



IELTS SPEAKING – PART 1

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. FRIENDS

- Are your friends mostly your age or different ages?
- Do you usually see your friends during the week or at weekends?
- The last time you saw your friends, what did you do together?
- In what ways are your friends important to you?

2. FOOD AND COOKING

- What kinds of food do you like to eat?
- What kind of new food would you like to try?
- Do you like cooking?
- What was the last meal you cooked?
- Do you prefer home-cooked food or food from restaurants?
- What types of food are popular in your country?

3. LEISURE

- Do you have any hobbies or interests?
- How did you become interested in it?
- What is there to do in your free time in your hometown?
- How do you usually spend your holidays?
- Is there anywhere you would particularly like to visit?

4. FAVOURITE PLACE

- What place do you most like to visit?
- Is it popular with other people?
- Has it changed much since you first went there?

5. YOUR COUNTRY

- Which part of your country do most people live in?
- Tell me about the main industries there.
- How easy is it to travel around your country?
- Has your country changed much since you were a child?

6. COLOUR

- What is your favourite colour?
- Do you like the same colours now as you did when you were younger?
- Will you paint your house with the colour you like?

- What can you learn about a person from the colours they like?
- Do any colours have any special meaning in your culture?

7. ENTERTAINMENT

- Do you prefer relaxing at home or going out in the evening?
- When you go out for an evening, what do you like to do?
- How popular is this with other people in your country?
- Is there any kind of entertainment you do not like?

8. CLOTHES

- How do you prefer to buy your clothes, shops, large stores, or the internet?
- How important are clothes and fashion to you?
- What kind of clothes do you dislike?
- How different are the clothes you wear now from those you wore 10 years ago?
- What do you think the clothes we wear say about us?

9. DANCING

- Do you enjoy dancing?
- Has anyone ever taught you to dance?
- Tell me about any traditional dancing in your country.
- Do you think that traditional dancing will be popular in the future?

10. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

- Which instrument do you like listening to most?
- Have you ever learned to play a musical instrument?
- Do you think children should learn to play a musical instrument at school?
- How easy would it be to learn to play an instrument without a teacher?

11. TRAFFIC WHERE YOU LIVE

- How do most people travel to work where you live?
- What traffic problems are there in your area?
- How do traffic problems affect you?
- How would you reduce the traffic problems in your area?

12. YOUR FRIENDS

- Do you prefer to have one particular friend or a group of friends?
- What do you like doing most with your friends?
- Do you think it's important to keep in contact with friends you knew as a child?
- What makes a friend into a good friend?
- How often do you go out with friends?
- Tell me about your best friend at school?
- How friendly are you with your neighbours?
- Which is more important to you, friends or family?

13. KEEPING IN CONTACT WITH PEOPLE

- How do you usually contact your friends?
- Do you prefer to contact different people in different ways?
- Do you find it easy to keep in contact with friends and family?
- In your country, did people in the past keep in contact in the same ways as they do today?

14. LAUGHING

- What kinds of thing make you laugh?
- Do you like making other people laugh?
- Do you think it's important for people to laugh?
- Is laughing the same as feeling happy?

15. COLD WEATHER

- Have you ever been in very cold weather?
- How often is the weather cold where you come from?
- Are some parts of your country much colder than others?
- Would you prefer to live in a hot place or a cold place?

16. TRAVELLING TO WORK OR COLLEGE

- How do you usually travel to work/college?
- Have you always travelled to work/college in the same way?
- What do you like about travelling to work/college this way?
- What changes would improve the way you travel to work/college?

17. NEIGHBOURS

- How well do you know the people who live next door to you?
- How often do you see them?
- What kinds of problem do you sometimes have with your neighbours?
- How do you think neighbours can help each other?

18. NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

- Which magazines and newspapers do you read?
- Which kinds of article are you most interested in?
- Have you ever read a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language?
- Do you think reading a newspaper or magazine in a foreign language is a good way to learn the language?

19. FLOWERS

- Do you like to have flowers in your home?
- Where would you go to buy flowers?
- On what occasions would you give someone flowers?
- Are flowers important in your culture?

20. TELEVISION

- How often do you watch television?
- Which television channel do you usually watch?
- Do you enjoy the advertisements on television?
- Do you think most programmes on television are good?

21. GAMES

- Do you play any games?
- What games are popular in your country?
- How do people learn to play games in your country?
- Do you think it's important for people to play games?

22. GIVING GIFTS

- When do people give presents in your country?
- Do you ever take a gift when you visit someone in their home?
- When did you last receive a gift?
- Do you enjoy looking for gifts for people?

23. TELEPHONING

- How often do you make telephone calls?
- Who do you spend most time talking to on the telephone?
- When do you think you will next make a telephone call?
- Do you sometimes prefer to send a text message instead of telephoning?

24. BICYCLES

- How popular are bicycles in your home town?
- How often do you ride a bicycle?
- Do you think that bicycles are suitable for all ages?
- What are the advantages of a bicycle compared to a car?

