

Well, if by bad you mean rainy weather, then I usually idle away the hours (spend) by staying home and by keeping my nose in a book (read book) or by listening to my favourite songs. This is also a great time for me to take it easy (relax) after a hard week of studying. (Rev. 05 Dec. 2012 - BWS)

3. What type of weather do you like best?

Well actually I enjoy a variety in the weather, though I think the balmy weather (*mild, not hot & not rainy, with a gentle breeze*) suits me best. I guess the reason is that it's really a great time to go for walks with *my soul mate* or to take part in some outdoor games, like tennis, badminton or football. (Rev. 05 Dec. 2012 - BWS)

4. Would you like to have that type of weather all year round?

Actually, I haven't thought much about that but I guess I could handle (easily deal with) having cool weather all year round. This is due to the fact that this kind of weather makes me feel comfortable and energetic enough to do many things that I normally avoid doing in hot weather.

Topic 23: Happiness

1. What kinds of things make you happy?

Well obviously, happiness means different things to different people. For me, when I spend time with my family and friends it brightens my day / puts me in high spirits (makes me happy). Sometimes, when I'm disappointed, a call from my close friend can also make me happy. Additionally, achievements and successes are always sources of happiness for me, especially when I pass an exam with flying colors (get high score). (Rev. 05 Dec. 2012 - BWS)

2. What do you do if you feel unhappy?

To be honest, I would say that whenever I feel down in the dumps (sad). I can usually find a close friend to talk to. You know that close and true friends are always willing to share our sad and lonely times, our failures and losses, as well as our joys and successes,

so they help to minimize our depression. Sometimes, it even cheers me, just to walk alone in the park. (Rev. 05 Dec. 2012 - BWS)

3. Is unhappiness always a bad thing?

Well certainly in some ways, unhappiness is a bad thing, especially with regard to the point that prolonged unhappiness causes depression and pessimism, resulting in negative impacts on people's lives. But you also have to understand that once people can overcome it, they become stronger and have more motivation to do many things better. So, depending on the results, I suppose the answer has two sides, both yes and no.

(Rev. 05 Dec. 2012 - BWS)

Topic 24: Shopping

1. Do you like shopping?

In general, I would have to say yes, I love it, but the thing that bothers me when I go shopping is how often I get cheated. In my opinion, many market stalls want to rip me off (cheat sb) by pushing fake stuff and low quality on you, at high prices. This is terrible for people who love shopping. It also creates an adverse impression on foreign visitors, who are unlikely to return to shopping areas. (Rev. 05 Dec. 2012 - BWS)

2. How often do you go shopping?

Well, normally I will go shopping at least once a week with my friends, sometimes, if I have some spare time I will go to a mall twice a week, just to hang out with friends and check out the sales. (Rev. 05 Dec. 2012 - BWS)

3. What kind of shops are in the area where you live?

Well, there is certainly a big variety of shops on my street. Though I think the most common are beauty, cosmetic and perfume shops. And the explanation for this could be that cosmetics are props (aids) used to make women appear more beautiful. Another common type of shop in my area would be something like clothing stores. Finally,

there are many other kinds, like toy, telephone, and motorbike shops but they are not as common as the first three. (Rev. 05 Dec. 2012 - BWS)

4. What is the worst thing about shopping?

The thing that bothers me most when I go shopping is the number of times I get cheated. In my opinion, many market stalls *rip you off* (cheat sb) by *pushing fake stuff* on you at a high price. This is terrible for people who love shopping. The best way to avoid that is by going to the upscale department stores, but of course you **can't haggle over the prices** (bargain) there. However, the merchandise is almost always genuine?

/ dzenjuin/(xác thực). (Rev. 05 Dec. 2012 - BWS)

Topic 25: Films.

1. Do you like watching films?

Well to be honest, I'm a real **film buff** (a film lover) it's probably my favorite form of entertainment, next to eating. There is nothing I would rather do than see a good film or talk about films with others who **get into** (enjoy) them **as much as I do.**

2. What types of films do you like watching?

Well, it goes without saying that there is quite a huge variety of films that I like watching, though I think the first type that I should mention would be romantic films, especially Korean ones. And the explanation for this could be that they make me laugh, and sometimes cry a lot, too. Another genre of film I really like would be science fiction. And the main characteristic of these is that they always peak my curiosity about what's going to happen next.

3. How often do you watch films?

Honestly, it **really depends on the situation.** For instance, if I have free time, it's quite possible that I will watch my favourite films 5 times a week. Whereas, when I don't have much free time, it's more likely that I will only watch films 2 or 3 times a week.

4. Do you prefer watching films at home or at the cinema?

Actually, I prefer watching films at the cinema. You know that the atmosphere, quality of sounds, movements and pictures are far better than those at home. So, I almost always watch the box-office smashes (very successful films) at the cinema with my friends.

5. Would you like to be in a movie?

Well, quite honestly I've never considered that, but I guess if I had an opportunity to appear in a film, it would be so great. I think that acting or film making would be a fascinating job, by trying to use an art for bringing happiness to everyone.

TOPIC 26 - Weekends

1. What do you usually do at the weekend?

Well, to be honest, I really love weekends because I can let my hair down (relax) after a long hard-working week. My first choice for relaxation and entertainment is watching feature films. And the explanation for this could be that they are exciting, keep me in suspense and peak my curiosity about what is going to happen next. Some of them also make me laugh a lot, too. In addition, I like to go swimming with my friends on Saturday or Sunday evening.

