **local**. Luckily, there was a lady who was selling beverages at a food cart near where I was standing. I **resorted to** asking the lady if she would be so kind as to tell me the way to the Bus Station and she kindly replied by pointing to a building across the road and saying 'it's over there'. Without her help, I could not possibly have completed my trip in Thailand.

**(Why you had this conversation)** I was talking to my friend in Vietnamese that moment, and suddenly she replied to me in Vietnamese. It turned out that she was also from Vietnam. And then, I decided to sit down and order a drink from the old lady and

have a chat with her. So we ended up chatting for ages about our lives and about how and why we had come to Bangkok.

**(How you felt about it)** Well, I just simply found the conversation so enjoyable and **inspiring** since the lady was such a **gentle** women. Despite having quite a **tough** life, she still had such a nice personality to overcome her **struggles**.

1. Find one's way: Tìm đường.

Example: He was an expert at finding his way, even in strange surroundings.

2. Local (adjective): Người bản địa.

Example: You should talk to the locals to make new friends.

3. Resort to (verb): Làm 1 điều gì đó mà mình không muốn vì không còn cách nào khác.

Example: I had to resort to violence/threats to get my money.

4. Gentle (adjective): Tử tế

Example: He's very gentle with his kids.

5. Tough (adjective): Khó khăn

Example: You have to be tough to be successful in politics.

6. Struggle (noun): Khó khăn

Example: It was a terrible struggle for him to accept her death

### **33. Describe a kind of weather you like**

You should say:

#### ***What kind of weather it is***

I love the rain, personally. Especially unpredicted rain, because I love watching other people flip out over their plans ruined. It's amusing.

#### ***When this weather usually occurs***

I live in the northern part of Vietnam, so it rains heavily between June to September. We call it the rainy season, and you get to experience all types of rains, from drizzle, occasional rains, surprise rain to heavy rain which don't stop even after two days.

#### ***What you usually do during this weather***

I like rainy days because I like to be outside and feel the rain on my skin. I like the smell of the rain, I like the effect it has on the garden, and I love watching the rain bounce off

my window. It makes my imagination run wild, and it just looks so nice. And I like the cold, or cooler weather. It's lovely and relaxing.

***And explain your feeling***

In conclusion, it varies. I adapt to any weather. Anything can be utilized to one's advantage, even nature. Unless you were unlucky enough to be caught in the eye of the storm or get struck by a lightning. But that's how our kind gets all the superpowers, so it's not all bad.

Part 3:

***What kinds of clothes do people wear in summer?***

In summer people generally want to wear something which is comfortable and light. **Cotton, I think**, would be the first choice for summer wear for all sex and age groups as it is a naturally absorbent in nature and allows air to pass through the wearer 's body.

***What types of weather are suitable for outdoor activities?***

I think all types of weather are good for outdoor activities. Most people like sunny days, but snow is also great if you are a ski or snowmobile enthusiast, right? Hot weather is great if you like water sports or swimming. Cold weather is great if you like ice fishing or ice skating. The only weather that I don't recommend for outdoor activities is during lightning or severe storms or hurricanes.

***What's the most typical weather in your country?***

Vietnam's climate has a monsoon-influenced tropical climate. In the north, the climate is monsoonal with four distinct seasons while in the south, the climate is tropical monsoon with two seasons (rainy and dry).

**34. Describe a time when you got close to wild animals**

- **Where you were**
- **What the animals were doing**
- **Who was with you**
- **And explain what your reaction was**

**(Where you were)** My first interaction with wild animals can be traced back to my primary school, particularly grade 3. I had the chance to go on a field trip to the Saigon Botanic Garden, where various kinds of wild animals are residing. This was a fully-funded field trip organized by my school.

**(What the animals were doing)** The majority of the animals were eating and sleeping, meanwhile some other kinds of animals were enjoying their limited free time. What I love about Saigon Botanic Garden is that it creates an open habitat for animals that bears as much resemblance to the real habitat of each species as possible, thus this organisation has remained prestigious for many years.

**(Who were with you)** Because it was a school field trip, I went there with some of my classmates and a teacher who was in charge of supervising us and carrying out research activities. The other kids were also very excited as they got to see such kinds of animals in the near distance **with the naked eye** rather than seeing them on TV or in books.

**(And explain what your reaction was)** I was excited, of course, as I could finally get to see dangerous wild animals in a safe way, for both human beings and the animals themselves thanks to the effective operation strategy of this botanic garden. However, when I saw two large pythons right next to my feet, I nearly passed out because I was so scared.

Vocabulary:

**1. Resemblance** (n): sự giống nhau

*They bear some resemblance to Italian figurines*

Những bức tượng người này trông rất giống với những bức tượng làm ở Ý.

**2. With the naked eye** (phrase): bằng xương bằng thịt

*We live miles away, but on a clear night, you can see **the city skyscrapers** with the nakedeye.*

Dù ở khá xa, nhưng trong những đêm thâm vắng, bạn sẽ thấy được cả những nhà chọc trời từ bằng xương bằng thịt.

**35. Describe a time you made a promise to someone**

- **What the promise was**
- **To whom you made it**
- **Whether it was easy or difficult to keep**
- **And explain why you made it**

**(What the promise was)** Some days ago, I promised to **guide** my boyfriend and his closest friend around Singapore when life returned to **normality** after Covid-19. While I was scrolling through my old photos in Singapore, my boyfriend caught me doing it and asked whether I would like to bring him and his friend to Singapore next time. I said yes without **hesitation**. Bringing my friends to Singapore to introduce them to its modern beauty and advanced technology, especially the world-renowned Changi Airport.

**(To whom you made it)** Actually there were a bunch of people there, but I only made this promise to my boyfriend and his closest friend. I didn't want to bring too many people overseas as things might **get out of hand**.

**(Whether it was easy or difficult to keep)** Since I am a tourism major and have accumulated a great deal of experience in travelling around Singapore thanks to my 8 trips to this tiny city-state, I guess bringing only 2 more people along with me to Singapore wouldn't be a great deal. However, the only thing I'm concerned about now is the **lingering** Covid-19 pandemic, which has **brought international travel to a halt** and is yet to show any sign of slowing down.

**(And explain why you made it)** Singapore is always an ideal destination for a short weekend getaway for Vietnamese people as it is only two hours from Vietnam. Also, thanks to my knowledge about Singapore, I can be sure that if I ever make this promise, I know the likelihood of me **going back on my word** is low and that I won't make me, my boyfriend and his friend disappointed.

1. **Guide** (v): *hướng dẫn*

*The shop assistant **guided** me to the shelf where the gardening books were displayed.*

*Trợ lí cửa hàng hướng dẫn tôi đến tủ sách về việc làm vườn.*

2. **Normality** (n): *sự bình thường*

Now that the civil war is over, relative **normality** has returned to the south of the country.

Bây giờ thì cuộc nội chiến đã kết thúc, sự bình thường đã trở lại với miền Nam của đất nước.

3. **Hesitation** (n): ngần ngại

**I have no hesitation in recommending Ms Shapur for the job.**

Tôi đề cử cô Shapur cho công việc một cách không ngần ngại.

4. **Out of hand** (phrase): mất kiểm soát

**He went to see his doctor because he felt his drinking was getting out of hand.**

Anh ấy đi bác sĩ vì cảm thấy việc uống rượu của anh ấy đã dần trở nên mất kiểm soát.

5. **Lingering** (adj): dai dẳng

**She says she stopped seeing him, but I still have lingering doubts.**

Cô ấy nói cô ấy đã hết gặp anh ấy, nhưng tôi vẫn có nhiều nghi ngờ dai dẳng về vấn đề này.

6. **Bring something to a halt** (phrase): tạm dừng cái gì đó

**Severe flooding has brought trains to a halt on several lines in Scotland.**

Lũ lụt nghiêm trọng đã tạm dừng một số chuyến tàu ở Scotland.

7. **Go back on someone's word** (phrase): thất hứa

**You made a commitment to support our project, and now you've gone back on your word!**

Bạn đã hứa là sẽ cam kết ủng hộ dự án của chúng tôi, nhưng bây giờ bạn lại thất hứa!

### Part 3

1. What kinds of promises do people often make?
2. Do parents in VietNam make promise to their children?
3. Do children keep their promises?
4. Why do some people fail to keep their promises?

### 36. Describe a time when you needed to use your imagination

- **What the situation was**
- **Why you needed to use your imagination**
- **What the difficulties were about it**
- **And explain how you felt about it**

**(What the situation was)** I have had the chance to meet Jia Jing, a student from one of the most prestigious universities in the world – Nanyang Technological University, who I think is the most creative person I’ve ever got to **encounter** so far. I met Jia Jing during an outreach programme in Vietnam. He was in the same group as me, meaning that we worked together a lot. We were mainly in charge of teaching activities.

**(Why you needed to use your imagination)** We decided to look for a new method to teach English well. Since we received some negative feedback from the students on our lesson plan as some wanted to play games while some others were interested in studying. Jia Jing came up with an idea of sticking pieces papers around the walls as children were required to find a paper that has a word and another paper that has a photo of that word and combine these two together.