25. FOOD AND COOKING

- What sorts of food do you like eating most?
- Who normally does the cooking in your home?
- Do you watch cookery programmes on TV?
- Do you prefer eating out or eating at home?
- When was the first time you cooked something yourself?
- How happy are you to try eating new things?

26. PHOTOGRAPHS

- What type of photos do you like taking?
- What do you do with the photos you take?
- When you visit other places, do you take photos or buy postcards?
- Do you like people taking photos of you?

27. NAMES

- Does your name have any special meaning?
- How did your parents choose your name?
- Is your name common or unusual in your country?
- If you could change your name, would you?

28. WEEKENDS

- What do you usually do at the weekend? How you usually spend your weekends?
- What is your favourite part of the weekend?
- Do you think your weekends are long enough?

- What do you think you will do next weekend?
- Do you enjoy your weekends now more than you did when you were a child?
- How important is it for you to relax at the end of the week? How important do you think it is to have free time at the weekends?

29. MUSIC

- What types of music do you like to listen to?
- At what times of day do you like to listen to music?
- Did you learn to play a musical instrument when you were a child?
- Do you think all children should learn to play a musical instrument?

30. TRAVEL

- Do you enjoy travelling?
- Have you done much travelling?
- Have you ever travelled outside your country?
- What do you think is the best way to travel?
- Do you think it's better to travel alone or with other people?
- If you were going on a long trip, who would you prefer to go with?
- Where would you like to travel in the future?

31. SCHOOL

- Did you go to secondary/high school near to where you lived?
- What did you like about your secondary/high school?
- Tell me about anything you didn't like at your school?
- How do you think your school could be improved?

32. WHERE YOU LIVE

- Do you live in a town or in the country?
- Is it a convenient place to live?
- What is interesting about the area where you live?
- Where would you like to live in the future?

33. SPORTS

- Which is the most popular sport in your country?
- What are the advantages of doing sports regularly?
- Which new sport would you like to try?

34. HOME

- Do you live in a house or a flat?
- What do you like most about your house/flat?
- Is there anything about it that you would like to change?
- What is your idea of a perfect home?

35. HOBBIES

- Tell me about any hobbies you have now or had in the past.
- Do you feel you have enough free time for hobbies?
- How important is it for people to have hobbies at different ages?
- If you had the chance to take up a new hobby, what would it be?

36. ENTERTAINMENT

- Do you go out a lot or do you prefer home entertainment?
- What kind of things do you watch on TV?
- Can you easily entertain yourself when you are alone?
- Are there many places for entertainment in your area?

37. COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET

- How often do you use the computer? What for?
- Do you like using the Internet?
- How did you learn to use a computer?
- Do you think it is important to know how to use a computer?

38. CITY

- How long have you lived in this city?
- Do tourists visit your city?
- What places do you think tourists should see in your city?
- What is the best way for tourists to travel around your city?

39. READING

- Did your parents read to you when you were a child?
- Do you read for pleasure very often?
- What kind of books or magazines do you buy?
- Which do you find easier, reading in English or writing in English?

40. HOLIDAYS

- How often do you get holiday from work/college?
- Do you usually stay at home when you have a holiday, or do you go somewhere?
- What did you do the last time you had a holiday?
- Do you wish you had more holidays?

41. DREAM

- Do you remember your dream when you wake up?
- Do you like hearing others' dreams?
- Do you share your dreams with other people?
- Do you think dream will affect life?

42. HOUSEWORK

- Do you often do housework?
- What kind of housework did you do when you were a child?
- Do you like to use machines to do housework?
- Who usually does the housework in your family?

43. BIRTHDAY

- How do children in your country celebrate birthday?
- Are birthdays important?
- Which birthdays are especially important in your country?
- Are birthdays more important for young people or elderly people?

44. PARENTS & FAMILY

- Do you often stay with your parents?
- What do you do when you are with parents?
- Do you have close relationships with your family?
- Who do you resemble most in your family and in what ways?
- Should parents be strict to their children?
- What is the most valuable thing parents can give to their children?
- Are parents the best teachers for children?
- Do your parents teach you lots of things that cannot be learnt at school?

45. WEATHER

- Which season do you like best?

- Which season rains more?
- Does weather have any influence on you?
- Do you discuss weather with others?
- Do you think the climate in Vietnam is getting worse than before?

46. SUNNY DAYS

- Do you like sunny days? Why?
- What do you usually do on sunny days?
- What things do you think are harder to do in sunshine?
- Have you ever been to a place without sunshine?

47. TOYS

- What toys did you like to play with when you were a child?
- What is the most important toy for you?
- What toys do girls like?
- Why do children play with toys?

48. CHOCOLATE

- Do you eat chocolate?
- When do you give chocolate?
- Have you ever received chocolate?
- Why do friends send each other chocolate?

