

2024年1-4月雅思口语新题答案

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Part 1

Sunglasses

1 Do you often wear sunglasses?

I occasionally wear sunglasses, especially on bright sunny days, to protect my eyes from the harsh sunlight. Usually this is in late spring and summer. The sun is very strong in my region.

2 Do you spend a lot of money on sunglasses?

I don't own expensive ones; functionality is more important to me than the brand. It's possible to find quite nice, decent-quality sunglasses without paying a fortune for the fancy brands.

3 Do you give sunglasses as a gift?

Sometimes I give sunglasses as a gift, especially if I find a stylish and affordable pair that I think someone would like. But as a general rule, I don't usually give such accessories as gifts, no.

4 Why do you wear sunglasses?

I wear sunglasses because they protect my eyes from the sun really. I suppose I also wear them if I think they are cool or fashionable.

Memory

1 What do you have to remember to do every day?

I make it a point to remember daily tasks like taking vitamins, checking emails, and watering plants. These are my main duties, especially now I am not working or studying much.

2 Is it easy for you to forget to do these things?



To assist my memory, I use reminders on my phone and keep a to-do list. I'm fairly organized and I am good at keeping tracking of the things I need to remember to do.

3 Are you good at memorizing things?

My family and friends always say that I have a very good memory, a very strong memory and it's true; I can remember things really far back... Even to when I was about 3 or 4 years old.

4 How do you help yourself to remember things?

It's easy to forget things, so having these tools helps me stay organized and on top of my responsibilities. I am a very good planner, so I don't have many issues with this, but some of my friends heavily rely on such calendar reminders on their phones and organization tools.

5 Have you ever forgotten something that was important?

I've forgotten a few things yes. I have a habit of getting into long conversations with friends when we are out at a restaurant or somewhere, then leaving my wallet or cellphone on the table. I've done this a few times – and once even lost it – as I went back and it was gone!

Colour

1 What's your favorite colour?

Definitely black. I think it's really posh and stylish. What's more, the color black goes well with almost everything. I mean you can't go wrong wearing black. It's an elegant color, too. It goes pretty much with everything you can wear.'

2 Do any colours have a special meaning in your culture?

I think red has always been a special colour in China, from the days of ancient China and the dragon symbols to the modern day China, red has always been a symbol of strength, prosperity, hope and honour for the Chinese. Most definitely red and gold are colours which have a very special meaning in my culture and deep cultural roots.

3 What color of clothes do you not like to wear?



I'm not a fan of overly bright or flashy coluors for clothes. I prefer more subtle and neutral tones, like blues and greys, as they are versatile and can be easily paired.

4 What is your preferred car colour for purchase?

As for car colours, I like classic and timeless colours like black or silver. These colours maintain their appeal over time and always look respectable and quite elegant.

------2024 年 1 月 3 日更新------

Feeling bored

1. Do you often feel bored?

I rarely feel bored, actually. I'm always quite busy — I've got my studies, sporting activities and a fairly busy social calendar. I'm a very active person and I never seem to have time for all the things I want to do — so I've certainly no time to get bored.

2. What kinds of things would make you feel bored?

When I feel bored it's usually when I'm commuting and stuck in traffic. I find travelling by car quite frustrating in the big city, and it really affects my mood when there are big traffic jams. So, getting stuck in traffic or moving really slowly in traffic makes me feel both frustrated and bored.

3. What would you do if you feel bored?

If I feel bored I usually get quite annoyed, and that makes me want to talk to friends to get things off my chest. So, usually I will message my friends or give them a call and talk about my feelings, ask them about their day, gossip about daily life... things like this. This kind of thing usually relieves my boredom and frustration temporarily.

1 Do you think childhood is boring or adulthood is boring?

I believe both childhood and adulthood have their share of interesting and mundane moments. Childhood might seem simpler, but adulthood offers diverse experiences and responsibilities. Boredom is subjective, varying from person to person.

Crowded places

1 Is the city where you live crowded?



The city I reside in is consistently buzzing with activity, and there are lots of crowded areas. Some areas are crowded in a way that really bugs me – like subway stations and malls. But there are also some cool crowded places like clubs and restaurants, which have a good atmosphere when busy.

2 Is there a crowded place near where you live?

Generally speaking my area of the city is relatively quiet, but there's a lively market near my home that's always bustling with people, and if you're in the right mood the energy there is contagious and optimistic.

3 Do you like crowded places?

Crowded places evoke mixed feelings in me. While they offer a vibrant atmosphere, the hustle and bustle can be overwhelming, especially when you're in a rush, busy or trying to get from one place to another by public transport hubs.

4 When was the last time you were in a crowded place?

I recently found myself in a bustling place during a local festival, enjoying the lively atmosphere and diverse activities. It was a temple fair – and they are always more exciting when they're busy.

Money

1 How do you save money?

Saving money is a habit I cultivate by budgeting meticulously, ensuring that I allocate funds for various needs and future goals. Additionally, I explore investment opportunities to make my money work for me over time.

2 What do you think of e-payment?

E-payment has streamlined my financial transactions, offering a convenient and efficient way to manage payments in our increasingly digital world. However, I remain mindful of security measures to protect my financial information.

3 Do you often use credit cards?

While I don't overly rely on credit cards, I strategically use them for specific



purchases to maximize benefits like rewards and to keep track of my expenses. It's a balanced approach that helps me maintain financial discipline.

