

Hardev Sir's

Band 9

Cue Card Answers

With Hindi Translation!!

Guaranteed to be asked in **May-Aug 2023**



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Describe a long car journey you went on or a long car journey you remember well

Band 9 sample Response

Well, I've been on quite a few long car journeys in my life, but there's one in particular that really stands out. It was a road trip I took with my family from Delhi to Manali, a picturesque town nestled in the Himalayas. It was during the winter break, and we were all excited to experience the snowfall that Manali is famous for.

The journey was long, about 14 hours, but it was far from monotonous. The landscape kept changing, from the bustling cityscape of Delhi to the lush green fields of Punjab and Haryana, and finally, the towering mountains of Himachal Pradesh. It was like watching a live geography lesson. We made several pit stops along the way, sampling the local cuisine and soaking in the culture. The dhabas, or roadside eateries, in Murthal were a gastronomic delight, serving the most delicious parathas I've ever tasted.

As we climbed higher into the mountains, the temperature dropped, and we could see our breath fogging up the car windows. The sight of the snow-capped peaks in the distance was breathtaking, and the anticipation of reaching our destination kept us all in high spirits. The serpentine roads, though a bit scary, added to the thrill of the journey.

Looking back, it was not just the destination, but the journey itself that was memorable. The camaraderie, the shared experiences, and the joy of discovering new places together made it a trip to remember. It was a testament to the Indian saying "the journey is as important as the destination".





Describe a long car journey you went on or a long car journey you remember well

Hindi Translation

Accha, maine apni zindagi mein kafi lambe car yatraon ka anubhav kiya hai, lekin ek khaas yatra vishesh roop se yaad aati hai. Yeh ek road trip thi jo maine apne parivaar ke saath Delhi se Manali tak ki thi, jo Himalayas mein sthit ek sundar nagar hai. Yeh sardi ki chhuttiyon ke dauran tha, aur hum sabhi Manali ke prasiddh barf girne ka anubhav karne ke liye utsahit the.

Yatra lambi thi, lagbhag 14 ghante, lekin yeh ekdum monotonous nahi thi. Paridrishya lagatar badalta raha, Delhi ke vyast shahar drishya se lekar Punjab aur Haryana ke hare bhare kheton tak, aur ant mein, Himachal Pradesh ke unche pahadon tak. Yeh ek live bhoogol paath dekhne jaisa tha. Humne raste mein kai jagah ruk kar sthaniya bhojan ka aanand liya aur sanskriti ko mehsoos kiya. Murthal ke dhabas, ya sadak kinare ki khanapaayi, ek aaharik anand the, jinhone mujhe ab tak ke sabse swadisht parathe parose.

Jab hum pahadon ki unchai par chadhte gaye, taapmaan gira, aur hum car ki khidkiyon par apni saans ko dhundhla hote dekh sakte the. Door ki or barf se dhaki chotiyan dekhna saans lena rok dene wala tha, aur hamari manzil tak pahunchne ki ummid ne hum sabhi ko uchch manovritti mein rakha. Sarpakar sadaken, halanki thodi bhaybhit karne wali, yatra ki romanchakta mein yogdan karti thi.

Peechhe mudkar dekhte hain, sirf manzil hi nahi, balki yatra swayan hi yaadgar thi. Sajhedari, saanjhe anubhav, aur saath mein naye sthanon ki khoj ka anand yeh yatra yaadgar banati thi. Yeh ek gaveshana thi Bharatiya kahawat "yatra utni hi mahatvapurna hai jitni manzil" ki.





Describe a book that you have read many times

Band 9 sample Response

Well, I'm a voracious reader and I've read a plethora of books, but the one that I keep returning to is 'The Alchemist' by Paulo Coelho. It's a rather enchanting novel that has left an indelible impression on me.

The book is a beautiful allegory about a young Andalusian shepherd named Santiago who embarks on a dream-fuelled journey to Egypt, in search of a treasure buried near the Pyramids. The narrative is simple yet profound, and it resonates with me on so many levels. It's like a cup of hot masala chai on a rainy day, comforting and invigorating at the same time.

What makes me revisit this book time and again is its universal theme of following one's dreams and listening to one's heart. It's a potent reminder that our life's journey is not just about the destination but also about the experiences and lessons we gather along the way. The book's philosophy is akin to the Indian ethos of 'Karma' and 'Dharma', which I find deeply relatable.

