**PART 1.**

1. **Work**

*What do you do?*

I’m currently working as a data analyst for a well-known bank based in Hanoi. I’ve been doing this job for over 2 years now.

*What are your responsibilities?*

Well, I am tasked with collecting, analyzing, and interpreting large datasets to identify trends and patterns. This involves gathering data from various sources like customer transactions and market trends. Finally, I create reports and visualizations to communicate my findings to clients.

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

Honestly, data analysis is a really in-demand field right now, and that was definitely a factor in my decision. The job security and good pay are a big plus. But it's also a field that's constantly evolving with new tools and techniques, which keeps things interesting for someone who likes to learn and be challenged.

*Is there some other kind of work you would rather do?*

Not really, my main incentive is financial gain, so I have no complaints about my job. Besides, I do not have any skills or expertise in any other field of work, so changing careers is out of the question for me now anyway.

*What do you like about your job?*

The fact that it pays well. Also, my coworkers are very professional and competent, and my boss knows how to create a collaborative and supportive environment. And there’s no unhealthy competition inside the organization either, so that’s a plus.

*What do you dislike about your job (Possibly)?*

I can’t think of anything I dislike about my job. As I said, I am happy with the salary and the work environment is better than I ever expected it could be, so really there’s nothing I could possibly complain about.

*Do you miss being a student?*

Sometimes, when I’m burdened with heavy workloads or the pressure of everyday life, I recall the memories of being a student. We were all carefree and innocent back then. It’s a precious time that I cherish.

1. **Family and friends**

*Do you have a large family or small family?*

I have a large family with five members: my parents, my younger sister, and my older sister. We always get on well with each other and have a lot of fun.

*How much time do you manage to spend with members of your family?*

Not much. I work 8 hours a day and usually have to bring home some extra work. On top of that, I like to spend between 1 and 2 hours a day working out so that my body and mind can handle the workload. But it means that I only have around 1 to 2 hours a day to phone my family as we live apart, which, to be honest, is enough.

*Do you have many friends? Why/ Why not?*

Yes, I definitely have a good circle of friends! I am quite open to making friends, so I have made quite a few friends at work and all of them are super nice.

*Do you prefer to be alone or be with your friend?*

It depends. For the most part, I like to be alone. But sometimes I prefer hanging out with my friends. I guess introverts can get lonely too sometimes and want some company.

1. **Weather**

*What’s the weather like where you live?*

The weather in Hanoi right now is quite typical for summer. It's sunny and warm, around 28 degrees Celsius. It can get quite humid as well. I actually enjoy this kind of weather because it's perfect for spending time outdoors.

*Do you prefer cold or hot weather?*

I don’t like sweating in general so I prefer cold weather. But when it is freezing cold, I feel kind of uncomfortable because I have to put on too many layers of clothing and sometimes, I can’t feel my nose.

*Do you prefer dry or wet weather?*

Dry weather for sure. I don’t like getting my clothes wet. And sometimes wet weather makes me feel kind of sad. Being a boring individual as I already am, I don’t appreciate any extra sadness.

*Are you in the habit of checking the weather forecast?*

Not really. I only check the weather forecast before certain occasions, like when I have to attend an outdoor event or when I am about to go somewhere on holiday. I really hate when the weather turns bad when you’re on holiday.

1. **Writing**

*Did you like writing when you were a child? Why/Why not?*

Definitely not. During my childhood, writing was my number one nightmare. My handwriting was a mess, and I could never think of anything to write.

my number one nightmare: ác mộng số 1

*What kinds of things do you write during a typical day?*

I write daily reports at work, usually summarizing key metrics and project updates. They're fairly short and use bullet points, so they don't require a lot of creative writing.

*Do you think the kinds of things you write will change in the future? Why/Why not?*

Honestly, I don't know what the future holds for the kind of writing I do. Maybe with advancements in technology, reports might become more interactive or voice-activated.

*Do you prefer typing or writing things by hand? Why?*

Since my handwriting is pretty bad, typing is my preference. Also, typing is much faster and more convenient. I can easily correct any mistakes. and use many other features available on Microsoft Word to compose different types of documents.

1. **Puzzle**

*Did you do puzzles in your childhood?*

Puzzles weren't a huge part of my childhood, but I remember doing them occasionally, especially crossword puzzles. Those were always a fun challenge, trying to figure out the clues and fill in the blanks.

*Do you like doing word puzzles or number puzzles? Which is more difficult for you?*

It depends on the specific puzzle. I tend to find word puzzles more engaging because I can leverage my knowledge of vocabulary and language. Number puzzles can be very logical and require a different kind of thinking. But in terms of which is harder, I couldn’t really say.

*When do you do puzzles, during your trip or when you feel bored?*

Well, I don’t really do puzzles very often these days, mostly when I was younger. Occasionally I might do a crossword puzzle if I come across one somewhere, like in a newspaper or something.

come across: gặp, thấy.

Ex: I came across that laptop at a shopping mall.

*Do you think it is good for old people to do puzzles?*

Yeah, I mean, they are a great way to pass the time, especially if you’re bored and have nothing else to do. I suppose they’re quite good to keep your mind active, which could probably be a problem for many old people.

1. **Names**

*Does your name have a special meaning?*

Hmm, that's something I haven't actually looked into. As far as I know, my name, Quynh, doesn't have a specific meaning. I believe my parents just liked the sound of it. Maybe I should ask my parents! They might have a hidden meaning they never told me.

*How do you choose names for your next generation?*

In Vietnamese culture, we choose names for our children based on many different things. Parents usually choose the names that are related to good fortune or a certain quality of life that they wish their children would have in the future.

*Are there any differences between how Vietnamese name their children now and in the past?*

Yes, there are! Traditionally, names were structured with a middle name indicating gender, but now parents seem to have more freedom for unique names.

1. **Happy**

*What made you happy when you were little?*

Things that made me happy during childhood were simple things like getting a new toy or meeting with my relatives on special occasions. The other was rainy afternoons spent curled up with a good book. I'd get lost in the stories, imagining myself alongside the characters on their adventures.

*What do you think will make you feel happy in the future?*

While financial security is important, I think experiences will bring me the most happiness in the future. Maybe traveling to different countries and immersing myself in new cultures or learning a new skill like playing the guitar.

1. **Library**

*Do you often go to the library?*

I don’t, no. Everything I need to know for my career I can research for free on the internet, so I have no real need to go to a library. Going to a library to read a printed book seems like an unnecessary ordeal for me.

***an unnecessary ordeal: một thử thách không cần thiết***

*Did you go to the library when you were a kid?*

I went to the library occasionally when I was younger. It wasn't my go-to place for entertainment, but I did enjoy borrowing books for school projects or finding interesting non-fiction reads.

*Do Vietnamese kids often go to a library?*

**Library use can vary among Vietnamese kids. Students in public schools might rely on libraries more for textbooks and study space, while private schools might have better resources on campus. Regardless, many libraries hold fun events for children, which definitely attracts them!**

1. **Morning time**

*Do you get up early in the morning?*

I usually stay up late most nights, so it’s not really possible for me to wake up early. I did try to get up early a few times, but I always felt so sleepy and wasn’t able to concentrate.

*Do you have the same morning routine every day?*

Yes. My work is quite repetitive, and I have no reason or motivation to change my routine.

*Do you usually eat breakfast at home?*

Occasionally when I feel like it, but there are a lot of great breakfast options in my neighborhood, such as Pho, banh my, or banh bao. And I much prefer to buy coffee rather than make it at home.

*Are there any differences between what you do in the morning now and what you did in the past?*

Certainly my morning routine now is different from my routine in the past. Now that I have a job, I usually have a quick breakfast on my way to work rather than prepare breakfast at home like I used to. It’s much easier, and I can’t be late for work.

1. **Tidy**

*Are you a tidy person?*

I would like to think that I am. Even with a busy schedule, I always try to spare a little time to clean my room every day.

*Do you think people should be tidy all the time?*

I do. No matter how busy you are, you still need to be tidy. Being tidy actually helps you clear your mind and reduce stress, which will have a positive impact on on your concentration and productivity.

*Are you tidier at work or at home?*

I am tidy both at work and at home. I believe if you are a tidy person, then you will be tidy wherever you are.

*How do you usually keep your place tidy?*

As I said, I clean my room every day. I admit that there were a few times when I felt immensely stressed out from work and I thought about not cleaning my room. But, being a tidy person, I just couldn’t stand a messy living space. So I used up all of my remaining energy to get up and tidy my room.

1. **Arts**

*What forms of visual art are popular in your country?*

Well I am not particularly interested in art so I am not sure what forms are popular. But my best guess would be ceramic painting, which is one of the oldest traditional art forms in Vietnam.

*Are there any differences between the art in your country and the art in western countries?*

I honestly have no idea since I know nothing about art in western countries. Like I said, I’m not particularly interested in art, and consequently I know very little about art in my country or any other country for that matter.

*Do you want to be an artist?*

I don’t think I have what it takes to be an artist. I have quite a poor sense of artistic value and I have no talent in any kind of art.

for that matter (idiom): dùng để nói câu tuyên bố trên cũng đúng với trường hợp khác.

Ex: I don’t want to learn Chinese or other languages for that matter.

to have what it takes: có năng lực.

Ex: He has what it takes to be successful in Music industry

1. **Geography**

*Have you ever studied geography at school?*

Yes, actually geography is among the core subjects in my school curriculum. Unlike History with its dry subject areas, learning Geography is more fascinating because you can discover some interesting facts, traditions and customs of countries and continents or find out the causes of some natural phenomena.

*Do you like geography?*

Absolutely, I’m into discovering and explaining the formation and evolution of our planet, human beings and other species. Geography lessons at school always keep me on the edge of my seat and I always stay focused on the lesson, listening to all the geographical facts or dealing with the charts and data, which is really like an eye-opener.