**(What the difficulties were about it)** We didn’t encounter too many problems. However, the most important thing was that it was somehow a bit difficult to persuade naughty children to study. As we had to teach two classes comprising of two different age groups, we struggled a lot in planning lessons since there was a big gap between the **levels of English proficiency** of the students in each class.

**(And explain how you felt about it)** It was a great success for me although the amount of money I received from the project remained very low.

1. **Encounter** (v): gặp gỡ/biết đến

She was the most remarkable woman he had ever known.

Cô ấy là người nổi bật nhất mà anh ấy từng biết đến/gặp được

2. **Proficiency** (n): sự thành thạo

A high level of oral proficiency in English.

### **Part 3**

Do you think adults can have lots of imagination?



Do you think imagination is essential for scientists?

What kinds of jobs need imagination?

What subjects are helpful for children's imagination?

### **37. The part of a town or city that you enjoy spending time in**

*You should say*

- *Where the place is*
- *How you know this place*
- *What you do there*
- *And explain why you think it is a good place for reading and writing*

#### **Answer**

##### **(where the place is)**

I'm going to describe a coffee shop called Tranquil, where I often spend my time **engrossed in** reading and writing. It's actually quite a long way from my house, but that doesn't **put me off** visiting there again and again.

##### **(how you know this place)**

This coffee shop **came highly recommended** by one of my friends, a writer. She loves **cosy** places which **possess real character**, in which she can spend hours writing film scripts, and this is one of her favourite **haunts**. She took me there about three months ago, and I fell in love with it at first sight. It is a romantic old **spot** with wooden tables, vintage book desks, and beautiful windows, all **works of traditional craftsmanship**.. Each floor has separate areas, and I felt like I was lost in a wonderland, with many seats specially situated to offer beautiful views through various windows.

##### **(what you do there)**

As a **freelancer**, I visit Tranquil frequently **to read over** my documents and do my online jobs. Sometimes, I even **come across** some fascinating reading matter on their desks, because there are a large number of books and documents donated to this coffee shop by loyal customers and book lovers. So, I **broaden my literary horizons** in some

unexpected directions. I have also joined a **literary appreciation** circle there, which meets every month to discuss books which we have all read.

**(and explain why you think it is a good place for reading and writing)**

I have to admit that, though I'm hard to please, I'm always satisfied when I go there, **secure in the knowledge of a pleasurable** visit. Not only is its design uniquely relaxing, but Tranquil's service is **second to none**. You always get good, consistently delicious food at Tranquil, whether you have lunch or just morning coffee or afternoon tea. The atmosphere is warm and **homely** with gentle music and quiet people, which suits bookworms like me **down to the ground**.

Từ vựng chủ đề **Reading**:

#### 1. **to be engrossed in**

Meaning: to be completely focused on something

Example: A good work-life balance is important, because if people **are too engrossed in** their work, their family life may suffer.

#### 2. **to come highly recommended**

Meaning: to be praised enthusiastically by one or more people

Example: Books by classic authors always **come highly recommended**, but works by talented young writers should not be overlooked.

#### 3. **to read over**

Meaning: to read something carefully from beginning to end to look for mistakes or to check details

Example: Attention to detail is important in many jobs, so the practice of **reading over** one's written work should be taught at school and university.

#### 4. **to broaden one's literary horizons**

Meaning: to extend the limit of your knowledge or interests by reading widely

Example: Schools should **broaden the literary horizons** of students by encouraging them to read in class and at home.

#### 5. **literary appreciation**

Meaning: pleasure that you have when you recognise and enjoy the qualities of a good piece of writing

Example: Children develop **literary appreciation** if they are encouraged by parents and teachers to love reading.

#### 6. **secure in the knowledge**

Meaning: not worried because you are sure that nothing bad will happen

Example: Students who work hard throughout the year will be confident when they take exams, **secure in the knowledge** that they are well-prepared.

Từ vựng chủ đề **Traditional vs Modern:**

#### 1. **to possess character**

Meaning: to have an interesting or unusual quality

Example: Whereas most modern buildings look the same, the architecture that survives from the past **possesses real character**.

#### 2. **works of craftsmanship**

Meaning: objects made by people who are very skilled at making things by hand

Example: The museums of every city are full of beautiful **works of craftsmanship** made by skilled workers in past centuries.

### **Vocabulary**

#### 1. **Put off** [phrasal verb]

Meaning: to cause someone to lose interest or enthusiasm

Example: She wanted to be a nurse, but the thought of night shifts **put her off**.

#### 2. **Cosy** [adjective]

Meaning: comfortable and pleasant, especially (of a building) because of being small and warm

Example: It's much better to have a small **cosy** room than a big cold one.

#### 3. **Haunt** [noun]

Meaning: a place that somebody often visits or where they spend a lot of time.

Example: This bar is one of the favourite **haunts** of staff from the college nearby.

#### 4. **Spot** [noun]

Meaning: a particular area or place

Example: She always sits in the same **spot** in the library, near the window so that she can look out over the gardens.

5. **Freelancer** [noun]

Meaning: someone who works on different projects with different companies instead of being a company employee

Example: He started off his career working as a **freelancer** with several design firms.

6. **Come across** [phrasal verb]

Meaning: to meet or find somebody/something by chance

Example: I **came across** some interesting old photos while I was looking through the drawers of my desk.

7. **Pleasurable** [adjective]

Meaning: giving pleasure

Example: A visit to the Tower of London is a very **pleasurable** experience, because the Tower has a real feeling of history.

8. **Second to none** [expression]

Meaning: as good as or better than all others

Example: The delicious Thai food in this restaurant is **second to none**.

9. **Homely** [adjective]

Meaning: plain or ordinary, but pleasant

Example: The hotel is **homely** and comfortable rather than luxurious.

10. **Down to the ground** [expression]

Meaning: if something suits you down to the ground, it suits you perfectly because it is convenient or the best option for you

Example: As he has classes in the morning and afternoon, his part-time job in the evenings suits him **down to the ground**.

**38. Describe a plan that has nothing to do with work and study**

(Something you plan to do in your life)

Well, everyone wants to do their favorite things or make a plan about something besides their work and study. I have plans to visit famous and historical places around the world in the future.

I would start from my home country and would visit all the major tourist attractions and historically famous places of my country. Then I would visit other famous places of Asia, Europe, Africa and America.

This would not be an easy thing to accomplish as it requires a large amount of money and free time. That would take a few years and I would have to be very hard working and prudent to achieve it.

I want to do it because I have an **unquenchable** thirst to visit famous places and to learn about different customs and traditions. I want to explore the world as much as possible. That would be a truly amazing experience for me if the plan was accomplished.

**Vocabulary:**

**Unquenchable (adj)** that cannot be satisfied

⇒ *He had an **unquenchable** thirst for life.*

**39. Describe a famous person that you are interested in**

You should say:

Who this person is

How you know about this person

What this person is famous for

Explain why you are interested in this person

**(Who this person is)**

I'm going to tell you about a **celebrity** who I really respect. He is Fernando Torres, a Spanish professional footballer who plays as a **striker** for Atletico Madrid club and the **national team**.

**(How you know about this person)**

Torres has been my **idol** for a long time since I was a kid. I've always been a **sports fan** and I first watched him play when I turned 8 years old, the summer of **the UEFA European Football Championship** in 2008. I watched the final match of the championship, in which Torres contributed a truly impressive performance. He was also the only one who scored and made Spain a winner for the second time in history. The moment of his beautiful goal has turned me into a **wholehearted admirer** for 10 years now.

**(What this person is famous for)**

Fernando Torres **has earned an international reputation** as a valuable **striker** with great **vision** and technical ability. He has the awareness to get in behind **opposing defenders** and the ability **to finish accurately** with his head or with either foot. Like the true professional that he is, he keeps himself **in the peak of condition**. Thanks to **gifted talent** and dedicated training, he - together with his team-mates - has won lots of titles and set international records.

**(Explain why you are interested in this person)**

Personally, I find Torres an interesting person mainly because of his attitude as a team player. In football, strikers are generally **notorious for** selfishness and greed for goals, but Torres is different. Not only does he do his best to score himself, he also tries to support and **create chances for** his team-mates. This has been an **inspiration** for me to be unselfish, generous and cooperative in my own life and attitude towards others.

**Vocabulary:**

## Các từ thuộc chủ đề Sport and exercise:

### 1. a sports fan

Meaning: a person who takes a keen interest in sport

Example: While I think that it is good to be **a sports fan**, people must remember that sport is just entertainment, not a matter of life and death.

### 2. be in the peak of condition

Meaning: to be in the best possible physical condition

Example: Sports professionals should receive high salaries, because they must always **be in the peak of condition** to perform at the highest levels.

## Vocabulary:

- **celebrity** [noun]: a well-known person, such as an actor, singer or sports star. người nổi tiếng

Eg: After her marriage, Princess Diana became an international **celebrity**.