4 Do you think cash will still be popular in the future?

Despite the digital shift, I believe that cash will remain popular due to its tangible nature and wide acceptance. People appreciate the simplicity and universality of cash transactions.

5 Do you like spending money or saving money?

I aim for a balanced approach between spending and saving, recognizing the importance of financial well-being. It's crucial to enjoy the present while planning responsibly for the future.

Singing

1 Do you like singing?

I love singing. I thoroughly enjoy going to KTVs and singing on my own at home to music, too.

2 Do you have any singing classes at school?

While my school doesn't offer singing classes, I've taken the initiative to explore singing as a hobby in my free time. It's a therapeutic activity that allows me to express myself creatively.

3 Do you think there are many Chinese that can sing?

China has a rich tradition of skilled singers, contributing to a cultural appreciation for this expressive art form. Singing holds a special place in Chinese culture, fostering a deep connection with emotions and storytelling.

4 Do you think singing can bring happiness to people?

Singing, with its unique ability to bring joy and emotional release, is valued as a source of happiness for many individuals. It serves as a form of self-expression and a way to connect with others through shared musical experiences.

------2024年1月8日更新------

Celebrities



1 Do you pay attention to famous people in the news?

Yes, I do pay attention to famous people in the news, especially those who have made significant contributions to their fields or have an impact on society. Keeping abreast of their achievements inspires me.

2 Do you think news reports about famous people are always true?

While I believe some news reports about famous people are accurate, others may be sensationalized or biased, so it's essential to approach celebrity news with a critical mindset. Media often amplifies the dramatic aspects, leading to potential misinterpretations.

3 What kind of famous people do you often see in the news?

In the news, I often see actors, musicians, and sports figures, as they tend to dominate media coverage. The media's focus on these individuals sometimes overshadows the achievements of other influential professionals.

4 Who is your favorite celebrity in your country?

Well...my favorite celebrity in my country is someone you probably don't know to be honest – they're a famous musician and dancer and performer; they are known for their talent and positive influence on various social issues. I admire their commitment to using their platform for meaningful change and advocacy as well as demonstrating their talent and entertaining everyone!

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Social media

1 When did you start to use social media?

I began using social media during my teenage years, around the age of 14.

2 Do you think you spend too much time on social media?

I strive to maintain a healthy balance, ensuring I don't spend excessive time on social media, and I prioritize other activities in my daily routine.

3 Do your friends use social media?

Yes, most of my friends are active on social media, and it serves as a primary means of staying connected and sharing updates.



4 What do people do on social media?

People engage in various activities on social media, including sharing personal updates, connecting with friends, consuming content, and participating in discussions or online communities.

Video games

1 Do you play video games?

Yes, I do play video games occasionally, particularly those with compelling narratives or strategic elements.

2 What kinds of video games do you like to play?

I enjoy a variety of video games, gravitating towards those with engaging storylines or strategic gameplay.

3 Is it good for young people to play video games?

In moderation, video games can offer both entertainment and cognitive benefits for young people, enhancing problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

4 Do you often watch others play video games?

While I don't frequently watch others play video games, I acknowledge its popularity as online content, with many enjoying live streams and gaming communities.

Advertisements

1 Do you like advertisements on TV or some other products?

I appreciate creative advertisements, and some TV commercials or product placements leave a lasting impression.

2 Were there any advertisements that impressed you when you were young?

Yes, certain advertisements from my childhood stand out, showcasing the power of effective marketing in leaving a lasting impact.

3 Will you do work related to advertising?



Although I'm not working in advertising now, I recognize its influence on consumer behavior and its role in shaping perceptions. So, maybe I will, I'm not sure yet.

4 What kind of advertisements are shown in public places?

Public spaces often showcase diverse advertisements, utilizing mediums such as billboards and digital screens to convey messages about products, services, or social issues.

Cakes

1 Do you like cakes?

I love cakes, yes. When I was a child we didn't see many cakes here in my city, in China, but over the past ten years or so lots of different types of cakes seem to be popular, from the French style pastries, to the more American style desserts. I think in general, though, Chinese people don't like cakes as much as westerners – but we do have the habit of giving really nice birthday cakes to people on their birthday dinners – that's a tradition which we do really enjoy.

2 Did you like eating cakes when you were young?

Yes, I've enjoyed cakes since childhood, savouring their sweetness on special occasions. I used to find cakes very exciting when I was young.

3 Do you know how to bake a cake?

Certainly, I can bake a simple cake, and I find the process both enjoyable and rewarding. In fact, I learned to bake a cake from my mother.

4 Why do some people dislike sweet food?

Some individuals may dislike sweet foods due to personal taste preferences or health considerations, opting for savoury or less sugary options instead.

5 Are there any traditional Chinese desserts?

Traditional Chinese desserts, such as red bean buns and tangyuan, hold cultural significance and contribute to the rich tapestry of culinary offerings. Chinese have a wide variety of cuisine including a lot of quite interesting desserts, even though we might not have a dessert every day after a meal.

------2024年1月15日更新------



Part 2

Describe an occasion when you had to do something in a hurry.

You should say:
What you had to do
Why you had to it in a hurry
How well you did this
And explain how you felt about having to do this in a hurry

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, I vividly recall an occasion when I found myself having to rush to the airport for an unexpected business trip. The urgency arose from an impromptu meeting scheduled with a client overseas. I had to pack essentials, gather crucial documents, and arrange transportation within a remarkably short timeframe.