In conclusion, 'The Alchemist' is a book that I've read multiple times, and each time, it offers me a fresh perspective, much like the Ganga river, which despite being visited by millions, always has something new to offer. It's a book that I would highly recommend to anyone seeking a bit of inspiration and wisdom.





Describe a book that you have read many times

Hindi Translation

Acha, main ek lalchi padhne wala hoon aur maine anek kitabein padhi hain, lekin woh ek kitab jis par main baar baar laut kar aata hoon woh hai 'The Alchemist' Paulo Coelho dwara. Yeh ek kafi manmohak upanyas hai jo mujh par ek amit chhap chhod gaya hai.

Yeh kitab ek sundar drishtant hai ek yuva Andalusian shepherd ke baare mein jiska naam Santiago hai jo ek sapna se bhare yatra par nikalta hai Egypt ki taraf, ek khazane ki talash mein jo Pyramids ke nazdeek dafan hai. Katha saral lekin gahri hai, aur yeh mujhse anek staron par goonjti hai. Yeh ek garam masala chai ki tarah hai ek baarish wale din par, saath mein sukhad aur joshila.

Jo mujhe is kitab par baar baar wapas laata hai woh hai iska sarvabhaumik theme apne sapno ka peechha karna aur apne hriday ki sunna. Yeh ek shaktishali yaad dilane wala hai ki hamari jeevan yatra sirf manzil ke baare mein nahi hai balki anubhav aur sabak ke baare mein bhi jo hum raste mein ikattha karte hain. Kitab ki darshan shastra 'Karma' aur 'Dharma' jaisa hai jo mujhe gehrai se sambandhit lagta hai.

Nishkarsh mein, 'The Alchemist' ek kitab hai jise maine anek baar padha hai, aur har baar, yeh mujhe ek naya drishtikon pradan karta hai, Ganga nadi ki tarah, jo hazaaron logon dwara dekhi gayi hai, hamesha kuch naya pradan karti hai. Yeh ek kitab hai jo main kisi ko bhi anushansit karunga jo thodi si prerna aur gyan ki talash kar raha ho.





***Describe a speech you gave
or Describe a talk you gave
to a group of people***

Band 9 sample Response

Well, let me take you back to my college days in Delhi University, where I was an active member of the debating society. I had the opportunity to deliver a speech on a topic that was close to my heart - "The Importance of Mental Health Awareness in India". It was a topic that was often swept under the carpet, and I felt a strong urge to bring it to the forefront.

The audience comprised of students, professors, and a few distinguished guests. I remember feeling a flutter of nerves as I took the podium, but I had prepared well and was passionate about the subject matter. I began my speech by sharing a poignant anecdote about a friend who had struggled with mental health issues. This helped me to immediately connect with the audience and set the tone for the rest of my speech.

I then delved into the crux of the matter, highlighting the stigma associated with mental health in India, and the dire need for a paradigm shift in our attitudes. I used a mix of hard-hitting facts, personal observations, and rhetorical questions to drive home my point. I also suggested some practical solutions, like incorporating mental health education in school curriculums and promoting open conversations about mental well-being.

As I concluded my speech, I could see a sea of thoughtful faces in the audience. The applause that followed was heartening, but what truly gratified me was the lively discussion that ensued. It was clear that my speech had struck a chord and sparked a dialogue, which was precisely what I had hoped for. Looking back, I consider that speech to be one of my most impactful contributions during my college days.





Describe a speech you gave or Describe a talk you gave to a group of people

Hindi Translation

Achha, mujhe aapko mere college ke dino ki yaad dilane do, jab main Delhi University mein tha, jahan main vivaad samiti ka sakriya sadasya tha. Mujhe ek aisa vishay par bhashan dene ka avsar mila jo mere dil ke kareeb tha - "Bharat mein Mansik Swasthya Jagrukta ki Mahatvta". Yeh ek aisa vishay tha jo aksar farsh ke neeche sarak diya jata tha, aur mujhe isse samne lane ki ek majboot ichha thi.