- **striker** [noun]: a footballer whose role is to score goals. tiền đạo

Eg: He started his football career as a **striker**, but he didn't score many goals.

- **national team** [noun]: a sports team selected to represent a country. đội tuyển quốc gia

Eg: In the Olympic Games, the most successful **national team** in recent years has been China.

- **EUFA European Football Championship**: a football competition held every 4 years to be the best national team in Europe. hay EURO, giải vô địch bóng đá châu Âu

Eg: I hope that Italy will win the next **EUFA European Football Championship**.

- **idol** [noun]: a person that you admire, respect (even love!), who you probably have never met in person. Thần tượng.

Eg: In the 1960s and 1970s, Ho Chi Minh was an **idol** for many Americans who opposed US policy.

- **wholehearted** [adjective]: complete, 100 per cent. hết lòng, nhiệt thành

Eg: The President enjoyed the **wholehearted** support of the news media for his economic reforms.

- **admirer** [noun]: a fan, a person who admires another person/thing. người hâm mộ

Eg: I have been an **admirer** of Shakespeare's plays since my schooldays.

- **to earn an international reputation as/for**: to become recognised internationally for some achievement. nổi tiếng toàn thế giới, lừng danh thế giới về điều gì đó

Eg: Brazilian footballers **have earned an international reputation as** very skilful players.

- **vision** [noun]: ability to understand what your team-mates and opponents are likely to do. tầm nhìn

Eg: Torres has great **vision**, always thinking about being in the right place at the right time to help his team to score.

- **opposing defender** [noun]: a player from the other team who tries to stop you from scoring a goal. hậu vệ đội bạn

Eg: Torres ran past two **opposing defenders** and scored.

- **finish accurately** [expression]: to score a goal by hitting the ball with accuracy. dứt điểm chính xác



Eg: Although he is a great player, he doesn't score many goals because he cannot **finish accurately**.

- **gifted talent** [expression]: a natural ability to do something. tài năng bẩm sinh

Eg: She has a **gifted talent** for music, and she masters a new instrument very quickly.

- **notorious (for)**...[adjective]: famous, but in a bad way. tai tiếng vì điều gì đó

Eg: Dracula was **notorious for** drinking the blood of his victims.

- **create chances for someone**: to help a team-mate to score a goal. tạo cơ hội cho ai

Eg. Skilful play by Torres **created many chances for** his team-mates to score during the match.

- **inspiration (for)**...[noun]: something which gives you hope and encouragement to do something. nguồn cảm hứng

Eg: Her lessons were an **inspiration for** all her students to really understand the subject.

### **Part 3:**

What kinds of famous people are there in your country?

What are the differences between famous people today and those in the past?

Do you think famous people are necessarily good in their fields?

Do you think media is putting too much attention on famous people?

### **40. Describe a time when you felt very bored**

**You should say:**

- **When it was**
- **Who you were with**
- **What you did**

**- And explain why you were bored.**

**(When it was)** Right now, I'd like to share with you one of my biggest problems whenever I **go on a date** with someone - boredom. Some time ago, during the Lunar New Year to be exact, I tried **seeing** a guy who I found the most boring individual on Earth.

**(Who you were with)** I matched this guy on Tinder, which was my maiden Tinder experience. Having read his profile, I could know this guy is definitely not a **catfish** but rather a well-educated boy who seemed to be a person I could talk to. However, he was just too shy to **initiate** a conversation and I had to continuously ask questions until I ran out of ideas.

**(What you did)** All of our dates were movie sessions rather than face-to-face time. After movies, we would just head out for dinner and drinks at which both of us hardly **cast a glance at** each other while we spent most of our time **keeping eyes glued to our screens**, literally without knowing what to say to each other.

**(And explain why you were bored)** I would say that the lack of connection between us was the cause of the boredom. Also, there was no **chemistry** between us. I expected him to be a lot more active as he had seemed to talk a lot in chat, but the way he turned out left me quite disappointed.

1. **To go on a date** (phrase): đi hẹn hò

He asked her out **on a date**.

Anh ấy mời cô ấy đi hẹn hò.

2. **To see** (v): tìm hiểu

I think Jane wants to date Jack after spending three months **seeing** him.

Tôi nghĩ Jane muốn hẹn hò với Jack sau ba tháng tìm hiểu.

3. **Catfish** (n): lừa đảo (sử dụng hình người khác trên ứng dụng hẹn hò)

Falling for a **catfish** has nothing to do with intelligence or rational thinking – it's all about hope.

Lỡ yêu một người lừa đảo thì không có gì liên quan với thông minh hay suy nghĩ lý trí – nó hoàn toàn là hy vọng.

**4. To initiate (v): bắt đầu**

We shall initiate urgent discussions with our European partners.

Chúng tôi sẽ bắt đầu những cuộc thảo luận gấp với đối tác Châu Âu.

**5. To cast a glance at sb/sth (phrase): liếc nhìn ai đó/cái gì đó.**

She **cast a glance at** her watch.

Cô ấy liếc mắt nhìn đồng hồ.

**6. To keep eyes glued to screen (phrase): dán mắt vào màn hình**

You can see many train commuters in S.Korea **keep their eyes glued to their phone screens** on board.

Bạn có thể thấy rất nhiều người đi tàu ở Hàn Quốc dán mắt vào màn hình điện thoại.

**7. Chemistry (n): hợp**

Finding out that there was **chemistry** between them, they decided to break up.

Nhận thấy rằng không hợp nhau, họ quyết định chia tay.

**Part3:**

When do people feel bored?

What do people usually do when they've got nothing to do?

Do children get bored more than in the past?

**41. Describe a time that you gave advice to others**

*You should say:*

- *Who you gave it to*

- *What was the advice about*
- *What that person did after receiving it*
- *And how you felt about it*

*(What it was and who you gave it to)*

Today, I would like to talk about some advice on studying that I gave to my younger sister. It was 2 years ago, when she completed her university graduation and had to decide what she wanted to do in her life. At that time, I had been working for 5 years and **accumulated** a certain amount of experience, so my sister decided to **consult** me.

*(What was the advice about)*

Back then, she was **at a crossroads**, where she had to choose between embarking on further studies abroad or starting working full-time with her bachelor's degree. She wanted an option, which would provide her with a promising future. Understandably, higher academic qualifications nowadays are virtually a **prerequisite** for employment, especially in grey-matter fields where rivalry is **cut-throat** for graduates. On receiving her question, I talked to her a lot to find out what she really loved doing. Eventually, I advised her to continue to study for a Master's degree instead of working early.

*(What that person did after receiving it)*

I told her to do so because I believed that a master's degree can open many career doors for young people, including certain career fields, offer **advancement** opportunities, and higher salaries. Although taking a master's degree is **by no means** an easy task, this would challenge her to by step out of her **comfort zone**. She trusted me and followed my advice.

*(And how you felt about it)*

I felt really happy to be there when she needed me the most and sailed her through such a challenging phase of decision-making in life. After following my advice, my sister has achieved more on her academic journey and she always feels **grateful** for my help. She told me that she always wanted to see from my perspective before making any vital moves, as I often gave her **insightful** thoughts.

#### Vocabulary:

95. **accumulate** [v]: to collect a large number of things over a long period of time: chất lũy

Eg: As people accumulate more wealth, they tend to spend a greater proportion of their incomes.

96. **consult** [v]: to discuss something with someone before you make a decision: tham khảo ý kiến

Eg: This afternoon the president was consulting with his advisers.

97. **at a crossroads** [expression]: to be at a stage in your life when you have to make a very important decision: đến bước ngoặc, đến bước quyết định

Eg: After earning her degree, I'm at a crossroads.

98. **prerequisite** [n]: something that must exist or happen before something else can exist or happens: điều kiện tiên quyết

Eg: Passing a written test is a prerequisite for taking the advanced course.

99. **cut-throat** [adj]: competing in a strong and unfair way, without considering any harm caused to others: quyết liệt

Eg: Scrapping of price fixing legislation led to a cut-throat battle for supermarket customers.

100.       **advancement** [n]: the development or improvement of something: sự thăng tiến

Eg: All she was interested in was the advancement of her own career.

101.       **by no means** [expression]: not at all: không hề

Eg: It is by no means certain that we'll finish the project by June.

102.       **comfort zone** [expression]: a situation in which you feel comfortable and in which your ability and determination are not being tested: vùng an toàn

Eg: Rock climbing pushes many people beyond their comfort zones.

103.       **grateful** [adj]: feeling or showing an appreciation of kindness; thankful: biết ơn

Eg: I'm very grateful to you for all your help.

104.       **insightful** [adj]: having or showing an accurate and deep understanding; perceptive.: sâu sắc

Eg: This is a very thoughtful, insightful analysis.

## **42. Describe a perfect job you would like to have in the future**

*You should say:*

*What it is*

*How you might find this job*

*What qualities it requires*

*Explain why it is a well-paid job*

*Why you think you will be good at it*

### **(What it is)**

Since I was young, I have always dreamed of becoming a tour guide. Being a **backpacker**, I have a very strong **thirst for** travelling, so I believe it would be wonderful to have the opportunity to do it as a job.