The need to act swiftly was propelled by the importance of the meeting, where a potential business deal hinged on my prompt presence. Despite the time constraints, I managed to organize my belongings efficiently and secure the necessary paperwork. The challenge lay in coordinating transportation on short notice, but with the help of ride-hailing services, I reached the airport just in time to catch my flight.

While the experience was undoubtedly stressful, the successful execution of my tasks within the hurried timeframe left me with a sense of accomplishment. It highlighted my ability to remain composed under pressure and make quick, effective decisions. However, the overall feeling was a mix of relief and adrenaline, as I pondered the necessity of adapting to unexpected situations in the professional realm. I hope I can further nurture and maintain this life skill! I think that life is often full of these kinds of pressures and challenges and everyone should develop their own capacity to deal with hurried and highly tense and stressful situations.

Describe a person you know who likes to talk a lot.

You should say:
Who this person is
How you knew this person
What he/she usually talks about
And explain how you feel about him/her

In my social circle, there's a person who undoubtedly stands out for their proclivity for talking—my friend Sara – who is both a friend and a workmate at the moment. I first got to know her during our college days, and our paths crossed due to shared classes and mutual friends. Sara is an effervescent



individual who always has something to say, be it anecdotes, opinions, or the latest happenings in her life. However, she does remain fairly quiet, controlled and composed at work.

Sara's conversations are diverse, ranging from lively discussions about current events to personal stories that keep everyone engaged. She has an uncanny ability to turn even the most mundane topics into lively dialogues. While her verbosity can be overwhelming when she's had a little too much wine to drink, it does add a unique dynamic to our group interactions over dinners.

Feelings toward Sara's talkative nature are a mix of amusement and appreciation. On one hand, her energy and enthusiasm contribute to the vibrancy of our social gatherings. On the other, there are moments when one might wish that she'd just keep quiet, you know, just like she is in the office. Nevertheless, her loquacious character has become an integral part of our social circle, making her a memorable and cherished friend.

Describe a place where you are able to relax.

You should say:
Where it is
What it is like
How often you go there
And explain how you feel about this place

The place where I go where I can really relax is the local park. I am lucky enough to live really close to a nice park – in fact, it's a great park – and it's free to get in! It's got a huge lake and a number of wonderful gardens with trees, plants, flowers, and areas for old and young people to do recreational activities. There is also a café and a restaurant in the park, as well as boats on the lake, tennis courts, and a children's play area. I go there almost every weekend, and although it is a really popular park, there are always quiet areas where you can sit alone on a stone bench or at a little table. During the summer months I go there regularly to read and study and just walk around and clear my head. I feel great when I'm there and I enjoy the fact that there is peace and quiet there, as well as activities that people can do. It's a fantastic environment to be in – and the park is really well-tended and looked after. It's an ideal place for individuals like me who want to go alone and get some fresh air and enjoy a natural space, as well as families who want to take their kids out to enjoy the activities available there.

------2024 年 1 月 3 日更新------

Describe an unusual holiday you had.

You should say:



When and where you went Who you went with What you did during the holiday And explain why it was unusual

Several years ago, I embarked on an unusual journey to the beautiful region of Patagonia in Argentina. I went with a group of close friends, and we chose this destination because of its breathtaking landscapes and unique wildlife. Instead of opting for the usual tourist activities, we decided to trek through the stunning Andes Mountains.

The holiday was filled with awe-inspiring moments as we navigated through challenging terrains, encountering diverse flora and fauna. What made it truly unusual was our decision to camp in remote areas, disconnected from modern amenities. We embraced the simplicity of nature, cooking over open fires and sleeping beneath the vast Patagonian sky.

This unconventional holiday stands out because it pushed us out of our comfort zones and allowed us to connect with nature in a profound way. The absence of typical tourist attractions made it an extraordinary and memorable experience.

Describe a time when people near you made a lot of noise.

You should say:
Where you heard the noise
Who made the noise
How you reacted to the noise
And explain how you felt about the noise

A few months ago, I found myself in a bustling city square during a lively festival. The noise emanated from a diverse crowd engaged in various activities like street performances, live music, and vendors promoting their goods. Initially, the cacophony felt overwhelming, but as I embraced the festive spirit, I joined in the celebrations, interacting with the crowd and appreciating the vibrant energy around me. Despite the initial surprise, I came to enjoy the lively atmosphere, realizing that the collective noise was a testament to the community's shared joy and celebration.

So, at first, the intensity of the noise was startling. Navigating through the crowded streets, I felt a twinge of annoyance, actually, as the sounds merged into a chaotic symphony. However, as I immersed myself in the festivities, as I said before, my initial irritation gave way to a growing sense of excitement and community spirit. The shared joy and celebration permeating the air became infectious.

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So, basically, I went from being in the kind of frame of mind when I wasn't in the mood for noise at all, to actually getting carried away with the spirit of the occasion. It just goes to show that sometimes we need to shift our mood when it comes to moving from one type of activity to another, or one state of mind to another, and I think that's very true when it comes to living in a big city where you are likely to be going from quiet places to noisy places, from stressful places to fun places – you have to learn to be adaptable – and that's one of things that stood out that I took away with me that day: it's good to be a little bit adaptable.