*Are you good at reading a map?*

Since I’m a person whose sense of direction is not very good, I’ve soon got used to using Google maps to search for a route while commuting. Having said that, I’m only able to locate myself and find out the way if the map is electronic and written in Vietnamese. Otherwise, I would seek help from local people, which is sometimes more reliable and accurate.

*Would you visit a country because of its geographical location?*

Yes, since I’m a curious person, I always want to explore new places located far from my country rather than our national tourist attractions. It is because I’m familiar with Vietnam’s rich culture and traditions as I really love and admire them, so I want to set foot in stranger places, somewhere in the opposite hemisphere or on another continent.

1. **Traveling on public transport**

*Do you often travel on public transport? Why/Why not?*

Barely ever, except for sometimes when I go on holiday, then I might take a flight somewhere. But normally I just get around everywhere on my motorbike. It’s far more convenient than trying to catch a bus in this city.

*Did you use public transport when you were a child? Why/Why not?*

Not really. When I was a kid, my mom drove me everywhere I needed to go on her motorbike, and I normally just commuted to school by bicycle because it wasn’t too far from my house.

*Do many people use public transport in your country? Why/Why not?*

Yeah kind of. But it’s really quite affordable and convenient to own your own motorbike to get around in my country. That’s how the majority of people choose to travel places. Except for long distances of course. The city is currently upgrading its bus system, as the old buses were quite run-down.

*Will you use public transport more in the future? Why/ Why not?*

Probably not, to be honest. There’s really no incentive for me to use public transport, it’s just too inconvenient. I can ride my motorbike to work in less than 15 minutes. To go by bus would take me twice as long because of having to wait. Plus, there are a lot of pickpockets traveling on buses in the city, so you always have to be mindful of your possessions.

*What’s the most popular means of transportation in your hometown?*

The most common vehicle in my hometown is the motorbike. As I’ve read in a current newspaper, most Vietnamese adults have their own motorbikes. Moreover, I can easily catch sight of motorbikes whenever I go outside.

*How often do you take buses?*

I actually don't take buses very often. The main reason is that I have my own motorbike, which is much more convenient for getting around quickly and easily. Additionally, the bus routes in my area don't align well with my daily commute, making it impractical to use them. So, I rely on my motorbike for most of my transportation needs.

*Can you compare the advantages of planes and trains?*

Obviously, airplanes and trains have their own particular benefits for passengers. Regarding planes, they have been the fastest means of passenger transport invented so far. They enable people to travel all around the world in the shortest possible time. The biggest advantage of trains is their impressive safety record. Accidents are rare, and so people can feel relaxed and just sit back and admire the views from their comfortable seats.

*Is driving to work popular in your country?*

Yes. I’m pretty sure that private cars and motorbikes are the two most popular vehicles in my country. Therefore, it is obvious that there are a large number of people who tend to drive to work.

*Do you think people will drive more in the future?*

Yes, I think so. There will be more drivers on the roads in the future due to the convenience of motoring and the affordable prices of cars.

*Would you ride bikes to work in the future?*

Probably not. While riding a bike has its benefits, such as being environmentally friendly and good for health, it doesn’t suit my needs. The weather in my area can be quite harsh, with heavy rains and intense heat, which makes biking uncomfortable. Additionally, my commute is quite long, and riding a bike would take too much time compared to using my motorbike or public transport. Therefore, I don't think riding a bike to work would be practical for me.

*What will become the most popular means of transportation in Vietnam?*

Personally, I think the prevalence of motorbikes will continue to dominate in Vietnam due to their advantages, namely they are great for getting around quickly, they are easy to park and economical to run.

run down: xuống cấp về chất lượng

incentive (n): những yếu tố khuyến khích giúp thúc đẩy động lực. Ex: Bonus payments provide an incentive to work harder.

pickpockets (n): những kẻ gian móc túi.

to be mindful: đề cao cảnh giác

possessions (n): tư trang, tài sản cá nhân

1. **Housework and Cooking**

*Do you do some cooking/help your family cook at home now?*

No, I don't. I live far from my family due to work, so I don't have the opportunity to help with cooking at home. I usually prepare my own meals or eat out. While I miss family meals, living independently means I have to handle cooking on my own.

*Did you do some house cleaning when you were young?*

Yes, my parents always made me, and my siblings help with the cleaning. Just basic stuff, like sweeping the floors, or tidying up the house, washing the clothes. I think it’s a good thing to teach kids to do some chores around the house. It teaches them about responsibility for things.

*Do you have breakfast at home every day?*

No, only sometimes. There are a lot of convenient breakfast options around my neighborhood, so I usually just eat out in the morning on the way to work. It’s really quite convenient actually. I don’t want to make a big mess in my kitchen every morning before I walk out the door to go to work.

*Do you want to learn how to cook well?*

Not really. I mean, I would like to expand my knowledge in the kitchen because I can only cook basic dishes. But I don’t really have any great desire to be a masterchef or anything like that.

1. **Noise**

*Which do you think is louder, in the city or in the countryside?*

Well, it really depends on which city you are in or which area of the countryside, but generally I would say that cities are definitely the noisier of the two. The countryside is generally a place where people go to get some peace and quiet, you know.

*What noise do we have in cities?*

Well, traffic noise and construction noise are the two main things that come to mind. Construction is probably the noisiest thing I suppose, but peak hour traffic can be quite deafening at times also.

*What kind of noise do cars make?*

Well, firstly you have the engine noise, though if the car is electric then I suppose there is no engine noise. But you still have the noise from the horn which people love to use in my country. That kind of incessant noise just grates on my nerves sometimes.

*What natural sound(s) do you like (the most)? (Why?)*

There is one sound that can lift my spirits, the sound of rain. You know, there are moments when I’m so stressed out and I immediately go online searching for rain sounds, which helps me feel relaxed and calmed.

*Do you mind noise? (Do any noises bother you?)*

Absolutely. Unwanted noises really get on my nerves especially when I’m concentrating on study.

deafening (adj): âm thanh vô cùng to

the horn: chiếc còi.

incessant noise: âm thanh không ngừng

grates on my nerves: làm tôi khó chịu, bực bội

Ex: His manner always grated on my nerves.

1. **Music**

*Do you like music? Why / Why not? Yes, absolutely.*

Who doesn’t like music? I think it’s just one of those universal characteristics of all humans, it’s a part of our soul. There’s always just some catchy beat or lyric, or melody that gets into your head, and you can’t get rid of it.

*What type of music do you like to listen to when you are alone? Why?*

Well there’s not really any particular genre that I listen to when I am alone. It just depends on my mood at the time. If I’m feeling a little relaxed, then I might listen to some jazz music. But if I’m feeling really energetic then I might play some electronic dance music.

*Has the music that you listen to changed since you were young?*

Yeah I guess so. I’ve been through many different phases where I listened to different types of music. Like rap music, dance music, jazz, and many other genres that I listened to over the years. I still listen to some of the same music that I enjoyed when I was young.

*Do you think older and younger generations prefer different types of music?*

Yes. It’s not really common to find older people listening to rap music or dance music. They generally prefer to listen to soft and gentle music, things like classical music, or other music from their time.

universal characteristics: đặc điểm vốn có đã tồn tại từ lâu.

depends on my mood: phụ thuộc vào cảm xúc của tôi

electronic dance music: nhạc nhảy điện tử

phases (n): các giai đoạn

from their time: từ thời của họ

1. **Staying up late**

*Do you go to sleep early or stay up late?*

I tend to be a night owl. I find that I’m more productive during the late hours, and I enjoy the quiet and calm atmosphere at night. It gives me time to relax, finish up tasks, or unwind with some entertainment. However, I know it’s important to get enough sleep, so I try to make sure I still get enough rest.

*What do you do when you stay up late?*

When I stay up late, I usually work on some personal projects or hobbies that I don’t have time for during the day. Sometimes, I read books or articles, especially those that are interesting or thought-provoking. I also enjoy listening to music, which helps me to relax and clear my mind. Staying up late gives me a chance to do things at my own pace and enjoy some quiet time.

*How do you feel when you have stayed up late the night before?*

The next day, I usually feel quite tired and might need to take a short nap during the day. If I can't manage a nap, I tend to have an early night the following evening, going to sleep around 8pm or so.

1. **Weekends**

*Do you like weekends?*

Oh yeah, absolutely! The weekends are the best because I can relax and do all the things I love, like hang out with friends, watch movies, and get some extra sleep. It’s a much-needed break from the hustle and bustle of the week.

*What did you do last weekend?*

Last weekend, I went hiking with some friends, and then we had a picnic in the park. On Sunday, I binge-watched a new show on Netflix and ordered some takeout. It was a pretty relaxing weekend overall!

*What do you usually do on weekends?*

On weekends, I like to sleep in a bit and then usually hit the gym for a workout. After that, I might run errands or do some household chores, and in the evenings, I usually hang out with friends or family. Sometimes we’ll go out for dinner or catch a movie, but other times we’ll just stay in and play games or watch TV.

*Do you usually study or work on weekends? Do you make plans for your weekends?*

It depends on the workload or upcoming exams, but I try to avoid working on weekends if possible. I usually make plans with friends or family, like going out to eat or catching a movie, but sometimes I also use weekends to do some personal projects or hobbies that I don’t have time for during the week.

hustle and bustle: sự tấp nập và xô bồ.

Ex: I had to wake up early in the morning to avoid the hustle and bustle of rush hour traffic on my way to work.

takeout (n): đồ ăn mang về.

sleep in: ngủ nướng.

run errands: đi làm việc vặt.

1. **Singing**

*Do you like singing? Why?*

I absolutely love singing! It’s my favorite way to express myself and let off some steam. Plus, it’s just plain fun, whether I’m singing alone in my room or with friends at a karaoke (ke ri ô ki) bar.