### **(How you might find this job)**

As a matter of fact, my city is an increasingly –popular holiday destination and **is swarming with holidaymakers**. Therefore, it would not be too hard for me to find a vacancy in almost any of the travel agencies based in my city.

**(What qualities it requires)**

Although it may be easy to find a job vacancy in this field, to do the job is much more **challenging**. First and foremost, a tour guide must act professionally by **adhering to proper codes of conduct**. As they have to make direct contact with customers, it is extremely important that tour guides show that they are trained and take their job seriously. Secondly, they also have **to be a team player** because guiding tours involves the participation of many parties. **To keep abreast of** everything that is going on, smooth teamwork is specially required to prevent any **breakdown in communication**.

**(Explain why it is a well-paid job)**

As I have said, my city **is thronged with tourists**. And because of their stressful **lifestyles**, tourists now are prepared **to really break the bank** to enjoy a well-organized trip. So I believe as long as I do my job decently, I would get a good income.

**(Why you think you will be good at it)**

In fact, I am quite confident that I have all the qualities required to be a tour guide. I have really good communication skills and a smart appearance as well. Therefore, I believe if I train properly, I will be a good tour guide!

## **Vocabulary**

### **Từ vựng chủ đề *Tourism*:**

#### **1. backpackers**

Meaning: people who travel on holiday carrying all their equipment and clothes in a backpack, like a large very strong bag which they carry on their back.

Example: London has cheap accommodation for **backpackers** who don't have much money to spend on hotels.

Ví dụ: Anh ấy đã đi khắp thế giới, nhưng vẫn khao khát được đặt chân tới những nơi mới lạ và tận hưởng những trải nghiệm mới.

## 2. to have a thirst for something

Meaning: to have a strong desire for something

Example: He has been all over the world, but **he still has a thirst for** seeing new places and enjoying new experiences.

Ví dụ: London có những phòng nghỉ giá rẻ cho du khách ba lô, những người không có nhiều tiền để ở khách sạn.

## 3. to swarm with holidaymakers/tourists

Meaning: when people swarm somewhere, they move there in a large group or in large numbers.

Example: During the summer, the little seaside town **is swarming with holidaymakers.**

Ví dụ: Vào mùa hè, thị trấn nhỏ ven biển đầy những vị khách tới nghỉ mát.

i liệu.



#### 4. to be thronged with tourists

Meaning: refers to the situation of a place having a great number of visitors crowded or considered together

Example: At weekends, London, in particular, **is thronged with tourists** and certain areas of the city such as Oxford Street and Covent Garden are swarming with visitors.

Ví dụ: Vào cuối tuần, cụ thể ở London, đầy những du khách và một số khu vực trong thành phố như Oxford Street hay Covent Garden thì chật ních người.

#### 5. To break the bank

Meaning: to use up all one's money/ to cost too much.

Example: Having a winter vacation in the sun without **breaking the bank** is a dream come true

Ví dụ: Có được một kì nghỉ mùa đông dưới ánh mặt trời mà không phải chi hết sạch tiền bạc là một giấc mơ có thực.

#### Từ vựng chủ đề *Government*:

##### 1. to adhere to

Meaning: to behave according to a particular law, rule or set of instructions

Example: Governments which fail **to adhere to** their election promises generally become unpopular very quickly.

#### Từ vựng chủ đề *Communication and personality*:

##### 1. codes of conduct

Meaning: voluntary rules which people accept in a situation

Example: The **code of conduct** in this company is voluntary but it is seen as a sign of best practice.

Ví dụ: Bộ quy tắc ứng xử là tự nguyện nhưng nó được coi là tiêu chuẩn thực hiện.

## 2. to be a team player

Meaning: a person who willingly cooperates with others

Example: Employees who **are good team players** are more likely to be selected for promotion.

Ví dụ: Những nhân viên có khả năng làm việc tốt sẽ có nhiều cơ hội được chọn để thăng tiến hơn.

## 3. to keep abreast of something

Meaning: to have the most recent information about something

Example: This new service helps doctors **keep abreast of** the newest drugs available.

Ví dụ: Dịch vụ mới cho phép bác sĩ cập nhật tin tức về những loại thuốc mới nhất.

## 4. a breakdown in communication

Meaning: a misunderstanding which results from people failing to discuss and resolve something

Example: The dispute between the workers and the employer was the result of **a breakdown in communication** over wages.

Ví dụ: Mâu thuẫn giữa công nhân và ông chủ là do sự thất bại trong giao tiếp về mức lương.

## Vocabulary

- **challenging** (adjective): difficult in an interesting way that tests your ability

Eg: She had a **challenging** and rewarding career as a teacher.

- **lifestyle** (noun): the way in which a person or a group of people lives and works

Eg: It was a big change in **lifestyle** when we moved to the countryside.

## Part 3:

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

**(Give direct answer to the question)** Yes, from my viewpoint, job satisfaction plays a crucial role in choosing a job rather than salary. **(Explain your reasons)** It is undeniable that job contentedness will lead to greater productivity at work and help you maintain a healthy lifestyle. **(Give an example)** For instance, I am passionate about my job as an English translator because my company offers me a good working environment and my work with pleasure and also have time to enjoy my leisure time. **(Explain the opposite or alternative)** If people give the priority gave priority to salary, they may have to work under pressure for their whole life and be a slave to money.a slave to money.

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

**(Give direct answer to the question)** In my opinion, communication skills are crucial to most careers, which means that it is necessary to gain these skills to get a job. **(Explain your reasons)** Employers want people that can listen and observe to gain an understanding, relate their ideas effectively, and devise strategies for working together.

Thus, those who have communication skills can interact with others to complete work effectively. **(Give an example)** Last month, I was given a bonus and promoted to a higher position because I could communicate with my colleagues and gain a great number of new contracts. **(Explain the opposite or alternative)** When candidates lack interaction skills, they are likely to feel awkward when attending a job interview and lose the chance of getting the job.

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

**(Give direct answer to the question)** No, I wholeheartedly believe that women shouldn't do all the jobs that men do. **(Explain your reasons)** It seems obvious that the nature of men enables them to work in specific jobs that women cannot because of their relative weakness; both physically and mentally. **(Give an example)** For example, operating heavy machines, building houses or farming are not suitable for women since they are not likely to be able to endure the hardship of these jobs. **(Explain the opposite or alternative)** If they perform a man's job for a long time, they may become exhausted and overloaded.

### **How has technology changed the way we work?**

**(Give direct answer to the question)** Thanks to the technology, whether it's a laptop or even mobile phone, we can do business almost anywhere without the obstacle of time and distance. **(Explain your reasons)** In the past, people had the problem of wasting time on finding and sharing information by sending letter or making an appointment. However, nowadays, we can easily collect data, share information and do transactions via internet-connected gadgets. **(Give an example)** My father, for example, often conducts video conferencing with his employees so that he doesn't have to go to the office regularly. **(Explain the opposite or alternative)** When modern people don't use technology, definitely productivity and work output is often affected.

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

**(Give direct answer to the question) The differences between** white collar and blue collar jobs include features of the work, remuneration and the payment cycle. **(Explain your reasons) Blue collar** work means that workers perform a job manually and get an hourly or daily wage, based on the performance of their work whereas employees of **white collar jobs** perform clerical work in an office and draw monthly salary at a fixed rate **(Give an example)** For instance, as a translator, I am paid 10 million dong per month while my uncle who is a harbor worker is given 100.000d per day.

### **43. Describe a person who you think wears unusual clothes**

*You should say:*

*Who this person is*

*What his/her clothes are like*

*And explain why you think his/her clothes are unusual*

***(Who this person is)***

People around the world wear different sorts of clothes on special occasions and due to geographical location and seasonal changes, the **attires** vary. Most often, I would dress casually, except at social events which require a higher level of formality, where suits and formal shoes would be **indispensable** items for my overall appearance. And if you ask me to think of a person whose choices of clothes are quite peculiar, the name of Josh, my close friend, **springs to mind**.

**What kind of clothes does he/she wear?**

Well, I find his taste of fashion somewhat **bizarre** because he doesn't follow the usual clothing norms. For example, once I saw him wearing sandals with formals, or in a red or pink suit which was to the amazement of his colleagues. When being asked by **colleagues** about his unique and sometimes **girlish** style, he expressed that he just wears things according to his own will.

**And explain why you think his/her clothes are unusual**

According to John, his mother is a fashion designer, so he has been exposed to unconventional styles of clothing and clothing **brands** since he was young. Therefore, he likes to experiment with clothes and never fails to **keep up with the latest fashions**. The reason why I consider his clothing unusual is because most often, men approach their dress with a casual, simple style with dark and neutral colors. However, John goes against the established rules, with complete confidence and energy. Despite all, he has an excellent physique and ideal height, so he frequently receives **commendation** for his fashionista image. Every time I see his clothes, I feel like I wouldn't wear them, but I also feel that he is looking good, if not **captivating** in them.

