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**2022 年 5-8月**  
**雅思口语题库&参考素材**

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## Part 1

### 必考题（必考题示范请参考羊驼雅思APP-口语机经-Part 1）

#### **Work or study**

What work do you do?

Do you like your job?

Why did you choose to do that type of work(or, that job)?

Is it interesting?

Do you miss being a student?

What subjects are you studying?

Why did you choose to study that subject/ Why did you choose to study those subjects?

Do you like your subject?

Do you prefer to study in the mornings or in the afternoons?

Are you looking forward to working?

#### **Hometown**

What's the name of your hometown?

Is that a big city or small place?

Please describe your hometown a little.

How long have you lived there?

Do you like living there?

What do you like (most) about your hometown?

Is there anything you dislike about it?

Do you think you'll continue living there for a long time? Do you plan to continue living there?

Where would you like to live?

#### **Home/Accommodation**

Who do you live with?

How long have you lived there?

Do you plan to live there for a long time?

Can you describe the place where you live?

Which room does your family spend most of the time in?

What is the difference between where you are living now and where you have lived in the past?

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Do you prefer living in a house or a flat?

In the future, what type of place would you like to live in?

What kind of neighborhood/environment/ surroundings/ home would you like to live in?

What do you usually do in your house/flat/room?

## 选考题

### Mirrors

Do you like looking at yourself in the mirror?

Well, I don't think it's a preference.

I mean, I definitely do it on a daily basis to make myself more presentable to others, like, I need to pay attention to my hair and/or makeover.

It's a respectable thing to do, especially when I go to school or work with friends or colleagues.

Have you ever bought mirrors?

Female: Yes, I have often bought little mirrors to take in my handbag, so I can check myself sporadically during the day. Perhaps before a meeting or after lunch, or if I am going from work to a dinner or something like that.

Male: I don't recall any, You see, I normally just use the mirrors on the washbasin at home or in public water closets. I suppose I can also use my cellphone's camera function in urgent cases.

Do you usually take a mirror with you?

Male: As I mentioned earlier, I normally use the mirrors in public washrooms. I mean, smartphone is all I carry with me nowadays, it has diversified functions including taking selfies with HD(High Definition) quality.

Female: In fact, I do have one in my handbag, but all I really need is a smartphone, it has diversified functions...

Would you use mirrors to decorate your room?

I personally have never tried it. I think it's a complicated matter because having mirrors at the wrong places could be scary in the evening, it would feel like I'm always being followed at times. However, I have indeed been to some friends' house, they have amazing decorations with mirrors or metallic objects with great reflection, I suppose such modeling is kinda fancy. So I may try it in the future when I have my own flat or house.

### Taking photos

Do you like to take photographs?

I love to. I think some stories or views are worth memorising. In fact, Sometimes I take photos of the same things from different angles or with different settings on my camera. Oh, by the way, I have a Nikon Z5, it was expensive, but I love taking photos with it.

Do you like taking selfies?

Not necessarily, I don't quite understand the hype. I think when we want to recall great memories, it's best to relate to the actual object or incidence, I could re-live that feeling by looking at those photos. In contrast, when I just look at my own visage, I only notice things like how much weight I've gained.

Do you want to improve your picture-taking skills?

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Absolutely, photography is my main hobby. But most importantly, I have a friend, and during his free time, he travels to beautiful scenery and take great photos for travel agencies, and in turn, they sponsor a portion of his expense. This is a perfect example of how an interest could turn into benefits. I wish one day I could be as skillful as he is.

What is your favorite family photo?

It would be the photo we took when my baby brother was born. I remember my dad and I waited nervously outside of the delivery ward(产房/区), it was the first all-nighter that I pulled. The entire labour took about 9 hours, because my mother was slightly over-aged. We took our first family photo together by my mother's hospital bed.

## **Art**

Do you like drawing?

Definitely, I like to make sketches whenever I'm at my desk doing nothing. Sometimes I enjoy drawing the silhouette of things from books, like Hogwarts from Harry Potter or the Dragons in Game of Thrones. I do not have the skill to finish these drawings though, I may take some drawing classes in the future.

Do you like to go to the gallery?

Not really, because I don't appreciate arts that well, I often have little clue to what the artists are trying to tell. I much prefer science museums where I get to try or see some state of the art (先进, 如同艺术品一般) technology in display.

Do you want to learn more about art?

I'm afraid not, I think art is a luxurious subject, it's best that I know little of it. I don't want to one day blow my savings on extravagant pieces that I might love. Yes, I'm a bit shallow and I intend to stay this way.

Did you learn drawing when you were a kid?

Well, you know. Chinese parents never stop feeding us extra classes to occupy our childhood. So yes, they've sent me to all sorts of extracurricular institutions to learn calligraphy or painting when I couldn't even read. I hardly remember much because I later had other classes, like piano.

## **Memory**

Why do some people have good memory while others just don't?

Well, God made us different. Some of us have beautiful teeth and some of us need orthodontics(牙齿矫正). Some of us are taller and skillful in basketball while some of us are short and play basketball on computers. And the brain is a complicated science, I think only God has the answer.

Why do more people rely on cellphones to memorize things?

Because it's easy to forget things, most crucially, we cannot foresee the future, which means we can't anticipate if or when we are going to forget the important events. Besides, smartphones have the alarm or texting notices to alert us when we approach significant date or schedule.

Are you good at memorizing things?

Not necessarily, as I grow older, I feel that my memory is reaching a capacity, which means that I'm absorbing knowledge slower than before. Actually, I'm spending more and more time preparing for examinations.

Have you ever forgotten something that was important?

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Oh, many times. And some aftermaths were severe. A few years ago, I had forgotten my parent's birthday, I can't tell you what happened to me, but it's safe to say that I will never make that mistake again.

## **Car**

Did you enjoy traveling by car when you were a kid?

Absolutely not, I have a horrible car sickness. It only goes away when I sit in the passenger's seat. But I could only sit in the back when I was little, you have no idea how many times I vomited.

What types of cars do you like?

I'm not into cars, I think they are all the same to me. This is mainly due to the fact that I have a severe car sickness, I normally take the public transits and don't pay much attention to automobiles.

Do you prefer to be a driver or a passenger?

I would definitely prefer to drive myself, because car sickness is a motion sickness. When I'm driving, I could stare at the road and anticipate any bumps or shakes in advance. So I think concentration helps as well. Anyway, I don't feel so dizzy when I'm driving.

What do you usually do when there is a traffic jam?

It depends, if it's fully congested, I would get out for some fresh air. I'm a patient person, I know many drivers get road rage, but not me, It's easy for me to stay calm and figure out how to adjust my delayed plans.

## **Dreams**

Do you often remember your dreams?

Well, I usually forget about dreams when I wake up, but then sometimes, they come back to me as flashbacks, and even so, these flashbacks aren't as vivid as an actual dream. In fact, I think I dreamed about IELTS exams many times, but I don't remember what the questions are any more.

Do you share your dreams with others?

Well, sure, it's a great way to start a conversation, I think. I tell friends about my dreams and they are hooked to know more, I think most people tend to fascinate themselves with the unknown.

Do you think dreams have special meanings?

No, I grew up in an atheist (无神论) country, although the oldest generations are more superstitious, I think science is the answer to everything. I also don't believe in Zodiac signs or lucky numbers.

Do you want to make your dreams come true?

Well, daydreams, definitely! But it's a hard no on actual dreams. Although I don't recall my dreams vividly, I'm certain that I had some of the worst nightmares.

## **Mobile phones**

What was your first mobile phone?

When I was in primary school, my dad gave me a Nokia for emergency purposes. It only had a game called "Snake", and I used to play it in the back of the classroom until it was soon confiscated.

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Do you often use your mobile phone for texting or calls?

Nowadays, nobody does. We all use apps like WeChat or QQ, they basically cost nothing with superior functions like Emojis (表情) or Memes (表情包). Phone calls or texts are costly compared to data plan, you know.

Will you buy a new one in the future?

Of course, because technology advances too fast, we see new version phones each year with new functions. It's unlikely that a smart phone can last more than 4 years. I'm using an OnePlus 7 from 2019, I might get the new OnePlus 10 soon.

How has your mobile phone changed your life?

Ah Geez, I don't think it changed my life at all. You see, It IS my life. I mean, I study with it, I work with it, I shop on it, I play gaming apps, and I even sleep with it. I suppose I wouldn't have a life without it.

## **Emails**

Do you often send emails?

Only recently. I have been applying for some universities abroad and we contact through Emails. I normally just use instant chatting applications like WeChat or QQ, they are much more convenient and user-friendly.

When would you send emails to others?

I suppose for more serious matters, like this IELTS exam with British Council or when I reached out to oversea universities, I'm pretty sure we can't have casual chats like on Facebook or Twitter, that's Trump's privilege.

Is sending emails popular in China?

Not for young people, we just use social apps on our smartphones. However, I do hear some multinational companies communicate through emails. Which is fancy, I think.

Do you think sending emails will be more or less popular in the future?

Definitely less popular. I think it has no edge on modern applications. Smartphones are much better at dealing with productive work-tasks like writing, editing documents and creating presentations.

## **Daily routine**

What is your daily study routine?

Well, I think studying in the morning is more productive, so I pack my mornings heavily with tons of materials that need reciting. Then in the afternoon, I would take a nap and find some recreational activities with friends. I resume studying in the evenings. I might begin in the afternoon when I have work due for the next day, .

Have you ever changed your routine?

Oh it's a usual thing, coz I have a tremendous amount of workload in school. I rarely have any vacant time to spare, so I often have to rearrange my plans accordingly.

Do you think it is important to have a daily routine for your study?

Yes, absolutely, it's like running on a treadmill with a predetermined goal including the time. I am much more concentrated and focused since I know the amount of time is necessary. In contrast, when I try to study outside of a routine schedule, my thoughts drift to the moon.

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What part of your day do you like best?

I find afternoons pleasant. It's usually sunny and cozy. And I love to hang out with my friends after a nice nap to walk through stores or parks. Sometimes I do some sports as well just before the sunset.

### **Time management**

How do you plan your time in a day?

Well, I'm quite organized, especially with the help of some apps on my phone, I can make a timeline a few weeks in advance. All I need to do is note down the important events ahead of time and my phone alarms me with notices, well, three notices actually, 24 hours, 8 hours, then 1 hour before the event.

Is it easy to manage time for you?

(as I've mentioned before), I can easily make schedules with a cellphone app which is extremely easy to maneuver. It can even be controlled by voice command. Fun fact, the app's name is called "secretary" in Chinese.

When do you find it hard to allocate time?

Exam week or month, it's when I squeeze as much time as possible to study. Any additional events like family reunion dinners or friend's birthday parties would give me a hard time at choosing.

Do you like being busy?

It's hard to say, on the one hand, it's tiresome. But then again, often upon task completions, I feel a rush of accomplishment, which is worth memorizing. I suppose, I could have it both ways.

### **Cinemas**

Did you usually go to the cinema when you were a kid?

Of course, it was one of my favourite places. I love movies. I remember each time a Pixel animation goes on the screen, I would beg my parents to take me. There was Toy Story (玩具总动员), Zootopia(疯狂动物城) and my favorite, Despicable Me(神偷奶爸), because Minions(小黄人) are so cute.

Do you usually go to the cinema with your friends?

Yes, as I grew older, going to movies with parents is not so cool. Especially when they still think I'm too young to watch people kiss. And of course going alone is pathetically weird as well, so I normally go with friends.

Do you still enjoy watching the movies you loved as a child?

Yes, there's no shame in liking animations. Although some people, like my parents, still criticize me on how invested I am in Cartoons. But I tend to re-live those magical moments, like the birth of Lion King.

Do you prefer watching movies at home or at the cinema?

Definitely the cinema, because of the pandemic, I haven't been to the cinema in the past 2 years. I miss the acoustic effect and IMAX 3D. Well, actually, the cinemas have opened for a while now, but there hasn't been many great productions worth going for. We missed the latest Spiderman Movie and I don't know when is the next Marvel movie coming to China,



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## **TV program**

What kinds of TV programs do you often watch?