Describe an interesting conversation you had with an old person.

You should say:
Who you had it with
Where you had it
What the conversation was
And explain how you felt about this conversation

The intriguing conversation took place with my grandmother in the cozy setting of her living room. As we sat by the fireplace, she began to reminisce about her youth, sharing stories of bygone eras and experiences that spanned decades. The conversation unfolded into a fascinating journey through time, where she vividly described a world marked by different values, customs, and historical events.

What started as a casual chat evolved into a captivating exploration of personal and societal changes over the years. Her narrative skillfully wove together tales of resilience, joy, and challenges, offering a unique perspective on life's evolution. The warmth in her voice and the sparkle in her eyes added an extra layer of richness to the storytelling.

Engaging in this conversation was a deeply enriching experience, fostering a stronger connection between generations. It not only provided a window into the past but also instilled a profound sense of appreciation in me for the wisdom accumulated over a lifetime. As I listened to my grandmother's stories, I felt a blend of admiration, gratitude, and a renewed understanding of the continuity of life through shared narratives. I reminded myself that in my future life, if I have grandchildren, it is important that I tell them stories about my days, too.

Describe a job you don't want to do in the future.

You should say: What it is Where you knew it from



Why you think it is difficult or easy And explain why you don't want to do it

There are lots of jobs that I wouldn't want to do! But I think the worst of those would be a bus driver in a big city. I hate traffic. I really hate traffic in cities here – there are too many people, too many cars and too many bad drivers to be honest. I really do not like being in traffic here, so I cannot imagine how stressful it would be to actually be driving a bus all day long as a job. It would be my idea of a living nightmare!

I know about the job because everyone is aware of this, it's a common profession, it's not a strange or bizarre job. I think it's a difficult job because it involves a massive test of one's patience. Also, it's tiring driving a bus all day. I actually drive a car and I find that really tiring after just an hour in this traffic, so I cannot imagine how tiring it would be to drive all day every day – especially something big like a bus – you have to pay very close attention to the road and be constantly aware of really bad drivers all around and ahead of you. I'd hate it, I really would hate it with a passion. I feel very sorry for city bus drivers, and I sincerely admire their patience!

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Describe a time when you used a map.

You should say:

When you used the map

Where you were

Why you used the map

And explain how you felt about the experience

I vividly recall a time during a solo backpacking trip when I found myself navigating the narrow alleys of an ancient city in Europe. It was a warm summer day, and I was exploring the charming streets filled with centuries-old architecture. I decided to venture off the beaten path, and that's when I realized my smartphone had lost its signal.

Feeling a bit disoriented but also intrigued by the unexpected adventure, I decided to rely on a good old paper map I had picked up from a local tourist information center earlier. Finding a shaded spot in a quaint café, I unfolded the map and began tracing the winding streets and landmarks.

Using the map brought a sense of nostalgia and charm to the experience. It required a bit more effort than the usual digital navigation, but it also offered a deeper connection to the surroundings. The tactile feel of the paper, the



creases that marked previous journeys, and the detailed illustrations painted a more vivid picture of the city.

As I successfully navigated my way through the labyrinthine streets, the initial anxiety transformed into a sense of accomplishment. It wasn't just about reaching my destination but about embracing the journey and the unexpected detours that added layers to my travel story. The reliance on a paper map turned what could have been a moment of frustration into a memorable adventure, highlighting the beauty of simplicity in our tech-driven world.

Describe a life-long goal you would like to achieve.

You should say:
What the goal is
How long you have had this goal
How you will achieve it
And explain why you set this goal

One of my life-long goals is to establish a foundation focused on promoting education and literacy in underprivileged communities. This aspiration has been ingrained in me for as long as I can remember, originating from personal experiences and a deep belief in the transformative power of education.

The goal to create such a foundation has been with me since my college days, where I witnessed firsthand the disparities in educational opportunities. Over the years, this goal has evolved and solidified, fueled by a growing understanding of the profound impact education has on individuals and communities.

To achieve this goal, I plan to start small by collaborating with local schools and communities, implementing programs that address specific educational challenges. As the foundation grows, I envision expanding its reach and impact, incorporating technology to make education more accessible and tailored to the needs of each community.

The motivation behind this goal stems from a belief that education is the cornerstone of personal and societal progress. Having been fortunate enough to receive quality education, I feel a sense of responsibility to contribute to creating similar opportunities for others. Witnessing the transformative effect education can have on individuals motivates me to work towards providing those opportunities to those who might not have easy access.

In essence, this life-long goal is not just about establishing an organization; it's about being a catalyst for positive change and empowerment through education. It represents my commitment to contributing to a more equitable



and enlightened world, where everyone, regardless of their background, has the chance to unlock their full potential.

<u>Describe an occasion when you heard someone complaining about</u> something in a public place (e.g. restaurant or store).

You should say:
Where and when it happened
What he/she complained about
What the result was
And explain how you felt about the experience

An occasion that comes to mind is when I was at a local restaurant last month. It was a cozy place that I frequently visited, known for its warm ambiance and delicious food. On this particular day, I overheard a customer at the adjacent table expressing dissatisfaction with the service.

The individual was complaining about the delay in receiving their order and the perceived lack of attention from the staff. They were vocal about their discontent, and it was apparent that they felt frustrated. The result of the complaint was quite swift; the restaurant manager promptly approached the table, apologized, and offered a complimentary dessert as a gesture of goodwill.