49. BOOKS

- Do you like reading books?
- Where do you read?
- Did you read much when you were a child?
- Do young children like reading books?
- What do you think are the benefits of reading to you?

50. TEACHERS

- Do you like any teacher of yours?
- What have you learnt from this teacher?
- Is there any teacher that you don't like?
- Do you still keep in touch with your teachers?

51. CELEBRITIES

- Do you have any idol?
- Have you seen the stars that you admire?
- Would you want to become a celebrity in the future?
- How do celebrities influence their fans in Vietnam?

52. VISITORS

- Do you like to go to others' houses or invite others to your home?
- How often do visitors come to your house?
- How do you treat these visitors?
- What do you usually prepare for these guests?

53. SPORTS

- What sports do you like best?
- Do you like to watch sports on TV?
- Do you have any favourite sports star?
- What is the most popular sport in Vietnam?
- Have you tried any dangerous sport?

54. INDOOR GAMES

- What indoor games did you do when you were a child?
- What indoor games do you like?
- What sorts of indoor games do children play now?

55. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Do you like to go outside or stay at home?
- What outdoor activities do you like to do?
- How much time do you spend outdoors every week?
- What types of outdoor activities are popular in your country?

56. COMPUTER GAMES

- Do you prefer playing computer games alone or with friends?
- At what age did you first play computer games?
- Do you ever buy computer games?
- In general, are computer games more popular with men or women?

57. ANIMALS

- Are there many animals or birds where you live?
- How often do you watch programmes or read articles about wild animals?
- Have you ever been to a zoo or a wildlife park?
- Would you like to have a job working with animals?

58. MONEY

- When you go shopping, do you prefer to pay for things in cash or by card?
- Do you ever save money to buy special things?
- Would you ever take a job which had low pay?
- Would winning a lot of money make a big difference to your life?

59. AGE

- Are you happy to be the age you are now?
- When you were a child, did you think a lot about your future?
- Do you think you have changed as you have got older?
- What will be different about your future?

IELTS SPEAKING
PARTS 2 – 3
SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1

Describe an interesting historic place.

You should say

- what it is
- where it is located
- what you can see there now
- and explain why this place is interesting.

Looking after historic places

1. How do people in your country feel about protecting historic buildings?
2. Do you think an area can benefit from having an interesting historic place locally?
In what way?
3. What do you think will happen to historic places or buildings in the future? Why?

The teaching of history at school

4. How were you taught history when you were at school?
5. Are there other ways people can learn about history, apart from at school? How?
6. Do you think history will still be a school subject in the future? Why?

2

Describe an interest or hobby that you enjoy.

You should say

- how you became interested in it
- how long you have been doing it
- why you enjoy it
- and explain what benefits you can get from this interest or hobby.

The social benefits of hobbies

1. Do you think having a hobby is good for people's social life? In what way?
2. Are there any negative effects of a person spending too much time on their hobby? What are they?
3. Why do you think people need to have an interest or hobby?

Leisure time

4. In your country, how much time do people spend on work and how much time on leisure? Is this a good balance, do you think?
5. Would you say the amount of free time has changed much in the last fifty years?
6. Do you think people will have more or less free time in the future? Why?

3

Describe a river, lake or sea that you like.

You should say

- what the river, lake or sea is called
- where it is
- what the land near it is like
- and explain why you like this river, lake or sea.

Water-based leisure activities

1. What do people enjoy doing when they visit rivers, lakes or the sea? Why do you think these activities are popular?
2. What benefits do you think people get from the activities they enjoy in the water?
3. What are the different advantages of going to the sea or to a swimming pool to enjoy yourself? What do you think the disadvantages are?

The economic importance of rivers, lakes and the sea

4. How does water transport, like boats and ships, compare with other kinds? Are there any advantages/disadvantages of water transport?
5. How important it is for a town or city to be located near a river or the sea? Why?
6. Have there been any changes in the number of jobs available in fishing and water transport industries, do you think? Why do you think this is?

4

Describe a useful website you have visited.

You should say

- what the website was
- how you found the address for this website
- what the website contained
- and explain why it was useful to you.

The Internet and communication

1. What effect has the Internet had on the way people generally communicate with each other?
2. Why do you think the Internet is being used more and more for communication?
3. How reliable do you think information from the Internet is? Why? What about the news on the Internet?

The Internet and shopping

4. Why do you think some people use the Internet for shopping? Why doesn't everyone use it in this way?
5. What kinds of things are easy to buy and sell online?
6. Do you think shopping on the Internet will be more or less popular in the future? Why?

5

Describe a well-known person you like or admire.

You should say

- who this person is
- what this person has done
- why this person is well known
- and explain why you admire this person.

Famous people in your country

1. What kind of people become famous these days?
2. Is this different from the kind of achievement that made people famous in the past? In what way?
3. How do you think people will become famous in the future?