I have a diversified taste in TV programs. I enjoy most of the top viewed, like Breaking Bad, House of Cards, Sherlock, etc. But I suppose my favourite is Suits, because I'm studying to become a lawyer, and it's a show about corporate lawyers kicking ass.

Do you think kids are watching too much television?

Not really, they are rather concentrated on games now. I have a cousin who's in primary school. He doesn't like to watch TV at all, all he does is play video games on his parents' phones. TV would be considered a crucial punishment for him.

What are the impacts of watching TV programs on children?

Well, I suppose it's quite harmful. I think young children have yet developed the ability to distinguish right from wrong. They may imitate misdemeanors with catastrophic consequence. The best scenario is that they perhaps learn some knowledge from educational programs. So the bottom line is that TV hours and contents must be supervised.

What kinds of TV programs do you think should be broadcast more?

The ones with positive vibe. For example, many shows about doctors and nurses in hospitals are great. They show that life can be fragile and we need to take care of our body. Also, it teaches some basic medical science to the general public, raising people's health awareness.

## **Lost and found**

What will you do if you find something lost by others?

I normally leave it by, because the owner could come back looking for it. If it's something pricey, I might wait for a bit, but my patience depends on my schedule, when I'm free, I can take out a book and read, and when I'm busy, I would just wish the person good luck.

Do you report to the police when finding something lost by others? Why?

Not really, when a person loses small objects like a book or a pen, he would not think of looking for it at a police station nor do the police have the resource to help. But if it's IDs like passport, I suppose police have ways to find the owner. Of course, when it comes to expensive items, like jewelry, calling the police is no sweat.

Have you ever lost things?

Not really, as a student, I carry with me 2 things, my bag and my cellphone. I don't see how careless I have to be to lose things. Thanks to the advancement of technology, not only that smartphones have gotten rid of things like money and cards, they are also complicatedly locked for people to steal and reuse.

Will you post on social media if you lose your item?

I suppose yes, friends would comfort me. Like the time I failed a math exam, I posted it on my WeChat space, many friends encouraged me, I felt much better after.

## **Websites**

What kind of websites do you often visit?

Well, I normally access the Internet with the apps in my phone, like social medias and a bunch of Q-and-A(question and answer) forums. The only times I need to click open a browser are to use the search engines, like Google or Baidu.

What is your favorite website?

I suppose Google, I think it's the greatest invention. It directs me to wherever I wish to go based

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on the keywords in any language. Millions of pages would pop up in the order of relevance and visit rates. Simple and efficient.

Are there any changes about the websites you often visit?

Well, the letters of Google change frequently, each time there's a new theme. I remember on the day of a Harry Potter's movie, the two 'o's in Google were changed into a pair of glasses and the "G" looked like a lightning shape. Oh, the "L" was a wand I believe.

What kinds of websites are popular in your country?

Apart from search engines, I believe many people prefer to browse news on the computer, because of the larger screen compared to smartphones, so some social medias as well.

## **Sports**

Do you like watching sport programs on TV?

As a matter of fact I do, I used to watch NBA with my brother, he's much older than I am, we scarcely share common interests, and basketball is something we both like. We both like the team "Lakers", it was nice cheering together when we watched their games. But then he went to university and started working in another city, it became less fun.

Do you like to watch live sports games?

Not really. I have watched NBA preseason in Shanghai a few years ago, it wasn't that great. First of all, the ticket costed an arm. Then it wasn't the same as on TV, players looked slower in reality, their skills looked more mediocre. I wasn't feeling the vibe although the atmosphere was heightened. I would much rather go to live concerts instead, where the acoustic quality is somehow better.

Who do you like to watch sports games with?

I used to watch NBA with my brother, he's much older than I am, we scarcely share common interests, and basketball is something we both like. We both like the team "Lakers", it was nice cheering together when we watched their games. But then he went to university and started working in another city, it became less fun. Sometimes we still chat about sports online, but we have our own circles of friend.

What kinds of games do you expect to watch in the future?

I've always been a sports fan, in fact, apart from the NBA, I also watch many big events in other sports, like Tennis tournaments, Football's Champion League..., and I plan to continue to do so.

## **Street market**

What do people usually buy on the street market?

I suppose some counterfeit or replicating products. Because street markets normally lack the credibility of selling authentic items, many would assume most of their sales, especially clothing accessories are knockoffs. And I suppose it's to meet some people's vanity. I, However, am more down to earth, comfortable with my 100 yuan domestic trainers and brand-less jeans.

Do you prefer to go shopping in the shopping mall or on the street market?

Definitely the shopping mall, where merchandise are price-tagged. I don't know how to drive a bargain and street markets are always overpriced with low quality items. Besides, mall shops usually have better services.

When was the last time you went to a street market?

Quite a few years ago, China has improved its market supervision, counterfeit products are punished severely nowadays and also street markets are not great for a city's image. So we rarely

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see them, they are usually clustered in certain small regions in each city where I never visit.

Are there many street markets in China?

There used to be, but not any more, it's more efficient for the vendors to set up shops on the internet, like with TaoBao or PinDuoDuo apps. These two apps are infamous for their counterfeit sales and terrible service which are the same issues we had with street markets.

## Part 2

### 你喜欢待在一起的人

Describe someone you really like to spend time with

You should say

Who this person is

How you knew him/her

What you usually do together

And explain why you like to spend time with him/her

My favourite person to spend time with would have to be my best friend, whose name is Paul. We met through a mutual acquaintance at a football game, and ever since then we spend every weekend watching football games together. Sometimes, we even play a bit of it ourselves! I would describe him as having a very jovial personality, although he does sometimes have the tendency to be quite standoffish and stubborn if he feels like someone is disrespecting him. I remember one particular incident with fondness - we were in a cafe one time and someone pushed past him in the queue. Consequently, he pushed back in line and almost got us kicked out! I thought that the other person was going to throw coffee all over us. However, I see this as a good memory, since it shows what a strong-minded individual Paul is. I wouldn't change him for the world. In fact, next week we are planning to go on a holiday together with some other friends of ours. We wanted to go to Spain initially, but due to the recent epidemic situation, we had to settle for somewhere closer to home.

## Part 3

What kinds of people are easy to get along with?

I think the answer to this question would depend on your personality. A lot of people would say that outgoing people are easy to get along with, but I feel like I personally connect more easily with quieter people. I feel like sometimes outgoing people can be a little bit too overbearing and it can make me a bit uncomfortable. On the other hand, quiet people are usually more easygoing and relaxed, and this creates an easier social environment for me. Generally speaking though, kindness is probably the most desirable quality in a person if you want to get along with them. I was raised to believe that kindness will always get you far, in every sort of situation.

How do leaders get along with their subordinates?

Leaders and their subordinates can interact in a variety of different ways, and I personally believe that no two situations are the same. In an ideal situation, a subordinate - let's say an employee of a company - should look to their leader, or boss, as a role model and a figure to aspire to. Of course, this is not always the case though, and I can personally recount numerous instances of subordinates being dissatisfied with the leadership of their direct superiors. One famous example right now is Manchester United, the football team. Their captain has come under a lot of criticism recently for crumbling under pressure - this is perhaps the worst trait in a leader since their followers will, of course, follow suit. If one isn't prepared for pressure, then they have no business being a leader.

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Do people have time for themselves nowadays?

I certainly think that people should try to make more time for themselves, whatever the case. I'm not sure if the situation nowadays is dramatically different from the past, but it certainly seems like there's a lot of societal pressure on people today. Not only the obvious career requirements, but also familial responsibilities and even down to small things such as household chores. So it leads to another question, which is how can we make more time for ourselves? I think this is a very difficult problem with no easy solution. But what I do know is that people who have more free time are generally far healthier, both physically and mentally.

Do you like talking with older people? Why?

Talking with older people is no different to talking with any other age group, in my opinion. Sure, they may have different interests and hobbies, and some of their attitudes can be a little outdated but, ultimately, people are people. I don't really have a strong preference in terms of the people I talk to, but I value maturity a lot, and therefore I suppose I like talking to older people a little bit more. I do think that older people sometimes are more polite and respectful than younger people, but this generalisation does not apply to everybody. One thing I really appreciate about people older than me is their experience; they sometimes have some very interesting stories to tell of the past.

### 你在社交媒体上关注的人

Describe a person who you follow on social media

You should say

Who he/she is

How you knew him/her

What she/he posts on social media

And explain why you follow him/her on social media

I don't typically like to use social media too much, since I feel that it has a corrupting influence upon my work schedule. However, when I do venture to look at my social media feeds, I prefer to follow factual accounts relating to fields as diverse as medicine and history. One example of a person I would follow would be the famous historian Mary Beard, who I first discovered when I studied her work at university. She doesn't often post, but when she does it will usually be about something aligned with my interests such as a new TV show she is featured in or an interesting new archaeological discovery. I believe this to be a far better use of my screen time than following some mindless trend or obsessing over social media stars. Having said that, I do sometimes follow some influencers who talk about the latest gossip; I try not to indulge in celebrity gossip too much, but I'm not immune to its effects! I remember a recent incident involving a famous couple who had a messy divorce. Although I wouldn't typically care too much, I eventually fell down a rabbit hole and couldn't stop myself from watching short videos about them. All in all, I try to avoid following these kinds of accounts and attempt to only follow people posting topics relevant to me, but I'm not always successful.

### Part 3

What can people do on social media?

People can engage in a variety of activities on social media. Of course, the primary role of social media is to facilitate communication between people across long distances. In addition to this, it can allow people to post photos of themselves, or talk about experiences that they have had. Increasingly, people's thoughts and opinions are being shaped by social media - the line between social media and reality is becoming more and more blurred. Another function of social media is to follow the whereabouts and doings of celebrities, such as music idols and other prominent public figures.

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Do you think older people and younger people will use the same kind of social media software?

Whenever older people use social media, it tends to be the same kinds of app. For example, in China, pretty much everybody has to use WeChat in daily life for all sorts of different functions. WeChat has moved on from simply being an easy method of communication, and is now necessary for things such as financial transactions. However, I would argue that younger people tend to use more kinds of social media - they may also have WeChat accounts, but perhaps they'll also use Douyin and QQ, which older people tend to avoid on the whole. I think we are moving towards a future where older people and younger people are largely going to use the same kind of apps.

Do older people spend much time on social media?

It's increasingly the case that older people are becoming active on social media - in some cases, they can even form an unhealthy relationship with these kinds of apps. For example, I have an uncle who's around 70 years old, and he inspects his social media feed non-stop. His children feel like they can't even post without his eyes upon them. It is becoming more and more difficult to live in contemporary society without being on some form of social media. This has led to some drawbacks for the elderly; for example, they are more liable to misinformation and scams online, since they are being confronted with a new kind of technology.

Are non-social media like television and newspaper still useful?

Television can still be useful, but most people I know only use it to watch movies or highlights of particular shows now. Some people even use a television monitor just to host internet videos they are watching. It would appear that the days of television being the primary conveyor of news and information are over, though - social media has certainly filled that niche. As for newspapers, it's a sad situation. I personally love to buy and read newspapers, but it seems like most people in my generation do not care for them at all. You barely ever see a young person with a newspaper nowadays, at least, not where I live.

### 对社会有贡献的人

Describe a person who contributes to the society

You should say

Who this person is

How you knew her/him

What type of work she/he does

And explain why you think her/his work is useful to the society

When we talk about people who contribute to society, we could be talking about many different types of contribution. Nurses and doctors sacrifice a lot in order to be able to contribute to the well-being of society; factory workers contribute to society by creating everything we need. However, we could also say that stars and prominent figures contribute to society by dictating popular culture. If we are talking about individuals, one person who contributes a lot to society would be Zhong Nanshan, the former president of the Chinese Medical Association. I first heard about him at the beginning of the coronavirus situation. He's a very diligent and caring individual who had multiple opportunities to retire but deigned to keep working for the betterment of society, even through the deadliest pandemic that humanity has known in over a century. More so than any other individual, I believe that he has changed the way that we live and think. Due to his influence, we have made a lot of progress as a species in research about, not only this coronavirus, but many different kinds of viruses. He also has changed people's perspectives on disease in general, and helped to spread awareness of measures we can take in order to combat it. If I can be even a fraction as selfless and brave as he is, I will be a very happy

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guy.