Observing this scenario, I felt a mix of empathy for the customer and an appreciation for the restaurant's responsiveness. It highlighted the challenges businesses face in maintaining high standards consistently. While I sympathized with the customer's experience, witnessing the restaurant's commitment to addressing concerns left me with a positive impression. It emphasized the importance of effective communication and quick resolutions in customer service, contributing to my understanding of the dynamics in service-oriented establishments.

Describe a time when you were very busy.

You should say:
When it happened
Where you were
What you did
And explain why you were very busy

There have been many times when I've been really busy, but a time that immediately comes to mind is when I was preparing for an art exhibition with a friend in university. I'll try to explain what went on. Basically, I was in charge of an art exhibition of paintings from a South American painter for the university Spanish department. You see, I was one of the main students, let's say, in the

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third year, and so I got involved in all sorts of exchange programmes and things like that. Anyway, there was this South American art exhibition which was to be hosted for two weeks in one of the gallery spaces in the next campus. I was in charge of making sure all the paintings were unpacked and put up in the gallery after the shipment arrived at the department, and advertising the exhibition, and organizing the opening event. You see, there's always an opening event at art exhibitions, where you provide wine and snacks and there's a little talk and an introduction to the artist and some of their paintings, and all of that. You see, the artist herself could not attend, so I was kind of representing her.

The reason I was really busy was because I had to juggle different things all at the same time, or at least it seemed like it. I had to not only ensure that all the paintings were unpacked very carefully, then put up on the exhibition walls in the exact way that the artist had explained (she provided a diagram and explanation of how to lay them out), then stick labels under each painting, that corresponded to the labels on the back, and then work with some computer designers to make fliers, and advertisements for the event, make an invitation list.... then organize the catering, the snacks and wine.... you can imagine! All of that to host a gallery exhibition opening. And I was determined to do a good job, because, on top of all that I had to manage a photographer and videographer to take photos and film the event, to put on the artist's website.

So, basically for several weeks before the exhibition, and especially in the days preceding the exhibition, I was incredibly busy, and quite stressed out, and trying to keep everything and everybody who was involved in the project, in order and properly organized so the event was a success.

---2024 年 1 月 8 日更新-

Describe a skill that you learned when you were a teenager.

You should say:
What the skill is
When and how you learned it
Who you learned it from
And explain why you learned it

During my teenage years, I acquired the valuable skill of photography, a passion that has stayed with me ever since. It all began when I received a basic DSLR camera as a birthday gift, a turning point that sparked my curiosity and creativity. Intrigued by its myriad buttons and settings, I embarked on a journey to unravel the art and science of capturing moments visually.

My learning process was multifaceted. I delved into online tutorials, devoured



photography forums, and engaged in hands-on experimentation to grasp the fundamentals of composition, lighting, and shutter speed. However, the internet provided only technical insights; the real mentorship came from a local photographer who generously shared practical tips and critiqued my early work. Their guidance not only honed my technical skills but also imparted a deeper understanding of the nuanced artistry of photography.

My fascination with photography wasn't merely technical; it was driven by a desire to freeze moments in time and convey emotions through visual storytelling. In an age dominated by visual content, I recognized the power of this skill to preserve memories and communicate narratives. Beyond the technical aspects, photography became a medium for self-expression and a means to connect with others. The process of learning this skill not only enriched my creative abilities but also instilled in me a deeper appreciation for the beauty in everyday life. This journey ignited a lifelong passion, and to this day, photography remains a powerful means of expression and connection in my life.

Describe an interesting activity you enjoyed most in your primary school.

You should say:
What the activity was
How often you did it
Who you did it with
And explain why you enjoyed doing it

During my primary school years, one activity that brought immense joy was participating in the school's annual talent show. This event, eagerly anticipated each year, provided a platform for students to showcase their unique talent and skills. I engaged in it with enthusiasm, preparing for weeks to deliver a musical performance.

The routine of practicing and refining our act became a regular part of my schedule as the event approached. I collaborated with a group of friends who shared a passion for music, turning our rehearsals into moments of laughter, creativity, and camaraderie. The anticipation of performing in front of the entire school community fueled our excitement.

What made this activity so enjoyable was not just the thrill of being on stage but also the sense of unity and shared accomplishment. It fostered a spirit of collaboration and creativity, allowing us to express ourselves beyond the confines of the classroom. The cheers from our classmates and teachers, coupled with the satisfaction of a well-executed performance, made this activity a cherished memory from my primary school days. It instilled in me the

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value of teamwork, self-expression, and the joy derived from sharing one's passions with others.

Describe a place where people made a lot of noise.

You should say:
Where you heard the noise
Who made the noise
How you reacted to the noise
And explain how you felt about the noise

One memorable instance of encountering a cacophony of noise took place during a music festival I attended in the heart of the city. The vibrant event, attracting music enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds, emanated lively beats and melodies. Performers from various genres, ranging from rock bands to electronic DJs, contributed to the auditory kaleidoscope.

The noise, generated collectively by the crowd's cheers, music reverberations, and excited chatter, created an electrifying atmosphere. Revelers, donned in colorful attire, danced energetically, adding to the dynamic soundscape. Instead of being overwhelmed, I embraced the vivacity of the moment, immersing myself in the shared joy of the crowd.