Vocabulary:

**attire** [n]: clothes, especially of a particular or formal type: áo quần, trang phục

Eg: I hardly think jeans are appropriate attire for a wedding.

**indispensable** [adj]: something or someone that is indispensable is so good or important that you could not manage without it, him, or her: không thể thiếu được

Eg: This book is an indispensable resource for researchers.

**spring to mind** [expression]: to come quickly into your mind: hiện ra trong tâm trí

Eg: Say the word "Australia" and a vision of beaches and blue seas immediately springs to mind.

**bizarre** [adj]: very strange and unusual: kì lạ

Eg: That party was too bizarre for me!

**girlish** [adj]: girlish behaviour or characteristics are typical of a girl: giống con gái

Eg: His eyelashes were long and girlish.

**colleague** [n]: one of a group of people who work together: đồng nghiệp

Eg: We're entertaining some colleagues of Carol's tonight.

**brand** [n]: the name of a product produced or sold by a particular company: nhãn hàng, thương hiệu

Eg: It was to become the leading brand of specialty coffee in North America.

**keep up with the latest fashion** [expression]: dress in the latest fashion: bắt kịp xu hướng thời trang

Eg: Jessica always keeps up with the latest fashion, which never disappoints her fans.

**commendation** [n]: praise, or an official statement that praises someone: sự khen ngợi

Eg: Several of the firefighters received commendation for their bravery.

**captivating** [adj]: holding your attention by being extremely interesting, exciting, pleasant, or attractive: thu hút

Eg: Her voice was utterly/absolutely captivating.

### **Part 3:**

Do you think what people wear can influence their mood?

Do you think it is a good idea to buy clothes online?

What kind of clothes do people wear in the workplace?

What are the differences between clothes worn by old people and those by young people?

## **44. Describe a thing that you bought and felt pleased about**

You should say:

- What it is
- How you use it and why you bought it
- And explain why you think it is important

### **(What it is)**

I have several pieces of modern technology and electronic **gadgets** that I often use and among them, I would like to talk about the electronic dictionary I bought years ago in a bookstore. On the surface, it was really **eye-catching**. It was a white colored digital dictionary, **portable**, compact and light, not more than 4 by 6 inches in dimension, but was one of the latest models.

**(How you use it and why you bought it)**

This **versatile** dictionary also served as an Ipod, which allowed me to listen to music and play games. Above all, as an avid English learner, I needed an electronic dictionary in my study. In terms of its main functions, it really **came in handy** for me. I could easily carry it in my pocket and I used it quite often to learn new words and that helped enhance my language skills a great deal. Since then, it has been serving me **faithfully**, allowing me not only to do a quick search for words and expressions, but also to create specialized personal **glossaries**.

**(And explain why you think it is important)**

Thanks to this dictionary, learning English has **gradually** become my pastime, rather than a compulsory, **tedious** subject in school. Until now, I still count myself fortunate to have bought this at such an affordable price at that time. This electronic dictionary has changed the way I learn English and helped me to **excel at** this language.

Vocabulary:

**1. gadget [n]:** a small device or machine with a particular purpose: đồ vật

Eg: Have you seen this handy little gadget - it's for separating egg yolks from whites.

**2. eye-catching [adj]:** (of a thing) immediately noticeable because it is particularly interesting, bright or attractive: bắt mắt

Eg: There were beautiful clothes in eye-catching colours in the shop.

**3. portable [adj]:** light and small enough to be easily carried or moved: mang theo được

Eg: The laptop's ultra-compact design makes it extremely portable and practical.

**4. versatile [adj]:** having many different uses: linh hoạt, nhiều công dụng

Eg: Eggs are easy to cook and are an extremely versatile food.

**5. come in handy [expression]:** to be useful: tiện ích

Eg: The extra money came in very handy in this situation.

**6. faithfully [v]:** in a loyal way or a way that can be trusted: một cách trung thành



Eg: He served the family faithfully for 40 years.

**7. glossary [n]:** an alphabetical list, with meanings, of the words or phrases in a text that are difficult to understand: bảng chú giải

Eg: The end matter includes a very useful discography and bibliography, as well as a glossary and chronology.

**8. gradually [adv]:** slowly, over a long period of time: dần dần

Eg: Women have gradually become more involved in the decision-making process.

**9. tedious [adj]:** boring: nhàm chán

Eg: The problem is I find most forms of exercise so tedious.

**10. (to) excel at [v]:** to be very good at doing something: xuất sắc, vượt trội

Eg: As a child he excelled at music and art.

### **PART 3: EQUIPMENT**

#### **1. What do you think is the most important equipment in the workplace?**

**(Give a direct answer to the question)** Well, I think computers are of utmost importance to offices nowadays. **(Explain your reason or reasons)** The widespread use of computers has **revolutionized** many aspects of labor and business. **(Give an example (often a personal example))** Computers can improve communication both within the workplace and when dealing with customers. The use of email, Internet, message boards and social media sites like Facebook and LinkedIn have been **instrumental in** keeping workers in touch both within and between different companies. Another revolutionary aspect of computers is the **enormous** quantity of information they are capable of storing.

#### **2. Which technological product do you think is most useful at home?**

**(Give a direct answer to the question)** I assume it is the washing machine for certain reasons. **(Explain your reason or reasons)** A washing machine is a huge time saver over hand washing. **(Give an example (often a personal example))** You do not have to sit and monitor the washing process. Above all, a washing machine **eliminates** the effort needed to wash clothes. You start the cycle and throw your clothes and **detergent** in. With hand washing, you must use physical effort to get the clothes clean and scrub **vigorously** to remove stains.

#### **1. Do you think there will be no teachers to teach in school in the future?**

(**Give a direct answer to the question**) Well, this **prospect** seems unimaginable to me. (**Explain your reason or reasons**) On the one hand, the presence of a teacher is essential for students because the human contact influences them in positive ways. (**Give an example (often a personal example)**) Teachers are constantly required in the learning process because they acknowledge some students' **deficiencies** and help them to solve their problems by offering explanation, giving extra exercises or even suggesting a private tutor.

## **2. Do you think some technological products make you lazier? Why?**

(**Give a direct answer to the question**) Apparently, they do, to a certain extent. (**Explain your reason or reasons**) Technology **breeds** the ability to employ labor saving devices. Once upon a time, visiting a friend or family member meant traveling; nowadays we are satisfied with a few minutes on FaceTime or Skype. We **friend** and **defriend** people from social networks without actually meeting them. In this day and age, hardly anyone walks or rides a bike, people want to drive everywhere, even for a short distance. I don't know how many people would survive if technology suddenly disappeared.

Vocabulary:

105. **revolutionize** [v]: to completely change something so that it is much better:  
cách mạng hóa

Eg: Newton's discoveries revolutionized physics.

106. **instrumental in** [adj]: if someone or something is instrumental in a process, plan, or system, that person or thing is one of the most important influences in causing it to happen: góp phần vào

Eg: She was instrumental in bringing about the prison reform act.

107. **enormous** [adj]: extremely large: to lớn

Eg: He earns an enormous salary.

108. **eliminate** [v]: to remove or take away someone or something: loại bỏ

Eg: We eliminated the possibility that it could have been an accident.

109. **detergent** [n]: a chemical substance in the form of a powder or a liquid for removing dirt from clothes, dishes, etc.: chất tẩy rửa

Eg: Significantly more male moths were caught in traps treated with water containing powdered detergent than liquid detergent, light gear oil or insecticide.

110. **vigorously** [adv]: in a way that is very forceful or energetic: một cách mạnh mẽ

Eg: Environmentalists and local government officials have vigorously opposed the project.

111. **prospect** [n]: the possibility that something good might happen in the future: viễn cảnh

Eg: There seems little prospect of an end to the dispute.

112. **deficiencies** [n]: a state of not having, or not having enough, of something that is needed: sự thiếu sót

Eg: Deficiencies in the education system have been much in the news.

113. **breed** [v]: to cause something to happen, usually something bad: sinh ra

Eg: Favouritism breeds resentment.

114. **defriend** [v]: to remove someone from your list of friends on a social networking website: hủy kết bạn

Eg: How do I check who has defriended me on Facebook?

### Part 3

1. How often do people in your country go shopping?
2. Why is online shopping popular?
3. How should sellers set prices for their products?
4. Do you think online shopping will replace shopping in stores?

### 45. Describe a time when you ate something for the first time

You should say:

What you ate

When you ate it

Where you were

And explain how you felt about it

***What you ate***

Well, I was about 16 when I was first asked to try sushi with raw-fish for the first time.

***When you ate it***

It happened when one night, my brother, who was 5 years older than me, came into the house all excited. All he did was rave about sushi - the new food he had with one of his buddies. Just like everyone else out there who hasn't tried sushi, I immediately dismissed the thought of even trying to think it was good.