### Part 3

What jobs are well-paid?

There are lots of different kinds of well-paid jobs, although they are all well-paid to varying degrees. Of course, relative to some people, a job such as a doctor or a dentist is well-paid. However, the salary they receive may pale in comparison to some high-ranking businessmen or prominent individuals in the media. However, even these kind of vocations earn only a fraction compared to the top 1% of earners in the world. It really is all a matter of perspective, to be perfectly honest. There are very few people in the world who believe that the money they earn is enough; almost everyone I know strives to earn more money, even if you or I would think that they are already quite well-paid.

What are the changes in working conditions?

If we are talking about generational differences, then it's plain to see that workers of the present day have far better health and safety regulations - a company knows that, if a worker is put in danger, then they will receive bad publicity. However, since these safety regulations are often more costly, workers sometimes have to be stretched thin and work even more hours to make up for the profitability. Other differences we can see are huge technological conveniences, such as working laptops and sometimes even company cars for higher ups in companies to use. This means that traveling about and working are no longer mutually exclusive; people can work at essentially any time, and sometimes are even pressured into doing so.

What are the impacts of the epidemic on the work environment?

The epidemic in China hasn't led to many large-scale changes in the work environment, other than perhaps wearing a mask and keeping social distancing. However, if we talking about the pandemic as a whole, or the epidemic in other countries, we can see a stark difference. The effects are far more pronounced. For example, in some countries, people now conduct meetings over video calls and have to work from home to avoid being susceptible to infection. However, if you are deemed to be an "essential worker", then you would still have to go outside and work in pretty much the same conditions as before. It's unclear what the long-term impacts on the workplace will be, but for the time being, it looks like not a great deal has changed in China, at least.

Do you think younger people should be lower-paid than older people?

The idea that people should be earning different amounts based on their age is, quite frankly, ridiculous. As long as a person is adept at their job and performs their task to the fullest, they should be paid the same amount. One could argue that more experience means a better fit for certain jobs, but this is certainly not always the case. The only valid argument I could see for paying older people more than younger people is that they may have more familial responsibilities; but ultimately, workplaces should be meritocratic. The amount you earn should be based on your performance. Anything less than that will be unfair, I think.

### 只见过一次但想了解更多的人

Describe a person you only met once and want to know more about

You should say

Who he/she is

When you met him/her

Why you want to know more about him/her

And explain how you feel about him/her

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I consider myself to be quite an introverted person, so meeting somebody once and then never again is quite a common experience for me. I have an established set of friends and people close to me, so I don't usually feel the need to go out of my way to interact with new people. There was one person though, who I regret not forming closer bonds with - and that would be a fellow student of mine at university. We met in the same class, but then he dropped out to move to another university soon afterwards. We had a lot of hobbies in common, and a similar sense of humour which is very rare to find in my experience. I feel we could have formed a friendship if we had been able to share more classes and spend more time together; alas, it was not to be! We never exchanged contact numbers or social media profiles, so I have no clue what he is up to these days. Generally speaking though, I'm not the sort of person who dwells on situations like this a lot. I had to think very hard about this question actually, since I tend to be more curious about people I already know than people I don't. Perhaps some people would believe this to be a bit of a strange attitude, but I've always been like this.

### Part 3

How do people make friends in China?

There are lots of different ways that people can form friendships in China. Generally speaking, I don't think that it's too dissimilar to the rest of the world - just like in other countries, many people form friendships whilst they are studying at school or college. After that, it's mostly a case of developing friendships with people through hobbies or maybe even at work. Of course, for every person, this kind of situation is different. Some people are more prone to forming friendships than others, and some people find it easier to communicate with potential friends. I do think that one problem nowadays is that a lot of people don't have the time to form friendships - people may work so hard that they have no time to relax with like-minded peoples.

On what occasions do people like to make friends?

People can make friends in a multitude of different situations and on various different occasions, although I think it is actually quite difficult to form true friendships in a formal situation such as in a workplace. Pointing out specific occasions where people can make friends is difficult, since friendships do not develop over the space of one day. In my experience, the process of becoming friends takes quite a while and has to occur after a series of meet-ups. If we are talking about occasions where you could potentially meet new friends however, I think it is best to do so in a casual, friendly environment where you have plenty of time to communicate with people. An example where I have done this would be in my weekly football practice, where I have met many of my closest friends.

Is it important to have the same hobbies and interests when making friends?

I don't think that friends have to necessarily share identical hobbies and interests, but I feel like it's easier to connect with people when they are into the same things as you. Perhaps it's one way for people to meet, but deeper friendships should take other things into consideration; such as a similar outlook on life, or an emotional understanding of each other. However, I believe that most of my friends have similar hobbies to me, and this makes sure that we always have something to talk about when we meet up with each other. In summary, hobbies and interests can be important, but aren't necessarily essential for a good friendship.

What qualities make true friends?

When I discuss what qualities make a true friend, I can only really take my personal attitudes and experiences into account. Ultimately, the answer to this question will be different depending on who you ask. The things I prioritise when looking for a friend - such as kindness and empathy - may not necessarily be as important to other people. That being said, if you are to be a true friend to somebody, you need to be able to be truthful and honest, whilst still considering their



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needs and feelings when talking to them. Ultimately, a good friend should be willing to help whenever somebody needs advice or even if they just need somebody to listen to their thoughts.

### 想住的房子或公寓

Describe a house or an apartment you would like to live in

You should say

What it is like

Where it would be

Why you would like to live in this house/apartment

And how you feel about this house/apartment

I remember watching a TV show with my parents once - or maybe it was a movie, thinking about it - and it was set in Paris. Immediately, I fell in love with the Parisian style of apartments - cozy, stylish and bohemian. Increasingly though, as I grow older, I'm becoming more enamoured with the idea of living in a countryside cottage. I think this stems from nostalgia, since I used to live in a cottage when I was a child. In my imagination, there would be plenty of animals roaming around and the atmosphere would be very relaxed. I don't mind living in the city, but I do miss the peace and quiet that comes with being in the countryside. Also, houses in the countryside typically allow for more space, which is more convenient for raising a family and having pets - both things I want to do in the near future. Currently, my living situation is a little bit too cramped and noisy for my liking. Because I live on campus nearby a basketball court, I am woken every day by the sounds of people bouncing their balls on the bitumen surface. It's incredibly annoying! I think that I would be far more comfortable in a spacious, sparse environment. It doesn't really matter what country or region it is in - as long as there's lot of space and beautiful scenery.

### Part 3

What kinds of apartments are the most popular?

This is a rather difficult question, since I think that it depends on context. I think in China, and especially in Chinese cities, many families are settled into apartments for the long term and prioritise things such as space and general livability. However, for many people in places such as Europe, apartments are usually considered temporary accommodation and therefore qualities such as location and price are more of a concern. The most popular kind of apartments where I currently live are usually the ones relatively close to public transport, where it is easy to access the center of the city. Certainly this is something that I look for when thinking about apartments.

What are the differences between houses that young people and old people like?

I don't suppose there would be a huge difference between the kinds of houses that young and old people like really, although maybe old people in China prefer to be closer to their families. Maybe the biggest difference would be in terms of location - young people, especially young people who have begun their careers, will need to think about the convenience of travel and how to manage their budgets. Therefore, they probably won't be as concerned with the quality of the housing. But if you are old, and are coming towards the end of your career, you will probably want to think more about how to comfortably spend the rest of your life. In any case, this question is dependent on the personalities of individuals.

What are the differences between apartments and houses?

The obvious difference between apartments and houses is that an apartment is usually in a building shared with many other people, whereas houses typically aren't. Apartments also usually consist of only one level, although I have seen some particularly fancy apartments with multiple floors. Even then, there's a difference between types of housing. You can have a



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detached house, or a semi-detached house. A detached house is a building you get all to yourself, whereas a semi-detached house will share one wall with another accommodation on the other side. I have personally lived in all kinds of houses - my family house was a detached house, then at university I rented a semi-detached house with my friends and now I live in an apartment due to its convenience for my work.

Do people usually rent or buy a house? Why?

Most people aspire to eventually be able to buy a house, but the reality is that more and more young people do not have the means to do so. So, in the meantime, they will rent houses and apartments. This is especially a problem in the UK, where I come from - the average salary for young people hasn't changed over the past thirty years, but house prices and the cost of living has increased exponentially. Therefore, we are seeing very few young people being able to buy houses. In many ways, renting a house can be a cheaper and safer option than buying one, and can save you from being heaped with mountains of debt in the future! But it would certainly be nice if more people had the option of renting or buying, rather than being priced out of purchasing houses.

### 去过的新地方

Describe a time you visited a new place

You should say

Where the new place is

When you went there

Why you went there

And explain how you feel about the place

Travelling is one of my major hobbies, so I like to visit new places as often as possible. If I am narrowing it down to one experience, I would like to talk about the time I went to Sri Lanka, which is a country in South Asia, just off of the southern tip of India. Prior to this, my experience of travelling in Asia was rather limited - I had mostly spent my time going around Europe. However, I had the opportunity to go when my friend invited me along - she had somehow managed to acquire cheap plane tickets, so I couldn't say no. Unfortunately, our timing was inconvenient. We left in January 2020, just as soon as the coronavirus situation had become a big problem. At the time though, we didn't focus too heavily on it since we were busy enjoying the lush hills and delicious food on offer in Sri Lanka. We ventured across the whole southern half of the country, and enjoyed ourselves immensely. We witnessed historical attractions, opened ourselves to a new cuisine and saw a wide variety of wildlife. In total, I think that we must have travelled to 7 or 8 different cities and towns in the space of three weeks. Initially we were only supposed to go for 2 weeks but we decided to stay for a week longer since our work had been delayed due to the virus. We were very lucky to be able to go abroad before everything shut down.

### Part 3

Which do you prefer, living in a city or only visiting it as a tourist?

I enjoy travelling to different places and visiting cities with a lot of history, but this does not necessarily mean that it would be a convenient place to live in. For example, whilst I might really enjoy walking around Vienna and seeing the beautiful sights there, I know that it would not be a convenient place for me to live, due to a myriad of issues - cost of living, language barriers, employment opportunities and so on. Every time I visit a city that I fall in love with, I am tempted to pack my bags and move there but, ultimately, it's mostly an unrealistic pipe dream. Largely I prefer to visit places as a tourist, as opposed to potential places to live.

How do young children react when they go to school for the first time?

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I do not have any children myself, so I had to dig through my memories to remember what my reaction was when I first went to school! From what I remember, I was largely scared to leave my parents behind - up until that point, I had been surrounded by my family pretty much all of the time. So, to leave the comfort of my family and go to a strange place with lots of new people is quite terrifying. I think that many kids feel the same way. I can compare it a little to when I first went to college, even though I was of course much older. I felt very nervous and anxious about the whole situation, so I can imagine it is even worse when you are a young child and going somewhere new by yourself for the first time.

How do young and old people react differently to new things?

It would largely depend on what the new thing in question is. If it's a new object, such as some new kind of phone or technological device, then you would expect young people to react with more curiosity towards it - although this is, of course, not always necessarily the case. It is a stereotype, perhaps, but usually old people are more settled and conservative than younger people and are less welcoming towards change. However, for a situation such as moving away to a new house, children and young people may find it difficult to adapt. This is especially true if they've never moved before.

Why do some people want to go to college far away from home?

There could be numerous reasons why somebody would want to go far from home. Maybe they have a poor relationship with their family, or maybe they just feel like they can be afforded more opportunities in a different place. It all depends on the context, really. Personally, I went to college far from my home since I wanted to embark upon a new adventure and go somewhere completely different to anywhere I had ever experienced before. Another important reason is that some colleges will specialise in specific courses that are tailored towards certain individuals; if a person from one city wants to study a niche subject can only be found elsewhere, then this is a big incentive to move.