Darshakon mein chhatra, professors, aur kuch vishisht atithi shamil the. Mujhe yaad hai jab maine vedika par kadam rakha to mujhe thodi ghabrahat hui, lekin maine achhi tarah se taiyari ki thi aur mujhe vishay ke prati josh tha. Maine apne bhashan ki shuruat ek dardnak ghatna ke bare mein batate hue ki, jisne mansik swasthya samasyaon se joojhna pada. Yeh mujhe turant darshakon se jodne aur mere bhashan ke liye maahaul taiyar karne mein madad ki.

Uske baad maine mudde ki gahrai mein jhanka, Bharat mein mansik swasthya se jude bhay ka ullekh kiya, aur hamare ravaiye mein ek adarsh parivartan ki atyadhik avashyakta ko uthaya. Maine apne bindu ko ghar pahunchane ke liye kathor tathya, vyaktigat avlokan, aur vakalat prashno ka mishran kiya. Maine kuch vyavaharik samadhan bhi sujhaye, jaise ki school pathyakram mein mansik swasthya shiksha ko shamil karna aur mansik kalyan ke bare mein khuli baatcheet ko badhava dena.

Jab maine apna bhashan samapt kiya, to mujhe darshakon mein vicharshil chehron ka samudra dikhai diya. Uske baad jo taliyaan bajin wo dil ko choo gayi, lekin jo mujhe sach mein santusht kiya wo uske baad hui jeevit charcha thi. Yeh spasht tha ki mera bhashan ne taar bajaya tha aur ek samvaad shuru kiya tha, jo ki bilkul wahi tha jo maine ummeed kiya tha. Peechhe mudkar dekhte hue, main us bhashan ko apne college ke dino ke dauran ki mere sabse prabhavshali yogdanon mein se ek maanta hoon.





Describe a new store/shop that has recently opened in your town/city.

Band 9 sample Response

Well, I'm thrilled to talk about a new store that's recently sprung up in my hometown, Kolkata. It's a quaint little bookstore named 'The Bibliophile's Retreat'. Nestled in the heart of the city, it's a haven for book lovers like myself. The store, with its rustic wooden interiors and the intoxicating aroma of fresh pages, instantly transports you to a different world, far removed from the city's hustle and bustle.

Now, what makes 'The Bibliophile's Retreat' stand out is its unique collection of books. It's not your run-of-the-mill bookstore that stocks only bestsellers or mainstream titles. Instead, it's a treasure trove of rare, out-of-print books, first editions, and works from lesser-known authors. The owners, a delightful elderly couple, are always at hand to recommend books based on your taste and preferences.

Moreover, the store hosts a variety of events to engage the local literary community. From book readings and author meet-and-greets to poetry slams and writing workshops, there's always something exciting happening. It's not just a store; it's a vibrant cultural hub that fosters a love for literature.

In conclusion, 'The Bibliophile's Retreat' is a wonderful addition to Kolkata's cultural landscape. It's a place where you can lose yourself in the magical world of books, meet like-minded individuals, and participate in enriching literary events. I'm absolutely delighted that such a store has opened in my city, and I look forward to spending many blissful hours there.





Describe a new store/shop that has recently opened in your town/city.

Hindi Translation

Achha, mujhe apne ghar ke shehar, Kolkata, mein haal hi mein khule ek naye store ke baare mein baat karne mein bahut khushi ho rahi hai. Yeh ek sundar choti si kitab ki dukaan hai jiska naam 'The Bibliophile's Retreat' hai. Shahar ke dil mein sthit, yeh ek aashiyen hai jaise ki mujh jaise kitab premiyon ke liye. Store, apne rustic lakdi ke interiors aur taza panne ki madhosh karne wali khushboo ke saath, aapko turant ek alag duniya mein le jaata hai, shahar ki hulchul se door.

Ab, jo 'The Bibliophile's Retreat' ko alag banata hai woh hai iski anokhi kitabon ki collection. Yeh aapka run-of-the-mill bookstore nahi hai jo sirf bestsellers ya mainstream titles stock karta hai. Balki, yeh durlabh, out-of-print books, pehle editions, aur kam jaane wale lekhakon ki kritiyon ka ek khazana hai. Malik, ek sukhad vriddh joda, hamesha aapke swaad aur pasand ke aadhar par kitabon ki sifarish karne ke liye upasthit rehte hain.