*Have you ever learned how to sing? Who do you want to sing for?*

No, I haven't learned formally, but I do enjoy singing along to my favorite songs in the shower! Maybe someday I'll take lessons and then I could sing for my family on a special occasion. I don’t really have anyone in particular that I want to sing for, I just do it for fun and to express myself.

*Do you think singing can bring happiness to people?*

Definitely! Singing can be a form of self-expression and a way to release emotions, which can bring a sense of joy and happiness to both the singer and those listening. It’s also a great way to connect with others through music and shared experiences.

*Do you often sing?*

I love to sing, but I don’t sing in public. I sing almost every day when I’m alone in my room. I’m not too good at singing, I can’t reach high or too low notes, and sometimes I forget words to songs, but I really get into the music with facial expressions and body movements. I always imagine myself doing some intense singing at a talent show, but I know I can’t do that.

*When do you like to sing?*

Honestly, I mostly feel like singing when I’m feeling emotional and need a way to release my emotions. I also sing when I hear a catchy song or just a song I love!

*Is it difficult to sing well?*

Yes. It is. Even those with a natural talent for singing have to learn the correct technique, which can only really be taught/coached.

*Do you want to be a singer?*

I’d love to, but I am not talented enough to pursue it. Sometimes you have to recognise what you are good at to be able to make your career decisions.

*What kinds of music do you like to sing?*

I sing for myself, and not in front of people I don’t know, so I can sing whatever I like. Mostly I sing ballads, R&B, country, and other genres.

let off some steam: giải tỏa áp lực

Ex: After a long day at work, I like to hit the gym to let off some steam.

express myself: thể hiện bản thân.

self-expression: thể hiện bản thân.

release emotions: giải toả cảm xúc.

1. **Technology**

*What technology do you often use, computers or mobile phones? What electronic devices have you bought lately?*

I tend to use my mobile phone more frequently, but I also use my laptop for work and some entertainment purposes. Recently, I bought a new pair of wireless earbuds, which have been amazing for listening to music on the go and a smartwatch to keep track of my fitness goals.

*Are there any technological devices you want to buy?*

Yeah, I’ve been eyeing the latest iPhone for a while now. The camera on it is supposed to be amazing and I’m in need of an upgrade anyway. I’m just waiting for a good deal before I make the purchase.

*What are the benefits of technology?*

Well, there are a ton of benefits to technology! For one, it’s made our lives so much easier and more convenient - we can communicate with people all over the world instantly, get information on just about anything we want, and automate a lot of tedious tasks. Plus, it’s allowed us to make huge advancements, in fields like medicine, transportation, and energy.

wireless earbuds: tai nghe không dây.

eye (v): để ý, dòm ngó.

Ex: I noticed my coworker eyeing my lunch, so I offered to share it with her

good deal: mức giá tốt.

make huge advancements: đạt được bước tiến triển lớn.

1. **Neighbors**

*Do you think neighbors are important? How can we get along with our neighbors?*

Yes, I definitely think neighbors are important because they can be a source of support and community. To get along with our neighbors, we should be kind and friendly, and try to talk to them in an open and honest way. Small gestures like saying hello or offering to lend a hand can go a long way in building a good relationship with our neighbors.

*Do you think it’s important to have a good relationship with one’s neighbours?*

Without a doubt, I think it’s important to have a good relationship with your neighbors. Not only can they help you out in a pinch, but it’s also nice to have a sense of community and support close by. Plus, having a positive relationship with your neighbors can make your living environment more pleasant and enjoyable.

offering to lend a hand: lời đề nghị giúp đỡ.

go a long way: có tác dụng đáng kể.

Ex: A little bit of kindness can go a long way in making someone’s day brighter

in a pinch: trong trường hợp khẩn cấp.

Ex: I need $20,000 to set up the business, but I suppose $15,000 would do in a pinch.

a sense of community and support: cảm giác thuộc về một cộng đồng và được hỗ trợ.

1. **Chocolate**

*Do you like eating chocolate?*

Yes, I like eating chocolate. It is a delicious treat that I enjoy from time to time. However, I try to limit my consumption of it due to its high sugar and fat content.

*Did you give chocolate to someone as a gift? Did you like chocolate when you were a child? When was the first time you ate chocolate?*

I have given chocolate as a gift to friends and family on several occasions. It is a popular gift choice that is often well-received. As a child, I loved chocolate and would often ask my parents for chocolate treats. I cannot remember the exact moment when I had my first taste of chocolate, but I know it was when I was very young.

*Why do you think it’s so popular?*

Chocolate is popular because it has a delicious taste and can be used in a variety of desserts and snacks. Additionally, it contains compounds that have been shown to have health benefits, such as antioxidants.

*Do you think people use chocolate differently now than in the past? Is chocolate good for our health?*

There may be some differences in the way people use chocolate now compared to the past, as there are now more diverse types of chocolate and chocolate-based products available. However, I believe that chocolate is still primarily used as a sweet treat. While chocolate can provide some health benefits, it is also high in sugar and fat, so it should be consumed in moderation as part of a balanced diet.

from time to time: thỉnh thoảng.

well-received: được ưa chuộng

had my first taste: lần đầu tiên nếm thử.

compounds (n): hợp chất.

antioxidants (n): chất chống oxy hoá.

chocolate-based products: những sản phẩm có nguồn gốc từ socola.

in morderation: ở mức vừa phải.

1. **Jewelry**

*Do you often wear jewelry?*

Opt1: No, I don't often wear jewelry. I prefer to keep my accessories simple and minimal. Occasionally, I might wear a watch or a bracelet, but overall, I find that jewelry just isn't a big part of my daily routine.

Opt2: I prefer to buy simple and elegant jewelry. I usually go for classic pieces like small stud earrings, delicate necklaces, or minimalist bracelets. I find that these types of jewelry are versatile and can be worn with almost any outfit.

*What type of jewelry do you like to buy?*

I don't usually buy jewelry. I prefer to keep my style simple and don't feel the need to accessorize much. If I ever do buy jewelry, it's usually as a gift for someone else rather than for myself.

*Why do you think some people wear a piece of jewelry for a long time?*

Some people wear a piece of jewelry for a long time because it holds sentimental value, like a family heirloom or a gift from a loved one. Others might wear it as a good luck charm or simply because it complements their personal style.

sentimental value: giá trị về mặt tình cảm.

family heirloom: vật gia truyền trong gia đình.

complements (v): kết hợp ăn ý

1. **Birthday**

*What do you usually do on your birthday?*

On my birthday, I usually go all out and treat myself. I’ll go buy a birthday cake and celebrate with a private party with my closest friends and family. It’s a time to let my hair down and enjoy the little things in life!

*What did you do on your birthday when you were young?*

When I was young, my parents would always take me out to a decent restaurant to celebrate my birthday. We would blow candles on a birthday cake and always had pizzas. It was a simple tradition, but it was something I looked forward to every year.

*Do you think it is important for you to celebrate your birthday?*

Absolutely! Celebrating my birthday is a big deal for me, it’s an essential celebration. I believe it’s important to take a moment to reflect on the past year, appreciate the present moment, look forward to the future, and to appreciate the people and experiences that have brought joy to my life.

*Whose birthday do you think is the most important to celebrate in Vietnam?*

I think the most important birthday to celebrate in Vietnam is Uncle Ho’s birthday. Ho Chi Minh was a beloved leader who devoted his life to the Vietnamese people and played a significant role in the country’s independence. He was an inspirational figure, and his legacy continues to inspire generations of Vietnamese people.

go all out: làm hết mình, dành hết năng lượng cho việc gì

Ex: The team went all out for a win.

let my hair down: thả lỏng, thư giãn

looked forward to: trông mong, ngóng chờ

big deal: đóng vai trò quan trọng

Ex: Going to college is still a big deal.

reflect on the past year: nhìn lại năm vừa qua

devote (v): cống hiến

inspirational figure: hình mẫu truyền cảm hứng

1. **Social Media**

*Do you like to use social media?*

Honestly, I have a bit of a love-hate relationship with social media. On one hand, it’s a great way to stay connected with friends and family, but on the other hand, I find myself spending way too much time on it. I probably spend at least 4 hours a day scrolling through my feeds and checking notifications!

*Do you think your friends use too much social media? Do you want to work in social media? Why?*

Yes, I think some of my friends are addicted to social media and spend too much time scrolling through their feeds. As for me, working in social media is not my cup of tea. I prefer to pursue a career in other fields that align with my interests and passions, such as technology.

*What’s the most popular social media platform in Viet Nam? Why?*

To the best of my knowledge, Facebook is the most popular social media platform in Vietnam. It seems like everyone around me is using it, even older folks are getting the hang of it! It’s just a convenient way to stay connected with friends and family. But this year, I guess TikTok ranks the top in terms of popularity and the number of active users because short-form videos are a fun and engaging way to consume content.

love-hate relationship: mối quan hệ phức tạp, xen kẽ giữa yêu và ghét

not my cup of tea: sử dụng khi bày tỏ mình không thích cái gì

Ex: Thanks for inviting me, but ballet isn’t really my cup of tea

align with my interests and passions: phù hợp với sở thích và đam mê

getting the hang of it: quen dần với việc sử dụng cái gì đó

Ex: I had never sailed a boat before but by the third day, I was getting the hang of it.

1. **Snacks**

*What snacks did you eat when you were young? When do you usually eat snacks now?*

When I was young, I loved snacking on fried potato chips and sugary cookies. Now, with my late-night work schedule, I usually grab a healthy snack around midnight to keep my energy up. I might have some fruit and nuts, or some yogurt with berries.

