

2022 年 5-8 月

雅思口语题库

Part I

◆ Name

1. What's your name/ full name?
2. Does your name have any special meanings?
3. What kinds of names are popular in China?
4. Is it easy for you to remember people's names?
5. How do you remember people's names?
6. Do you often forget people's names?

◆ Study or Work

1. Are you a student or do you work?
2. What subjects are you studying? / What's your major?
3. Why did you choose that subject?/ Do you like your major?
4. Which subject do you like most?
5. What do you usually do when you are at school?
6. What is your future plan?
7. Do you prefer to study in the mornings or in the afternoons?
8. Are you looking forward to working?
9. What's your job? Do you like it?
10. Why did you choose to do that type of work?
11. Do you miss being a student?
12. What is difficult part for you?
13. Which do you think is more important? Colleagues or work itself?
14. What technology do you use when you study/at work?

◆ Hometown

1. Where is your hometown?
2. Is it a big city or a small place?
3. How long have you been living there?
4. Do you like your hometown?
5. Do you like living there?
6. What do you like (most) about your hometown?
7. Is there anything you dislike about it?
8. Please describe your hometown a little
9. Do you think you will continue living there for a long time?

◆ Accommodation

1. Do you live in a house or a flat?
2. Do you prefer living in a house or a flat?

3. Who do you live with?
4. How long have you lived there?
5. Do you plan to live there for a long time?
6. What part of your home do you like the most?
7. What's the difference between where you are living now and where you have lived in the past?
8. Can you describe the place where you live?
9. What room does your family spend most of the time in?
10. Please describe the room you live in.
11. What do you usually do in your flat?
12. Are the transport facilities to your home very good?

◆ **Advertisements(NEW)**

1. Are you interested in watching TV advertisements or internet advertisements?
2. What kind of advertisements do you dislike?
3. Do you think advertisement influences people's decisions?
4. Do you want to work in advertising in the future?

◆ **Boring things(NEW)**

1. What kinds of things are boring to you ?
2. What will you do when you feel bored ?
3. What was the most boring thing you did when you were young ?
4. Do you think school is boring ?

◆ **Meeting places(NEW)**

1. Where do you usually meet with your friends?
2. Do you think there are some places more suitable for meeting with others?
3. Are there any differences between your favorite meeting places in the present and in your childhood?
4. Why are some meeting places better than others?

◆ **Reading habits(NEW)**

1. Do you read books ?
2. Do you read differently now than you did before ?
3. Have you ever read a novel that has been adapted into a film?
4. How often do you buy a book?

◆ **Talent(NEW)**

1. Do you have a talent or something you are good at?
2. Was it mastered recently or when you are young?
3. Do you think your talent can be useful for your future work?
4. Do you think anyone in your family has the same talent?

◆ **Collecting things(NEW)**

1. Do you collect things ?
2. Are there any things you keep from childhood ?
3. Where do you usually keep things you need ?
4. Would You keep old things for a long time? Why?

◆ **Watch(NEW)**

1. Do you wear a watch?
2. Have you ever got a watch as a gift?
3. Why do some people wear expensive watches?
4. Do you think watch is important for you? Why?

◆ **Computers(NEW)**

1. In what conditions would you use a computer?
2. When was the first time you used a computer?
3. What will your life be like without computers?
4. In what conditions would it be difficult for you to use a computer?

◆ **Old buildings(NEW)**

1. Have you ever seen some old buildings in the city?
2. Do you think we should preserve old buildings in cities?
3. Do you prefer living in an old building or a modern house?
4. Are there any old buildings you want to see in the future? Why?

◆ **Sitting down(NEW)**

1. Where is your favorite place to sit?
2. Do you always sit down for a long time?
3. Do you feel sleepy when you are sitting down?
4. When you were a kid , did you usually sit on the floor?

◆ **Evening time(NEW)**

1. Do you like the morning or evening?

2. What do you usually do in the evening?
3. What did you do in the evening when you were little? Why?
4. Are there any differences between what you do in the evening now and what you did in the past?