Being in the public eye

4. What are the good things about being famous? Are there any disadvantages?
5. How does the media in your country treat famous people?
6. Why do you think ordinary people are interested in the lives of famous people?

6

Describe a song or a piece of music you like.

You should say

- what the song or music is
- what kind of song or music it is
- where you first heard it
- and explain why you like it.

Music and young people

1. What kinds of music are popular with young people in your culture?
2. What do you think influences a young person's taste in music?
3. How has technology affected the kinds of music popular with young people?

Music and society

4. Tell me about any traditional music in your culture.
5. How important it is for a culture to have musical traditions?
6. Why do you think countries have national anthems or songs?

7

Describe one of your friends.

You should say

- how you met
- how long you have known each other
- how you spend time together
- and explain why you like this person.

Qualities of friends

1. What do you think are the most important qualities for friends to have?
2. Which are more important to people, their family or their friends? Why?
3. What do you think causes friendships to break up?

Other relationships

4. What other types of relationship, apart from friends or family, are important in people's lives today?
5. Have relationships with neighbours where you live changed in recent years? How?
6. How important do you think it is for a person to spend some time alone? Why/Why not?

8

Describe a festival that is important in your country.

You should say

- where the festival occurs
- what you did during it
- what you like or dislike about it
- and explain why this festival is important.

Purpose of festivals and celebrations

1. Why do you think festivals are important events in the working year?
2. Would you agree that the original significance of festivals is often lost today? Is it good or bad, do you think?
3. Do you think that new festivals will be introduced in the future? What kind?

Festivals and the media

4. What role do the media play in festivals, do you think?
5. Do you think it's good or bad to watch festivals on TV? Why?
6. How may globalisation affect different festivals around the world?

9

Describe someone in your family who you like.

You should say

- how this person is related to you
- what this person looks like
- what kind of person he/she is
- and explain why you like this person.

Family similarities

1. In what ways can people in a family be similar to each other?
2. Do you think that daughters are always more similar to mothers than to male relatives? What about sons and fathers?
3. In terms of personality, are people more influenced by their family or by their friends? In what ways?

Genetic research

4. Where can people in your country get information about genetic research?
5. How do people in your country feel about genetic research?
6. Should this research be funded by governments or private companies? Why?

10

Describe something healthy you enjoy doing.

You should say

- what you do
- where you do it
- who you do it with
- and explain why you think doing this is healthy.

Keeping fit and healthy

1. What do most people do to keep fit in your country?
2. How important is it for people to do some regular physical exercise?

Health and modern lifestyles

3. Why do some people think that modern lifestyles are not healthy?
4. Why do some people choose to lead unhealthy lives?
5. Should individuals or governments be responsible for making people's lifestyle healthy?
6. What could be done to encourage people to live in a healthy way?

11

Describe a game or sport you enjoy doing.

You should say

- what kind of game or sport it is
- who you play it with
- where you play it
- and explain why you enjoy playing it.

Children's games

1. How have games changed from the time when you were a child?
2. Do you think this has been a positive change? Why?
3. Why do you think children like playing games?

Games and competition

4. Do you think competitive games are good or bad for children? In what ways?
5. How can games sometimes help to unite people?
6. Why is competition often seen as important in today's society?

12

Describe an important choice you had to make in your life.

You should say

- when you had to make this choice
- what you had to choose between
- whether you made a good choice
- and explain how you felt when you were making this choice.

Important choices

1. What are the typical choices people make at different stages of their lives?
2. Should important choices be made by parents rather than by young adults?
3. Why do some people like to discuss choices with other people?

Choice in everyday life

4. What kind of choices do people have to make in their everyday life?
5. Why do some people choose to do the same things every day? Are there any disadvantages in this?
6. Do you think that people today have more choices to make than in the past?

13

Describe a party that you enjoyed.

You should say

- whose party it was and what it was celebrating
- where the party was held and who went to it
- what people did during the party
- and explain what you enjoyed about this party.

Family parties

1. What are the main reasons why people organise family parties in your country?
2. In some places people spend a lot of money on parties that celebrate special family events. Is this ever true in your country? Do you think this is a good trend or a bad trend?
3. Are there many differences between family parties and parties given by friends? Why do you think this is?

National celebrations

4. What kinds of national celebration do you have in your country?
5. Who tends to enjoy national celebrations more: young people or old people? Why?
6. Why do you think some people think that national celebrations are a waste of government money? Would you agree or disagree with this view? Why?

14

Describe an idea you had for improving something at work or college.

You should say

- when and where you had your idea
- what your idea was
- who you told about your idea
- and explain why you thought your idea would make an improvement.

Ideas and education

1. Some people think that education should be about memorising the important ideas of the past. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
2. Should education encourage students to have their own new ideas? Why?
3. How do you think teachers could help students to develop and share their own ideas?

Ideas in the workplace

4. Should employers encourage their workers to have new ideas about improving the company? Why?
5. Do you think people sometimes dislike ideas just because they are new? Why?
6. What is more difficult: have new ideas or putting them into practice? Which is more important for a successful company?