Reacting with enthusiasm rather than annoyance, I found joy in the harmonious chaos of the festival. The noise, far from disruptive, became a testament to the collective celebration of music and shared experiences. The pulsating energy and diversity of sounds left me with a positive and exhilarating impression, reinforcing the belief that noise, when part of a shared celebration, can be a source of joy and connection.

Describe a uniform (in a school or a company) that you have worn.

You should say:
What it is like
When you usually wear it / wore it
Who bought it for you
And explain how you feel about it

I'd like to talk about a school uniform, well, a type of school uniform which is popular in Chinese schools. I've not really seen this kind of uniform in western schools, actually. It's a track suit. Like a baggy, fashionable sort of track suit, often dark blue and white. I actually like this uniform and I think it's pretty practical for both girls and boys and students of all ages. I wore this kind of uniform in middle school and high school. My parents bought it for me. I liked it to be honest. In fact, I think uniforms are a good thing in schools because it makes everyone a bit more equal. Children can be petty and competitive about



things like fashion and image, and I think that the school uniform breaks down these barriers. Also, it's easier for everyone in the family, if you wear the same thing every day rather than having to worry about different clothes to wear each day. So, for a variety of reasons I think school uniforms are good. Also, it gives young people a sense of community and identity, which is quite good for creating a unity, a common purpose and the feeling of being part of something – a team, in a way, really. For all of these reasons I think I felt good wearing my school uniform and I think the track suit is a really good type of uniform for students.

------2024 年 1 月 9 日更新------

Describe a person who is good at making people feel welcome in his/her home.

You should say:
Who he/she is
When and how you met him/her
How he/she welcomes visitors
And explain why you think he/she is good at welcoming visitors

In the realm of gracious hosts, Sarah undoubtedly takes the spotlight as a maestro of hospitality. Our paths crossed during a casual gathering at a mutual friend's house, and it was immediately apparent that Sarah possessed a unique knack for making people feel at home. The meeting was serendipitous, and the warm embrace of her hospitality has lingered in my memory since.

Sarah's approach to welcoming visitors is an art form. From the moment you step into her abode, you are enveloped in an atmosphere of genuine friendliness and warmth. It's not just the inviting ambiance or the meticulously arranged decor that sets her home apart; it's the authentic connection she establishes with each guest. Sarah has an innate ability to discern the needs of her visitors, whether it's a comforting cup of tea, a cozy blanket, or engaging conversation.

What makes her exceptional at welcoming visitors is her unwavering commitment to making everyone feel not just accommodated but truly valued. Her generosity extends beyond the physical comforts of her home; it encompasses a sincere interest in the well-being and stories of those she hosts. The walls of her home echo with laughter, lively discussions, and the chinking of glasses—a testament to the vibrant social tapestry she weaves.

In essence, Sarah's proficiency in creating a welcoming environment goes beyond mere surface-level hospitality. It's about curating an experience that



leaves an indelible mark on those fortunate enough to be welcomed into her home—a mark of warmth, belonging, and the enduring bonds of genuine connection.

Describe a person who works well in a team.

You should say:
Who this person is
When you worked together
What team project you worked on
And explain why you think he/she works well

One person who epitomizes teamwork in my professional experience is my colleague, Nan Johnson. We collaborated closely during a major project at our workplace last year. The project centered on developing a comprehensive marketing strategy for a new product launch.

Nan's team-oriented approach was evident from the outset. During our meetings, she skillfully facilitated open discussions, ensuring that every team member's perspective was heard and valued. Her adept communication skills created an inclusive atmosphere, fostering a sense of camaraderie among team members. Nan's ability to harness the strengths of each team member and align them with the project goals was truly commendable.

Our project's success was a testament to Nan's collaborative spirit. She seamlessly integrated diverse ideas, encouraging innovation and creativity within the team. Her effective delegation of tasks, coupled with regular check-ins, kept everyone on the same page and ensured that the project progressed smoothly. Nan's leadership style, characterized by empathy and respect for each team member, contributed significantly to our collective achievements.

Beyond her organizational and interpersonal skills, what sets Nan apart is her unwavering commitment to the team's success. She goes above and beyond supporting her colleagues, readily offering assistance and fostering a positive working environment. In reflecting on our collaboration, it is clear that Nan's dedication to teamwork played a pivotal role in achieving our project objectives and strengthening the collaborative culture within our team.

<u>Describe a public facility (e.g. a museum, a library) that has been improved in your area.</u>

You should say: What the facility is When it was built What people do there



And explain what influence the facility has

One of the most striking transformations in my city is the renovation of the central library, a venerable institution with roots dating back to the early 20th century. In 2019, the library underwent a comprehensive makeover, not merely confined to its physical structure but extending to a holistic reimagining of its role in the community. The redesign introduced state-of-the-art facilities, including collaborative workspaces, digital archives, and a vibrant coffee corner, fostering a dynamic environment that transcends traditional library stereotypes.

Visitors to the library now encounter a multifaceted experience. The introduction of tech-friendly zones allows individuals to access an extensive e-book collection, while communal areas encourage group discussions and knowledge sharing. Moreover, the incorporation of eco-friendly architecture aligns with contemporary environmental concerns. The impact of these changes has been profound, as the library has evolved into a versatile learning and social space, attracting not only avid readers but also students, freelancers, and community groups. This metamorphosis underscores the library's newfound relevance and its crucial role as a community hub in our ever-evolving cityscape.