*Do you think it is healthy for you to eat snacks?*

To be honest, I don’t think it’s very healthy for me to eat snacks. They tend to have a lot of calories, and I’m always worried about how it might affect my figure. That being said, I do enjoy a good snack every now and then as a little treat for myself.

big fan of something: rất yêu thích cái gì đó; là fan cứng của điều gì

keep me going: duy trì, tiếp thêm năng lượng để tiếp tục làm gì

Ex: Lost for days in the woods, we had to eat bugs and edible roots to keep us going.

every now and then: thỉnh thoảng

1. **Small businesses**

*Are there many small businesses in the place where you live?*

Absolutely, there are loads of small businesses in my town! Most of them work in retail and you can find all sorts of quirky shops and boutiques. There are also plenty of small businesses in the service field, such as hairdressing salons and nail bars. It’s great to see so many people following their dreams and starting their own businesses.

*Do you prefer to buy things from a small business or large company?*

It really depends on what I’m buying. If I’m looking for something rare or customized, I’ll usually go to a small business. But if it’s something more mainstream and I want to make sure I have a warranty, I’ll go to a larger company. It’s all about weighing the pros and cons and going with what suits my needs best!

work in retail: làm việc trong ngành bán lẻ

quirky shops and boutiques: cửa hàng trưng bán những món đồ kì lạ, thú vị

mainstream (adj): phổ biến, đại trà

weighing the pros and cons: cân nhắc ưu và nhược điểm.

1. **Outer space and stars**

*Have you ever learnt about outer space and stars?*

Yes, I’ve learned a bit about outer space and stars back in elementary and primary school. They taught us some basic facts about astrology, like there are 8 planets in the solar system. But honestly, it’s been a while since I thought about it.

*Are you interested in films about outer space and stars? Do you want to go into outer space in the future?*

Honestly, I’m not really interested in films about outer space and stars. Instead, I prefer action or thriller movies that keep me on the edge of my seat. As for going into outer space myself, I don’t think that’s for me. It seems too risky and I’m perfectly content with just staying on Earth.

basic facts: những sự thật, thông tin cơ bản

keep me on the edge of my seat: khơi gợi sự phấn khích, thu hút toàn bộ sự chú ý

Ex: The excitement of the finale had you on the edge of your seat.

content with something: hài lòng với cái gì

1. **Rain**

*Do you prefer rainy or sunny days?*

Honestly, I’m not really picky about the weather. Rainy or sunny days, both have their perks you know what I mean? Like, rainy days can be super cozy, while sunny days can be so energizing.

*What do you do on rainy days?*

When it’s raining, I tend to take it easy. For example, I might read a book, binge-watch a TV series, or even go for a walk if I’m feeling up for it. It’s good to have a day where you can just chill out and be lazy every once in a while, you know?

*What do you usually do when it starts to rain outside?*

When it starts to rain, I usually take a moment to listen to the raindrops hitting the ground. It’s kind of therapeutic, you know? Then, I check all the windows to make sure they’re closed to ensure that my furniture won’t get wet, and make myself a nice hot drink.

*Do you ever think that rain is good?*

Oh yeah, definitely! Rain can be super great, especially for the plants and all that farming stuff, you know what I mean? And it’s really nice to take a break from all that hot weather and just cozy up inside on a rainy day.

*How does rain affect your life in your country?*

Rain is a big deal in my country. We really depend on it for our crops and our water supply. But sometimes it can be a real pain. I mean floods and landslides can be super dangerous, and the traffic is always worse when it’s raining.

*Is there any part of the country where it doesn’t rain much?*

In Vietnam, there are definitely some regions that don’t get a lot of rain. For example, there are some areas in the central highlands that can be really dry and arid while others are affected by the monsoon winds and can experience heavy rainfall. It really depends on the location and the time of year, you know?

A close up of a paper

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1. **Teachers**

*Would you ever like to be a teacher?*

Honestly, I don’t think I’d like to be a teacher. I mean, don’t get me wrong, I have a lot of respect for teachers and their profession but it’s just not for me. I prefer something more creative instead.

*Do you think you could be a teacher?*

With the right training, I could probably be a teacher. However, I know patience and dedication are crucial, and those are skills I'm still working on developing.

*Did you have a favourite teacher at school?*

Yes, I did have a favorite teacher at school, and he was my English teacher who really inspired my love of reading and writing. He always made the class engaging and fun, and I felt like I learned a lot from him. Even now, years later, I still remember the lessons he taught me.

*Would you say that you were a good student at school?*

I'd say I was a diligent student overall. There were times I procrastinated, but I generally focused on taking my studies seriously.

*Have you ever had a teacher that you didn’t like?*

Unfortunately, I did have a teacher once that I really didn’t get along with. She was super strict and didn’t seem to care about connecting with the students or making the class enjoyable, which made for a pretty unpleasant learning experience.

**A close up of a paper

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1. **Wild animals**

*What’s your favourite wild animal?*

It’s tough to pick just one favourite wild animal, but I’m partial to elephants. I love their gentle nature and intelligence. Plus, have you ever seen how they interact with each other? It’s really something to behold.

*Are there many wild animals in your country?*

So, in Vietnam, you can find all kinds of wild animals like tigers, leopards, bears, and a bunch of different kinds of monkeys. But the thing is, a lot of these animals are in danger because people are destroying their habitats and poaching them illegally. It’s a real shame, you know?

*Have you ever seen wild animals?*

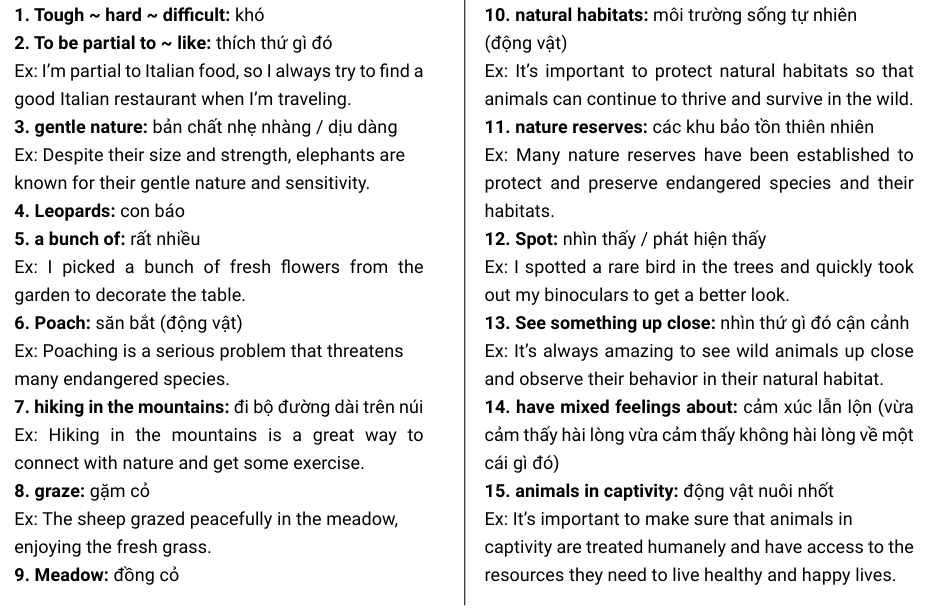
Yeah, I’ve been lucky enough to see some wild animals a few times. I remember one time I was hiking in the mountains, and I saw a family of deer grazing in a meadow. It was really beautiful. I’ve also seen some monkeys in the jungle during a trip to Son Tra Nature Reserve in Da Nang. It’s always such a special experience to see these animals in their natural habitats.

*Where can you see wild animals in your area?*

Unfortunately, there aren’t many opportunities to see wild animals in my area. It’s mostly urban and suburban development, and there aren’t any national parks or nature reserves nearby. Occasionally, I might spot a squirrel or a rabbit in my backyard, but that’s about it. If I want to see some real wild animals, I usually have to travel to other parts of the country or visit a zoo.

Do you like seeing animals in the zoo?

To be perfectly honest, while I enjoy seeing animals up close, I have mixed feelings about zoos. On the one hand, they can provide important conservation and education opportunities. On the other hand, animals in captivity may not have the same quality of life as their wild counterparts.

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1. **Bags**

*Do you like bags?*

Yeah, I’m a massive fan of bags. I mean, they can be super useful, right? Like, you can throw all your stuff in there and be on your way. Plus, there are so many different styles and designs out there, it’s hard not to like them!

*Do you have different bags for different occasions?*

Not really. I tend to stick to one everyday bag that's versatile enough for most situations. It works well unless I'm traveling, then I switch to my bigger, more comfortable backpack.

*Do you usually carry a bag when you go out?*

Not always. If I’m just running out to grab something quick, I usually don’t bring a bag with me. But if I’m going to be out for a while, I’ll usually bring a bag just in case.

*What do you put in your bag?*

Let’s see... I always have my phone, wallet, keys, and some kind of lip balm or chapstick with me. Depending on where I’m going, I might also have my makeup bag, a book, or some snacks. You know, just in case.

*When you are buying a new bag, what factors do you consider?*

Honestly, I don’t really think about it too much. If I need a new bag, I’ll just go out and buy one. I guess I look for something that’s practical and not too expensive, but other than that, I don’t really have any specific factors in mind.

1. **Keeping healthy**

*In what ways do you try to stay healthy?*

Yeah, so I try to stay healthy by eating well and working out. I like to make sure I’m eating lots of good stuff like fruits, veggies, and whole grains, and staying away from junk food and sugary drinks. And I also like to get active with running, you know, to keep my weight in check.

*What do you think is more important, eating healthy or doing exercise?*

I think they're both equally important for different reasons. Eating right gives your body what it needs to function properly; while working out keeps you fit and helps your heart’s health. So, it’s really about finding a balance between the two.

