

Hi, What's your name?

Hello! I'm Venkata Sai Sumanth; you can call me Sumanth.

Where do you live?

Apart from my four years of hostel life during my bachelor's degree pursual, I've lived in Vishakapatnam. I've lived there since I was born.

It's a peaceful city with a lot of green cover and beaches.

What is the most interesting part for you?

For someone who moves to Vizag for studies or work, the city becomes a home away from home. Apart from the Telugu-speaking people, several other national and international citizens co-exist in complete harmony. Vizag is just the balance of everything – commercial yet hospitable, cosmopolitan yet traditional, expanding but not overcrowded. The city has an industrial flair to invite, offers multi cuisines to sustain, and eventually connects people to create an everlasting bond.

What kind of jobs do people do here?

From what I know through my observation, I've seen a significant chunk of people working in industries like steel, power generation, and pharmaceuticals. Several people also work in the tourism sector.

Home?

I live with my parents and elder brother in quarters provided by the company my dad works. I've always lived with them. The quarters are in the city outskirts. Though the house is not big, it's a nice comfortable one.

How do you decorate your home?

My father, brother, and I are not big fans of decoration items and luxurious furniture. It's my mother who pushes for those things. Hence, we don't have anything eye-catching in our home, only some decent furniture and abstract paintings.

What's your favorite room?

It would be the bedroom which my brother and I share. I have everything needed in that room. Apart from that, it's near the refrigerator, my go-to place for a quick snack. Hence I like my shared bedroom.

Do you like living there?

Yes, I do. Because the neighborhoods are congestion-free, and we have wide roads, significantly less frequent power cuts, shops and restaurants nearby, and no water-related problems. I also have a lot of my childhood friends near my home. Hence I like living there.

Do you work or study?

I'm currently working. I work as an Assistant Manager at HSBC, Bangalore. Though I've joined them virtually, the office is opening up, and I'll be moving there by May.

What do you do every day?

We help the HBSC bank with regulatory report submissions and technical process automation. You can consider that it's like a managerial role between the back and middle office teams.

What do you want about your job to change?

I want quite a few things to change, but owing to my less tenure and work experience, I'm unable to ask or push for them. I'll say one thing which irks me a lot. Since we are the people submitting the number for the middle office to check, any issue popping up due to lack of control checks on the back office team is costing us our reputation and image in the department.

Work environment?

Haha, that's something I would like to know as well. I've been working from home since the start of my job; hence I don't know about it. But the virtual meetups and the support I get from my team members is simply superb. When we talk about work-life balance, it's suitable for three weeks and slightly hectic for a week, every month.

IELTS Speaking Topic # 1- Work

1. Do you work or study?

- I graduated a year ago, and I'm now a full-time employee.

1. What is your job?

- I'm currently an Assistant Manager, working for HSBC in Bangalore in India.

1. Why did you choose that job?

- I had a knack for data analysis, and my keen interests were in risk management. So I thought I might be a good fit for a role that aligns with my skills and interests hence I took that job.

1. Are there lots of people pursuing your profession?

- I do not think so. I believe that very few people have the matching skillset and potential to work in this niche field.

1. Do you enjoy your job?

- It was challenging initially, but it became rote and less challenging for me over time. It no longer seems enjoyable for me.

1. Do you get on well with your co-workers?

- Professionally, yes. I maintain good relations with my co-workers, but I tend not to make friends. I think it helps maintain an emotion-free bond that practically helps with work progress.

1. What was your first day at work like?

- It was just a login, a few hours of mandatory/formal introductions, and an early log-off. It was a virtual one, so there was nothing fancy or something.
1. What responsibilities do you have at work?
 - I can ramble for a few minutes actually, but to keep it simple, I'll say that we help maintain the financial data stream quality and assist in reporting and some process automation.
 1. Would you like to change your job in the future?
 - Absolutely. I found that the higher-ups' confidence in any suggestions from the juniors is shallow. I want to join a new work culture, preferably a start-up kind, where members are adequately rewarded and recognized for their talent.
 1. What is your typical day like at work?
 - We start by checking data quality issues and some ad-hoc maintenance processes. Once things look fine, we report the numbers and take any inputs provided by managers. Apart from this, we work on automation projects when we have some free time in between.
 1. What would you change about your job?
 - I do not really want to change anything related to current job.