### 认为有趣的城市

Describe a city that you think is very interesting

You should say

Where it is

What it is famous for

How you knew this city

And explain why you think it is very interesting

Every city I have been to in the world has something interesting to offer, but I would like to focus on my hometown of Cambridge for this answer. In addition to being my hometown, it's one of the most famous university cities in the world and has been a centre of education for centuries. If one visits there, they can indulge in plenty of historical activities. However, Cambridge also boasts a very vibrant culinary scene - many high quality restaurants and cafes have emerged there in recent years. Due to its nature as an educational hub, Cambridge is also very multicultural. Walking across the city centre, you are able to see Chinese, Indian, Arabic, African shops and restaurants... this is in addition to the more local fare. Another advantage of Cambridge is its proximity to major cities in the United Kingdom, chiefly London and Birmingham. By train, you can reach both cities within a matter of a couple of hours. Of course I am very bias towards my hometown, but I do sincerely believe it's a wonderful city which has a lot to offer people from all walks of life. If you are interested in travelling across England, then Cambridge is a city that should go out of your way to see.

### Part 3

What advantages can tourism bring to a city?

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Many cities thrive off of tourism, one example being my hometown of Cambridge. A lot of the economy comes from international travelers who wish to see its history and architecture. This can lead to the creation of new jobs and a greater demand for work in the service sector. Ultimately, tourism's advantages are mostly financial. But an increase of tourism, and therefore awareness, of a location can also lead to the protection of important places and items that may have otherwise been endangered. Using Cambridge as an example, many 17th century buildings that would have been renovated and irreparably changed have now been preserved in their original state due to touristic interest.

Why do some young people like to live in cities?

Cities, in comparison to the countryside, offer a far more convenient and flexible way of living. If you are a young person trying to earn money and live a fast-paced, exciting way of life then there really isn't any other option than living in a city. I do know some young people who don't have any particular ambitions to live in a city, and are generally content with living a suburban or even rural lifestyle. But largely, most young people I know plan to live in cities for a long time, and some even have ambitions to start families and settle in cities. Personally, I enjoy living in a city for the time being, but I dream of eventually being able to return to the countryside when I am a bit older.

Do most elderly people live in the city or in the countryside?

This is a question which can only really be answered if one has the appropriate demographic statistics. So, with that in mind, I'm not entirely sure as to the answer. My suspicion is that more elderly people in China live in the city, since China is largely becoming an urban society, but I could very well be wrong. In the UK and other western countries, I feel like most old people reside in rural areas where the pace of life is slower and they can enjoy their time in a more natural environment. Certainly, all of the elderly people in my family have a preference for living in the countryside.

Do you think well-developed tourism will have negative effects on local people?

Tourism comes with a plethora of advantages, but it's inarguable that there can also be some bad effects. On a cosmetic level, more people means more rubbish, and this damages the local environment as a result. Many local people who come from touristic cities also resent an influx of people who move in without truly understanding the local culture or way of life. They believe that it slowly chips away at the soul of the place in question. We can also witness local shops and facilities being pushed aside in favour of more tourist-friendly amenities - for example, a local newspaper stand may be demolished to make way for a fancy new bistro.

### 去过的村庄某地

Describe a place in a village that you visited

You should say

Where it is

When you visited this place

What you did there

And how you feel about this place

Well, for most of life, I have lived in a village so there are so many different answers I could give for this question. If we are talking about the most interesting places in all the villages I have visited, I remember visiting my friend's grandparents house over Spring Festival in China. Since I come from such a different cultural background, it was fascinating for me to see how people celebrated these kind of occasions in the countryside. For most of my time in China, I have

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stayed within city limits - it was astonishing for me to see precisely how different life was for people in the villages. When I was in this house, I was treated to a delicious banquet cooked by my friend's grandparents, which was then followed by multiple rounds of mahjong. Unfortunately, I am not as good at mahjong as I am at eating! There was also plenty of time to play around with firecrackers. At first I was a little bit nervous handling them since they are so loud, but eventually I grew used to the noise. I have fond memories of the village, and of this house in particular. It makes for one of the most distinct memories of my entire time living in this country. If I was to go there in the future though, I think I should make more of an effort to learn how to speak the local dialect since their accent was so strong that I found it difficult to understand anything.

### Part 3

Is there anything special about the villages in China?

I sincerely do believe that villages often contain more soul and personality than cities - usually, everybody knows each other and there's more of a communal vibe. I don't think that this is any different in China - I often feel more at peace in the countryside here, and I certainly feel as if I'm closer to nature. In a Chinese village, you can experience an authenticity that is perhaps lacking in some of the major cities. Also, people who reside in villages tend to be very curious and welcoming towards outsiders, which is always pleasant if you decide to visit.

Why do people want to go to the countryside?

People may decide to visit the countryside for many different reasons, whether it be for tourism or to visit relatives that they haven't seen in a while. Certainly, I know that many Chinese people who live in cities return to their countryside family homes during festivals in order to catch up with their relatives. For me personally, I like to go to the countryside every now and then just to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. I think it's great for my peace of mind to occasionally have the chance to be in a rural environment. But of course, many people don't really harbour any desire to go to the countryside, even for their vacation - this is something that I could never understand.

What do people usually do when going to a village?

When going to a village, people might choose to engage in a variety of activities. Some people prefer to just stay inside and enjoy some privacy. Other people, such as myself, enjoy getting a breath of fresh air by hiking or exploring the local area. But since I think most people only go to the countryside due to familial obligations, I would presume that their primary objective is to meet up with their family and discuss whatever they have been up to recently. I know many people who dread returning to their homes in the countryside for this exact reason - they have maybe been unsuccessful in their job or have yet to find a partner, and don't want to have to confront their family about this.

Do you think people will live in the village in the future?

In the short term, I can't imagine the current trend of urbanisation being reversed. The logic doesn't really make sense - there are still far more opportunities and benefits when you live within the city. Now that travel has grown easier, more and more people are flocking towards urban areas. Perhaps we'll see a different trend as a consequence of major disasters or environmental catastrophe, but I personally think that the future is looking more urban than ever before. Statistics show that urbanisation is a phenomenon that is not restricted to one area or culture and, in fact, is present in essentially every country. It's impossible to imagine anything short of a massive event changing all of this.

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## 想给朋友买的礼物

Describe a gift you would like to buy for your friend

You should say

What gift you would like to buy

Who you would like to give it to

Why you would like to buy a gift for him/her

And explain why you choose that gift

Usually me and my friends buy small gifts for each other around all of the major festivals, as well as for each others birthdays. In the past, I have received presents as diverse as imported sodas and fancy boxes of fruit. However, when it comes to buying gifts, I'm not very imaginative. I tend to stick to the reliable options - chocolate, wine, flowers or perhaps something from my culture. Ultimately though, the purpose of a gift shouldn't be to show someone how much money you've spent on it; it should be to show that you truly care about them and have thought about something they would like. It is my friends birthday next week, and I have bought her a few comfy pairs of socks for the winter. It may not be particularly extravagant or expensive, but I hope she can appreciate the thoughtfulness behind it. Since the weather is getting colder and colder these days, I think it's important for people to keep wrapped up when it's rainy or windy. I would have bought her a knitted scarf, but then I remembered that I got her one as a present for the New Year. At times, I have difficulty remembering the gifts that I've already bought people.

## Part 3

When do people normally send gifts to others?

People will usually give gifts around festivals or birthdays, or maybe if they haven't seen a particular person in a long time. Normally, I think people will only buy gifts on occasions that they obliged to, such as the ones I just mentioned. It's all dependent on the person in question - I have some friends who will always buy me a small gift when they see me, and I also have friends who never think of even buying me gifts on my birthday. If the person in question is a child, maybe people will give them gifts more frequently though - this is certainly the case in my family, where the youngest children will receive gifts almost every time that they have visitors.

Do people give gifts or red packets on traditional festivals?

Typically, yes, I think people would give gifts to those they are close with on some festivals. However, not every festival is important enough to warrant giving gifts, and not everyone will opt to give gifts to people. Red packets, on the other hand, are an exclusively Chinese phenomenon and foreigners tend not to give them out on festive occasions. Even then, from what I can see, red packets tend mostly to be given on one particular festival - Spring Festival. I don't know if there are other circumstances in which you can give them out, but I've only really seen people give them out around the New Year season.

Is it hard to choose a gift?

Choosing gifts is a big problem that I have; especially for people that I've known for a long period of time. I always struggle to think of gifts that are especially relevant to them and that they won't already have. Otherwise, I will fall back on more traditional gifts such as chocolate or wine. For people that are long-time friends or family, I often have a lack of imagination in terms of buying gifts. It is something that actually stresses me out a little bit - I don't mind spending money to buy something for people, but I hate having to browse on a shopping app or spend hours in stores looking. It's a problem that seems to only get worse with every passing year.

Will people feel happy when receiving an expensive gift?

For sure, I think people will always appreciate pricey gifts. Even if they don't particularly like

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the contents of the gift, they might be able to appreciate the effort that's gone into buying it. And even then, they might be able to sell it if they don't like it! However, some people feel a little bit overwhelmed when they receive an expensive gift which I understand; there might be more pressure for them to buy an equally expensive gift in the future. Another factor is the actual gift itself; there are multiple different definitions of "expensive". For some people, an expensive gift might be a big box of chocolates, whereas for others it might be a brand new car or something.

### 童年时得到的玩具

Describe a toy you got in your childhood

You should say

What it was

When you got it

How you got it

And explain how you felt about it

As a child, I was a little bit spoiled so I often received toys and little presents from my family. I remember that my favourite toy was an action figure of a robot. I received it as a present on my 8th birthday from my grandfather - he was the boss of a shipping company, so he often had access to rare and interesting imported toys. Sometimes I would be able to receive them months before they were due to be released. At first, I wasn't too impressed with this toy since I wasn't familiar with the character and it didn't have any special functions. However, I grew more and more fond of it eventually, since I would create little stories in my head where it would defeat all the evil monsters. So I would take this robot toy of mine, and use it to beat up other toys that I had - such as my toy crocodile and a toy dinosaur. I can't remember the last time I played with it, but it was probably around the time that I discovered video games. Once I began playing video games, I feel like I slowly abandoned the toys I had. Or perhaps it was just as a result of growing out of them. It's a shame, since I feel very nostalgic about those days now - maybe I should ask my parents if they still have the toy somewhere around the house.

### Part 3

Do boys and girls like the same kind of toys?

It used to be the case that toys and games would be heavily gendered - boys would be expected to enjoy certain kinds of toys, and girls would have different ones; but I think we have been witnessing a lot of change in the past ten or so years. I know of many new parents who insist on raising their child to enjoy gender neutral toys. Personally, I think this is a positive change since kids can enjoy whatever they like without having to feel like it's not appropriate for them, although older generations typically disagree with this point of view. Having said that, I do think that many boys will still choose to play with more "action-packed" toys such as toy guns and swords, whereas some girls may be more liable to play with dolls and toy houses.

Why do you think some parents buy lots of toys for their kids instead of spending more time with them?

A lot of people, especially younger people, aren't really prepared for the arduous task of parenthood and once they have a child, they don't really know how to appropriately raise it. They believe in giving children whatever they want to stop them crying and moaning, which I think is a completely backwards way to raise them. Of course we should be kind and generous to children, but they also need a certain degree of discipline so that they will treat others in society in a polite manner. All in all, parents who do nothing for their children other than buy gifts are doing it due to a combination of laziness and lack of knowledge about how to raise a kid.

What are some of the differences between the toys kids play with nowadays and those they used to play with in the past?

Many kids nowadays prefer to play on their parents mobile phones or with video games than

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play with actual toys. I believe this is a significant shift from my childhood, where all we had to play with were plastic and wooden toys. I think this has led to children having a shorter attention span, and this is more noticeable with the kinds of games that are marketed towards them. Not only can we see this with toys and games, it also applies to kids television among other things. I'm not too optimistic about this trend, and I hope that we can see it reversed sometime in the future.

Are there any kinds of electronic games or computer games that can have educational benefits for young children?