***Where you were***

My brother insisted I try it. I agreed, after taking a lot of convincing. At the restaurant, I was greeted by the smell of raw fish and seaweed. Not a common or pleasant smell to the average person. I wanted to leave based on the smell alone. We sat down and my brother ordered. He suggested I order the salmon roll and tuna roll, something easy. Well, the meal came out, and it looked pretty impressive in terms of presentation. The hard part was getting it in my mouth. My brother showed me the ropes of the soy sauce, chopsticks, and other items. When I did get the courage to eat it, I really wasn't sure what to think. The feel of it in my mouth was definitely an odd feeling, but it wasn't disgusting or smelly. Actually, it was kind of good after I tried some more. The funny part was when I asked my brother what that green stuff was on the sushi plate. He told me it was a minty paster and was to be eaten kind of like a dessert after you were done eating the sushi. Well, he lied. It was wasabi - I ate a large amount of it and then my eyes were watering and my nostrils were flaring for a half an hour. My brother always tricked me like that.

***And explain how you felt about it***

Needless to say, I enjoyed the night. Soon after that night, I had cravings for sushi and its grown since then. I just can't stop eating it. I'm hooked, and I thank my brother for that even though he did play that wasabi trick on me.

Part 3:

***What kinds of foreign food are popular in your country?***

Japanese food, Chinese food and Korean food are very popular in Vietnamese cities. The most famous ones are ramen, sushi, tempura, tempanyaki, katsu, teryaki, bento set foods, etc.

***Should teachers and parents teach children how to cook?***

Yes. In my opinion, teaching a child how to cook helps them understand how much time and effort it takes for a parent to make a healthy, tasty meal for the family.

***Why do people like their local food?***

Local food is always fresher, healthier and tastes better, because it spends less time in transit from farm to plate, and therefore, loses fewer nutrients and incurs less spoilage. Therefore, a lot of people prefer local food to the foreign one.

**46. Describe a time when you had to wait in a long line of people queue**

You should say:

When and where you waited in line

Explain why you had to wait in a long line of people

How you felt

*(When and where you waited in line)*

Waiting stems from little things in life and varies from people to people. For example, a high-school student is anxious about her exam results, a mother longs for a reply from her far-away son, a businessman is **indignant** at his flight's delay, etc. I think waiting sometimes gives us a sense of achievement but it can also be a **nuisance** in our life. Today, I'm going to describe a time when I had to wait in a long line of people. It was a year ago when the New Year period was closely approaching. On a Sunday evening, I went to a supermall near my home to do some necessary shopping. I spent almost 45 minutes **picking up** all the essential items on the long list my family had compiled the earlier.

*(Explain why you had to wait in a long line of people)*

During the time shopping, I noticed that many people were buying items for the New Year's celebration. As a consequence, the crowd seemed larger than usual. However, as soon as I reached the checkout point, I was **bewildered**. I had no idea how large the queue in this shopping mall could be! There were more than 5 checkout points but each of those was surprisingly crowded. After standing in the nearest queue, I actually counted the number of people who were also waiting in the queue ahead of me. It was probably 21 or 22 and I got quite anxious to leave the shopping mall as soon as possible. As most of the customers' shopping carts were full, the cash registers were very **occupied** and they were clearly working hard to ease such a **prolongation**.

*(How you felt)*

After 30 minutes or so, I started playing games on my mobile phone. I did so for about half an hour and then I noticed that the line in front of me had become smaller. For the rest, only a few of the customers remained calm and **unhurried**. Understandably, queuing **discomforted** them, and some even **went to great lengths** to take others' positions. Actually, the atmosphere in the mall was filled with the **aromas** coming from the festivities, which partly calmed me and after approximately 25 minutes, I paid my

bill. As soon as I got back to my car and went home, I felt much better to finally have my shopping done.

Vocabulary:

115. **indignant** [adj]: at/about sth: feeling or showing anger : tức tối, phẫn nộ

Eg: Lan was very indignant at the way she was treated yesterday.

116. **nuisance** [n]: a situation that is annoying or causes troubles or problems : sự phiền phức

Eg: It's a nuisance to be stuck in the traffic jam for hours on end.

117. **pick up** [v]: to get or bring someone or something from somewhere: nhặt, đón, lấy

Eg: A truck picks up the recycling once a week.

118. **bewilder** [v]: cause (someone) to become perplexed and confused: làm hoang mang

Eg: His decision bewildered her.

119. **occupied** [adj]: full, in use, or busy: bận rộn

Eg: At that time I was fully occupied taking care of my elderly mother.

120. **prolongation** [n]: the act of making sth last longer: sự kéo dài

Eg: The prolongation of human life is always desirable.

121. **unhurried** [adj]: relaxed and not rush for time: thong thả, ung dung

Eg: Sometimes I admire his unhurried lifestyle.

122. **discomfort** [v]: to make sb feel anxious and uneasy: gây bất tiện

Eg: My mother was greatly discomforted by the new regulations.

123. **go to great lengths** [expression]: + to do sth: to put lot of effort to do sth(usually in a negative way): làm với bất cứ giá nào

Eg: This famous singer goes to great lengths to keep her life private.

124. **aroma** [n]: a distinctive, typically pleasant smell.: mùi hương

Eg: The delicious aroma of fresh bread wafted out of the bakery.

### Part 3:

#### 5. Do you think waiting is harder now?

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* Well, I think it is. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* Understandably, the **frantic** pace of life has **incessantly** burdened humans with work and responsibility, so these days they seem more impatient with things. *(Give an example (often a personal example))* It is strange that many youngsters can surf the Internet **with a vengeance** but feel exhausted when waiting for their mother for merely 5 minutes. Most people are easily infuriated about any delay and want to multi-task. Only a few can remain calm and **unhurried** to enjoy the wonders of life. For modern people, time is too precious to be wasted.

#### 6. Why some companies provide poor customer service?

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* There are quite a few reasons to explain this. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* First, the quality of customer service provided by a company largely depends on the people that are hired for the job. Therefore, not having the right employees on board is the number one reason for poor customer service. Second, the lack of proper training for employees is possibly the most common reason for poor customer service. *(Explain the opposite or alternative)* Apparently, negative word-of-mouth can have a **disastrous** impact on a company's reputation, causing would-be buyers to look elsewhere. Companies should be more aware that **retaining** customers – and making sure they feel appreciated and get the support and user experience they expect – is key to continued success.

#### 7. Do you prefer human being or robot customer service?

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* My preference is probably for robots. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* There are numerous benefits to using robots, and it largely depends on how businesses and stakeholders can **leverage** them to enhance the customer's experience. The main advantage offered by chatbots from the point of view of customer service is **automation**. You can optimize human resources and manage conversations with users in a highly efficient way. *(Give an example (often a personal*



*example*)) For example, if a potential customer sends a message to the company's Facebook page and no one is currently connected to service it, the artificial intelligence chatbots system can offer useful information about the business, such as prices or schedule, opening hours, etc. (*Explain the opposite or alternative*) Furthermore, chatbots **eliminate** the need for staff during online interaction with customers. This is obviously a great advantage for companies that receive multiple inquiries at the same time. In addition to saving costs with them, companies can design the chatbot with additional **objectives**, such as sales and internal processes.

Vocabulary:

125. **frantic** [adj]: done quickly and with a lot of activity, but not well organised: cuồng loạn

Eg: The 21<sup>st</sup> century is characterized by a frantic pace of life.

126. **incessantly** [adv]: never stopping : liên tục

Eg: Phuong talked incessantly, which was really annoying to me.

127. **with a vengeance** [expression]: to a greater degree than usual: quá độ

Eg: Linh sets to work with a vengeance.

128. **infuriated** [adj]: be extremely angry : at sth: : cực kì tức giận

Eg: The police was infuriated at the murderer's silence.

129. **disastrous** [adj]: causing great harm, damage, or suffering: gây thiệt hại

Eg: It was a disastrous mistake which he lived to regret.

130. **retain** [v]: to keep or continue to have something: giữ lại

Eg: Francis retained control of the company.

131. **leverage** [v]: to use something that you already have in order to achieve something new or better: tận dụng

Eg: They can leverage a very small investment into millions of dollars.

132. **automation** [n]: the use of machines that operate automatically: sự tự động hóa

Eg: Automation replaces human workers by machines

133. **eliminate** [v]: to remove or take away someone or something: loại trừ

Eg: A move towards healthy eating could help eliminate heart disease.

134. **objective** [n]: something that you plan to do or achieve: mục đích

Eg: Her main/prime objective now is simply to stay in power.

#### **47. Describe a place (not your home ) where you are able to relax.**

*You should say*

· *Where the place is*

· *How you know this place*

· *What you do there*

· *And explain why you think it is a good place for reading and writing*

#### **Answer**

##### **(where the place is)**

I'm going to describe a coffee shop called Tranquil, where I often spend my time **engrossed in** reading and writing. It's actually quite a long way from my house, but that doesn't **put me off** visiting there again and again.