IELTS Speaking Topic # 2- Hometown

1. Where is your hometown?
 - My hometown is Visakhapatnam. It's a port city and industrial center in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, on the Bay of Bengal. It's known for its many beaches and greenery.
1. What do you like about it?
 - It's an area of outstanding natural beauty and, for me, one of the most beautiful places on earth. I like the fantastic beaches and the densely covered hill stations.
1. What do you not like about it?
 - It is incredibly humid and a highly sweaty area due to its closeness to the sea atmosphere. I mean, I'll sweat even if the fan is off for a few minutes in the summer due to unexpected power cuts.
1. How often do you visit your hometown?
 - I've almost spent seventy percent of my life until now in my hometown only. Hence I don't think I need to visit my hometown explicitly.
1. What's the oldest part of your hometown?
 - While the history of my hometown dates back to 260 BC, when Ashoka conquered the Kalinga Empire, the earliest substantial evidence still standing today is perhaps the 14-century Simhachalam Temple

1. Do many people visit your town?

- Thousands of tourists visit every year. They come from the capital city mostly to get away from the hustle and bustle and enjoy the scenic view of the beach and visit Araku, a nearby hill station, which is famous for its waterfalls and viewpoints.

1. Is there any way your hometown could be made better?

- If I had to say something, it would be to improve the roads in the city outskirts, they are in a terrible state and cause quite a few accidents every year.

1. How has your hometown changed over the years?

- Since I was a child, the town has almost doubled in size and population. There was very less traffic and congestion earlier, which is not the case now.

1. Are there good transportation links to your town?

- Yes. We are well connected through rail, road, and water. International air connectivity is increasing now and will be very good in a few years.

1. Would you recommend the town to people with children?

- Yes, it is a great place if people are planning to relocate along with their kids because it is still a growing city, as it can provide all things needed for kids' overall growth, at a very reasonable price, without any constraints

IELTS Speaking Topic # 3- Your Home

1. Where do you live?

- I live on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam, in a locality called Ukkunagaram, which is about 20 km from the city centre.

1. Do you live in a house or a flat?

- I live in a double bedroom quarter provided by the company for my dad works.

1. Whom do you live with?

- I live there with my father, mother, and elder brother.

1. Is it a big place?

- No actually. It is a medium-sized one, but it is very comfortable and homely.

1. What is your favorite room?

- That would have to be the bedroom that my brother and I share because it's the only room with all the things I need, except food. Though it is pretty near to our kitchen and fridge as well

1. How is your home decorated?

- I am not too fond of lots of over-the-top decoration; hence the walls are all colored in light ones, and we have some standard furniture. There are very few ornaments or pictures because I like to keep things minimal and I am not too fond of clutter.

1. Is there anything you would like to change about your flat?

- I would like to have a big balcony. We have a sort of balcony at the moment, but we mainly use it for washing and drying clothes. It would be really nice to have some tables and chairs on a proper balcony, so we could sit there in the evenings and relax.

1. Do you plan to live there for a long time?

- We've been living at our current home for many years, and we are definitely looking for some change in our regular lives. So, we are thinking of moving closer to the city's center in a year or so.

1. Do you have a garden?

- Nope. All of our family members, including myself, think that it is too much of work to maintain them, due to which we did not make a garden for our sake. Actually, we gave our empty land to our neighbors since they were highly interested in making one.

1. Are there many amenities?

- Yes. Though we are on the edge of town, we get almost everything needed, be it a nice meal or a shop to get things. But if you need too fancy things, we need to drive for half an hour to get them. If you ask me, that's not much of a drawback since almost everything needed is available nearby.

IELTS Speaking Topic # 4- Fashion

1. Do you care about fashion?

- When I was a child, I used to observe what kids of my age used to wear normally and would get similar kinds of clothes. But now I don't care at all, and I only care about how comfortable am I in the dress I wear

1. What kind of things do you usually wear?

- These days, I either stay at home working, or go out for some things. So I wear casuals like round-necked t-shirts and shorts. I love wearing loose clothes a lot.

1. Are there any traditional clothes in your country?

- Yes there are. things like pyjamas, dhotis, kurtas etc for men and sarees for women. My parents and elder brother have these traditional ones, but I don't.

1. Where do you usually purchase your clothes?

- I used to go to the shops when I was a student, but now I just buy them online. It saves me a lot of time, effort, and money.

1. Have you ever bought clothes online?

- Yes. As a matter of fact, currently, I always buy my clothes online. It's simple, hassle-free, gives us multiple options, and has easy returns and hefty discounts. Though it takes some time to get the orders, I believe it is a perfect mode of purchasing clothes.
1. Do people from your country think fashion is important?
 - More so these days. Our country wouldn't be very high on the list of international fashion hot spots, but I notice people following certain trends more, mostly based on their favorite celebrities.
 1. What is your favorite item of clothing?
 - Probably the maroon-colored full-sleeves round-necked t-shirt I have. It feels good on touch, fits me well, and helps me look all groomed-up and neat.