Absolutely it is the case that some games can be educational, or at least used for educational purposes. One example I can think of is Minecraft, where someone can effectively build whatever they want; it can be used to teach subjects as diverse as physics and maths. However, I do think many children are somewhat repulsed by these kinds of games, and prefer to play games that remind them less of school and learning. After all, they spend many hours a week studying - most of them just want to play video games in order to wind down a little bit. I can't really blame them.

What do parents usually buy for their children to make them happy?

Parents spend almost all of their money to make children happy! From my personal experience, almost everything they do is ultimately in some way to help their kids. To this end, they might buy their children toys, video games, outdoor experiences among other things. When the children grow older, the parents might help them out with paying rent or university tuition. Even things that don't seem to make children happy, such as private classes and educational experiences, are ultimately done in order to make them happy at some point in the future. I may not have wanted to go to my swimming practice every weekend as a child, but nowadays I am happy for the opportunities that doing so afforded me.

### 免费得到的东西

Describe something you received for free

You should say

What it was

Who you received it from

Where you received it

And how you felt about it

I don't usually receive many things for free in my daily life, so I've had to wrack my brains to think of a relevant answer to this question. Then I suddenly remembered - yesterday I went to a cafe to do some studying, and the barista gave me a free coffee! I'm not entirely sure as to the reason why she did this - I think it was simply because she could tell that I am somebody who enjoys coffee a lot, and she wanted to express her passion for making it. I'm not exactly a coffee connoisseur, but I do have quite a good palette for it. I was, of course, elated when I received the coffee, since it was brewed really well. I think you wouldn't be able to get this kind of customer service at a big chain store such as Starbucks or Luckin Coffee. It's something you can only really experience at an independent coffee store. Perhaps next time I go to that cafe, I'll buy a small gift or even just buy two cups of coffee. Whenever people give me things for free, especially in small shops, I tend to feel a bit guilty since I want to contribute something.

Part 3

Do you think people should pay for higher education? Why?

Definitely not. I think the idea of paying for something that was free for so many people, for such a long time is ridiculous. I understand that not everyone can have the opportunity to go to a



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place of higher education, or the degrees will become worthless. However, people who may have the ability to study shouldn't have to be priced out of their full potential. Not only is this bad for society's productivity in the long run, but I believe it to be morally wrong. University places should be allocated based on grades, not whoever has the richest family; if money becomes the main factor for admission to a prestigious university, then it will result in millions of people who will have no chance of upwards mobility.

Is it good or bad for people to have free education in the future?

It's certainly a good thing. I had to pay for university tuition during my studies, and I am still burdened with the debt of paying it back after all these years. But I am not a special situation - a vast majority of students where I come from have been saddled with debt. It's a strange situation where so many people owe money for university, but have no means to pay it back. I would hope that no students in the future would have to experience this; education is a human right, in my opinion, and it seems very callous to charge for it. Society demands a lot from young people - for many, they need to go to university or they will be seen as a failure. To me, it's unfair that they would then have to pay extortionate amounts of money.

What free gifts do companies usually give to their customers?

In my experience, companies are usually quite frugal and prioritise saving money over giving gifts to people. However, when they do, it'll usually be something small like a mouse pad or a cheap pen with the logo on it. I remember I once signed up for membership at a chain coffee store; as an incentive, they would give you a free cake with the first drink you bought from them. I think this is an example of a nicer gift that will actually be appreciated by customers. However, I also suppose this doesn't really count as a free gift since I had to pay for my membership!

Why do customers like to receive free gifts from companies?

Everybody likes to receive free things, no matter who gave it or where it comes from! So it's only logical that people would like to take advantage of anything that companies give them. Usually when one receives a gift from a company or a business, it'll be a surprise and quite unexpected. The unexpected nature of the gift might be one reason why someone would like to receive it. If you expect to get nothing, and then end up receiving something, no matter how small, it can make your day. Unfortunately, I cannot think of too many personal examples of this happening - even when I do receive gifts from companies, it's only usually because I've already spent a significant amount of money.

### 给你留下深刻印象的课程

Describe a lesson that impressed you a lot

You should say

What the course was about

Where you took the course

What you did during the course

And explain why it impressed you a lot

I wouldn't often describe myself as being "impressed" with lessons, even if I learn a lot from them. However, in the literal sense, there are definitely lessons which have left a rather strong impression on me, especially during my studies at university. In my first year at uni, I took a course that required us to learn about Russian history. I was astonished to discover all kinds of different facets of Russian history that I had never known prior to this course. One lesson in particular stands out, when we were reading about the origins of the modern Russian nation state. Our lecturer for this course was a very kindly old man, whose name I have unfortunately forgotten. He was also a very lenient marker, so everyone who took the course received quite a



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high grade. His lectures were always very expressive and gripping, so whenever he was teaching us, we would all be focusing. Some of the topics he discussed were quite dry - such as economy and agriculture - but his style made sure that they were interesting regardless. To give an example of the impression his lessons had on students, I remember once that me and my fellow students had a debate about the Russian economy that lasted for hours after his lecture!

### Part 3

Why do some people have better memory?

Honestly, I'm not sure I know enough about the inner workings of the brain to fully answer this question. I suppose that, the younger you are, the better capacity you have to remember things. But generally speaking, people who keep their brains active and alert are able to retain memories for a longer period of time. I remember reading a study in a newspaper where they conducted a very interesting study; it concluded that old people who did activities such as crosswords and Sudoku were less likely to develop memory-related problems in later life, such as dementia. Ever since I read that, I try to do some daily brain training. I might be young right now, but I think it's always good to prepare for the future.

Do people like things of memorial significance?

I think so, yes. But there will always be some people who will look at these items - be they a statue or something else - and feel some kind of negative sentiment. There could be a variety of reasons as to why, but I have never experienced this myself. Inherently, I think human beings are rather nostalgic creatures and like to remember events of the past. These things of memorial significance are but one way we can do so. We can even see this on a smaller, personal level - if people didn't like these sorts of things, then they wouldn't take photos to remember them in the future.

Which can help people remember things better, words or photos?

Throughout history, it has been very easy to misconstrue or even deliberately misinterpret words, so I'm not entirely sure that they are very reliable as a method of memory. Although photos can also be manipulated nowadays, genuinely I believe it is easier to remember things through the lens of a camera. If I am trying to remember a holiday I've had, or a particular experience, then I certainly remember images in my brain more clearly than things people have said before. Words can be more reliable if they are in the form of writing, but nothing triggers the memory more than strong visual accompaniment.

Can technology help people remember things better? How?

Technology has come so far in the past century that it has enabled us to take an unbelievable amount of photographs and videos. Therefore, we can easily remember some things that have happened to us before, or perhaps prominent news stories of the past. It is strange to think about how many of these images might even outlast us. Speaking of technology and memory, I remember reading a recent article explaining how some scientists are trying to invent brain chips that will allow human beings to increase their brain capacity, ergo their memory. Personally I'm not sure if we should be playing around with human physiology like this, but I think that it's interesting in theory.

### 你记得的别人给你讲的故事

Describe a story someone told you and you remember

You should say

What the story was about

Who told you this story

Why you remember it

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And how you feel about it

I think a good example of a story somebody has told me before would be when my grandfather told me about his childhood. He used to work as a servant in a castle, so he had many different tales about all kinds of interesting things. The one that sticks out most in my memory would have to be when he claimed to have seen a ghost wandering outside the bedroom. Although I'm not prone to superstition and I don't tend to believe in the paranormal, my grandfather was very convincing. He is, like me, quite sceptical about these sorts of things - to hear him speak with such conviction and clarity about this ghost was remarkable. He claims that it was the ghost of a maid who died in the castle kitchen hundreds of years ago, although I can't specifically remember the exact cause of death. When he first told me this story, I think I was about 12 or 13 years old, and it's stuck with me ever since. Even to this day, I sometimes get chills down my spine just thinking about it; even though, as I mentioned before, I'm not usually the kind of person who would believe in stuff like this. One day, I hope to be able to visit the castle that my grandfather was talking about, although I have no ambitions to go ghost hunting!

### Part 3

Do young children like the same stories as older children?

I would guess that stories for young children might have to be told a little bit more simply than those made for older children. From what I can gather, older children generally prefer stories with more action and exciting themes, whereas younger children can adapt more easily to basic fables and stories with black-and-white morals. But there are some stories passed down through many generations that are universally beloved; not just by young and old children, but even by adults in some cases. This is especially the case today, where we see many grown ups profess an interest in comic books and genres typically considered more "childish" such as fantasy.

How has technology changed storytelling?

I'm not really sure technology has significantly changed the way that we tell stories; or, if it has, then it's too early to really assess it's impact. If we are making predictions about the future, it is possible that technology will allow us to be able to memorise certain stories more accurately, but other than that I can't see any big changes. There are certainly minor cosmetic changes - for example, stories may now obviously feature references to pieces of technology in them - but the overall themes and plots of many stories nowadays are largely the same as they have been throughout history. If we look at the most popular movies, like Disney or comic book movies, we can see that their plots are pretty much the same as classical fairy tales - the good guys beat the bad guys. The only thing that's changed is the format.

How do people tell stories to children?

There are a variety of ways to tell stories to children. Telling stories orally is how people have taught their children throughout all of human history, and can be done by anybody. In addition to this, some people prefer to write their stories down for children; this is how famous novels such as *The Hobbit* began. The author of *The Hobbit*, J.R.R Tolkien, was telling stories to his child but kept forgetting some important elements of his own tales. Therefore, he decided to take notes about it and it turned into a novel. However, children usually prefer some kind of visual stimulation - scientific studies have shown that a lot of kids can absorb stories more effectively when they're accompanied by pictures.

Why do children like stories?

Children learn about the world through being told stories, and it is one of the primary ways that they are able to grow as people. As for why they like them, it's difficult to point to a specific answer. Quite frankly, it allows for their imaginations to run wild and acts as a form of escapism from boring classes that they might experience every day. But I don't think it's true to act as if

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only children can enjoy stories; even though I am an adult, I still enjoy listening to people telling interesting stories about themselves. It's always fun to indulge in flights of fantasy, as far I'm concerned!

### 离不开的东西

Describe something that you can't live without(not a computer/phone)

You should say

What it is

What you do with it

How it helps you in your life

And explain why you can't live without it

Excluding technology, I'm not sure there's many things I can possess that are truly essential to me. I tend not to care too much about personal belongings, and I try to live a life that's not based around material possessions. Having said that, if we are talking about things we can't live without in a more abstract sense, then I guess I would have to say my family. It's an obvious answer, but it doesn't make it any less true - without my family to guide me and encourage me whenever I need a pick-me-up, I don't think I would be a very successful person. All the success I have attained thus far is due to my family backing me up and supporting every dream that I had. If we must talk purely about physical objects, then the thing I cannot live without is something related - a picture of my family that sits on my windowsill. Every day I look at it for strength and support, and it's especially helpful during tough times. It may not be something that has too many different functions, or affects my ability to carry out tasks, but it is certainly something that I feel like I need to get me through certain situations.

### Part 3

Why are children attracted to new things(such as electronics)?

I think children are attracted to whatever they are conditioned to be attracted to. Because everything is new to a child, they will naturally be more attuned to liking new things, but I don't necessarily think it has to be some kind of newfangled technological development such as a computer or mobile phone. It just is often the case that they are drawn to these things due to trends and marketing. This is especially the case with technological apparatus such as video games consoles. But at the end of the day, I think that these urges need to be somewhat curbed; children need to be taught how to keep things for a long period of time and cherish items, not discard something just as soon as a new replacement emerges.

Why do some grown-ups hate to throw out old things(such as clothes)?

Once you grow older, you feel more responsibility in general. This can be a responsibility for people and situations, but more often than not it involves some kind of financial responsibility. As such, some people are loathe to throw away things that might still have some kind of use. If it can still be used, why would you need to waste money getting something new? This is especially the case when it comes to clothes - unless it's holey or covered in mould, most clothes are completely usable. You might as well protect your wallet and protect the environment at the same time. I was certainly taught as a youth to squeeze as much use out of every object I could before throwing it away; after all, there are people in far less fortunate situations who would really appreciate some of the items we discard.