2. What kinds of things do people usually do at weekends in your country?

Well, it goes without saying that there is a quite variety of things that people can do at weekend. Though I think the most common would be traveling or going on picnic. And the explanation for this could be that people can take it easy after a hard-working week, furthermore, it is a great time for all family members to get into (enjoy) new places together. Other forms of weekend activities would be something like playing sports such as tennis, badminton, especially swimming.

3. Do you think your weekends are long enough?

Well to be honest, I would have to say that I have to study every week day, so I only have Sunday to relax. That's the reason I really love Sunday. I usually feel like the

weekend slips by (pass) too fast, especially if I have an exam on Sunday. So my weekend is never long enough to do many things that I enjoy.

4. How important do you think it is to have free time?

Generally speaking, I would have to say that it is a great time for people to take it easy (relax) after a hard-working week. They need to refresh themselves before starting a new week in good spirits. In addition, in free time, people can renew their connections with family and friends by playing outdoor activities with them. Of course, this is a healthy way to re-energize themselves and their relationships with others. (Corrected 27 Aug 2012)

TOPIC 27 - Evenings

1. How often do you go out in the evening?

To be honest, I'd have to say that it really depends on the situation. For instance, if I have time, then it's quite possible that I'll go to coffee shop with my friends or family almost every day. You know that having outdoor activities in the evening can help people take it easy (relax). Whereas, if I don't have much time, it's more likely that I'll go shopping or just go for a stroll (go for a walk) twice a week.

2. Who do you usually spend your evening with?

Honestly, I would have to say that it really depends on the situation. For instance, during my school year, I often spend my evenings with my aunt's family and my younger cousin whom i live with. We usually have dinner together and watch some favourite TV programs after that. Whereas, during my summer break, I spend evenings with my lovely family, when we have dinner together, play games and sports or simply have conversation.

3. When you go out in the evening what do you usually do?

Of course I should say that there is a variety of activities I can choose to do in the evening. Though I guess my regular haunt (a place one regularly goes to) is the Hoa Café. And the explanation for this could be that I'm crazy about the atmosphere

and the service there, because the drink menu is so diverse and lip smacking (delicious), and what's more, I can really unwind (relax) and catch-up with (find out about what's happened since the last time I talked with them) friends after a hard-working day. Another form of activity would be something like dropping in on (visit) my relatives for a short visit or go bargain hunting with my sisters for some clothes.

4. Do you think there is enough to do in the evenings in your city?

In general, I would have to say that there is a wide variety of activities for people to do in the evening in this city. You may know that HCM city is the most modern city in Vietnam, so there are choices, such as going to a coffee shop, watching live theatre or a concert, going to a live music bar, doing karaoke or simply going for a stroll (go for a walk) in one of our many exquisite parks. However, you should also know that after a hard-working day, most people just want to put their feet up (relax) and stay home with their family. (Corrected 27 Aug 2012 - BWS)

Topic 28: ANIMALS

1. Do you like animals?

Actually, I love animals, but in particular I love dogs the most. The reason is their loyalty, especially the "seeing-eye" dogs who help blind people. Additionally, I'm pretty fond of endangered species too, such as Blue Whales, which is due to the fact that I feel a responsibility for protection of wildlife.

2. What types of animals do people keep as pets in your country?

In general, there are not many different animals that people keep as pets in my country, though I think the most common would be dogs. And the explanation for this could be their loyalty and companionship. Cats - with their ability to hunt vermin - (loài gây hại) are also quite popular. Of course, there are other kinds of pets like birds and fish, but they are not as widely kept as the first two I mentioned.

3. How do most people feel about animals in your country?

Actually, if I think about this, I would say that most people in my country usually don't have a good attitude toward house pets, which is due to the fact that many people don't care much about animals; hence they aren't willing to expend much effort or money to feed or protect them. For the most part, they also don't make any contribution to the preservation of endangered species, either. Except for pets, animals really don't have much priority for the Vietnamese, except as food.

4. What are animals used for in your country?

Certainly, I would have to say that dogs are most often used for security protection and for companions. Other kinds of animals that I should mention are other pets like cats or birds, only because of their lovely singing. Domestic farm animals like cows, pigs and chickens have the simple task of providing food. Finally, except for pets, it's unfortunately true that animals really don't have much priority for the Vietnamese, except as food. (Corrected 27 Aug 2012 - BWS)

Topic 29: Routines

1. What time do you usually get up in the morning?

Of course, it really depends on what day it is. For instance, on days when I have to go to university, it's quite possible that I will be an early bird, getting up about 5 o'clock to prepare for classes. Whereas, if I'm on a day-off or holiday, then it's more likely that I will get up late, around 8 o'clock, to continue sleeping in (ngủ nướng) during my free time.

2. Are your weekend and weekday routines different?

Well, actually, when I think about it, I guess that in many ways, they are completely different, especially when you consider that at the weekend I can forget about the daily grind (everyday work routine). It's really a great time to get away from it all (get away from the daily work routine). In stark contrast, on weekdays, I have to prepare for my classes and do homework, so I must get out of bed early, which I don't easily do.