The inclusive design has significantly widened the library's accessibility, providing specialized resources for individuals with diverse interests and needs. Additionally, the library now hosts regular events, ranging from author talks to interactive workshops, creating a cultural nexus that stimulates intellectual curiosity and community engagement. Overall, this transformation represents a visionary investment in education, culture, and community cohesion, positioning the library as a vibrant cornerstone in the city's cultural landscape.

Describe a movie you watched that made you have strong feelings.

You should say:

What it is about

When you watched it

How you knew this movie

And explain why it made you have strong feelings

One cinematic experience that left an indelible mark on my emotions is the movie "The Pursuit of Happiness." This poignant drama, directed by Gabriele Muccino and released in 2006, is a biographical account of Chris Gardner's challenging journey from homelessness to a successful career on Wall Street. I stumbled upon this gem during a weekend movie night with friends who highly recommended it, and the impact it had on me was profound.



The narrative unfolds as Gardner, portrayed by Will Smith, navigates the unforgiving streets of San Francisco with his young son. The raw portrayal of their struggles, juxtaposed with Gardner's unwavering determination to secure a better life, evoked a rollercoaster of emotions. Will Smith's stellar performance brought depth and authenticity to the character, making the challenges and triumphs feel incredibly real.

The movie resonated with me on a personal level, touching the chords of perseverance, resilience, and the pursuit of dreams. Witnessing Gardner's relentless pursuit of happiness against all odds triggered a profound sense of empathy and inspiration. It stirred a mix of emotions, from heart-wrenching empathy during their lowest points to exhilaration during moments of triumph. "The Pursuit of Happiness" is not merely a film; it's a powerful narrative that speaks to the human spirit's capacity to overcome adversity and find joy in the hardship.

Describe something that helps you focus on work or study.

You should say:
What it is
How often you do it
When you start doing it
And explain how it helps you concentrate

What really helps me focus on my studies is classical music – light classical music. I always put violin or cello music on when I am studying, or clarinet music. I don't put it on loudly. I just put it on in the background, and I choose really calm concertos and pieces of music that are not too fast or too erratic. This helps my mind detach from the stresses and strains of daily life, and helps to make my thoughts calm and focused. It's a habit I've had for many years, which started, I think, when I was in high school, and a teacher recommended it. I began doing it in my dorm at university almost every time I had to study and I found it worked wonderfully. In those days I used to listen to music on headphones, because I shared the dorm with others, but now I have my own room. I play it on speakers from my computer. I am a person who needs to be in a quiet place when I am studying – a place where I cannot hear the sound of traffic on the roads or anything like this - so putting on calming, relaxing classical music can also help to drown out any of the sound of the city that might come in through the window. So, yeah, this is my main method of concentrating and relaxing when I really need to focus on studies and shut out the outside world.





Describe a time when you helped someone.

You should say:
Where you helped him or her
Why you helped him or her
How you helped him or her
And explain how you felt about it

The time I helped someone I'd like to talk about was a recent event actually. It was only a week ago. I was on the subway station platform not far from Wang Fu Jing in Beijing, and I saw two elderly foreigners standing looking at a map and looking really confused and a bit concerned. I thought maybe they spoke English and so I approached them and asked if I could do anything to help. They were very grateful actually, and they were looking for the snack street in Wangfujing, and trying to work out which exit to get out of the subway from. I ended up walking with them to the correct exit, and then they invited me to join them. They were an American couple on holiday. I showed them the snack stalls and fried scorpions and other more interesting snacks, then I introduced them to a small restaurant that I thought they would appreciate more. A local Beijing restaurant. We had duck and pancakes and several other simple typical vegetable dishes. I talked to them about my hometown, which is Tianjin, and they told me about their holiday so far. They had been in Guilin and Shanghai before coming to Beijing – they were doing a 3-week tour of China. So, I felt great about this experience and it's lucky I had the free time to not only help them but take them out to dinner and share a meal with them, and good conversation. Also, of course, I got to practice my English!

<u>Describe a time when you bought something from a street or outdoor market.</u>

You should say:
Where it is
How you knew it
What kind of thing you bought there
And explain how you felt about this experience

I once visited a bustling outdoor market nestled in the heart of the city. This vibrant market was renowned for its eclectic mix of stalls, selling everything from handcrafted jewelry to vintage clothing. The ambiance was magnetic, drawing in locals and tourists alike. I stumbled upon this market through recommendations from friends who praised its unique offerings.

As I strolled through the labyrinth of stalls, my attention was captivated by a quaint artisan selling handmade leather goods. Intrigued, I engaged in a conversation with the craftsman, learning about his meticulous process and

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the stories woven into each piece. Eventually, I couldn't resist the allure of a beautifully crafted leather wallet, and I decided to make a purchase.

The entire experience was not just about buying an item; it was a sensory journey. The vibrant colors, the myriad of scents from street food vendors, and the melodic chatter of buyers and sellers created a rich tapestry of sensations. The act of purchasing an item became a memorable adventure, leaving me with not just a tangible product but a profound connection to the craftsmanship and the vibrant spirit of the market. The wallet, now a daily companion, serves as a tangible reminder of that enriching experience.

Describe an outdoor activity you did recently.