Is the way people buy things affected? How?

Technology has completely altered the way people consume and purchase products. It's led to some conveniences, but also arguably some violations of privacy. On the one hand, we have almost every product we could dream of at the touch of our fingertips - apps such as Taobao are

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incredibly easy to use, almost too easy. In contrast, these same apps are also able to access our internet histories and advertise new products to us - I personally feel very uneasy about this since I feel like I'm being monitored at all times. I remember once talking about a particular candy I liked, and the next day I saw it being recommended to me! It was terrifying. Another problem is that this convenience has created a "fast fashion" phenomenon, where people are believing clothes and other items to more disposable since they are cheaper and more plentiful than before.

What do you think influences people to buy new things?

The number one factor in influencing people to buy new things is necessity. It's quite simple logic; if a person is in need of an item, then they will buy that item. But, of course, human beings are very susceptible to marketing and advertisement, therefore these things dominate our lives. Everywhere we go, we are bombarded with commercials. Another reason that someone may decide to buy something is what we call FOMO - the fear of missing out. If all of your friends have a brand new, trendy object then it makes sense that you will also want to come into possession of that object, right? Ultimately, there's no one singular factor for someone needing to buy something.

### 不喜欢的规则

Describe a rule that you don't like

You should say

What it is

Why you don't like it

How others feel about the rule

And explain whether you've followed the rule

As someone who values their independence a lot, I think that I take umbrage with quite a lot of rules that try to restrict what I can do. One example of this is my time at college, when we briefly had a curfew. We were meant to be back in our school campus by 11p.m. sharp; if we weren't, then the gates to our dormitories would be locked shut and we wouldn't be able to get in. This posed numerous problems. Of course, I feel like it gives the students less choice and limits their personal freedoms, but I also think it's an incredibly inconvenient rule that could possibly be dangerous. If you shut out a student at a bad time, then it could have potentially disastrous consequences. However, many students did not like this idea at all and decided that they would complain to the school faculty. Most of the students managed to find ways around the rule anyway, and would sneak in through windows and such. Personally, I was never daring enough to try something like that - despite this, I joined in with my fellow students complaints. After a while, the school conceded and the rule was repealed. It was very embarrassing for the faculty, and I think many other places took note at the reception it got. I'm not entirely sure why they thought the rule was a good idea in the first place.

### Part 3

What are the rules students should follow at school?

If a student is to become a diligent and disciplined person in later life, then they should try to obey all the rules that a school gives them. This extends to rules about school uniforms, punctuality and treating your teachers with their due respect. However, if a student is confronted with a rule that they think is unfair or unjust then I don't see why they shouldn't be able to have some kind of dissenting voice. Whilst it makes sense to punish students for not being on time, for example, it will need to take in extraneous factors. Perhaps the student had a medical emergency, or a family issue; some school policies may in fact be too strict in these kind of circumstances.

Are the rules at school good or bad? Why?

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It largely depends on the school and on the specific rules. The core rules at most schools have some kind of logic behind them - for example, students should arrive on time and should always stay focused on the work. Other rules such as wearing a school uniform instil a sense of discipline and decorum that will come in handy later in their life. Having said that, some schools have rather strange rules or or exhausting schedules for their students which only create resentment. To give an example, my school banned students from being able to wear shorts in the summer, despite the intense heat. Eventually this rule was repealed, but I think it was a terrible idea in the first place. School rules should have the students well-being as their priority.

What rules should children follow at home?

Every parent has a unique style of teaching, and each of these methods contains a different set of rules. Since I am not a parent, I find it difficult to point at exactly what rules I think children should follow. If I look back to my childhood, I believe that I was raised in the correct manner - if I excelled at something I was rewarded, and if I was rude or lazy then I was punished. Rules that I think are important include strict bedtimes for children since it unhealthy to be up too late, and I also believe that children should help out with minor household chores whenever they can. Learning doesn't just stop at school, and children should learn how to be helpful and courteous to everyone they meet - assisting around the house is one way to instil a kind of discipline without being strict.

How are people punished when parking at a wrong spot?

Thankfully I have never encountered this situation since I can't drive! However, from what I remember, people are usually punished with a small fine that could potentially grow larger if ignored. If you really exacerbate the situation by refusing to pay the fine, then you could look at a small jail sentence although this is exceedingly rare. Almost every driver I know has had to pay a parking fine at some point; whilst it's an annoying inconvenience, it doesn't seem to be too much of a problem for them. But I would guess that the size of the fine depends on exactly where you are parked and precisely how much you have inconvenienced other people.

### 之前坏掉之后修好了的东西

Describe something that was broken in your home and then repaired

You should say

What it is

How it was broken

How you got it repaired

And how you felt about it

Because I'm quite a clumsy individual, it's often the case that something breaks around my house. One of the more notable examples I can think of is a glass door in my house - it's consists of a single glass pane that separates my living room from my kitchen. I went into the kitchen to get a snack but then I accidentally walked through the glass pane because I didn't see that it was closed behind me. So I had lots of terrible glass cuts on my knee and I had to go to hospital to get stitches! I live on campus, so my school sent a repairman over to assess the situation the next day and to clean up the glass shards that were still on the floor. It's a dangerous job to do, but they did it very well. About two or three days later I had a new glass door as a replacement - however, I am always very careful nowadays to check that the door is open! I don't want a repeat of that incident again. All in all, I felt a little bit embarrassed by the whole situation - if it were not for my awful clumsiness, then we wouldn't have been talking about this in the first place. Even to this day, the scars from the incident haven't fully healed. Alas, it taught me a lesson about common sense and to always pay attention to my surroundings.

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### Part 3

Are IT-related jobs valued more by society?

It never used to be the case, but I think we are now entering a period where the STEM jobs - that is, science, technology, engineering and mathematics - are valued above everything else. IT jobs would fall under this umbrella. I think this is in large part due to people not really understanding how computers work, therefore they look upon engineers and IT professionals with some level of reverence. Although I think it's good that these jobs are more respected by people than they were in the past, I do not think it should come at the expense of other vocations, particularly in the field of humanities. Maybe I'm just biased though, since I don't really know too much about computers myself!

Is the quality of products worse than before?

It's difficult to say, and it would depend on exactly what we mean by quality. In a lot of respects, products are becoming more refined and convenient for people to use. However, I do believe that they are also becoming more disposable and I think this is perhaps a deliberate design choice. After all, if a mobile phone or computer is only built to last for a few years, then you will soon enough have to buy a new one. Some people may accuse this of being a bit of a cynical view, but an old phone of mine from 10 years ago can still function if it charged. On the other hand, any new phone I buy usually stops working within the space of a few years.

What kinds of things do people like to repair by themselves?

I don't know about other people, but I hate repairing anything! I am too clumsy with my hands, so I usually end up making a bad situation even worse. I would suppose that my father is an example of somebody who likes to fix things by himself. Usually this will be something related to pipes or our house's water supply, since he used to be a plumber when he was young. I've heard a lot of people prefer to fix holes in their own clothes as well by stitching them up. But personally, these are not skills that I am particularly adept at. I would prefer to spend money having something fixed professionally than to ruin something and have it cost more money in the long-run.

Why do people like to get their mobile phones repaired in specialized stores?

Items like mobile phones require a lot of technological knowledge to fix sometimes, especially if it's something related to the hardware. I know for sure that I am not adept at these kind of things, so I always go to a specialised store. Generally I think older people are more risk averse, and trying to avoid unnecessary complications, so they will prefer to talk to an expert about these complex gadgets, whereas a young person might just search about the problem on the internet. But the internet is filled with scammers and con artists, whereas discussing an issue in person tends to be a safer option.

### 和朋友的一次有趣的谈话

Describe an interesting conversation you had with your friend

You should say

Who you spoke with

Where you were

What the conversation was about

And explain why you think it was interesting

My friends and I frequently discuss a range of different topics, ranging from societal issues to more trivial things such as music and sports. With some friends, I am more liable to engage in small talk, but there's one friend I have named Aidan with whom I have some rather interesting

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discussions. He has an interest in historical studies, similar to me, so we will talk with each other about history at length. The other day, I can't remember specifically when, we were having a video chat. We live in different countries now, so video calling each other is the only real convenient way for us to have discussions - we will typically talk at length for hours and hours until we have to hang up. One particular conversation we had recently was about the origins of different countries flags - although I consider myself quite knowledgeable in this field, Aidan is on a completely different level. We were discussing the flag of France, and he was able to explain the reasoning behind such specific details as the colours on the flag. Perhaps some people wouldn't find topics such as this interesting, but I personally found it fascinating and I look forward to the next time we can have such a discussion.

### Part 3

When do children normally form their own views?

From a very young age, children are able to express their likes and dislikes. Even as infants, you are able to understand when they like a certain toy or piece of food, and when they dislike it. This even applies to opinions about people; young children automatically are drawn to certain people, and are wary of others. So I think there isn't a tangible point where we can say that children automatically form views. Besides, children's views are mostly shaped by their surroundings, which is almost always their families and the education system - so whether these views can be considered truly their own is also debatable. It's only upon developing critical thinking faculties that children can truly form beliefs that are their own.

Do children have strong opinions?

I think children are more liable to have strong opinions than nuanced ones. When you are a kid, and are not able to fully critically evaluate the things around you, most situations will appear to be black-and-white. We can look at fairy tales for example - they almost always have simple, easily understood fables at the core of their story. So I guess I would argue that the only opinions children can have are strong opinions - it's either the case that they hold a view, or they don't really care about something at all. As adults, we are almost obligated to hold opinions about everything, even if we don't feel too strongly about an issue whereas children have the luxury of being able to remain neutral.

Should parents request their kids to obey them?

Almost every parent wishes for their child to be obedient, and sometimes I think it is necessary for a child to obey their parent. If a kid is being naughty or rude towards other people, then they should obey their parents wishes and learn how to be more respectful. Most parents would give anything for their child, and only ever make demands if it is in their child's best interest. It is important that people understand discipline and manners from a young age. However, sometimes parents just want to boss their children about and scare them into doing something; I think that this is wrong. There is a difference between an obedient child and scared child, and parents should be careful about that distinction.

In what industries do you think communication is a necessary skill?

I can't think of a single industry where you don't need communication! Regardless of whether you are working in the service industry as a team, or you are a professor teaching students in a college, you will need to have some kind of communication skills. I think it is especially vital when you are teaching, since you need to be able to transfer knowledge verbally upon other people; if you are lacking in communication skills, this will be impossible. But also, people working in any kind of business will find it necessary to be able to communicate and shift whatever product they are selling. Perhaps it is most important in the emergency services - that is, for police officers, firefighters and doctors. Without their ability to communicate, society would probably collapse!



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### 从长者那里学到的一项技能

Describe a skill that you learned from older people

You should say

What the skill is

Who you learned it from

How you learned it

And how you feel about it

Technically, I suppose every skill that a person learns in childhood - or at least a majority of them - will be from someone older than them. On that note, I would like to discuss how I first learned to write in cursive. When I talk about cursive, I am referring to “joined-up” writing, where the letters all connect with each other. As a kid, perhaps 6 or 7 years old, I found stuff like this rather difficult. Even though the content of my work was usually quite high quality, my teachers would complain of the messiness of my writing style. One day, my English teacher approached me and offered me some advice about how to clean up my writing - in addition to this, she gave me a book that contained a rigid template for writing. Every day, I practiced writing letters in between the lines that were laid out in the book and, eventually, I was able to write neatly. After that, learning cursive became quite simple and things all fell in to place. My teacher then marked my homework one day and complimented me on how much I had improved my handwriting technique, so naturally I was very pleased with myself. As a reward, my parents bought me a toy that I had wanted for some months. Unfortunately, as the years have passed, my writing has somewhat regressed, and people once again complain about how messy it is! The difference is that I mostly use computers to write nowadays, so it’s not as big of a deal as it was before.

### Part 3

What can children learn from their parents?