◆ **Doing sports (NEW)**

Do you play any sports?

Do you have a favorite sports star?

What's the most popular sport in China?

What kinds of sports would you like to try in the future?

◆ **The area you live in**

1. Where do you like to go in that area?
2. Do you know any famous people in your area?
3. What are some changes in the area recently?
4. Do you like the area that you live in?

◆ **Memory**

1. Why do some people have good memory while others do not?
2. Why do more people rely on cellphones to memorize things?
3. Are you good at memorizing things?
4. Have you forgotten something that was important?

◆ **Daily routine**

- ◆ What is your daily study routine?
- ◆ Have you ever changed your routine?
- ◆ Do you think it is important to have a daily routine for your study?
- ◆ What part of your day do you like best?

◆ **TV program**

1. What kind of TV program do you like?
2. Do you often watch TV program on the TV or your cellphone?
3. Do you like watching the same kind of program all the time?
4. Do you talk with your friends about the TV program you watched

◆ **Websites**

1. What websites do you like to use?
2. Do you spend much time in browsing the websites?
3. What kinds of websites are popular in your country?
4. What kinds of websites would you like to use in the future?

◆ Sports programs

5. Do you like watching sports programs on TV?
6. Do you like to watch live sports games?
7. Who do you like to watch sports games with?
8. What kinds of games do you expect to watch in the future?

◆ Concentration

1. Is it difficult for you to stay focused on something?
2. What do you do to help you concentrate?
3. What may distract you when you're trying to stay focused?
4. When do you need to be focused?

◆ Art

1. Do you like drawing?
2. Do you like to go to the gallery?
3. Do you want to learn more about art?
4. Did you learn drawing when you were a kid?

◆ Emails

1. Do you often send emails?
2. When would you send emails to others?
3. Is sending emails popular in China?
4. Do you think sending emails will be more or less popular in the future?

◆ Dreams

1. Can you remember the dreams you had?
2. Do you share your dreams with others?
3. Are you interested in other's dreams?
4. Do you think dreams have special meanings?
5. Do you want to make your dreams come true?

◆ Mirrors

1. Do you like looking at yourself in the mirror? How often?
2. Have you ever bought mirrors?
3. Do you usually take a mirror with you?
4. Would you use mirrors to decorate your room?

◆ Taking photos

1. Do you like taking photos?

2. Do you like taking selfies?
3. What is your favorite family photo?
4. Do you want to improve your photography skills?

◆ **Cinemas**

1. Did you usually go to the cinema when you were a kid?
2. Did you usually go to the cinema with your friend?
3. Do you still enjoy watching the movies you loved as a child?
4. Do you prefer watching the movies at home or at the cinema?

◆ **Animals and pets**

Did you have pets when you were a child?

Do you like to see animals in the zoo?

What's your favorite animal?

What is the most popular animals in china?

◆ **Mobile phone**

1. What was your first mobile phone?
2. Do you often use your mobile phone for texting or calling?
3. Will you buy a new one in the future?
4. How has the mobile phone changed your life?

◆ **Lost and Found**

1. What will you do if you find something lost by others?
2. Do you report to the police when finding something lost by others? Why?
3. Have you ever lost things?
4. Will you post on social media if you lose your item?

◆ **Time management**

1. How do you plan your time in a day?
2. Is it easy to manage time for you?
3. When do you find it hard to allocate your time?
4. Do you like being busy?

◆ **Street market**

1. What do people usually buy at the street market?
2. Do you prefer to go shopping in the shopping mall or on the street market?
3. What was the last time you went to a street market?
4. Are there many street markets in China?

◆ Cars

1. Did you enjoy your travelling by car when you were a kid?
2. What types of cars do you like?
3. Do you prefer to be a driver or a passenger?
4. What do you usually do when there is a traffic jam?

◆ Weekend

1. What do you usually do on weekends?
2. Did you do anything special last weekend?
3. What will you do next weekend?
4. What do other people in your hometown usually do on weekends?