##### **(how you know this place)**

This coffee shop **came highly recommended** by one of my friends, a writer. She loves **cosy** places which **possess real character**, in which she can spend hours writing film scripts, and this is one of her favourite **haunts**. She took me there about three months ago, and I fell in love with it at first sight. It is a romantic old **spot** with wooden tables, vintage book desks, and beautiful windows, all **works of traditional craftsmanship**.. Each floor has separate areas, and I felt like I was lost in a wonderland, with many seats specially situated to offer beautiful views through various windows.

##### **(what you do there)**

As a **freelancer**, I visit Tranquil frequently **to read over** my documents and do my online jobs. Sometimes, I even **come across** some fascinating reading matter on their desks, because there are a large number of books and documents donated to this coffee shop by loyal customers and book lovers. So, I **broaden my literary horizons** in some

unexpected directions. I have also joined a **literary appreciation** circle there, which meets every month to discuss books which we have all read.

**(and explain why you think it is a good place for reading and writing)**

I have to admit that, though I'm hard to please, I'm always satisfied when I go there, **secure in the knowledge of a pleasurable** visit. Not only is its design uniquely relaxing, but Tranquil's service is **second to none**. You always get good, consistently delicious food at Tranquil, whether you have lunch or just morning coffee or afternoon tea. The atmosphere is warm and **homely** with gentle music and quiet people, which suits bookworms like me **down to the ground**.

Từ vựng chủ đề **Reading**:

**1. to be engrossed in**

Meaning: to be completely focused on something

Example: A good work-life balance is important, because if people **are too engrossed in** their work, their family life may suffer.

**2. to come highly recommended**

Meaning: to be praised enthusiastically by one or more people

Example: Books by classic authors always **come highly recommended**, but works by talented young writers should not be overlooked.

**3. to read over**

Meaning: to read something carefully from beginning to end to look for mistakes or to check details

Example: Attention to detail is important in many jobs, so the practice of **reading over** one's written work should be taught at school and university.

**4. to broaden one's literary horizons**

Meaning: to extend the limit of your knowledge or interests by reading widely

Example: Schools should **broaden the literary horizons** of students by encouraging them to read in class and at home.

**5. literary appreciation**

Meaning: pleasure that you have when you recognise and enjoy the qualities of a good piece of writing

Example: Children develop **literary appreciation** if they are encouraged by parents and teachers to love reading.

#### 6. **secure in the knowledge**

Meaning: not worried because you are sure that nothing bad will happen

Example: Students who work hard throughout the year will be confident when they take exams, **secure in the knowledge** that they are well-prepared.

Từ vựng chủ đề **Traditional vs Modern:**

#### 1. **to possess character**

Meaning: to have an interesting or unusual quality

Example: Whereas most modern buildings look the same, the architecture that survives from the past **possesses real character**.

#### 2. **works of craftsmanship**

Meaning: objects made by people who are very skilled at making things by hand

Example: The museums of every city are full of beautiful **works of craftsmanship** made by skilled workers in past centuries.

### **Vocabulary**

#### 1. **Put off** [phrasal verb]

Meaning: to cause someone to lose interest or enthusiasm

Example: She wanted to be a nurse, but the thought of night shifts **put her off**.

#### 2. **Cosy** [adjective]

Meaning: comfortable and pleasant, especially (of a building) because of being small and warm

Example: It's much better to have a small **cosy** room than a big cold one.

#### 3. **Haunt** [noun]

Meaning: a place that somebody often visits or where they spend a lot of time.

Example: This bar is one of the favourite **haunts** of staff from the college nearby.

#### 4. **Spot** [noun]

Meaning: a particular area or place

Example: She always sits in the same **spot** in the library, near the window so that she can look out over the gardens.

#### 5. **Freelancer** [noun]

Meaning: someone who works on different projects with different companies instead of being a company employee

Example: He started off his career working as a **freelancer** with several design firms.

#### 6. **Come across** [phrasal verb]

Meaning: to meet or find somebody/something by chance

Example: I **came across** some interesting old photos while I was looking through the drawers of my desk.

#### 7. **Pleasurable** [adjective]

Meaning: giving pleasure

Example: A visit to the Tower of London is a very **pleasurable** experience, because the Tower has a real feeling of history.

#### 8. **Second to none** [expression]

Meaning: as good as or better than all others

Example: The delicious Thai food in this restaurant is **second to none**.

#### 9. **Homely** [adjective]

Meaning: plain or ordinary, but pleasant

Example: The hotel is **homely** and comfortable rather than luxurious.

#### 10. **Down to the ground** [expression]

Meaning: if something suits you down to the ground, it suits you perfectly because it is convenient or the best option for you

Example: As he has classes in the morning and afternoon, his part-time job in the evenings suits him **down to the ground**.

### **Part 3**

1. How do students relax themselves?
2. What activities do employers organize to help employees relax?
3. Do people nowadays have more ways to relax than in the past?

4. Do you think natural scenery is more helpful than indoor activities?

#### 48. Describe a puzzle (jigsaw, sudoku)

##### Describe a puzzle (jigsaw, sudoku)

You should say:

What it is like

How easy or difficult it is

How long it takes you to solve

And how you feel about it

##### *(What it is like)*

I think a puzzle is a perfect way to challenge our brains. Ever since I was a kid, I have been curious about things and used to **disassemble** and reassemble my toys to see how they worked. Solving puzzles is a **thought-provoking** and mental exercise that people of all ages should be **in the habit of**. I have found the solution to many puzzles and today, I'm going to describe one that I did a few years ago. The puzzle's name is Sudoku, which has its origin in Japan and it is extremely popular among people of all ages.

##### *(How easy or difficult it is)*

Sudoku is a number game in which missing numbers are to be filled into a 9 by 9 grid of squares which are subdivided into 3 by 3 boxes so that every row, every column, and every box contains the numbers 1 through 9. I **vividly** remember my father introduced me to this game. At first, It seemed quite easy and more like **child's play** so I accepted the challenge but soon I realized it's not that easy. Sudoku is indeed a "brain game" that requires a variety of **cognitive** skills, such as quick decision making, spotting patterns, and applying logical reasoning.

##### *(How long it takes you to solve)*

Eventually, I solved the puzzle in 1 hour. After that experience, my sister and I became more interested in the puzzle and we bought every Saturday a newspaper and together solved it with great **enthusiasm**. Seeing my interest develop, my father bought me a Sudoku puzzle book. The more I played, the more **absorbed** I was in the task; therefore, my concentration skills were also vastly improved thanks to this.

*(And how you feel about it)*

I really enjoy Sudoku. As I see it, every time you place a new number on the Sudoku grid, you are utilizing different parts of your brain. Sudoku is fun for so many different people because it rewards so many different styles of thinking – some people are more **methodical** with solving Sudoku puzzles, searching across the rows and columns for easily identifiable numbers to place. Other people like to use more of a random **approach**, and scan the grid for opportunities wherever they might arise. No matter how your brain works best, chances are you can apply your thinking skills to Sudoku.

Vocabulary:

135. **disassemble** [v]: to separate something into its different parts: tháo rời

Eg: This video shows you how to disassemble a television set.

136. **thought-provoking** [adj]: making you think a lot about a subject: kích thích suy nghĩ

Eg: It's such a thought-provoking film.

137. **in the habit of** [expression]: If you are in the habit of doing something, you do it regularly or often: có thói quen làm gì

Eg: They were in the habit of giving two or three dinner parties a month.

138. **vividly** [adv]: in a way that is very clear, powerful, and detailed in your mind: một cách sống động

Eg: I vividly remember my first day at school.

139. **child's play** [expression]: something that is very easy to do: một thứ dễ dàng

Eg: For her, computer programming is child's play.

140. **cognitive** [adj]: connected with thinking or conscious mental processes: liên quan đến nhận thức

Eg: Some of her cognitive functions have been impaired.

141. **enthusiasm** [n]: a feeling of energetic interest in a particular subject or activity: sự nhiệt tình

Eg: I find that I'm losing my enthusiasm for the game.

142. **absorbed** [adj]: + in sth: very interested in something and not paying attention to anything else: hứng thú với việc gì

Eg: Simon was so absorbed in his book that he didn't even notice me come in.

143. **methodical** [adj]: controlled and systematic.: có phương pháp

Eg: The economy's slow, methodical growth is likely to continue into next year

144. **approach** [n]: a way of considering or doing something: cách tiếp cận

Eg: Michael is always very logical in his approach.

### Part 3:

1. What are popular number puzzles and word puzzles?

2. Why do parents let their children play puzzles?

3. What kinds of puzzles improve people's intelligence?

4. Why are mystery stories attractive to people?

### 8. What are popular number puzzles and word puzzles?

*(Give a direct answer to the question)* There is a wide range of **fascinating** number puzzles and word puzzles. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* For word puzzles, crosswords have always been one of the most popular word games. *(Give an example (often a personal example))* A crossword is a word puzzle consisting of a grid of squares and blanks into which words crossing vertically and horizontally are filled according to given clues. *(Explain your reason or reasons)* For number puzzles, we have mathematical puzzles, those related to mathematical facts and objects. *(Give an example*



(*often a personal example*) To solve mathematical puzzles, you should be good at mathematical arguments or **calculations**.