Iske alawa, store sthaniya sahitik samuday ko sakriya rakhne ke liye vibhinn karyakram aayojit karta hai. Kitab padhne se lekar lekhak se mulaqat, kavita slams se lekar lekhni karyashala tak, hamesha kuch romanchak hota rehta hai. Yeh sirf ek store nahi hai; yeh ek jeevant sanskritik hub hai jo sahitika ke prati prem badhata hai.

Nishkarsh mein, 'The Bibliophile's Retreat' Kolkata ke sanskritik drishya mein ek adbhut yogdan hai. Yeh ek aisi jagah hai jahan aap kitabon ki jadui duniya mein khud ko kho sakte hain, saman soch wale vyaktiyon se mil sakte hain, aur sahitik karyakramon mein bhag le sakte hain. Mujhe bahut khushi hai ki aisi ek dukaan mere shahar mein khuli hai, aur mujhe umeed hai ki main wahan anek blissful ghante bitaunga.





***Describe a place away from
your home and you want to
visit in the future***

Band 9 sample Response

Well, the place that has been on my bucket list for quite some time now is the picturesque valley of Ladakh, located in the northernmost part of India. It's a place that has always intrigued me with its enchanting beauty and unique cultural heritage.

You see, I've always been an ardent admirer of nature's splendour and Ladakh, from what I've heard and seen in pictures, is a place that seems to be painted by the divine hands of nature itself. The majestic snow-capped mountains, the serene blue lakes, and the vast expanses of barren land, all of it just takes my breath away. Moreover, the fact that it's often referred to as the 'Land of High Passes' adds a touch of adventure to it, which I find absolutely thrilling.

But it's not just the natural beauty that draws me towards Ladakh. I'm equally fascinated by its rich cultural tapestry. The region is home to several ancient Buddhist monasteries, and I'm eager to explore them and learn more about their history and traditions. I believe it would be a wonderful opportunity to immerse myself in a culture that's so different from my own.

So, all in all, Ladakh is a place that I'm yearning to visit in the future. It's a place that promises a blend of tranquillity, adventure, and cultural enrichment, and I'm sure it will be an experience of a lifetime. I can't wait to pack my bags and set off on this exciting journey.





Describe a place away from your home and you want to visit in the future

Hindi Translation

Achha, woh jagah jo kafi samay se meri bucket list par hai, woh hai Ladakh ki chitrakari ghati, jo Bharat ke sabse uttari hisse me sthit hai. Yeh ek aisi jagah hai jo hamesha se mujhe apni manmohak sundarta aur anokhi sanskritik dharohar ke saath mujhe behad akarshit karti hai.

Dekhiye, main hamesha se prakriti ke shobha ka ek utsahi premi raha hoon aur Ladakh, jaisa ki maine suna hai aur tasveeron me dekha hai, ek aisi jagah lagti hai jo prakriti ke divya haathon dwara chitrit ki gayi ho. Shandar barf se dhaki hui pahadiyan, shant neele jheelen, aur viran bhoomi ke vishaal vistaar, yeh sab mujhe behad akarshit karte hain. Iske alawa, iska 'Ucch Daron ki Bhoomi' ke roop me ullekh hona isme ek romanchak modak ansh jodta hai, jo mujhe behad romanchak lagta hai.

Lekin sirf prakritik sundarta hi nahi hai jo mujhe Ladakh ki taraf khinchti hai. Main uski sanskritik bunaavat se bhi barabar mohit hoon. Yeh kshetra kai purane Bauddh mathon ka ghar hai, aur main unhe explore karne aur unke itihaas aur paramparaon ke baare me adhik jaanne ke liye utsuk hoon. Mujhe lagta hai yeh ek adbhut avsar hoga ki main apne aap ko ek aisi sanskriti me dooba sakoon jo meri apni se bahut alag hai.

To, sab mila kar, Ladakh ek aisi jagah hai jise main bhavishya me ghoomne ke liye utavla hoon. Yeh ek aisi jagah hai jo shanti, saahasik yatra, aur sanskritik samriddhi ka ek mishran vaada karti hai, aur main yakeen rakhta hoon ki yeh ek jeevan ka anubhav hoga. Main apne bag pack karne aur is romanchak yatra par nikalne ka intezaar nah kar sakta.