15

Describe a competition (e.g. TV, college/work or sports competition) that you took part in.

You should say:

- what kind of competition it was and how you found out about it
- what you had to do
- what the prizes were
- and explain why you chose to take part in this competition.

Competitions in school

1. Why do you think some school teachers use competitions as class activities?
2. Do you think it is a good thing to give prizes to children who do well at school? Why?
3. Would you say that schools for young children have become more or less competitive since you were that age? Why?

Sporting competitions

4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of intensive training for young sportspeople?
5. Some people think that competition leads to a better performance from sports stars. Others think it just makes players feel insecure. What is your opinion?
6. Do you think that it is possible to become too competitive in sport? In what way?

16

Describe a piece of electronic equipment you find useful.

You should say

- what it is
- how you learned to use it
- how long you have had it
- and explain why you find this piece of electronic equipment useful.

Technology and housework

1. What kinds of machine are used for housework in modern homes in your country?
2. How have these machines benefited people? Are there any negative effects of using them?
3. Do you think all new homes will be equipped with household machines in the future? Why?

Technology in the workplace

4. What kinds of equipment do most workers need to use in offices today?
5. How have developments in technology affected employment in your country?
6. Some people think that technology has brought more stress than benefits to employed people nowadays. Would you agree or disagree? Why?

17

Describe a time when you were asked to give your opinion in a questionnaire or survey.

You should say

- what the questionnaire/survey was about
- why you were asked to give your opinions
- what opinions you gave
- and explain how you felt about giving your opinions in this questionnaire/survey.

Asking questions

1. What kinds of organisation want to find out about people's opinions?
2. Do you think questionnaires or surveys are good ways of finding out people's opinions?
3. What reasons might people have for not wanting to give their opinions?

Questionnaires in school

4. Do you think it would be a good idea for schools to ask students their opinions about lessons?
5. What would the advantages for schools be if they asked students their opinions?
6. Would there be any disadvantages in asking students' opinions?

18

Describe a restaurant that you enjoyed going to.

You should say

- where the restaurant was
- why you chose this restaurant
- what type of food you ate in this restaurant
- and explain why you enjoyed eating in this restaurant.

Restaurants

1. Why do you think people go to restaurants when they want to celebrate something?
2. Which are more popular in your country: fast food restaurants or traditional restaurants? Why do you think that is?
3. Some people say that food in an expensive restaurant is always better than food in a cheap restaurant – would you agree?

Producing food

4. Do you think there will be a greater choice of food available in shops in the future, or will there be less choice?
5. What effects has modern technology had on the way food is produced?
6. How important is it for a country to be able to grow all the food it needs, without importing any from other countries?

19

Describe a meeting you remember going to at work, college or school.

You should say

- when and where the meeting was held
- who was at the meeting
- what the people at the meeting talked about
- and explain why you remember going to this meeting.

Going to meetings

1. What are the different types of meeting that people often go to?
2. Some people say that no-one likes to go to meetings – what do you think?
3. Why can it sometimes be important to go to meetings?

International meetings

4. Why do you think world leaders often have meetings together?
5. What possible difficulties might be involved in organising meetings between world leaders?
6. Do you think that meetings between international leaders will become more frequent in the future? Or will there be less need for world leaders to meet?

20

Describe a friend of your family you remember from your childhood.

You should say

- who the person was
- how your family knew this person
- how often this person visited your family
- and explain why you remember this person.

Friendship

1. What do you think makes someone a good friend to a whole family?
2. Do you think we meet different kinds of friend at different stages of our lives? In what ways are these types of friend different?
3. How easy is it to make friends with people from a different age group?

Influence of friends

4. Do you think it is possible to be friends with someone if you never meet them in person? Is this real friendship?
5. What kind of influence can friends have on our lives?
6. How important would you say it is to have friends from different cultures?

21

Describe an open-air or street market that you enjoyed visiting.

You should say

- where the market is
- what the market sells
- how big the market is
- and explain why you enjoyed visiting this market.

Shopping at markets

1. Do people in your country enjoy going to open-air markets that sell things like food or clothes or old objects? Which type of market is more popular? Why?
2. Do you think markets are more suitable places for selling certain types of things? Which ones? Why do you think this is?
3. Do you think young people feel the same about shopping at markets as older people? Why is that?

Shopping in general

4. What do you think are the advantages of buying things from shops rather than markets?
5. How does advertising influence what people choose to buy? Is this true for everyone?
6. Do you think that any recent changes in the way people live have affected general shopping habits? Why is this?

22

Describe something you did that was new or exciting.

You should say

- what you did
- where and when you did this
- who you shared the activity with
- and explain why this activity was new or exciting for you.

Doing new things

1. Why do you think some people like doing new things?
2. What problems can people have when they try new activities for the first time?
3. Do you think it's best to do new things on your own or with other people? Why?