*What part of your lifestyle would you most like to make healthier?*

If there’s one thing I’d like to work on, it’s getting more sleep. I know it’s important for both physical and mental health, but I always seem to put it off. I want to get into a better routine with my sleep, so I’m getting enough rest every night.

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1. **Learning Languages**

*What foreign languages have you studied?*

I'm currently studying English. It's been a challenging but rewarding experience, and I'm excited to use it to watch English movies without subtitles or understand technical documents.

*Would you like to learn any new languages?*

Learning a new language is such a rewarding experience! It opens doors to new cultures and opportunities. I'm definitely interested in exploring that path in the future.

*Did you study a foreign language when you were at school?*

Oh yeah, I remember studying English back in the day. It was actually mandatory at my school, so we had to take classes on grammar, vocab, and reading comprehension. Honestly, it could be a bit tough at times, but looking back, I’m really grateful for that experience, cause it definitely helped me improve my language skills.

*Do you find it difficult to learn new languages?*

Honestly, learning a new language can be a bit of a challenge, but I don’t think it’s all that difficult if you’re willing to put in the work. Consistent practice and dedication are key, and it really helps to immerse yourself in the language and culture as much as possible. And it’s okay to make mistakes along the way, you just gotta keep pushing forward with a positive attitude.

reading comprehension: đọc hiểu

1. **Dreams**

*Do you remember your dream when you wake up?*

Sometimes I remember my dreams when I wake up, but other times they just disappear from my memory. It’s like they fade away, you know.

*Do you like hearing about others’ dreams?*

I think hearing about other people’s dreams can be pretty cool, especially if they’re bizarre or wild. But I also feel like some people go on and on about their dreams, and I’m like, “Okay, I get it, you had a dream about flying, move on.”

*Have you told others about your dreams?*

Oh yeah, I’ve definitely told close friends about my dreams. Some of them are just too interesting or too weird not to share. Plus, I feel like dreams can tell you a lot about yourself and your subconscious mind, so it’s kind of like free therapy.

**A screenshot of a computer

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1. **Ambitions**

*What are your career ambitions or goals?*

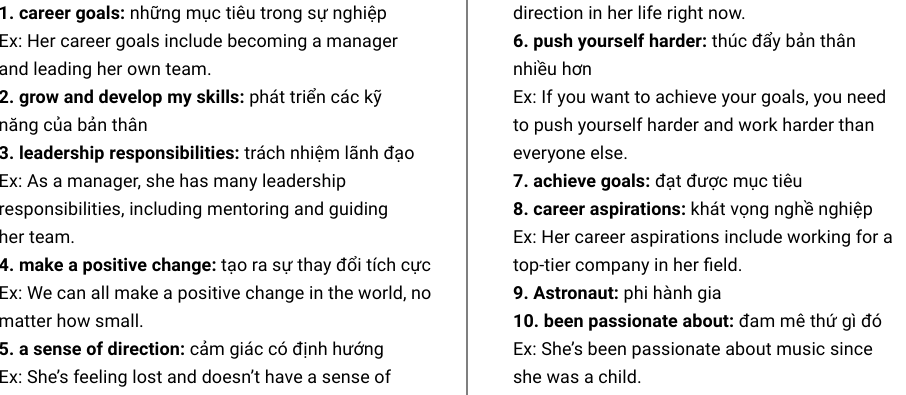
As for my career goals, I’d love to become a boss lady and run my own successful business. I’m also keen on continuing to grow and develop my skills in my current industry and take on more leadership responsibilities. My ultimate ambition is to make a positive change in the world and leave a lasting impact.

*Is it important to have ambitions?*

I believe having ambitions is super important because it gives you something to work towards and a sense of direction. It can motivate you to push yourself harder and achieve your goals. Having clear ambitions can also help you feel fulfilled in both your career and personal life.

*What were your ambitions when you were a child?*

When I was a kid, I had a lot of different career aspirations. At different times, I wanted to be a doctor, a teacher, a writer, and even an astronaut. As I grew older, my interests and goals changed, but I’ve always been passionate about learning and making a positive impact.

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1. **Ice Cream**

*Do you like ice cream?*

I’m a big fan of ice cream. It’s the perfect way to cool off on a hot day or when I need a little pick-me-up. Plus, you can do so much with it - put it in a cone or a bowl, add some toppings, or even make a sundae out of it!

*How often do you eat ice cream?*

Hmm, I don’t eat ice cream every day, but I’d say I indulge in it a few times a month. It really depends on the season and how I’m feeling. If I’m in the mood for something sweet and creamy, then ice cream is definitely on the menu.

*What flavour of ice cream is your favourite?*

If I had to choose a favorite flavor, I’d say it’s a tie between mint chocolate chip and cookies and I don't have a single favorite flavor, because I appreciate the variety that ice cream offers. Sometimes I crave something fruity, while other times I'm in the mood for something chocolatey.

*Why do you think so many people like ice cream?*

I mean, who doesn’t love ice cream, right? It’s just such a classic and comforting dessert that brings people together. I think the fact that it’s so customizable and versatile is a big part of its appeal. Plus, it’s a great way to indulge a little and treat yourself.

*Did you like ice cream when you were younger?*

Oh yeah, I was definitely a fan of ice cream as a kid. I remember going to the ice cream truck with my friends and trying to decide which flavor to get. Now that I’m older, I still enjoy it just as much - it’s like a little taste of childhood whenever I have some.

**A screenshot of a paper

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1. **Concentration**

*Do you find it difficult to stay focused?*

Absolutely, sometimes it’s so hard to stay focused! There are just too many distractions around me sometimes. I mean, it’s easy to get sucked into social media or whatever, you know? But I try to remind myself to buckle down and get to work.

*What can you do to improve your concentration?*

When I need to concentrate, I find it helpful to take short breaks every now and then to clear my head. Additionally, I turn off all notifications on my phone and computer to avoid distractions. Staying hydrated is also important for maintaining mental focus.

*When do you find it hard to concentrate on something?*

Well, concentration can be tough when you’re feeling stressed or anxious. And if it’s super noisy around me, forget about it! When that happens, I just try to take some deep breaths and stay chill.

*In what situations do you need to concentrate?*

Concentration is key when you’re doing something that requires a lot of attention, like writing reports or analyzing data. And in important meetings or presentations, you definitely need to stay focused so you can participate fully.

It kind of depends on what I’m doing, you know? Like, listening to music while working out is easy, but driving and texting is a no-go. Usually, it’s better to just focus on one thing at a time instead of trying to multitask.

**A paper with text on it

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1. **Friends**

*What do you do together with your friends?*

I love hanging out with my friends and we do all sorts of things together. We might hit up a restaurant or catch a movie, or if we’re feeling active, we’ll play some sports. We’re always down to try something new too, like going to a concert or taking a class to learn a new skill.

*Do you prefer to have a big or small group of friends?*

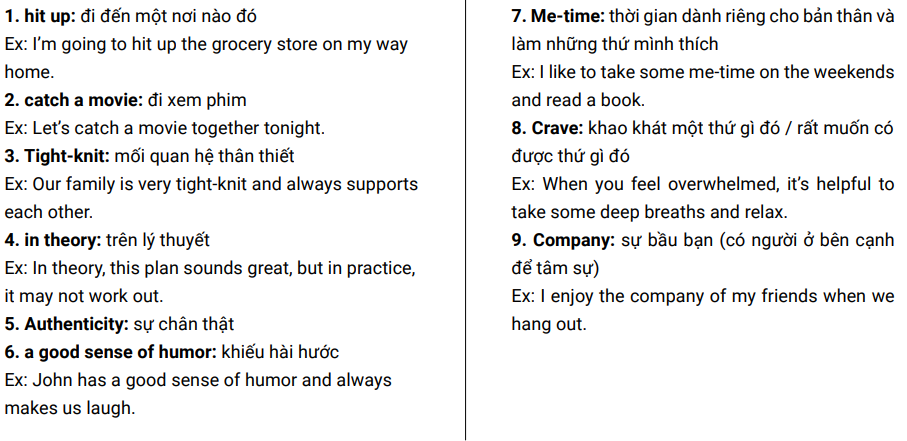
Personally, I’d rather have a small group of tight-knit friends that I can really connect with. Having a ton of friends sounds cool in theory, but it’s hard to maintain those relationships and really get to know people on a deeper level.

*What kinds of people do you like to have as friends?*

When it comes to friends, I’m all about kindness, authenticity, and support. I think it’s important to have friends who are genuine and who will be there for you when you need them. Plus, a good sense of humor never hurts!

*Do you prefer to spend time alone or with friends?*

Honestly, I’m pretty flexible when it comes to spending time alone or with friends. Sometimes I need some me-time to recharge and focus on my own thing, but other times I’m craving some company and good conversation. It really depends on my mood and what I have going on at the time.

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1. **Favorite day**

*Which day is your favorite day?*

It's hard to pick a single favorite day of the week, as it really depends on my workload. But I do love it when I have some free time to just chill out and do things I love.

*How do you usually spend your time on your favorite day?*

When I have a free day, I usually spend it doing things that help me relax and recharge. I might curl up with a good book for a few hours, completely lost in the story. Or, I might enjoy a long walk in nature, taking in the fresh air and clearing my head.

*What do you want to do on your next favorite day?*

For my next fave day, I’m totally down to travel somewhere new and check out the local scene. I love trying new things and experiencing new cultures, so it would be a great way to spend the day.

chill out: nghỉ ngơi thư giãn

Ex: Let’s just chill out and watch a movie tonight.

going for a walk: đi dạo

Ex: I like going for a walk in the park to clear my mind.

be down to do something: sẵn sàng hoặc háo hức làm một cái gì đó.