IELTS Speaking Topic # 5- The Internet

1. How important is the internet to you?
 - Extremely important. I depend on it for work, research, study, and entertainment, so I'd be completely lost without it.
1. How often do you use the internet?
 - I use it constantly throughout the day, every day. I check my emails when I get up in the morning, I use it for work all day and then I watch videos, listen to music or books through it at night.
1. Do you use it more for work or in your free time?
 - I'd say I use it more for work. I work close to 9 hours every day, supporting an on-shore team in the UK.. Since all the proceedings occur over team calls and emails, I'm highly dependent on the internet. Though I use it on the weekends to stream video or audio content, it is for less time.
1. What are your favorite websites?
 - For work, my two favorite sites are Stackoverflow and prime video. Stackoverflow is a forum that allows people to discuss things related to software development and helps with solutions for practically almost any problem statement. prime video, of course, allows me to stream some of my favorite shows and movies. Of course, in my spare time, I use Facebook to enjoy few memes.
1. Do you use apps?
 - I use them a lot. My favorite app at the moment is Yocket. It allows you to do some background checks about available graduate colleges in top countries. It helps you connect with people who already have secured admission in the college you wish to join. It is kind of like an unofficial social media platform, but for college finding purpose.
1. Do you think you use the internet too much?

- I think most people do these days. My problem is that there are so many sites and apps that you end up checking them way too often, which wastes lots of time. It can also be a bit anti-social if you are checking your phone all the time when you are with other people.

1. How will the internet develop in the future?

- I think it will be more on mobile phones than computers. Smartphones are becoming more powerful and more affordable day-by-day, so I think we will see a shift from people using the internet on computers to mobiles and apps rather than traditional websites.

1. Are there any negative things about the internet?

- I think there are a few, like security issues, misuse of our information stored online, wasting time on irrelevant things on the net, spending more time on social media platforms that actually contribute nothing to our growth etc. These problems could be solved by taking some precautionary measures and some bit of self-discipline to do our things on time.

IELTS Speaking Topic # 6- Weather

1. How is the weather today?

- It's really sunny/shady today, and I think it will be almost the same as it is now for the rest of the day.

1. What's your favorite kind of weather?

- I like the weather to be sunny but not much humid because it causes me to sweat a lot if I'm not below a fan or any other cooling source.

1. What is the climate like in your country?

- I'm from India, which extends almost from close to the equator, to slightly above the tropical line, due to which, I think it will be tough to generalize the country's climate, but you can assume it to be tropical roughly.

1. Does the weather affect people's lives in your country?

- I think it will affect the people whose lives are based on daily labor work and other kinds of work that need to work outdoors. Those kinds of jobs need a moderate temperature and a rain-free day.

1. Do people change in the summer?

- I think the changes will be like visible ones, such as a change in food habits, clothing style, sleep cycles, etc. I'm really not of the opinion that people will be changing mentally during summer. True they might be happy due to vacations and holidays, but I think it doesn't change much on an overall basis

1. Is there any type of weather you really don't like?

- I don't mind when it's raining or windy or cold, but when it's humid and I don't have a fan nearby, well that's horrible, especially if you have to focus on something. I don't like sweating without any effort, it kind of disturbs my peaceful state.

1. Does bad weather ever affect transport in your country?

- Yep, it always does, and affects hugely as well. Roads get clogged, there is a chance of railway lines being submerged in low-level areas during days of unexpected heavy rains. The whole area facing that issue much grinds to a halt. News of heavy rain caused road issues, and traffic jams in Mumbai during the rainy seasons, is something which became common.

IELTS Speaking Topic # 7- TV

1. Do you like watching TV?

- I love watching TV, as I get to see many movies which I've watched and enjoyed since my childhood for their comedy, and I also get to see live cricket matches, particularly IPL. Though I don't really get time to watch TV on weekdays due to work and other things, I do watch it for an hour or so on the weekends during my free time.

1. How often do you watch TV?

- I'd say maybe not too often, but definitely not very less. I do watch TV for a few hours on the weekends, and sometimes on weekdays as well. It's sort of a relaxation tool for me to forget about all my tensions. I watch these along with my parents and brother

1. What kind of TV programs do you like to watch?

- I like comedy and adventure genres, and I'm a big fan of sci-fi or fantasy. I don't really like to watch documentaries about history, but I've watched a few related to the 2008 financial crisis.