Learning new things

4. What kinds of things do children learn to do when they are very young? How important are these things?
5. Do you think children and adults learn to do new things in the same way? How is their learning style different?
6. Some people say that it is more important to be able to learn new things now than it was in the past. Do you agree or disagree with that? Why?

23

Describe a journey (e.g. by car, plane, boat) that you remember well.

You should say

- where you went
- how you travelled
- why you went on the journey
- and explain why you remember this journey well.

Reasons for daily travel

1. Why do people need to travel every day?
2. What problems can people have when they are on their daily journey, for example to work or school? Why is this?
3. Some people say that daily journeys like these will not be so common in the future. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Benefits of international travel

4. What do you think people can learn from travelling to other countries? Why?
5. Can travel make positive difference to the economy of a country? How?
6. Do you think a society can benefit if its members have experience of travelling to other countries? In what ways?

24

Describe a person who has done a lot of work to help people.

You should say

- who this person is/was
- where this person lives/lived
- what he/she has done to help people
- and explain how you know about this person.

Helping other people in the community

1. What are some of the way people can help others in the community? Which is most important?
2. Why do you think some people like to help other people?
3. Some people say that people help others in the community more now than they did in the past. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Community Services

4. What types of services, such as libraries or health centres, are available to the people who live in your area? Do you think there are enough of them?
5. Which groups of people generally need most support in a community? Why?
6. Who do you think should pay for the services that are available to the people in a community? Should it be the government or individual people?

25

Describe someone you know who does something well.

You should say

- who this person is
- how you know this person
- what they do well
- and explain why you think this person is so good at doing this.

Skills and abilities

1. What skills and abilities do most people want to have today? Why?
2. Which skills should children learn at school? Are there any skills which they should learn at home? What are they?
3. Which skills do you think will be important in the future? Why?

Salaries for skilled people

4. Which kinds of jobs have the highest salaries in your country? Why is this?
5. Are there any other jobs that you think should have high salaries? Why do you think that?
6. Some people say it would be better for society if everyone got the same salary. What do you think about that? Why?

26

Describe a shop near where you live that you sometimes use.

You should say

- what sorts of product or service it sells
- what the shop looks like
- where it is located
- and explain why you use this shop.

Local business

1. What types of local business are there in your neighbourhood? Are there any restaurants, shops or dentists for example?
2. Do you think local businesses are important for a neighbourhood? In what way?
3. How do large shopping malls and commercial centres affect small local businesses? Why do you think that is?

People and business

4. Why do some people want to start their own business?
5. Are there any disadvantages to running a business? Which is the most serious?
6. What are the most important qualities that a good business person needs? Why is that?

27

Describe a child you know.

You should say

- who this child is and how often you see him or her
- how old this child is
- what he or she is like
- and explain what you feel about this child.

Relationships between parents and children

1. How much time do children spend with their parents in your country? Do you think that is enough?
2. How important do you think spending time together is for the relationships between parents and children? Why?
3. Have relationships between parents and children changed in recent years? Why do you think that is?

Children's free-time activities

4. What are the most popular free-time activities with children today?
5. Do you think the free-time activities children do today are good for their health? Why is that?
6. How do you think children's activities will change in the future? Will this be a positive change?

28

Describe something you don't have now but would really like to own in the future.

You should say

- what this thing is
- how long you have wanted to own it
- where you first saw it
- and explain why you would like to own it.

Owning things

1. What types of things do young people in your country most want to own today?
Why is this?
2. Why do some people feel they need to own things?
3. Do you think that owning lots of things makes people happy? Why?

Possessions and society

4. Do you think television and films can make people want to get new possessions?
Why do they have this effect?
5. Are there any benefits to society of people wanting to get new possessions? Why do you think this is?
6. Do you think people will consider that having lots of possessions is a sign of success in the future? Why?

29

Describe a house/an apartment that someone you know lives in.

You should say

- whose house/apartment this is
- where the house/apartment is
- what it looks like inside
- and explain what you like or dislike about this person's house/apartment.

Different types of home

1. What kinds of home are most popular in your country? Why is this?
2. What do you think are the advantages of living in a house rather than an apartment?
3. Do you think that everyone would like to live in a larger home? Why is that?

Finding a place to live

4. How easy is it to find a place to live in your country?
5. Do you think it's better to rent or to buy a place to live in? Why?
6. Do you agree that there is a right place for young adults to stop living with their parents? Why is that?

30

Describe a writer you would like to meet.

You should say

- who the writer is
- what you know about this writer already
- what you would like to find out about him/her
- and explain why you would like to meet this writer.

Reading and children

1. What kinds of book are most popular with children in your country? Why do you think that is?
2. Why do you think some children do not read books very often?
3. How do you think children can be encouraged to read more?

Reading for different purposes

4. Are there any occasions when reading at speed is a useful skill to have? What are they?
5. Are there any jobs where people need to read a lot? What are they?
6. Do you think that reading novels is more interesting than reading factual books? Why is that?