◆ Colors

1. What's your favorite color?
2. What's the color you dislike? Why?
3. What colors do your friends like most?
4. What color makes you uncomfortable in your room?

◆ Science

1. Do you like science?
2. When did you start to learn about science?
3. Which science subject is interesting to you?
4. What kinds of interesting things have you done with science?

◆ Headphones

1. Do you use headphones?
2. What type of headphones do you use?
3. When would you use headphones?
4. In what conditions would you not use headphones?

Part II&III

一. 人物类 (3New+12Old=15)

1. Describe a family member who you want to work with in the future (NEW)

You should say:

- Who he/she is
- What kind of work you would like to do with him/her
- Why you want to work with him/her
- And explain how you feel about this family member

Part III

1. What kinds of family business are common in China?
2. Is it good to work with family members? Why?
3. Why do people want to do family business?
4. What benefits are there when working for big companies?

2. Describe an interesting neighbor (NEW)

You should say:

- Who he/she is
- How do you know him/her
- What you do together
- And explain why he/she is interesting

Part III

1. Do you think people are familiar with their neighbors?
2. How can people improve the relationship with neighbors in a community?
3. How do children build relationships with others in a community?
4. Is it beneficial to get along well with neighbors?

3. Describe a popular/well-known person in your country (NEW)

You should say:

- Who this person is
- What he/she has done
- Why he/she is popular
- And explain how you feel about this person

Part III

1. What kinds of people are popular at work? Are bosses more popular than employees at work?
2. Which one is more important ? keeping a good relationship with colleagues or doing well at work?
3. What benefits are there when a child is popular at school?

4. Describe a person who contributes to the society

You should say:

- Who this person is
- How you knew him/her
- What type of work he/she does
- And explain why you think he/she contributes to the society

Part III

What job are well paid?

1. What are the changes in working conditions?
2. What are the impacts of the epidemic on the work environment?
3. Do you think younger people should be lower paid than older people?

5. 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

Part III

1. What kind of people are easy to get along with?
2. How do leaders get along with their subordinates?
3. Do people have time for themselves nowadays?
4. Do you like talking with older people and why?

6. Describe a person who you follow on social media

You should say:

- Who this person is
- How you knew him/her
- What he/she post on social media
- And explain why you follow him/her on social media

Part III

1. What can people do on social media?
2. Do older people and younger people use the same kinds of social media apps?
3. Do older people spend much time on social media?
4. Are non-social media like television and newspapers still useful?

7. 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 why you feel about him/her

Part III

1. How do people make friends in China?
2. On what occasion do people like to make friends?
3. Is it important to have the same hobbies and interests when making friends?
what qualities make true friends?

8. Describe a person who impressed you most when you were in primary school

You should say:

- Who he/ she is
- How you knew him/ her
- Why he/ she impressed you most
- And how you feel about him/ her

Part III

1. Why do people always miss their childhood?
2. Are kids happier than adults? Why?
3. Why do people still remember many of their friends from primary school?
4. What kinds of primary school teachers will impress students?

二. 地点类 (2New+5Old=7)

1. Describe an important river/lake in your country (NEW)

You should say :

- Where it is located
- How big/long it is
- What it looks like
- And explain why it is important

Part III

1. How can rivers/lakes benefit local people?
2. Do you think rivers/lakes attract tourists?
3. How do rivers/lakes affect local tourism?
4. Are rivers/lakes good for transport? Why?

2. Describe a quiet place where you like to spend your time (NEW)

You should say :

- Where it is
- How often you go there
- What you do there
- And explain how you feel about the place

Part III

1. Is it easy to find quiet places in your country? Why?
2. Why do old people prefer to live in quiet places?
3. Why are there more noises made at home now than in the past?
4. Why do some people like to use noise as background sound when they are working or studying?

3. 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

Part III

1. Is there anything special about the villages in China?
2. Why do people want to go to the countryside?
3. What do people usually do when going to a village?
4. Do you think people will live in the village in the future?

4. 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

Part III

1. What advantages can tourism bring to a city?
2. Why do some young people like to live in cities?
3. Do most elderly people live in the city or in the countryside?
4. Do you think well-developed tourism will have negative effects on local people?