Depending on their age, children learn almost everything from their parents. Not only conventional knowledge, but also mannerisms, common sense and how they treat other people. This isn’t even to mention the importance that parents have on initially teaching their children how to walk and talk. It is a parents’ responsibility to teach children through their own actions; this is why parents should always act kindly and with empathy. Children may not actively take notes on how you treat people, but will process it subconsciously. They will pick up on even the smallest actions of people that they look up to, which of course includes parental figures.

What knowledge can children learn from their grandparents?

Grandparents sometimes act as surrogate parents, so are afforded the same responsibilities. If parents are away due to work, then grandparents will need to fill this role by teaching children how to act around other people and helping out with any needs that they have. However, I think grandparents are typically more prone to spoiling children - which is why it is very important that children spend time with both parents as well as grandparents. When I was a child, I remember my grandparents taught me some valuable life skills such as cooking and cleaning, which I have taken with me even until this day. Grandparents can also introduce their grandchildren to parts of their culture that they perhaps haven’t had access with before - old songs, movies and even recreational activities such as games.

What kind of help do you think older people need?

This question is reliant on how we define old people. Some old people may not need physical assistance, but particularly elderly people might need help with moving from one place to another. As their physical abilities decline, they may also be reliant on other people to assist with



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household chores. I remember my grandmother had a very large garden in front of her house, which me and my brothers would tend to as she found it harder to move around. Older people may also need help with learning how to use new technology, such as computers and mobile phones. While the generational gap is declining somewhat, this is a big problem that few people of my age really consider.

What skills can young people learn from older people?

Most skills that young people learn are usually passed down from their elders. It doesn't matter whether it's a teacher passing down educational knowledge to their students, a sports coach instilling some kind of technique, or even a parent teaching their child how to behave in front of certain people. Young people are reliant on the knowledge and expertise of older people in order to fulfil their potential. Older people, with all of their expertise, are responsible for nurturing skills in the next generation and making sure that their knowledge doesn't disappear with theirs. Every skill to do with my occupation, I learned from people older than me - for example, how to communicate and what specific actions will make people react in a certain way.

### 一件别人送给你的衣服

Describe an item of clothing that someone gave you

You should say

What the clothing was

Who gave it to you

When you got it

And explain why this person gave you the clothing

As a child, I remembered the disappointment of receiving clothes for Christmas. It may sound rather spoiled, and nowadays I love getting new items of clothing as a gift, but back in those days all kids wanted were toys, video games or sweets. So when my auntie bought me a pair of flowery socks one Christmas, I felt so deflated that I almost cried. Of course, this is a massive overreaction, but I do think that it's a rather inappropriate gift. After all, young boys do not typically like flowery socks with cute little decorations on them. Even my parents thought it was a very strange item of clothing to buy for me, so they immediately took it to the charity shop and gave it away as soon as they could. I'm not entirely sure why my auntie didn't at least buy me a more fitting pair of socks, but either way I suppose I wouldn't have been happy with the gift. Now I can look back at this situation with a tinge of embarrassment for acting so spoiled, but I can also laugh at myself. I guarantee that next time I receive a pair of socks from her, I will react with more gratitude.

### Part 3

Have you ever given clothes to others?

Sometimes I have bought small items of clothing such as a pair of socks as a gift. The most recent time I did this was for a friend's wedding - in the UK, we traditionally only offer small gifts as wedding presents, so a gift of some socks with the couple's initials on it is a completely appropriate one. Clothes are easy to purchase and tend to last for a long time, so I really do think they are great gifts to buy someone if you're running out of ideas or aren't wanting to spend a great deal of money. I personally always appreciate being gifted items of clothing too.

Why do people dress casually in everyday life but dress formally at work?

Dressing formally at work is supposed to create a professional environment and a more cohesion as a team - however, many people opt only to dress formally or in uniform when their superiors in a company are investigating. In every day life, when they are away from work, people just

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want to be able to relax and live life on their own terms. Therefore, they might wear something that is unprofessional and casual, but comfortable. It's certainly the case for me - I usually wear very snug and comfy slacks whenever I get a bit of time to myself. With the pandemic though, more people are working from home and therefore their standards of dressing are likewise slipping.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of wearing uniforms at work and school?

The advantages of wearing uniforms are that they create a disciplined, professional atmosphere and a larger sense of unity between colleagues or students. At school, all of us had to wear a uniform and we would be punished for any kind of minor infraction. Although this seemed harsh at the time, it was a good idea in retrospect. As for disadvantages, there are some obvious ones - for example, it is undeniable that wearing a uniform is some kind of infringement upon a person's individuality and means of expression. Also, parents are forced to buy uniform at often extortionate prices otherwise their children are not able to resume studies at school - this can be a major inconvenience for some families.

Why do people from different countries wear different clothing?

People are naturally inclined to follow trends and fashions from their own culture. It only makes sense then, that people from different countries would have vastly different tastes in clothing. Also, clothing is often dependent on weather conditions, which obviously vary from country to country. If you look at the example of a very hot country like Iraq, and compare it to somewhere more frigid such as Iceland, we can understand why they have such stark differences in their dress sense. If you are constantly exposed to sunshine and humidity, you will want loose fitting clothes that might be able to block the sunshine at the same time. Whereas, in colder climates, you will want warm and insulated clothing.

### 特别的蛋糕

Describe special cake you received from others

You should say

When this happened

Where this happened

Who gave you the cake

And explain why it is a special cake

People usually describe me as having a sweet-tooth, meaning that I like to eat a lot of sweet things. As a result, whenever people want to give me a present, they will often opt for something sweet and edible. One of the greatest things I have ever eaten was actually a birthday cake I received last year. My friends all chipped in some money to buy me a delicious pistachio and raspberry jam sponge cake from the most esteemed bakery in my city. I was immediately impressed when I heard about it, since I know that this is not a cheap place to buy cakes from. We were having a meal at a local dumpling restaurant when my friends brought the cake out before me - although they almost dropped it because one of them tripped over! It was a very nervy moment. This cake was special for many reasons. As I discussed before, it tasted delightful. But not only this - it was also a gesture of friendship, since my friends all knew exactly what kind of flavours and textures I would like in a cake. I wouldn't often describe items of food as being particularly special, but I think that this cake is an exception. It was remarkable.

Part 3

What's the difference between special food in China and foreign countries?

It all depends on how you define special food. In China, for example, there are some foods that are typically only eaten on certain festivals such as mooncakes. Foreign countries also have

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various festival-time meals of varying different flavours and purposes. In that sense, talking about special foods of foreign countries is incredibly difficult since there are hundreds of separate countries each with their own unique cultures and cuisines. Having said that, food is put on a very special pedestal in China; Chinese people are every proud of their culinary traditions and each meal that's made here has its own history and story. Perhaps people in China feel more strongly towards their food than people in countries such as the UK.

Is there any food in your country that is eaten at special times or on special occasions?

There's plenty of food in the UK that is only eaten on special occasions, mostly around Christmas time. Of course, the idea of eating Turkey, Christmas pudding and mince pies is something that many people around the world have heard about before. So for this question I want to talk about a bit more of a strange tradition; every year, the UK hosts the Wimbledon tennis tournament. It is a custom to eat strawberries and cream during the tournament since it always falls in the summer when the ingredients are the freshest. This is a tradition that has lasted for over a century and was thought to have been introduced by King George the fifth when he attended the competition.

Why are some people willing to spend a lot of money on meals on special days?

I think that a lot of people in China are more willing to spend large amounts of money on special occasions such as birthdays since they want to make a good impression on other people. The same logic applies to weddings; typically, wedding banquets are usually very expensive considering the quantity of food. Most of the time, people assume that a higher price means better quality, and this is often true; but also people don't want to be seen as "cheapskates". It's a sad situation, but many people care too much about what others think and will go to extreme lengths to show their generosity.

Do you think it is good to communicate when eating with your family?

This is a topic I feel rather strongly about. One huge pet peeve of mine is when people talk with their mouths full of food. I personally find it to be absolutely disgusting and completely graceless. I'm not against discussions at the table at all but, if one really wants to talk with other people whilst eating, then they should finish their mouthful first. In terms of what subjects to discuss, the dinner table is a great place to reflect upon recent events with your family or close ones. But I remember that my parents always enforced very strict table manners - this meant that we could not watch TV whilst eating, we would chew with our mouths closed and we would absolutely never talk with food in our mouth.

### 一首有趣的歌曲

Describe an interesting song

You should say

What the song is

What story the song tells

Whether the song is popular

And explain why you think it is interesting

Music is a passion of mine that I've had ever since I can remember. Therefore, I could list dozens of songs and artists who I feel are worthy of serious listening. The song I want to discuss in relation to this question is called "Emerald" and it is performed by an Irish rock band called Thin Lizzy. On a musical level, this song is fantastic, with two guitars playing harmoniously with each other over a galloping rhythm section that is kind of reminiscent of a marching army, or perhaps horses hooves. The song's lyrics are also meaningful. Thin Lizzy are a band who like to write a lot about Irish mythology and history, and this song in particular details an Irish battle.

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When I listen to the song, I feel invigorated and excited. It pumps me up. Sometimes, I like to exercise to this kind of music, since I believe it fills me with determination. Thin Lizzy used to be a very famous band where I come from, but people aren't too familiar with this song in particular, I don't think. In addition, they are an old band so I think that young people wouldn't opt to listen to them - although I think that their music has aged very well personally. I would strongly recommend anyone who has an interest in rock music or musical composition to listen to this song.

### Part 3

Why are many music competitions popular in China?

China is very fond of musical competitions, particular for singing and classical instruments such as violin or piano. As for the reasons why, I'm sure they are very complex and I can't pin it down exactly. I think that China likes competitions in general and, especially at a young age, society can be rather competitive. Therefore, it only makes sense that this would extend to music as well. In addition, musical competitions have become mainstays on public television since they are cheap and easy to produce in comparison to other kinds of shows - therefore people's tastes have become shaped around it. One thing to note is that I think musical competitions are popular worldwide, even if China does seem particularly into them.

What kinds of music do young people like?

I think we are entering an era where young people feel more comfortable liking a wide variety of music. It used to be the case that people would stick to only a couple of genres, and these genres would be associated with certain kinds of people - however, almost everyone of my generation and the generation after listen to a plethora of different styles of music. Nowadays, I would say hip-hop is probably the most dominant genre among young people, but a lot of kids still like to listen to pop music. Some particularly adventurous listeners may opt for a different style - something like rock or even classical. All of these different genres can appeal to people in different frames of mind.

What kinds of people like traditional music?

People who tend to like traditional music are often people who feel a strong connection with their culture - and this tends to be older people. But I don't think it's only a matter of culture, I also think that nostalgia has a large role to play in older people's preference for traditional music. This isn't to say that young people cannot enjoy it, but I do think that older people who are uncomfortable with the rapid development of society in addition to changing musical styles will tend to fall back on things that they already know. As a result, I think that traditional music is something that's often taught to children, so they usually see it as a form of education as opposed to listening to it for music's sake - this is a backwards way to go about teaching children musical history since they should learn to like it based on its own merits.

What are the differences between live concert and online concert?

I must admit, the concept of an online concert is something rather alien to me and I'm not sure I get the appeal of it. With a live concert, you can see your favourite artists in person and feel the live energy of a crowd who may sing along with you to songs you love. Not only can you witness great music but you can also meet friends and treat it like a social gathering. With an online concert, from my understanding, you will just watch it through a screen usually by yourself. The musicians are playing live but would probably have no audience - so it's essentially like we're watching a musician practice! I would rather just buy an album in that case.