### 9. Why do parents let their children play puzzles?

(*Give a direct answer to the question*) I think because parents acknowledge the **profound** effects of puzzles on youngsters' development. (*Explain your reason or reasons*) For kids, playing with blocks, puzzles, and shape games helps them develop spatial skills. These play a fundamental role in the development of spatial awareness and later **come into play** when the topics of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are addressed. (*Explain the opposite or alternative*) Furthermore, keeping the young mind active also allows them to reduce stress levels and **fatigue**.

### 10. What kinds of puzzles improve people's intelligence?

(*Give a direct answer to the question*) Well, jigsaw puzzles can help with that. (*Explain your reason or reasons*) Doing a puzzle reinforces connections between brain cells, improves mental speed and is an especially effective way to improve short-term memory. (*Explain the opposite or alternative*) Besides, solving a puzzle cube can also promote one's thinking and is an ideal exercise for **intensive** concentration. While solving a Rubik's Cube, one has to **rack their brain** to come up with different solutions, thereby **strengthening** their brain cells.

### 11. Why are mystery stories attractive to people?

(*Give a direct answer to the question*) I think it is simply because reading great mysteries **captivates** our imagination. (*Explain your reason or reasons*) We live in a world where we try to come up with an explanation for almost everything, so topics that **defy** our basic reasoning can quickly catch our attention, pique our curiosity, and activate our imagination. (*Explain the opposite or alternative*) Mysteries are a fun logic puzzle like sudoku. Readers feel accomplished once all of the parts are put into place. Mysteries force people to think outside the box, sharpening critical thinking skills.

Vocabulary:

1. **fascinating** [adj]: extremely interesting and attractive: thú vị, lôi cuốn

Eg: Your trip to Alaska sounds absolutely fascinating.

**2. calculation** (n): a mathematical determination of the size or number of something.:  
sự tính toán

Eg: A calculation is a deliberate process that transforms one or more inputs into one or more results, with variable change.

**3. profound** [adj]: (of a state, quality, or emotion) very great or intense.: rất lớn

Eg: For these women and for hundreds of other men and women who have experienced tremendous loss, the past year has piled myriad emotions on top of profound sadness.

**4. come into play** [expression]: start to have a use or an effect in a particular situation: bắt đầu có ảnh hưởng

Eg: In the summer months, a different set of climatic factors come into play.

**5. fatigue** [n]: extreme tiredness: sự mệt mỏi

Eg: She was suffering from fatigue.

**6. intensive** [adj]: involving a lot of work or activity done in a short time: tập trung, chuyên sâu

Eg: These are highly intensive courses for business and professional people.

**7. rack one's brain** [expression]: make a great effort to think of or remember something: vắt óc suy nghĩ

Eg: She racked her brains, but there was nothing she could tell him

**8. strengthen** [v]: make or become stronger.: mạnh hơn, làm vững mạnh

Eg: Positive reinforcement is the delivery of a stimulus that strengthens the behavior.

**9. captivate** [v]: to hold the attention of someone by being extremely interesting, exciting, pleasant, or attractive: thu hút

Eg: With her beauty and charm, she captivated film audiences everywhere.

**10. defy** [v]: to refuse to obey a person, decision, law, situation, etc.: thách thức

Eg: It is rare to see children openly defying their teachers.

#### 49. Describe a time that you were shopping in a street market or an outdoor market

*You should say:*

*When it was*

*Where it was*

*What you bought*

*How you felt about the shopping experience*

##### **(When it was)**

I first paid a visit to a street market in spring two years ago, when I was traveling abroad. I was lucky to have arrived in time for such warm, sunny weather, which really enhanced my overall experience.

##### **(Where it was)**

The market was called the Chinatown Market in Singapore, located not so far from the iconic Merlion. **Being the shopaholic** that I am, I was extremely excited to see a crowded, busy shopping area full of different merchandise.

##### **(What you bought)**

As Singapore is famous as a tourist attraction, the market **was thronged with tourists** looking for souvenirs. I guess that's the reason why the market was so full of souvenir shops. **Strolling** through the length of the street, I **was bombarded with** a diverse range of things for sale at prices **to suit every pocket**. Here, you can find everything you could ever imagine, ranging from food, bags and clothes to keychains and jewelry. I was told that the market **was understood to be** a place which offers **acceptable** quality at relatively low prices, which is rare in such a **pricey** place as Singapore. I **ended up** buying lots of t-shirts for my friends back home.

##### **(How you felt about the shopping experience)**

The visit was unforgettable. Visiting the market was a unique opportunity for me **to dig deeper** into Singaporean culture. Besides buying goods, I also managed **to make small talk with** the local **stallholders** and residents, which gave me a view into their daily lifestyle. That was far more interesting and vivid than any written description I have ever read about the country so far. In my opinion, a trip to Chinatown market would **come highly recommended** for anyone with **a thirst for** cultural experiences.

### **Vocabulary:**

Từ vựng chủ đề *Communication & Personality*:

#### **1. to be a shopaholic/a workaholic**

Meaning: a person who spends too much time shopping/too much time working

Example: Although I sometimes enjoy shopping for bargains, I would not describe myself as **a shopaholic** because I have other interests too.

#### **2. to make small talk/to exchange pleasantries**

Meaning: to talk in a polite way about unimportant matters such as the weather

Example: I enjoy a serious discussion and I don't like **to make small talk** or exchange pleasantries with others simply in order to be polite.

Ví dụ: Tôi thích những cuộc nói chuyện nghiêm túc chứ không thích nói chuyện xã giao với người khác chỉ vì phép lịch sự.

Từ vựng chủ đề *Tourism*:

#### **1. to be thronged with tourists**

Meaning: refers to the situation of a place having a great number of visitors crowded or considered together

Example: At weekends, London, in particular, **is thronged with tourists**, and certain areas of the city such as Oxford Street and Covent Garden are swarming with visitors.

Ví dụ: Vào cuối tuần, cụ thể ở London, đầy những du khách và một số khu vực trong thành phố như Oxford Street hay Covent Garden thì chật ních người.

## **2. to have a thirst for something**

Meaning: to have a strong desire for something

Example: He has been all over the world, but he still has a thirst for seeing new places and enjoying new experiences.

Ví dụ: Anh ấy đã đi khắp thế giới, nhưng vẫn khao khát được đặt chân tới những nơi mới lạ và tận hưởng những trải nghiệm mới.

**Từ vựng chủ đề *Education*:**

### **1. to bombard someone with something**

Meaning: to continually send someone something, esp. to inform or influence them.

Example: Every day it seems as if **we are bombarded with** e-mail messages warning of computer viruses.

Ví dụ: Ngày nào chúng tôi cũng như thể bị khủng bố bằng những tin nhắn qua email về việc cảnh báo có virus máy tính.

**Từ vựng chủ đề *Reading*:**

### **1. to understand somebody/something to be/have something**

Meaning: to think or believe that something is true because you have been told that it is

Example: The President **is understood to be** in favour of more spending on the military.

Ví dụ: Chủ tịch nước được cho là sẽ chi nhiều hơn cho quân sự

## 2. to dig deep (into something)

Meaning: to search thoroughly for information

Example: Computer technology has enabled authorities **to dig deep into** all kinds of personal records relating to ordinary citizens.

Ví dụ: Công nghệ thông tin đã cho phép chính quyền các nước tìm hiểu sâu về các loại thông tin cá nhân liên quan đến công dân của họ.

## 3. to come highly recommended

Meaning: to be praised by a lot of people

Example: Books by classic authors always **come highly recommended**, but work by new and talented writers should not be overlooked.

Ví dụ: Sách viết của các tác giả cũ thường được đánh giá cao, nhưng cũng không nên bỏ qua những tài năng mới.

### Vocabulary:

- **to stroll** [verb]: to walk in a leisurely, unhurried and relaxed way

Eg: I was really stressed after the exam, so I took a leisurely stroll in the park to relax.

- **to suit every pocket** [expression]: at prices which either rich or poor people can afford

Eg: Oxford Street in London has a range of cheap and expensive shops with goods **to suit every pocket**.

- **acceptable** [adjective]: satisfactory, reasonable

Eg: Although the journey was dangerous, he was well-prepared and he considered the risks involved to be **acceptable**.

- **pricey** [adjective]: expensive

Eg: As a poor student, I never eat in **pricey** restaurants.

- **to end up** [phrasal verb]: to finish by doing something, after facing a decision.

Eg: I couldn't decide where to go on holiday, so I **ended up** by choosing Thailand.

- **stallholder** [noun]: a person who has a small area for selling goods in a market.

Eg: We bought some fish from a **stallholder** in the famous fish market near the port.

### **Part 3:**

1. Do you think small markets will disappear in the eastern market?
2. What do people do in shopping malls, are there other ways to shop?