5. Describe a place you visited on vacation

You should say:

- Where it is
- When you went there
- What you did there
- And explain why you went there

Part III

1. What are some popular attractions that people like to visit in your country?
2. Do old people and young people choose different places to go on vacation? Why?
3. What do young people and old people think about when making travel plans?
4. How do people find out about a new place?

三. 物品类 (4New+21Old=25)

1. Describe a traditional product in your country (NEW)

You should say:

- What it is
- When you tried this product for the first time
- What it is made of
- And explain how you feel about it

Part III

1. Why are traditional products important?
2. Do you think tradition is important for a country? Why?
3. What are the traditional Chinese products?
4. Why is it important for children to learn about traditional products?

2. Describe an invention that has changed the world in a positive way (NEW)

You should say:

- What it is
- What benefits it has brought
- How it influences people of different ages
- And explain how it changed people's lives

Part III

1. What is the most helpful innovation at home?
2. What household appliances make us lazy?
3. What kind of invention can be used at school?
4. Do you think AI will replace human teachers? Why?

3. Describe a positive change that you made in your life (NEW)

You should say:

- What the change was
- When it happened
- How it happened
- Who helped you
- And explain why it was a positive change

Part III

1. Is it easier for young people to change?
2. Is it easy for old people to change?
3. How can people change their daily routine if they want to?
4. What are the disadvantages when people keep making changes?

4. Describe a contest/competition you would like to participate in (NEW)

You should say:

- What the contest/competition is about
- Where the contest/competition will take place
- When it will be held
- And explain why you would like to participate in it

Part III

1. What are the contests commonly seen on TV programs?
2. Why are competition shows popular?
3. What kinds of industries need competition?Why?
4. Do you think it is necessary to encourage people to compete with others in companies?

Describe something you do that can help you concentrate on work/study

You should say:

What it is

How it helps you concentrate

When you do it

And explain how you feel about it

5.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

Part III

1. Do you think people should pay for higher education? why?
2. Is it good or bad for people to have a free education in the future?
3. What free gifts do companies usually give to their customers?

6.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 the house/apartment
- And how you feel about this house/apartment

Part III

1. What kinds of apartments are the most popular?
2. What are the differences between houses that young people and old people like?

3. What are the differences between apartments and houses?
4. Do people usually rent or buy a house?

7. Describe a special cake you received from others

You should say:

- When it happened
- Where it happened
- Who you got the cake from
- And explain why it is a special cake

Part III

1. What are the differences between special food in China and other countries?
2. Is there any food in your country that is eaten at special times or on special occasions?
3. Why are some people willing to spend a lot of money on meals on special days?
4. Do you think it is good to communicate when eating with your family?

8. Describe an interesting song

You should say:

- What the song is
- What story the song tells
- Whether the song is popular
- And explain why it is interesting

Part III

1. Why are many music competitions popular in China?
2. What kinds of music do young people like?
3. What kinds of people like traditional music?
4. What are the differences between live concert and online concert?

9. 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 not live without it

Part III

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

2. Why do some grown-ups hate to throw out old things (such as clothes)?
3. Is the way people buy things affected? How?
4. What do you think influences people to buy new things?

10. Describe a course 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

Part III

1. Why do some people have a better memory than others?
2. Do people like things of memorial significance?
3. Which can help people remember things better, words or photos?
4. Can technology help people remember things better? How?

11. Describe a skill you learn from older people

You should say:

- What the skill is
- Who you learnt it from
- How you learnt it
- And how you feel about it

Part III

1. What can children learn from their parents?
2. What kind of help do you think old people need?
3. What skills can young people learn from old people?
4. What knowledge can children learn from their grandparents?

12. Describe an interesting discussion you had with your friend

You should say:

- What the discussion was about
- What opinions you and your friends had
- Why you think it was interesting
- And explain how you felt about it

Part III

1. When do children normally form their own views?

2. Do children have strong opinions?
3. Should parents request their kids to obey them?
4. In what industries do you think communication is a necessary skill?