### 走过的很长的路

Describe a long walk you ever had

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You should say  
When this happened  
Where you walked  
Who you were with  
And explain how you felt about this long walk

If I ever need to clear my mind or relax after a hard week, I will go for a stroll around the city I live in. I find it to be a genuinely very peaceful experience, and I would strongly recommend it to anyone who is stressed. However, for this question, I want to talk about a different kind of experience - when I was in school, we would have to go for a sponsored walk for charity every year in the summer. This walk was about 16km long and every year, many students would try their hardest to feign injury and get out of walking. In fact, I tried to do that as well, but I was never successful. In 2010 we were doing the sponsored walk across the countryside, and it started raining very heavily. Many of the students thought that the walk would be canceled and that we would be able to go home, but the teachers insisted on making us walk the entire route. Me and a few of my friends who were walking with me took another 3 or 4 hours to finish the walk, and by the time we got back to the school, we were all soaked. It's a miracle that we didn't catch a cold afterwards. Although I appreciate that this kind of walk is both good exercise and can raise a lot of money for charity, I didn't like the fact that the students had no choice to do it. I think it would have been a better idea to offer the students the chance - after all, they would still get to miss a full day of lessons so many of them would still want to do the walk.

### Part 3

What outdoor activities do people like?

It depends on the person in question, but people like to engage in various outdoor activities. Personally speaking, I love to go hiking and exploring the nature around me. I don't think there's anything better than taking a deep breath of fresh air and becoming more at ease with the world. Some people like to take it further by doing extreme sports like rock climbing or skiing to name just two examples, but this kind of stuff costs money and may not be an option for people who just want to experience the outdoors. Other people don't like the outdoors at all, and they feel that life is much comfier confined within the walls of their home.

What are the differences between the outdoor activities children did in the past and now?

It's assumed that children generally spend less time outdoors nowadays than they did in the past, but I'm not entirely sure that this is true. There were many less resources in the past and maybe children dawdled about more than they do today, but children today are often engaged in a far larger range of outdoor activities and sports due to the opportunities that they are afforded. This could be a popular sport with many resources such as basketball, or it could be something more niche like, perhaps, horse riding. Another big difference is that the outdoor activities children are up to today are generally better supervised than they were in the past, meaning that they are far safer.

Is leisure time important to everyone? Why?

Of course it is! It's impossible to say that everyone has exactly the same opinion about something, but I think you'd struggle to find anyone who doesn't value leisure time. It affords people a hard-earned chance to relax and remove any stress they might have. I do know of some people who take a lot of pride in their work and don't feel comfortable outside of work, but this doesn't mean that they don't value their leisure time necessarily. Even if they don't think that their leisure time is important, we need such time in order to take care of our health, both mentally and physically. I don't think it's a stretch to say that it's essential.

Do women have more leisure time than men?

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I don't think that we can divide the idea of leisure time based on gender. Some women will have more leisure time than some men, and vice versa. Many women that I know work incredibly hard and have far less leisure time than men due to work commitments. Going back to the past generation, a lot of women who became mothers had that extra pressure eating at their leisure time; even when they return to their homes, they still have to take care of a child. Leisure time does not simply mean time away from work, it means time to relax. I can't think of anything less relaxing than raising a child!

### 为了学习另一门语言所做的一件事

Describe a thing you did to learn another language

You should say

What language you learned

What you did

How it helped you learn the language

And how you felt about it

Learning languages is always a daunting task, and something that I find very difficult. As someone who is trying to learn Chinese, which is a completely unrelated language to my native one, it seemed to be an impossibility. If I was left to my own devices, I would probably have made no progress. However, with the assistance of my friends, I have been able to improve my abilities tenfold. Their tactic to help me is a very simple one; all they would do is refuse to speak in anything other than Chinese and, lo and behold, I was forced to use Chinese more! When you start gaining confidence in your abilities, that is when you finally start to become more adept. Ever since we started these Chinese-only language sessions, I find it much easier to learn vocabulary and listen out for difficult words. I still have many issues that will take a lot of time to resolve, especially about the grammar and pronunciation, but I am doing far better than I was before. Whereas I might have previously been nervous to go to restaurants where the menu was only in Chinese, for example, nowadays I no longer have these kind of worries. I feel more and more confident with each day, and hopefully I eventually be able to become fluent, even if I am some distance from that at the moment.

### Part 3

What difficulties do people face when learning a language?

Learning languages is always quite difficult, therefore people will have to confront a range of different issues when they attempt to do so. Even if you have learned lots of vocabulary and correct usage of grammar, you will not necessarily understand the cultural context behind certain words and phrases. One example is when I learned Chinese and accidentally offended someone by saying a word that I thought was completely innocent - it turns out that it's actually a double entendre for something rather rude! However, part of the joy of learning a language is overcoming these kinds of difficulties. Once you start being able to understand sentences you overhear, it makes all the trials and tribulations seem completely worth it.

Do you think language learning is important? Why?

Languages are skills which will always be valuable and important to learn. All throughout human history, translators have been heralded as some of the most important people in society, and it's easy to see why. Without learning languages, we wouldn't be able to understand other cultures and would miss out on a range of different cross-cultural experiences. It seems strange that somebody would limit themselves and not attempt to broaden their horizons; learning a language may be difficult, but it's indubitably an essential skill. Once you have adopted a new language, it opens up a whole new world and avenue for communication with others.

Which is better, to study alone or to study in a group? Why?

Some people prefer self-study, whereas others prefer to be able to share the workload with others.

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I think both paths have their advantages and disadvantages for different kinds of learners. If you are a person who lacks communication skills or are very stubborn with your own ideas, then perhaps it is best that you study alone. When you study alone, you are able to implement all of your own ideas and it's not necessary to compromise with others. However, by working in a group, you can each tackle a specific part of a problem and run through it more efficiently. In addition, someones separate people can come together to create a whole that is greater than the sum of their parts.

What's the best way to learn a language?

If there was an objective answer to this question, then my life would be much easier! Unfortunately, there isn't really one single best way to learn a language; everybody may have their own preferred methods, but different techniques work for different people. Personally, I am a very slow learner and my journey learning a new language hasn't been the most smooth, so maybe my way of learning a language isn't particularly advantageous. Having said that, I do prefer to be surrounded by natural speakers and forced to speak another language - it's the only way I am encouraged to learn, otherwise I may get complacent and fall back on my native language. I personally believe that merely looking at lists of words and trying to remember them through a rote system is incredibly dull and doesn't stimulate my mind enough.

### 成功组织的快乐活动

Describe a time when you organized a happy event successfully

You should say

What the event was

How you prepared for it

Who helped you to organize it

And explain why you think it was a successful event

Usually my organisational skills leave a lot to be desired, so I'm not a person who frequently organises events. I suppose one instance of a successful event that I organised would be a game of football for charity between teachers and students at my old school. Although it took some time to gather an appropriate amount of teachers for this game, I did it almost all by myself and we ended up raising quite a lot of money for an animal shelter. I was in charge of assembling the players for the game, as I mentioned, but I also had to book a football pitch and make sure that enough people would turn up to watch. However, this last responsibility was not too much of an issue, since I feel like the students were very excited to watch their teachers play football. I had a little bit of help for some of the technical issues from school faculty, but only a couple of my peers at school were willing to help me out since they were too busy studying for their exams. On the day of the match, there was a great atmosphere and the game proceeded with no problems whatsoever. I presented the money to a representative from the charity and then everybody was able to go home happily. I have fond memories of it to this day.

### Part 3

How can parents help children to be organized?

When I was a child, my parents used to give me a schedule to fill out with all of my weekly activities in order to increase my levels of common sense and organisation skills. I think that this is an effective method of helping children to be organised, and certainly one that I plan to take with me to the future if I ever have a child. Other than that, parents need to enforce a strict time plan - this means having a child go to bed and wake up at certain times, regularly. Of course this can become more lenient as the child grows, but it's vital not only to help children be organised, but also to help them grow healthier.

On what occasions do people need to be organized?



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People need to be organised in every facet of their life if they truly want to make the most out of it. Strictly regimenting your time and effort where it's most needed can help us to create a healthy balance of work and leisure time. In specific cases, it helps to be organised when you are trying to create a large gathering of people, since you need to be able to cater to everybody's schedules. Another example of an occasion in which organisation is vital is when you are dealing with finances. To elaborate, if you are careless with taking account of where and when you are spending your money, this could have disastrous consequences.

Does everything need to be well prepared?

Being well-prepared is something that everybody should aspire to be. This is especially the case when it comes to qualities such as punctuality. I am certainly a person who prefers events to be organised smoothly and prepared thoroughly; if I am giving a presentation or a talk about a topic, I will always make sure to have at least two back up plans with me in case of some kind of technological or administrative error. On a similar note, I will always arrive at least ten minutes early to an event if it is something that I deem to be important. Not everything necessarily has to be well prepared - if you are casually meeting with a friend, then it's fine to have a more lackadaisical attitude - but it certainly never harms to prepare for things.

Do people need others' help when organizing things?

Some people insist on doing tasks by themselves because of the mentality that "too many cooks spoils the broth". This is understandable, since people always have different ideas about the best way to solve problems. However, I personally appreciate when people assist me in organising things, since it's something I find to be quite difficult sometimes. If it's a truly momentous occasion, like a big party or gathering, then you will absolutely need other people to cooperate with you and help you out. It's impossible to organise meetings of dozens of people, each with different needs and whims, by yourself. In summary, it really does depend on what things we are talking about.

### 还没有实现的抱负

Describe an ambition that you haven't achieved

You should say

What it is

Why you haven't achieved it

What you did

And how you felt about it

I'm not an overly ambitious person, so I feel rather content with my achievements. There are a few pipe dreams that I have, things that I don't think I'll ever accomplish, but generally it's difficult to think of specific ambitions I have that I haven't yet achieved. I suppose one ambition would be to travel across Europe by train. There are obvious issues relating to the coronavirus, but another big obstacle to achieving this is the cost. Unfortunately, it's very expensive and time consuming, so I haven't found many opportunities to fulfil this dream thus far. I think that sometime in the future I will be able to complete this goal, but I have to consider both the timing and the financial impact of it. It will require me having to have time away from my career to go and travel, which is something that many places of work will find unacceptable. I do feel a bit down sometimes that I'm not able to travel and reach my goals due to the pandemic, but in reality I am one of the lucky ones. Many people are in far worse situations than me, so I shouldn't really dwell too much on something like this. Besides, I think that I will eventually be able to do it, probably within the next 10 years.

Part 3

What ambitions do children usually have?



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Children's ambitions can often seem rather outlandish to some adults, in a cutesy and naive way. Many of them dream of spectacular jobs ranging from ones in real life such as astronauts, to less realistic ones such as superheroes. Their ambitions may not be particularly complex or layered in contrast with adults, but they have a charming sincerity to them that adults should aspire to. Many kids dream of becoming jobs that are very useful in society, such as teachers or fire fighters. Parents should encourage these aspirations as opposed to treating them as mere flights of fancy. Outside of career paths, kids ambitions are usually rather short-term and involve the acquisition of items; maybe toys, or maybe something else that they've seen on television.

Why are some people very ambitious in their work?

People who are ambitious tend to go further in their careers than those who are content. I'm not really a very ambitious person by nature so I can't detail the exact reasons why some people are so driven and determined to the detriment of their own well-being. However, ultimately, they may end up reaping very large rewards. A famous example of this is Michael Jordan, the basketball star. He was so famously driven in pursuit of his goals, that he eventually broke to superstardom and has become the most prominent and profitable basketball star ever to live. An unambitious person would never have even made the first step. If you want to be the best possible version of yourself, you need to have some degree of ambition.

Why don't some people have dreams?

I don't know anybody that doesn't have some kind of dream or aspiration for the future. Even relatively content and settled people such as myself eventually wish to go on and do something with their life. I couldn't possibly understand someone not having a dreams - only the most content people who've already achieved everything they've set out to do in life can have no aspirations. But as I don't know anyone like this, it is difficult to detail any further. To be able to have no dreams might be the biggest dream of all, since it would mean that you've obviously achieved everything you've set out to do with your life!

How do people balance work and life?

Being able to balance a work schedule with a life outside of your job is one of the great difficulties of society. It's becoming exceedingly difficult to do so, since many companies prefer to reward those who dedicate more and more time to working; this leads to an unhealthy work culture where people start to feel guilty about relaxing. In order to combat this, some people will insist on clearing their weekend schedule and making sure that they have time to do the things that they want to do. In one extreme example, a friend of mine made sure that he'd leave his work computer in its case all weekend so he wouldn't be occupied with worries about his job.

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