31

Describe a day when you thought the weather was perfect.

You should say

- where you were on this day
- what the weather was like on this day
- what you did during the day
- and explain why you thought the weather was perfect on this day.

Types of weather

1. What types of weather do people in your country dislike most? Why is that?
2. What jobs can be affected by different weather conditions? Why?
3. Are there any important festivals in your country that celebrate a season or type of weather?

Weather forecasts

4. How important do you think it is for everyone to check what the next day's weather will be? Why?
5. What is the best way to get accurate information about the weather?
6. How easy or difficult is it to predict the weather in your country? Why is that?

32

Describe a TV documentary you watched that was particularly interesting.

You should say

- what the documentary was about
- why you decided to watch it
- what you learnt during the documentary
- and explain why the TV documentary was particularly interesting.

Different types of TV programmes

1. What are the most popular kinds of TV programmes in your country? Why is this?
2. Do you think there are too many game shows on TV nowadays? Why?
3. Do you think TV is the main way for people to get the news in your country? What other ways are there?

TV advertising

4. What types of products are advertised most often on TV?
5. Do you think that people pay attention to adverts on TV? Why do you think that is?
6. How important are regulations on TV advertising?

33

Describe an occasion when you had to wait a long time for someone or something to arrive.

You should say

- who or what you were waiting for
- how long you had to wait
- why you had to wait a long time
- and explain how you felt about waiting a long time.

Arriving early

1. In what kinds of situations should people always arrive early?
2. How important is it to arrive early in your country?
3. How can modern technology help people to arrive early?

Being patient

4. What kinds of jobs require the most patience?
5. Is it always better to be patient in work (or studies)?
6. Do you agree or disagree that the older people are, the more patient they are?

34

Describe a film actor from your country who is very popular.

You should say

- who this actor is
- what kinds of films he/she acts in
- what you know about this actor's life
- and explain why this actor is so popular.

Watching films

1. What are the most popular types of films in your country?
2. What is the difference between watching a film in the cinema and watching a film at home?
3. Do you think cinemas will close in the future?

Theatre

4. How important is the theatre in your country's history?
5. How strong a tradition is it today in your country to go to the theatre?
6. Do you think the theatre should be run as a business or as a public service?

35

Describe an interesting discussion you had about how you spend your money.

You should say

- who you had the discussion with
- why you discussed this topic
- what the result of the discussion was
- and explain why this discussion was interesting for you.

Money and young people

1. Why do some parents give their children money to spend each week?
2. Do you agree that schools should teach children how to manage money?
3. Do you think it is a good idea for students to earn money while studying?

Money and society

4. Do you think it is true that in today's society money cannot buy happiness?
5. What disadvantages are there in a society where the gap between rich and poor is very large?
6. Do you think richer countries have a responsibility to help poorer countries?

36

Describe a time when you visited a friend or family member at their workplace.

You should say

- who you visited
- where this person worked
- why you visited this person's workplace
- and explain how you felt about visiting this person's workplace.

Different kinds of workplaces

1. What things make an office comfortable to work in?
2. Why do some people prefer to work outdoors?
3. Do you agree that the building people work in is more important than the colleagues they work with?

The importance of work

4. What would life be if people didn't have to work?
5. Are all jobs of equal importance?
6. Why do some people become workaholics?

37

Describe someone you know who has started a business.

You should say

- who this person is
- what work this person does
- why this person decided to start a business
- and explain whether you would like to do the same kind of work as this person.

Choosing work

1. What kinds of jobs do young people not want to do in your country?
2. Who is best at advising young people about choosing a job: teachers or parents?
3. Is money always the most important thing when choosing a job?

Work-Life balance

4. Do you agree that many people nowadays are under pressure to work longer hours and take less holiday?
5. What is the impact on society of people having a poor work-life balance?
6. Could you recommend some effective strategies for governments and employers to ensure people have a good work-life balance?

38

Describe a time when you started using a new technological device (e.g. a new computer or phone).

You should say

- what device you started using
- why you started using this device
- how easy or difficult it was to use
- and explain how helpful this device was to you.

Technology and education

1. What is the best age for children to start computer lessons?
2. Do you think that schools should use more technology to help children learn?
3. Do you agree or disagree that computers will replace teachers one day?

Technology and society

4. How much has technology improved how we communicate with each other?
5. Do you agree that there are still many more major technological innovations to be made?
6. Could you suggest some reasons why some people are deciding to reduce their use of technology?

39

Describe an interesting discussion you had as part of your work or studies.

You should say

- what the subject of the discussion was
- who you discussed the subject with
- what opinions were expressed
- and explain why you found the discussion interesting.

Discussing problems with others

1. Why is it good to discuss problems with other people?
2. Do you think that it's better to talk to friends and not family about problems?
3. Is it always a good idea to tell lots of people about a problem?