13. 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

Part III

1. What are the rules students should follow at school?
2. Are the rules at school good or bad? Why?
3. What rules should children follow at home?
4. How are people punished when parking at a wrong spot?

14. Describe a piece 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

Part III

1. Have you ever given clothes to others?
2. What clothes do people wear at work and for leisure?
3. Why do people dress casually in everyday life but dress formally at work?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of wearing uniforms at work and school?
5. Why do people from different countries wear different clothes?
6. Will people wear the same kinds of clothes in the future?

15. 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 chose that gift

Part III

1. When do people normally send gifts to others?

2. Do people give gifts or red packets on traditional festivals?
3. Is it hard to choose a gift?
4. Will people feel happy when receiving an expensive gift?

16. 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
- And how you feel about it

Part III

1. Do young children like the same stories as older children?
2. How has technology changed storytelling?
3. How do people tell stories to children?
4. Why do children like stories?

17. Describe a difficult decision that you once made

You should say:

- What the decision was
- When you made your decision
- How long it took to make the decision
- And explain why it was difficult to make

Part III

1. What decisions do people usually make in their daily lives?
2. Which is easier, making a decision by yourself or making a decision after group discussion?
3. Why are many young people unwilling to follow their parents' advice?
4. Why would middle-aged people tend to second-guess their own decisions?

18. Describe a toy you liked in your childhood

You should say:

What kind of toy it is

When you received it

How you played it

And how you felt about it

Part III

1. How do advertisements influence children?
2. Should advertising aimed at kids be prohibited?
3. What's the difference between the toys kids play now and those they played in the past?

四. 事件类 (8New+11Old=19)

1. Describe a special day out that cost you little money/didn't cost you much (NEW)

You should say:

- When was the day
- Where you went
- How much you spent
- And explain how you feel about the day

Part III

1. Do people like to spend their leisure time out in your country?
2. How do people spend their leisure time in your country?
3. How does technology affect the way people spend their leisure time?
4. Do you think only old people have time for leisure?

2. Describe something you do to keep fit and healthy (NEW)

You should say:

- What it is
- When you do it
- Who you do it with
- And explain why you think this method is important

Part III

1. How do children and old people keep fit and healthy?
2. What do people normally do to keep fit and healthy in your country?
3. How can parents help and guide their kids to keep healthy?
4. Do you think it is a good way for governments to use the power of idol to help people to build health awareness?

3. Describe an occasion that you lost something (NEW)

You should say:

- What you lost
- When and where you lost it

- What you did to find it
- And explain how you felt about it

Part III

1. What kinds of things do people usually lose?
2. What do people often do when losing things?
3. Is it an effective way to use rewards to find lost things?
4. What kinds of people may lose things often?

4.Describe a time when you helped a child(NEW)

You should say:

- When it was
- How you helped him/her
- Why you helped him/her
- And how you felt about it

Part III

1. Do you often help kids? How?
2. Why is it necessary to do volunteer services?
3. What can schools do to develop students awareness of volunteering?
4. Who benefit more from the volunteer services. the volunteers or the people helped?

5.Describe a time when you were very busy(NEW)

You should say:

- When it happened
- Where you were
- What you did
- And explain why you were busy

Part III

1. Are you often busy?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages when people keep busy?
3. Do you think children should learn through playing games or under pressure?
4. What kind of pressure people may experience at work?

6.Describe something you do that can help you concentrate on work/study(NEW)

You should say:

- What it is

- How it helps you concentrate
- When you do it
- And explain how you feel about it

Part III

1. Why is it more difficult for children to concentrate nowadays than in the past?
2. Do you think technology will harm children's ability to concentrate?
3. What kinds of jobs require high concentration at work?
4. Can exercise help people improve concentration?

7.Describe something that surprised you(NEW)

You should say:

- What it is
- How you found out about it
- What you did
- And explain whether it made you happy

Part III

1. How do people express happiness in your culture?
2. Do you think happiness has any effect on people? How?
3. How can people be happy?
4. Is it good for people to be unhappy? Why?

