

## TOPIC 5: INTERESTS AND HOBBIES

### Speaking Part 1

#### Frequently-Asked Questions

- ✓ How do you normally arrange your weekends?
- ✓ How do you spend your spare time?
- ✓ Do you have any hobbies?
- ✓ How much time do you spend on that? Do you prefer relaxing at home or going out in the evening?
- ✓ When you go out for the evening, what do you like to do?
- ✓ Is there any kind of entertainment you dislike?
- ✓ Why do you think that people have hobbies?

#### Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
leisure	/ˈleɪ.ə/	the time when you are not working or doing other duties (thời gian rảnh)
pursuit	/pəˈsju:t/	an activity that you spend time doing, usually when you are not working (hoạt động)
immerse yourself in sth	/ɪˈmɜːs/	to become completely involved in something (hoàn toàn đắm chìm)

hectic	/'hek.tɪk/	full of activity, or very busy and fast (hối hả, bận rộn)
constantly	/'kɒn.stənt.li/	all the time or often (liên tục)
recreational	/,rek.rɪ'ei.ʃən.əl/	connected with ways of enjoying yourself when you are not working (giải trí)
unwind	/ʌn'waɪnd/	to relax and allow your mind to be free from worry (giải trí)
excessive	/ek'ses.ɪv/	too much (quá nhiều, thừa)
adverse	/'æd.vɜːs/	having a negative or harmful effect on something (tiêu cực)
neglect	/nɪ'glekt/	to fail to give needed care or attention to someone or something (ngó lơ)
party animal	/'pɑː.tɪ.æn.ɪ.məl/	someone who enjoys parties and party activities very much (người thích tiệc tùng)
invitation	/,ɪn.vɪ'teɪ.ʃən/	the act of inviting someone to go to an event (lời mời)
indulge myself in sth	/ɪn'dʌldʒ/	allow yourself to have or do something that you know you will enjoy (cho phép bản thân đắm chìm trong thứ gì)
be crazy about	/'kreɪ.zi/	to be very interested in something or love someone very much (say mê điên cuồng)
instrument	/'ɪn.strə.mənt/	an object, such as a piano, guitar, or drum, that is played to produce musical sounds (nhạc cụ)

inspire	/ɪnˈspaɪər/	to make someone feel that they want to do something and can do it (truyền cảm hứng)
loner	/'ləʊ.nər/	a person who likes to do things on their own without other people (người thui thủi 1 mình)

### Useful sentence structure

- ✓ I enjoy (hobby/noun phrase) because (clause of reason).

Ex: I enjoy reading because it makes me relaxed.

- ✓ I love to (verb phrase) because it's so (adjective).

Ex: I love to work in the garden because it's so peaceful.

- ✓ (hobby/ noun phrase) is my favorite hobby because (clause of reason).

Ex: Cooking is my favorite hobby because I also love eating.

- ✓ Whenever I am (present participle), I feel (adjective).

Ex: Whenever I am dancing, I feel so happy.

- ✓ I started (gerund phrase) at the age of (number) when I was (with somebody / prepositional phrase).

Ex: I started collecting stamps at the age of seven when I was with my grandma.

- ✓ I think I'd rather (bare infinitive).

Ex: I think I'd rather have a hobby that is active rather than passive.

### PRACTICE

#### Q1: Do you have any hobbies?

Suggestions

- ✓ leisure pursuit → reading
- ✓ name of the book: .....
- ✓ highly recommend the book

**Q1: Do you have any hobbies? (Sample)**

Well, everyone has their own leisure pursuits, and mine is reading. The book I'm currently reading is "*How to stop worrying and start living*" though I don't remember exactly who the author is. It's a great book and I highly recommend it.

**Q2: Is it important to have a hobby?**

Suggestions

- ✓ hectic schedule → under pressure
- recreational activities → unwind

**Q2: Is it important to have a hobby? (Sample)**

Definitely! I mean nowadays life is getting more and more hectic, so people are constantly under a lot of pressure. That's why it's necessary to get into some recreational activities to unwind just a few minutes.

**Q3: How do you usually spend your weekends?**

Suggestions

- ✓ not a party animal → refuse invitations
- ✓ visit a café + read books + drink a cup of tea

**Q3: How do you usually spend your weekends? (Sample)**

I'm not a party animal, so during weekends, I always refuse all the party invitations from my friends. Instead, I would visit a café on my own and indulge myself with a nice cup of tea and some new books.

**Q4: Is it harmful to spend too much time on a hobby?**

Suggestions

- ✓ spending too much → adverse effect
- ✓ not having enough time for important tasks

**Q4: Is it harmful to spend too much time on a hobby? (Sample)**

Yes, I believe spending excessive time on a hobby may have an adverse effect on people. You may not have enough time for important tasks. For example, it is easy for me to neglect the deadlines at work while reading an interesting book.

**Q5: What free-time activities would you like to try in the future?**

Suggestions

- ✓ crazy about musical instruments
- ✓ not good at it
- ✓ play more to improve skills

**Q5: What free-time activities would you like to try in the future? (Sample)**

I'm crazy about music and all kinds of musical instruments though I'm not good at it. Maybe in the future, I will try to play more to improve my skills. I'm really inspired by great musicians, honestly.

**Speaking Part 2**

**Cue card**

Describe a book you enjoyed reading very much.

You should say:

what the name of the book is

when you read it

what the book is about

and explain why you like it.

## Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
bestseller	/ˌbestˈsel.ər/	a book which is extremely popular and has sold in very large numbers (cuốn sách bán chạy nhất)
biweekly	/baɪˈwi:k.li/	happening or appearing every two weeks or twice a week (2 tuần 1 kỳ)
content	/kənˈtent/	the ideas of a book, speech or film (nội dung)
assume	/əˈsju:m/	to accept something to be true without question or proof (cho rằng, cho là)
revolve around	/rɪˈvɒlv/	to have someone or something as the main or most important interest or subject (xoay quanh việc gì)
obsession	/əbˈseʃ.ən/	something or someone that you think about all the time (nỗi ám ảnh)
adore	/əˈdɔ:r/	to like someone or something very much (yêu say đắm)
cherish	/ˈtʃer.ɪʃ/	to love, protect, and care for someone or something that is important to you (chân quý)
resist	/rɪˈzɪst/	to refuse to accept or be changed by something (kháng cự)
depiction	/dɪˈpɪk.ʃən/	the way that something is represented or shown (thuật lại)
brilliant	/ˈbrɪl.jənt/	very good (tuyệt vời)

adapted from	/ə' dəptɪd/	changed to suit different purposes (chuyển thể)
plot	/plɒt/	the story of a book, film, play, etc (cốt truyện)

### Useful sentence structure

- ✓ The book mainly focuses on (noun clause).

The book mainly focuses on how people should look at life from a different perspective.

- ✓ I was deeply (adjective) by what he wrote in the book.

I was deeply moved by what he wrote in the book.

- ✓ The main character depicted in the book is (adjective phrase).

Ex: The main character depicted in the book is completely imaginary.

- ✓ The author mainly wishes to deal with (noun phrase).

Ex: The author mainly wishes to deal with the dark side of human beings.

- ✓ The author was totally inspired by (noun clause).

Ex: The author was totally inspired by what she experienced in Africa five years ago.

- ✓ The book didn't come out until (time phrase).

Ex: The book didn't come out until the year before last.

### PRACTICE

Describe a book you enjoyed reading very much.

You should say:

what the name of the book is

when you read it

what the book is about  
and explain why you like it.

### Sample

I am going to talk about a book that I have read recently. It is a Vietnamese novel called "Mắt Biếc", which can be literally translated into Vietnamese as "Blue Eyes". The novel revolves around a love story between Ngạn, a country boy, and Hà Lan, his neighbor, childhood friend and lifelong crush.

Ngạn and Hà Lan grow up together in a remote village in the Central region of Vietnam. Ngạn develops a strong love, which later becomes obsession, towards Hà Lan, the girl whose eyes he adores since the very first time they meet. Although they spend their childhood and adolescence together, they later lead a very different life during their adulthood. While Ngạn still cherishes the slow-paced life of his village, Hà Lan fails to resist the beauty of the city life. She ends up falling in love with a playboy named Dũng, has a baby with him and leaves the child under the protection of her grandmother and, guess what, his lifelong crush Ngạn.

I really love this novel since I can see parts of younger self in it. The author's depiction of the 1990's Vietnamese life is just brilliant. The movie adapted from the book has proved successful.

### Speaking Part 3

#### Frequently-asked questions

- ✓ Do you think that surfing the internet, watching TV, keeping a pet or listening to music are interesting hobbies?
- ✓ Why do you think people like having a hobby?
- ✓ Do you think that you can learn something from having a hobby?
- ✓ What do people in your country normally do with their free time?
- ✓ Do you think that more people had hobbies in the past than now?



## Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
personal	/ˈpɜː.sən.əl/	relating or belonging to a single or particular person (thuộc cá nhân)
not necessarily mean	/ˈnes.ə.ser.ɪ.l.i/	used in negatives to mean "in every case" or "therefore" (không nhất thiết là)
spiritual	/ˈspɪr.ɪ.tʃu.əl/	relating to deep feelings and beliefs (thuộc về tinh thần)
be into something		like doing something (thích gì đó)
notion	/ˈnəʊ.ʃən/	a belief or idea (quan niệm)
obsolete	/ˌɒb.səˈliːt/	no longer used or needed (lỗi thời)
on the go		very busy (rất bận rộn)
influence	/ˈɪn.flu.əns/	to affect or change how someone or something develops, behaves, or thinks (ảnh hưởng)
stimulating	/ˈstim.jə.leɪ.tɪŋ/	causing enthusiasm and interest (khuấy động)
pastime	/ˈpɑːs.taɪm/	an activity that is done for enjoyment (hoạt động giải trí)
lose oneself in something	/luːz/	to give all of one's attention or thought to something (chìm đắm trong thứ gì)

## PRACTICE

**Q1: Do you think that surfing the internet, watching TV, keeping a pet or listening to music are interesting hobbies? (Sample)**

Yes, they could be, I mean a hobby is quite a personal thing, isn't it? Everyone is different and what might be interesting for one person might not necessarily be interesting for another person – but I like watching YouTube, listening to music, and reading books, so I think they are all good hobbies. All in all, having a hobby can bring us many advantages, to relax after a long day at work or school and even learn something new.

**Q2. Do you think that you can learn something from having a hobby? (Sample)**

Definitely, as I mentioned earlier, we can learn all sorts of things from a recreational activity. For example, if your hobby is reading, then you are likely to know more about the world. If you like yoga or something similar, you can learn all about relaxation techniques. If you're into art or drawing or photography, you can learn about landscape and figure composition and other important techniques.

**Q3. Do you think that more people had hobbies in the past than now? (Sample)**

I'm not sure but I think the notion of hobbies has changed. I mean, listening to music, for example, might not have been thought of as a hobby in the past, but now it has become a common leisure pursuit among people of different ages. Also, collecting stamps was considered a hobby in the past, but today email and other changes have made stamps almost obsolete and so changes like that have influenced what people do in their free time as well.

**HOMEWORK**

Describe an interesting hobby that you have

You should say:

what it is

when you started doing it

how long you spend on it

how often you do it

and explain why you like it.