Ex: Are you down to grab a drink after work?

local scene: khung cảnh địa phương

1. **Days off**

*What do you do on your day off?*

On my day off, I usually like to relax and recharge. I might sleep in a bit, catch up on some TV shows or movies, or spend time outdoors if the weather is nice. I also enjoy spending time with friends and family, so I might plan lunch or dinner with them.

*Do you prefer to spend your days off with your parents or with your friends?*

As much as I love spending time with my parents, I think I prefer to spend my days off with my friends. I enjoy being social and trying new things, and my friends are often up for spontaneous adventures or activities. That being said, I do make sure to schedule regular visits and quality time with my family as well.

*Do you want to have more days off?*

I wouldn’t mind having more days off, but I also understand the importance of work and productivity. I think it’s all about finding a balance and making the most of the time you have, whether it’s at work or during your time off.

**A close up of a text

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1. **Fixing things**

*Do you often fix things in your home?*

I do enjoy fixing things around my home, but it really depends on the situation. Sometimes I’ll try to fix things myself, while other times I’ll call in a professional. I would say that I’m decent at fixing things, but I’m definitely not an expert. I mean I have some basic knowledge of how things work, and I’m not afraid to get my hands dirty and try to figure things out.

*What kinds of things do you have to fix?*

Well, I’ve had to fix a variety of things in my home over the years, from minor plumbing issues to broken appliances. I also enjoy doing small DIY projects, like painting or assembling furniture.

*Who taught you how to fix things?*

To be honest, I learned how to fix things by messing up a lot and then learning from my mistakes. I also watch videos on YouTube and ask my buddies for advice when I’m really stuck.

*Do you often break things in your home?*

Yeah, accidents happen, and sometimes I do break things at home, but I try to be careful and take good care of my belongings. When something does break, I’ll do my best to fix it or replace it if necessary.

**A close up of a paper

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1. **Riding a bike**

*Did you have a bike when you were young?*

Absolutely, I had a bike when I was a kid. It was my ticket to freedom, you know? I’d cruise around the neighborhood with friends, exploring every nook and cranny. It was like my own little adventure on two wheels if you know what I mean.

*Did you ride a bike to school?*

Yep, riding a bike to school was a regular thing for me back in the day, and to be honest, it was like a daily race to get there on time. Sometimes, I’d even challenge my friends to see who could pedal the fastest, which was wild if you ask me.

*How old were you when you learned how to ride a bike?*

I was around seven years old when I learned how to ride a bike. My older sister gave me a hand me-down bicycle, and after a few wobbly tries, I finally got the hang of it. Not gonna lie, it was a moment of sheer joy.

*Do you ride a bike now?*

Nowadays, I don’t ride a bike as often as I used to. I live in a city where traffic can be pretty chaotic, so I mainly use public transportation or walk. However, I still enjoy an occasional bike ride on the weekends for some exercise and relaxation.

*Are bikes popular in your country?*

Absolutely, bikes are quite popular in Vietnam. They’re a common mode of transportation, especially in smaller towns and rural areas. Many people use them for their daily commute, and you’ll often see bike racks filled with them in the city centers.

1. **Fishing**

*Is fishing a good hobby?*

Well, fishing can be a great hobby, depending on your interests. Some people find it incredibly relaxing to sit by the water, cast their line, and wait for a nibble. It’s a bit like a “slow and steady wins the race” kind of pastime, where patience is key.

*Do you like eating fish?*

Oh, I definitely enjoy eating fish. There’s something about a well-cooked fish dish that’s both delicious and healthy. It’s like a win-win for your taste buds and your body.

*Have you ever been to a place where there are lots of fish around you?*

Yes, I’ve had the pleasure of visiting places where fish are abundant. Snorkeling in crystal clear waters surrounded by colorful fish is like entering a different world. It’s a breathtaking experience.

*Is fishing popular in your country?*

Absolutely, fishing is a pretty popular pastime in my country. With a coastline and numerous lakes and rivers, there are plenty of opportunities to cast a line and reel in a catch, and I think it’s also a great way to get close to nature.

*Why do people like keeping fish as pets?*

In my opinion, people keep fish as pets for various reasons. One of the main reasons is their calming presence. I mean watching fish swim gracefully in an aquarium can be incredibly soothing and therapeutic for some.

1. **Robots**

*Are robots important?*

Robots? Yeah, they’re kinda a big deal these days. They’re like the unsung heroes behind a lot of stuff we use, from making our gadgets to building cars. So yeah, I’d say they’re pretty important.

*How can robots affect people’s lives?*

Well, robots can totally change the game in our lives. They’re doing jobs that are boring or dangerous, so it’s like a win-win. Like, they could help out in hospitals or even handle deliveries, making life more convenient.

*Are you interested in robots?*

Yeah, I’ve got some interest in robots. The way they blend with our daily lives is fascinating.It’s like seeing science fiction become reality.

*Would you like robots to work in your home?*

Having robots do chores at home? Why not! I mean, who wouldn’t appreciate a robot that can take care of cleaning and cooking? It’s like having a household helper.

*Would you like to use a car driven by a robot?*

Yeah, the idea of using a car driven by a robot sounds kinda cool. I mean, it’s like having your own personal driver that doesn’t get tired or distracted, right? It could be a game-changer for road safety, and you could even catch up on some reading or just chill during the commute. Of course, I’d have some questions about how it all works and the safety measures in place, but overall, it’s an intriguing concept. So yeah, I’d give it a shot.

*Do you use robots in your daily life?*

Yes, I use Siri on my Iphone on a daily basis. It could be considered a robot, though not a very smart one. It performs tasks and seeks information that you request. You could ask it almost any question and it would do its best to find an answer.

1. **Gifts**

*What kinds of gifts are popular in your country?*

Well, in Vietnam, gifts can vary quite a bit depending on the occasion. For major celebrations like the Lunar New Year (Tet), it’s common to give gifts like food, fruit baskets, or even lucky money in red envelopes (called “li xi”). For birthdays and other celebrations, people often go for thoughtful presents like flowers, chocolates, or maybe something personal like a custom-made item.

*What’s the best gift you’ve ever received?*

Oh, that’s a tough one. You know, I’ve received some really thoughtful gifts over the years. But if I had to pick the best, it would probably be the surprise birthday party my friends threw for me a couple of years ago. It wasn’t a material gift, but the effort and love they put into organizing it made it incredibly special.

*Are you good at choosing gifts for other people?*

Well, I guess I’m not too bad at picking out gifts for others. I always try to pay attention to what they’re into and what might bring a smile to their face. It’s all about showing that you care, right? Of course, there have been times when I’ve missed the mark, and the gift didn’t quite land as expected. But hey, it’s all part of the fun, and sometimes those “misses” turn into funny stories.

*Do you like giving expensive gifts?*

Well, you know, giving expensive gifts can be nice on special occasions, but it’s not always about the price tag. It’s more about the thought and meaning behind the gift. Sometimes, a small, thoughtful gesture can mean just as much, if not more, than something expensive. Plus, it’s important to consider your budget and what you can comfortably afford.

*How often do you buy other gifts?*

While I don't give gifts every time, I do try to give thoughtful presents for birthdays, holidays, or other special milestones.

*What kinds of gifts are popular in your country?*

Birthday gifts, such as books, clothes or accessories are always popular. Or teddies; when I was in secondary school and high school, we used to send each other teddies or photo frames as birthday gifts.

*Why do people send gifts?*

I think people send gifts to show that they care for the other party and that they treasure the relationship between the two. It can be more specific, like to express their affection, gratitude, or even to ask for forgiveness.

1. **Running**

*Do you like running?*

Yeah, I’m into running. It’s a great way to stay active and clear your mind. I wouldn’t call myself a marathon runner or anything, but a nice jog in the park or around the neighborhood can be pretty refreshing. Plus, it’s a good excuse to enjoy some fresh air and maybe even some good tunes on the headphones.

*How often do you go for a run?*

I don’t have a super strict routine, but I try to go for a run a few times a week. It really depends on how busy life gets and what the weather’s like. On a good week, you might catch me lacing up my running shoes three or four times, you know, just to stay active and keep things fresh.

*Where do you usually go running?*

I usually keep it simple with my running spots. Most of the time, you’ll find me hitting the pavement in my neighborhood. It’s convenient, and I know the routes well, which makes it easy to just lace up and go.

*Do you think running is a good way to stay healthy?*

Yeah, I think running can be a pretty solid way to stay healthy. It’s like a straightforward, no-frills workout that gets your heart pumping and those legs moving. It’s not just about physical health; it can also do wonders for your mental well-being. There’s something therapeutic about pounding the pavement and having time to think or clear your head.

*Where do you think is a good place to run?*

Without a doubt, parks are the most ideal for runs. Since a larger amount of oxygen is needed when running, it is better to run inside a place where the air is fresh and has enough oxygen rather than polluted with carbon dioxide.

A page of a book

Description automatically generated

1. **Films**

*Do you like to watch films?*

I absolutely love watching movies. It is a way to experience how others live. Each of us can only have one life but we can experience so many different lifestyles in movies. It is kind of temporarily putting oneself into another world.

*Do you prefer foreign films or Vietnamese films?*

I’m much more into imported films rather than domestically produced ones, because of a thing called cultural exposure. People in different countries have different cultural norms and ideas that come across in their film-making. To me, that’s important for broadening our horizons.

*What kind of films do you like?*

I’m pretty easygoing when it comes to films. I enjoy a wide range of genres, depending on my mood. Sometimes, I’m up for a good action-packed blockbuster, you know, the kind that gets your heart racing. Other times, I’ll dive into a thought-provoking drama that makes me reflect on life.

*Do you often go to the cinema?*

I used to hit the cinema quite often before the whole pandemic situation. It was a fun way to catch the latest releases on the big screen, and enjoy some popcorn. But lately, I’ve been more into streaming movies at home, you know, cozying up on the couch with snacks. It’s just more convenient, you know.