8.Describe an important event you celebrated(NEW)

You should say:

- What the event was
- When it happened
- Who attended the event
- And explain how you feel about the event

Part III

1. Do you like to celebrate important events? Why? What kinds of events do people usually celebrate?
2. Do people often celebrate events with a large group of people or just a few people?
3. Do people often celebrate festivals with families?

9.Describe a time when you organized a happy event successfully

You should say:

- What the event was
- Have you prepared for it

- Who helped you to organize it
- And explain why you think it was a successful event

Part III

1. How can parents help children to get organized?
2. On what occasions do people need to be organized?
3. Does everything need to be well prepared?
4. Do people need other's help when organizing things?

10.Describe a bicycle/ motorcycle/ car trip you would like to go

You should say:

- Who you would like to go with
- Where you would like to go
- When you would like to go
- And explain why you would like to go by bicycle/ motorcycle/ car

Part III

1. Which form of vehicle is more popular in your country, bikes, cars or motorcycles?
2. Do you think air pollution comes mostly from mobile vehicles?
3. Do you think people need to change the way of transportation drastically to protect the environment?
4. How are the transportation systems in urban areas and rural areas different?

11.Describe a long walk you ever had

You should say:

- When this happened
- Where you walked
- Who you were with
- How you felt about this long walk

Part III

1. What outdoor activities do people like?
2. What are the differences between the outdoor activities children did in the past and now?
3. Is leisure time important to everyone? Why?
4. Do women have more leisure time than men?

12.Describe a thing you did to learn another language

You should say:

- What language you learnt
- What you did

- How it helped you learn the language
- And how felt about it

Part III

1. What difficulties do people face when learning a language?
2. Do you think language learning is important? why?
3. Which is better, to study a language alone or study in a group? why?
4. What's the best way to learn a language?

13.Describe an ambition that you haven't achieved

You should say:

- What it is
- Why you have not achieve it
- What you are doing about it now
- And how feel about it

Part III

1. What ambitions do children usually have?
2. Why are some people very ambitious in their work?
3. Why don't some people have dreams?
4. How do people balance work and life?

14.Describe a time you moved to a new home or school

You should say:

- When did you move
- Where did you move
- Why did you move
- How did you feel about the moving

Part III

1. Why do people move to new home?
2. What problems will people face after moving to a new place? How do people solve these problems?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in the same place?
4. Is it good to move to a new place frequently? Why?

15.Describe a difficult thing you did

You should say:

- What it was
- How you did/ completed it

- Why it was difficult
- And how you felt about doing it

Part III

1. What kinds of jobs require people to be confident?
2. On what occasions should children be encouraged? How?
3. How do you help children stay focused?
4. What challenges do young people face today?

16. Describe a time when you felt proud of a family member

You should say:

- When it happened
- Who the person is
- What the person did
- And explain why you felt proud of him/ her

Part III

1. When would parents feel proud of their children?
2. Should parents reward children? Why and how?
3. Is it good to reward children too often? Why?
4. On what occasions would adults be proud of themselves?

17. Describe a time when you waited for something special that would happen

You should say:

- What you waited for
- Where you waited
- Why it was special
- And explain how you felt while you were waiting

Part III

1. On what occasions do people usually need to wait?
2. Who behave better when waiting, children or adults?
3. Compared to the past, are people less patient now, why?
4. What are the positive and negative effects of waiting on society?

18. Describe a time when you got up early

You should say:

- When it was
- What you did
- Why you got up early

- And how you felt about it

Part III

1. Do you know anyone who likes to get up early?
2. Why do people get up early?
3. What kinds of occasions need people to arrive early?
4. Why do some people like to stay up late?

19. Describe a time when you gave advice to others

You should say:

- When it was
- To whom you gave the advice
- What the advice was
- And explain why you gave the advice

Part III

1. Should people prepare before giving advice?
2. Is it good to ask advice from strangers online?
3. What are the personalities of people whose job is to give advice to others?
4. What are the problems if you ask too many people for advice?