1. What are the most popular TV shows in your country?

- The two most popular genres are soaps and reality TV. Soaps like CID, Tarak Mehta ka Ulta chasma have always been popular because people get to know the characters really well, and the storylines are interesting. I've no idea why reality TV is popular, I can't stand it, all those less known celebrities trying to become popular again. I think it's just something that cashes on human nature to peep into others' lives that is helping these shows become successful

1. Do you like watching TV shows from other countries?

- Yes, most of the programs I watch are from Japan. They are known as anime, which generally adapt the manga (Japanese comics) that are popular among readers. I'm an absolute fan of these shows for their excellent plot points and solid world-building.

1. Has the internet affected your viewing habits?

- Absolutely, I watch most TV shows on the internet now, rather than a normal TV. There are so many streaming services like Netflix offering on-demand TV and it allows me to be able to watch what I want when I want. I also binge-watch sometimes, rather than waiting for the next episode, which became possible due to the internet only.

1. What is your favourite TV show?

- There was an American show called The Office that I really loved. It was a UK version adaptation, but later it pivoted to suit the American style, which I like very much. The characters, their interactions were really funny and wholesome as well. The show had a really good run, and ended in 2013.

1. What was your favourite show when you were a child?

- That would be the Tom and Jerry show. They were so funny and they used to make me enjoy the logicless proceedings, with great story points. I've collected and stored those episodes on my drive as well, and tune into them whenever I want to get some quick fun. Though I used to love Jerry in my childhood much, I've come to like Tom more in the recent years. Tom just faces all the problems in his home due to the ruckus being caused by the mouse.

IELTS Speaking Topic # 8- Sport

1. Do you play any sports?

- Not as much as I should. I'm really busy with my job these days, so I don't get the chance to do as many sports as I would like. I try to walk on weekends for a couple of hours. I used to play a lot of sports in my childhood. I've played cricket, badminton, and volleyball in my childhood outdoors, and almost all indoor games as well.

1. Have you played cricket for long?

- Yes. I've played it for the first time when I was about 5 years old, I remember playing a fun game along with my dad when I was a kid. From then on, I played cricket every day until my schooling, and then other things took priority. However, I regret not maintaining it because it was something I loved doing.

1. Do you watch sports on TV?

- Cricket is my favorite sport to watch on TV. I don't follow the international matches, but do watch the IPL. I follow Sunrisers Hyderabad Team, and so do a few of my friends. We normally host few watch parties and watch whomever Sunrisers are playing and a few of the other big games in the League.

1. What is the most popular sport in your country?

- In my country, that would be Cricket only. I think it got much popularity only after the world cup win in 1983. But I think that many other sports like Football and Kabaddi are picking up popularity in recent times.

1. How do people in your country stay fit?

- I think most people either go running or walking. Lots of young people play field sports, but more and more people are joining gyms. Gyms have really taken off recently as people worry more and more about their appearance. I think it has much more to do with how good people look rather than actually keeping fit.

1. Is it essential for children to play sports?

- Definitely, sport not only keeps them healthy, but it also teaches them discipline and keeps them out of trouble. For instance, in my school, the kids who were dedicated to sport also achieved the highest grades in school and went on to good universities where they continued to work hard and achieve good things.

IELTS Speaking Topic # 9- Food

1. What's your favorite food?

- I would have to say that it's definitely Masala Dosa. It's something that my mother prepares for me on special occasions, and it's a real treat when I get the chance to have it. I like the chutney and sambar, along with which we eat the dosa.

1. Have you always liked dosa?

- Yes I do. In fact I fell in love with it when I ate it for the first time itself, during my childhood. It's one of the few things in my list of favorites.

1. Are there any foods you dislike?

- I like most foods, but if I had to pick some I don't like, it would have to be the bitter melon. The bitter taste makes me nauseous. Although, I try to force them down when I have to because it's healthy.

1. What are some traditional foods in your country?

- Everything seems to revolve around the potato, and paneer in our country, at least on the veg-based dishes, but there's much more to Indian food style than just these two. If you come to India, you have to try a few snacks like vada pav, and pani puri. It's made up of lots of fried vegetables, plus a range of bread.

1. Do you have a healthy diet?

- No, not at all. I like all of the things that are unhealthy, like sweets, fatty foods, and junk food. I don't really have a lot of discipline when it comes to my diet.