*Do you prefer to watch films alone or with friends?*

Well, it really depends on the situation. If I’m in the mood for some me-time and want to fully dive into a movie, then watching alone is the way to go. It’s like having my own little cinematic adventure. But you can’t beat the fun of watching with friends, especially for movies that are meant to be shared. It’s a different kind of experience, and it can make even a mediocre movie feel like a good time.

*Would you want to make a film someday?*

Yeah, the idea of making a film sounds pretty cool. I’ve dabbled in making some short videos and stuff like that, but a full-length film would be a whole different thing, you know. Anyways, while I don’t have any concrete plans at the moment, I wouldn’t rule it out in the future.

**A close up of a paper

Description automatically generated**

1. **Tea and coffee**

*Are tea and coffee popular in your country?*

Oh, absolutely, tea and coffee are like daily essentials in Vietnam. Coffee, in particular, is a big deal. We’ve got our own unique style, like the famous Vietnamese iced coffee, with condensed milk, and you’ll find coffee shops on practically every corner. It’s a social thing too; people often gather at cafes to catch up or just chill.

*Do you often drink tea or coffee with your friends?*

Oh, for sure, sharing a cup of tea or coffee with friends is a regular thing here. It’s like a cozy ritual. We might meet up, at a café or just interconnected, our world really is. So, yeah, it was a pretty cool subject to dive into.

*When was the last time you drank tea or coffee?*

Well, I drink coffee on a frequent basis, for the sake of my hectic schedule. Yesterday, I made myself a cup of coffee to prepare for the demanding working deadline. Honestly, I want to break the habit of overusing coffee, but given my demanding workload, that prospect seems out of the question, at least at the moment. It turns out that early morning coffee drinkers should also consider adjusting their schedule to better optimize their caffeine intake. The best times to drink coffee — or caffeine in general — is between 10 a.m. and noon, and between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

1. **Music instruments**

*Have you ever learned to play a musical instrument?*

Oh yeah, I’ve dabbled in playing a musical instrument. When I was younger, I took some guitar lessons, and it was a fun experience. Learning those chords and strumming patterns was like unlocking a new language.

*What musical instruments do you enjoy listening to the most?*

I’m pretty open when it comes to musical instruments, but if I had to pick favorites, I’d say the piano, guitar, and violin are the ones I enjoy listening to the most.

*Do you think children should learn to play an instrument at school?*

Yeah, I think it’s a great idea for children to have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument at school. It’s not just about music; it can teach them valuable life skills like discipline, patience, and the joy of creative expression. Plus, it’s a fun way to discover and nurture their talents. And who knows, it might even spark a lifelong passion for music.

*Do you think music education is important for children?*

Oh, absolutely, I think music education(7) is really important for kids. It’s not just about learning to play an instrument or sing; it’s about so much more. Music can be like a gateway to creativity, helping children develop their imagination and self-expression.

Dabbled in: Thử làm một việc gì đó, tìm hiểu một chút

1. **Maps**

*When was the first time you used a map?*

Oh, I think I first used a map back in elementary school during a geography lesson. It was one of those classic moments where the teacher had a big map on the classroom wall and started explaining all about countries, continents, and all that good stuff.

*Did you learn how to use a map when you were a child?*

Yeah, I learned how to use a map when I was a child. It was part of the whole elementary school experience during geography lessons. I remember being shown how to read a map, understand symbols and legends even plot routes.

*Are you good at reading maps?*

I’d say I’m pretty decent at reading maps. I mean, I can navigate my way around with a map, whether it’s a paper one or a digital version on my phone. It’s like a handy skill to have, especially when traveling or hiking.

*Do you prefer electronic or paper maps?*

I think I prefer electronic maps these days. They’re just so convenient, right at your fingertips on your smartphone or GPS device. You can zoom in get real-time updates and even search for specific locations with ease.

*How did you learn to use (or read) a map?*

When I get older, I actually figured it out myself. In fact, nearly every map is well-designed and tends to be self-explanatory, with common symbols and images. Using a map is such a necessary life skill, so whenever I’m free from work, I try to learn new things about them.

1. **Chatting**

*Do you like chatting with friends?*

Oh, absolutely, I love chatting with friends. It’s like one of life’s simple pleasures, you know? Catching up sharing stories, and just enjoying each other’s company—it’s all part of what makes friendships special.

*What do you usually chat about with friends?*

Well, when it comes to chatting with friends, it’s pretty much an open book. We talk about all sorts of stuff, from the latest movies or TV shows we’re binge-watching to sharing funny stories and memes we’ve come across online.

*Do you prefer to chat with a group of people or with only one friend?*

I’m pretty flexible, so I enjoy both group chats and one-on-one conversations. Group chats are fun for social moments, while one-on-one chats allow for more personal and meaningful discussions. It depends on the context and my mood.

*Do you prefer to communicate face-to-face or via social media?*

I appreciate both face-to-face and social media communication, and it depends on the situation. I mean face-to-face interactions are wonderful for that genuine personal connection. On the other hand, social media is great for staying in touch with friends and family, especially when they’re far away. So yeah, I wouldn’t say I prefer one over the other.

*Have you ever argued with your friends?*

Oh, absolutely, arguments happen in friendships from time to time. It’s like a natural part of any close relationship. Friends can have different opinions, and disagreements are bound to occur. But the thing is, arguments with friends can also be opportunities for growth. They allow us to better understand each other, learn from different perspectives, and sometimes even strengthen the friendship.

Bound to occur: Chắc chắn xảy ra

Ex: When you have a diverse group of people working together, conflicts are bound to occur occasionally.

1. **Clothes**

*What kind of clothes do you like to wear?*

I’m pretty relaxed when it comes to clothing, but I do have my preferences. I love comfortable casual wear, like jeans and a comfy t-shirt for everyday activities. It’s simple and practical.

*What kind of clothes do you never wear?*

I’m pretty open when it comes to clothing, but there are a few things I tend to avoid. For one, I rarely wear overly formal attire. Suits and formal clothes are reserved for special occasions for me; they’re just not my day-to-day style.

*Do you wear the same style of clothes on weekdays and weekends?*

I tend to mix it up when it comes to my clothing style on weekdays and weekends. During the workweek, especially if I have meetings or appointments, I’ll opt for business-casual attire like dress shirts and slacks. It’s all about looking professional and put-together. On the weekends, though, I like to keep things more relaxed and comfortable. You’ll often find me in jeans, T-shirts, or casual shirts. It’s the time to unwind and let loose a bit in terms of fashion.

*Do you prefer to wear comfortable and casual clothes or smart clothes?*

I’m all about comfort, so I definitely prefer wearing comfortable and casual clothes. There’s something liberating about slipping into a cozy pair of jeans and a soft t-shirt, you know. Don’t get me wrong; dressing up in smart clothes for special occasions can be fun, but for day-to-day wear comfort wins for me.

*Do you spend a lot of time choosing clothes?*

Not really, I wouldn’t say I spend a lot of time choosing clothes. I mean, I like to look presentable and all, but I’m not one to stand in front of my wardrobe for hours deciding what to wear.

*What’s your favorite color of clothes?*

I like most colors, but my most favorite colors to wear are black and white because these two colors are classic and versatile, and they are easy to match with other accessories.

*Do you wear the same style of clothes on weekdays and weekends?*

No. I don’t. I have two sections in my wardrobe. While one section of clothes is reserved for weekday wear that includes formal office wear, the weekend wear constitutes casual and party clothes.

Day-to-day style: Phong cách hàng ngày

Business-casual attire: Trang phục công sở nhẹ nhàng

Smart clothes: quần áo trang trọng

Day-to-day wear: Trang phục hàng ngày

1. **Home/accommodation**

*What kind of housing/accommodation do you live in?*

I live in a terraced house that has a living room, a kitchen, three bed rooms, two bathrooms and a lovely back garden. It’s not really a spacious house, but it’s just right for me and my family.

*Who do you live with?*

I live with my parents and my siblings. We always get on well with each other and have a lot of fun.

*How long have you lived there?*

I’ve lived there since I was a child, until I graduated from high school and moved to the city to enroll at university, where I lived in a student dormitory during the semester.

*What’s the difference between where you are living now and where you have lived in the past?*

Living in a dorm with other roommates is totally different from living in my own house. My current residential area is quite small and it’s very noisy because there are a lot of people there and I don’t have my own space. Conversely, when I was living at home, I had my own spacious room and it made me feel comfortable.

*Do you plan to live there for a long time?*

To be honest, I intend to buy an apartment in an urban area after I graduate from university. I can decorate and design my ideal home with whatever facilities I want.

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

It’s definitely the kitchen. Not only lunch or dinner time but all our family reunions take place in the kitchen where all the family members get together to eat tasty meals, and chat to each other – it’s a really harmonious atmosphere.

*Are the transport facilities to your home very good?*

To be honest, most of the transport facilities to my place are not very modern. The bus service from my workplace to home is irregular and usually overcrowded.

*Do you prefer living in a house or a flat?*

I prefer living in a house to a flat because I value my privacy and need my own space. Owning an independent house, I can plan and design a house layout to suit myself. Moreover, I can modify a house according to the size of the family.

*Please describe the room you live in.*

My current room is actually more like a bedsit. It is a multi – purpose room, I use it to sleep and study as well. It is painted in pink, that’s my favorite color with a bed, a cupboard and desk. It’s not really spacious but it’s just right for me.

*What part of your home do you like the most?*

I prefer my bedroom most due to its convenience and privacy. Because of my stressful work I want to be in a quiet place and concentrate on my work. In my own room, I’m never disturbed by anyone else. Moreover, in my own space I can do whatever I want without bothering others.