You should say:
What the activity was
When and where you did it
Who you did it with
And explain whether you enjoyed it

An outdoor activity I did recently was on a company excursion in the countryside. It was really exciting – we learned a number of bush craft skills. I'm not sure if you know what those are! It's like a sort of survival thing - I mean, it's learning sets of skills that might be useful for survival in the wild but it's made into a fun activity that both adults and young people can do on company excursions or school trips and so on. Bush craft skills are things like learning to cook on an open wood fire you build yourself in the woods, making simple animal traps, learning how to climb trees, make dens and learning which types of plants or wild mushrooms you can eat, and which you cannot. It can be a lot of fun actually – and when we did this with our company, we had a morning learning basic skills from a qualified instructor, then we were divided into teams in the afternoon, and had a series of tasks to complete in a given time. We were then scored points by the instructor on how well we did the task. At the very end there was a fairly humourous quiz, then a sort of assault course in the woods. It was a mixture of serious bush craft learning, and basically some fun teambuilding games, rolled into one. I thought it was brilliant, and I had never been to this place in the countryside before (it was a hilly location just outside Chengdu, in a woodland). I asked for help, of course, we had to all ask for help because we worked in teams, and it was part of the team spirit to be open and honest and help each other, and ask for help if we needed to. So, yes, I asked for help. However, during the actual contests in the afternoon, we could not ask for help from the instructor - but we could ask for help from our team members. I learned a lot from it, and felt that it changed my attitude towards team work, and towards nature in general. It was fun and an educational experience.



Describe an important travel that was delayed.

You should say:
Where you were going
Why it was important
Why it was delayed
And explain how you felt about this experience

Several years back, I embarked on a highly anticipated trip to Paris, a destination that had long occupied the top spot on my travel wish list. This journey held profound significance for me as it coincided with the culmination of my master's degree. However, the intricacies of travel unfolded, and the trip encountered unexpected delays, primarily attributed to severe weather conditions disrupting flight schedules.

The delay, although initially exasperating, unfolded into a unique experience of its own. Stranded at the airport, I found myself engaged in conversations with fellow travelers facing similar predicaments. We shared anecdotes, travel aspirations, and even discovered common interests. This impromptu camaraderie transformed the delay from an inconvenience into a shared adventure of sorts.

Upon finally arriving in Paris, the initial frustration gave way to a profound sense of gratitude and perspective. The delay, while interrupting my carefully planned itinerary, allowed me to appreciate the unpredictability of travel and savour the journey itself, beyond the destination. In retrospect, the detour proved to be an unexpected enrichment, demonstrating that the essence of travel often lies in the unscripted moments and connections forged along the way.

Describe a time when you found something that somebody lost.

You should say:
What it was
Where and when it happened
What happened then
And explain how you felt about this experience

Lost and found incidents often unfold in the most unexpected moments of our lives. One such episode occurred when I stumbled upon a misplaced wallet during my evening stroll in the local park. The wallet, lying inconspicuously on a bench, revealed not just its material contents but the potential to make someone's day better.

The finding took place on a serene Saturday evening. As the sun dipped below the horizon, casting warm hues across the park, I noticed the wallet left



unattended. Curiosity led me to inspect its contents, revealing identification cards, credit cards, and a modest sum of cash. Recognizing the potential stress and inconvenience the loss might cause, I decided to play the role of an unwitting good Samaritan.

Driven by a sense of responsibility, I took the wallet to the park's information center, leaving it with the staff. I hoped that the wallet's owner would retrace their steps to find it or, better yet, receive a call from the information center.

The feeling that accompanied this discovery was one of moral satisfaction. While I did not witness the wallet's owner reclaiming their possession, the act of doing the right thing imparted a sense of goodwill. It underscored the significance of small gestures in fostering a sense of community and reminded me of the collective responsibility we all share in making our surroundings more secure and being more compassionate to our fellow man.

Describe a useful object in your home that you found useless but cannot live without now.

You should say:
What it is
What you can do with it
How often you use it
And explain why you cannot live without it

In the corner of my home, there sits an unassuming, yet indispensable, object – a robotic vacuum cleaner. Initially, I regarded it with skepticism, questioning its necessity. However, as time unfolded, this seemingly trivial gadget transformed into an essential part of my daily routine.

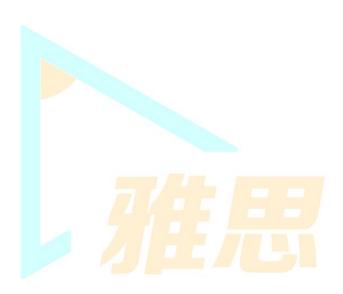
This sleek machine navigates through every nook and cranny of my home, diligently performing the task of keeping the floors spotless. Its utility goes beyond mere cleaning; it brings a sense of order and cleanliness to my living space, freeing me from the repetitive chore of vacuuming. The convenience it offers is unmatched – scheduled cleanings, efficient dust removal, and the ability to reach areas that often escape human attention

What started as an experiment to embrace modern technology has now become a fixture in my daily life. I use it religiously, and its absence is immediately felt. The once-dismissed robotic vacuum cleaner has proven its worth, highlighting the ease it brings to maintaining a clean and organized living environment. It's a testimony to the fact that sometimes, the most unexpected objects can weave their way into the fabric of our routines, making life a bit more manageable.

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