Communication skills at work

4. Which communication skills are most important when taking part in meetings with colleagues?
5. What are the possible effects of poor written communication skills at work?
6. What do you think will be the future impact of technology on communication in the workplace?

40

Describe a website you use that helps you a lot in your work or study.

You should say

- what the website is
- how often you use the website
- what information the website gives you
- and explain how your work or studies would change if this website didn't exist.

The Internet

1. Why do some people find the Internet addictive?
2. What would the world be like without the Internet?
3. Do you think that the way people use the Internet may change in the future?

Social media websites

4. What are the ways that social media can be used for positive purposes?
5. Why do some individuals post highly negative comments about other people on social media?
6. Do you think that companies' main form of advertising will be via social media in the future?

41

Describe a special gift or present you gave to someone.

You should say

- who you gave the gift to
- what the gift was
- where you got it from
- and explain why this gift was special.

Giving gifts in families

1. On what occasions do family members give gifts to each other?
2. Is giving gifts important in families?

Giving gifts in society

3. What situations in business are there when people might give gifts?
4. How important is gift giving for a country's economy?

International gifts/aid

5. What sort of aid do governments give to other countries?
6. What do you think motivates governments to give aid to other countries?

42

Describe a journey you remember well.

You should say

- how you travelled
- where you went
- what happened
- and explain why the journey was memorable for you.

Part 3

1. Do you think too many people are dependent on cars as a means of transport?
2. Why do people prefer to travel by car? Is there a way of changing this attitude?
3. How could public transport systems be improved?
4. How can the amount of air travel be reduced throughout the world?
5. How will people travel in the future, do you think?

43

Describe one of your possessions which you couldn't live without.

You should say

- what it is
- why you first bought it / how you got it
- when and how often you use it
- and explain why it is so special.

Part 3

1. Do you think some people spend too much money on things they don't need? What sort of things?
2. It is worth trying to repair things which break rather than throwing them away? Why do you think that?
3. Many people feel they must have lots of hi-tech gadgets these days. What do you think of this trend?
4. Do you think technology has made our lives easier or more stressful? Why?
5. Some people aren't interested in keeping up to date with new technology. Do you think that matters?

44

Describing an interesting story that you heard or read about in the news.

You should say

- when you heard or read about the story
- what the story was about
- why the story was in the news
- and explain why you thought the story was interesting.

Reading newspapers

1. When do people like to read the newspaper?
2. How important is it for people to have a choice of newspaper?
3. What does a 'good' newspaper contain?

The future of newspapers

4. Why do some people choose to read the news on the Internet rather than in a newspaper?
5. How is Internet news different from the news you read in the newspaper?
6. Will Internet news ever replace newspapers?

45

Describe an interesting place that you have visited as a tourist.

You should say

- where this place is
- why you went there
- what you did there
- and explain why you thought this place was so interesting.

Places that tourists visit

1. What areas of a town or city do tourists often like to visit?
2. How important is it for local governments to look after popular tourist attractions?
3. Should people pay to visit attractions such as museums or galleries? Why?

Being a tourist

4. How should tourist behave when they are in a different country?
5. What can local people do to help tourists enjoy their visit?
6. What can tourists learn from visiting new places?

46

Describe a special event (e.g. a festival, carnival or other celebration) that takes place in your country.

You should say

- when the event takes place
- why it takes place
- what people do
- and explain why the event is special.

Celebrations for families and friends

1. What sort of occasions do families and friends like to celebrate?
2. How important are celebrations in people's lives? Why?
3. Should people have time off work for important celebrations? Why?

National celebrations

4. Why do so many people enjoy participating in national celebrations?
5. Have national celebrations become more or less important over time? Why?
6. What sort of things do you think countries will celebrate in the future?

47

Describe a popular teacher that you know.

You should say

- what this teacher looks like
- what sort of person this teacher is
- what this teacher helped you to learn
- and explain why this teacher is popular.

Education in school

1. What can schools do to help students prepare for the next stage in their lives?
2. What advice would you give to someone who doesn't like school?
3. What can schools teach children that they can't learn from their parents?

Education after school

4. In general, what opportunities are available to students after they leave school?
5. How do you think school life differs from university life?
6. How important do you think it is for individuals to carry on learning after they have finished school and university?

48

Describe a shopping centre that you have visited or that you know about.

You should say

- where the shopping centre is
- how people travel to the shopping centre
- what kinds of shops it has
- and explain whether you think it is a good place to go shopping.

Different types of shop

1. Where do people in your country buy food?
2. Is it better to buy clothes in small shops?
3. What are the advantages of internet shopping?

Customer service in shops

4. What is good customer service?
5. Why do some shops provide better customer service than other shops?
6. How important is customer service to the success of a shop?

Shopping and society

7. Why is shopping such a popular activity?
8. What are the advantages to society of a highly developed shopping centre?
9. Is society becoming increasingly materialistic?