1. **Study**

*Describe your education.*

I started primary school when I was 7. 5 years later, I went to secondary school at 12. Then at 16, I made it to a high school for gifted students in my hometown. In my country, highschool education lasts 3 years, then I went onto higher education at the Foreign Trade University where I’m currently studying economics. Well, my major is External Economics. I have mastered the basics of economics and socio economics, combined with business knowledge mainly related to the import and export business.

*Why did you choose to study that major?*

I think it would help to fulfill my dream of introducing my country’s agricultural products to the world. Vietnamese goods have a real potential, but they still struggle to make a name for themselves, you know.

Do you like your major? (Why? /Why not?)

Yes, of course. Studying economics, especially external economics is interesting and practical. It helps me to keep up with current affairs and it improves my analytical and problem-solving skills as well.

*What kind of school did you go to as a child?*

As a child, I attended a public elementary school. It’s quite a big school in my hometown which provides both high quality education and a supportive environment, so I think I was quite lucky.

*What was your favourite subject as a child?*

Well, I used to be very passionate about drawing when I was a little girl. It was fun to work with brushes and colors, you know, as it was the time when I could indulge in my own creative world.

*Do you think your country has an effective education system?*

To be honest, I don’t think so. Our system has somehow become unduly stressful, does not promote creativity and the ability to be critical due to the fact that our society still cares way too much about grades and schools consequently focuses on an exam-driven curriculum, which I find quite impractical.

*(Possibly) Are you looking forward to working?*

Absolutely! It’s great to join the workforce, especially when I can do the job I love. Not only will it pay the bills, but it’ll also give me the joy of making a contribution. It’s hard to be happy and fulfilled without working, you know.

1. **Helping others**

*Do you usually help people around you?*

Yes, I do. Helping others makes me feel happy and satisfied. If I’m good at something, I definitely use it to help others. Also, I believe that being helpful to people is like getting good karma back and thinking in positive always.

*How do you help people around you, such as neighbors, family, and friends?*

I think the best way to help people around us is to see them and acknowledge their needs. Whether helping classmates with their studies, volunteering for local initiatives, or just taking care of friends and family when needed, I find fulfillment in helping others and being an active member of my community.

*Do your parents teach you how to help others?*

Well, yes they do. I saw my parents helping many, within their means, and this had a good effect. They were respectful while speaking to others, kind, and listened to what they said. They did not restrict the help to money alone, they gave their valuable time by listening, suggesting and supporting while also taking care of emotional aspects.

1. **Video game**

*Do you like playing video games or watching others play video games?*

I love watching others play video games. For me, it’s quiet relaxing to watch them sometimes. Seeing a high level of play that is hard to reproduce can be exciting and give someone something to aspire to. In addition, many people can’t afford games, but watching streamers or youtubers is free.

*What kinds of video games do you like to play?*

Definitely open world games with a third person view. I get kinda frustrated with just a gun covering most of the screen. I like a long game with a great and touching story.

*Is it good for young people to play video games?*

Yes, in my opinion, video games can have a variety of benefits for children and teenagers including: improving cognitive skills, encouraging creativity, reducing stress etc. However, it’s important for parents to monitor their children’s gaming habits and make sure that they are playing appropriate games for their age and maturity level. It’s also important to balance gaming with other activities, such as physical activity, socializing, and spending time with family.

1. **Sunglasses**

*Do people in your country wear sunglasses? Where can you buy sunglasses?*

Yes. They are a must-have item when you are on the street because they protect your eyes from the sun and dirt. Well, you can basically buy sunglasses everywhere, from a local market to a luxury brand shop depending on your budget.

*Do you like to wear sunglasses?*

Definitely! They make me look fashionable and protect my eyes from dirt when driving outside.

1. **Colors**

*What is your favorite color?*

Red is probably my favorite color since it reflects my dynamic personality. In addition, red also inspires me in many things.

*Do you like dark colors?*

Not really because they are usually associated with bad luck. In my country, people wear black when a person in their family has passed away.

*Do you usually wear clothes in your favorite color?*

No, not really. I just wear red clothes when I’m not in a good mood, which gives me confidence and perks me up.

*Are there any colors you dislike?*

Well, if I had to choose, I would choose brown. Although it’s a nice color, for me it does not hold any meaning and I really cannot associate it with anything.

1. **Cake and other sweet things**

*Do you like to eat sweets?*

I have always loved sweets but try to stay away from sugar now. You know, eating too much sweet stuff can have many negative health effects.

*Do you like sweets more or less now compared to when you were child?*

I’ve found that over the years that I’ve almost grown out of sweets, to the point where I actively avoid eating candy. For me now, desserts are only served as a treat for special events like birthdays or the New Year holiday.

*Is there any sweet food in your country?*

Of course there is! Candies, biscuits, cakes, jams, juices and sugary drinks can be found everywhere in my country. It is just the law of supply and demand. You know, where there is demand there will be supply.

1. **Memory**

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

I think some people have better memories by virtue of nature as genetics clearly plays a role in brain function, which in turn relates to memory function. So, some people are just born with a better memory.

*Why do more people rely on cellphones to memorize things?*

Because smartphones offer many convenient functions. The reminder application in our phones helps us a lot to memorize or remember things, especially for those people who are simply forgetful. I’ve been using it for years and it plays an important role in reminding me of important dates or events and I couldn’t be happier with it.

*Are you good at memorizing things?*

Sadly, no. Although I have a sharp memory, I forget things sometimes because of my extremely busy daily routine.

*Have you ever forgotten something that was important?*

Yes, absolutely. I think the most important thing which many people including me forget to remember is the password of email accounts. As passwords are automatically saved on my mobile phone and computer, I seldom remember the password when I have to sign in on new devices.

1. **Advertisements/Commercials**

*Are there many advertisements in your country?*

I would say yes. You can easily see a wide range of advertisements almost everywhere in my hometown. For example, almost half of a newspaper is made up of ads.

*Why do you think there are so many advertisements now?*

I guess it’s due to their benefits. First, advertising is an essential part of promotional campaigns for companies to reach their end users. It helps raise the visibility of a company’s brand. Second, advertisements can act as decoration on the street. I find a street better-looking with advertisements.

*What are the various places where we see advertisements?*

Today advertising gets to people through different forms of communication, from print media to electronic ones, so you can see advertisements on websites, social networks or in the newspapers and magazines. There are also ads you see outdoors as well, for example, large banners and posters hung on the roads, on the buses or trains.

*How do you feel about advertisements?*

Most people may find those ways of product promotion annoying, but I’m an exception. I’m quite into advertisements. They’re colourful, brilliantly designed, illustrated, photographed or typeset pieces and often have useful, informative contents.

1. **Feeling bored**

What will you do when you feel bored?

Gardening. I love doing gardening when I am bored. I stay in an apartment where I don’t even have a terrace garden but I have planted trees in the window. I love to do this as this activity really makes me happy and reduces my stress.

*What kind of things are boring to you?*

For me, I feel bored when I am in the same routine everyday: the same 9–6 job, the same people at home and the same household chores. That’s why I always hang out or go for a picnic at the weekends so that I can refresh my mind.

*Whom do you think get bored easily, the young or the old?*

I think young people get bored more quickly than the old because they want to do something or have something to do every minute of the day. I have a brother and he always wants someone to entertain him every day. A lot of young people can’t sit down for very long, and they have to be moving all the time. That’s why they get bored so quickly.

*Do you think school is boring?*

I think school is very boring, no matter past or now. But when I recall things which are most interesting and most memorable, I find the only things I can clearly remember happened in school. We feel school is boring, but at the same time we get entertainment from school.

1. **Spending money**

*Did you save money when you were a child?*

Yes. I still remember doing a part-time job to save money for a little toy. However, I found out that I didn’t end up saving enough money for it.

*Do your parents give you money for house cleaning?*

Well, I used to get a small amount of money as a reward after I cleaned the house. I still remember using that money to buy snacks and comic books.

*Have you given money to other children?*

Yes, several times. There are many children on the street who live by begging, and I usually give them money so they can buy food.

*Do you think parents should teach children to save money?*

Absolutely! I think that it is important that children should be taught about being on a tight budget by their parents so that they can learn independence and self-management skills.

1. **News**

*Do you prefer to read a newspaper or magazine?*

I think I would choose magazines. The way magazines display information looks really appealing to me. Moreover, they always have in-depth articles to broaden my horizons about specific fields such as education or science.

*Do you prefer to read news online or in a newspaper?*

I’ll probably go with reading news online. Electronic newspapers are updated frequently, which means I can keep abreast of new information immediately compared to obsolete traditional newspapers.

Keep abreast of something (verb): cập nhật cái gì đó

1. **Crowded place**

*What places do you think are often crowded?*

Well, I think well-known tourist attractions and shopping malls usually attract a lot of people since these are ideal sites for them to broaden their knowledge as well as entertain themselves.

*When was the last time you were in a crowded place?*

It was actually yesterday when I visited Landmark 81, the tallest building in Vietnam. We had to queue for 30 minutes before having a table at a restaurant there.

*How do you feel when you are in a crowded place?*

To be honest, it depends on the events or places that I am participating in. For example, I really love big crowds at concerts or bars, where I can socialize and bond with people.

1. **Losing things**

*Have you ever lost things?*

Yeah, I lost my mobile phone when I was hanging out with my friend. I put it in my pocket and unfortunately had it stolen. How careless I was! I felt bad about it for some time because that phone was my birthday gift from my brother.

*What would you do if you found something valuable for example a phone? (Why/Why not?)*

If I found something that meant a lot to people or have high value, I’d definitely report it to the police because it’s much more reliable. You know, they can solve the problem in a professional way.

*Would you ever ask for help on social media to find something you’d lost? (Why/Why not?)*

If the thing I lost was important or valuable and I would want to get it back, perhaps I’d post the notice online on social networks, hoping to see miracles happen.