

SpiCE Corpus Project: English Interview

Interview designed by Nancy Yiu, Ivan Fong, and Khia A. Johnson

These interview questions are a rough guide to what is covered in each of the SpiCE English interviews. Content was driven by what each participant was interested in talking about. Note that while many of these questions are designed to get participants talking about themselves, participants were instructed to refer to people and places in general terms (i.e., just say “my Aunt” rather than a name).

1. Where & when were you born? where you grew up?
 - a. Where
 - i. From Vancouver – friends attend UBC?
 - ii. From elsewhere – missing home/friends/what prompted to study here?
 1. Differences from home and Vancouver
 - a. Favorite things about Vancouver or home
 - b. Transit/Driving - potential differences in wheel/passenger side
 2. Culture shock in Vancouver
 - a. Things you miss from your hometown
 - b. When
 - i. Lunar (Chinese) Calendar Birthday?
 - ii. 90s or 00s kid? Differences you've noticed/been told?
 - c. Childhood?
 - i. Did you have a strict upbringing?
 1. Examples?
 2. What would change about your upbringing style
 - ii. How does it compare to the upbringing of your peers/friends
 1. Do you like yours or theirs
 - iii. Expectation of parents
 1. Finish high school/Uni
 2. Get a stable job? Become a lawyer/doctor/engineer?
 3. Dating/Marriage/children?
 - a. Do you require them to speak a certain language?
 - b. Would you teach your children a certain language?
2. Who are the members of your family?
 - a. Where's your family from, if not from Van, why did they immigrate to Van?
 - b. Favorite/memorable experience w/ family/siblings?
 - c. Favourite lullaby/childhood storybooks
 - d. Weirdest family tradition?
 - i. Superstitions (no white in CNY) / Feng Shui (plant in front of windows) / Fortune Telling (temple)
 - ii. Do you have/use a dishwasher?
 - iii. Chinese sayings (4 character idioms, idioms etc.)

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- e. Favorite holiday (Chinese and Western)
 - i. Experiences with family for celebrations; birthdays
 - 1. Food
 - 2. Things you do
 - 3. Memorable time
 - ii. Celebrating one holiday in one place preferred?
- 3. Friends / relatives from here / hometown
 - a. Best friends from each place?
 - i. Nicknames?
 - b. What do you like doing with friends besides studying?
 - i. School clubs
 - ii. Parties - frats?
 - iii. Hobbies?
 - iv. Sports?
 - v. Art?
 - c. Favourite Aunt / Uncle?
 - i. Nicknames
 - d. Fun activities you do with them?
 - i. Any memorable event / story?
 - e. A must visit relative / friends when you go back to your hometown?
- 4. Languages
 - a. Dialects of parents / grandparents?
 - i. Do you know any?
 - ii. If not, do you regret not knowing?
 - b. Which language do you prefer?
 - i. To specific people / environments?
 - 1. Parents / grandparents
 - 2. Friends
 - 3. Co-workers
 - 4. School / classmates
 - 5. When you're excited / tired / angry