[**1.** **Pets and animals**](#_heading=h.gjdgxs)

[**What’s your favorite animal? Why?**](#_heading=h.30j0zll)

[**What is the most popular animal in Vietnam?**](#_heading=h.1fob9te)

[**Have you ever had a pet before?**](#_heading=h.3znysh7)

[**Where do you prefer to keep your pets, indoors or outdoors?**](#_heading=h.2et92p0)

[**2.** **PUBLIC PARKS & GARDENS**](#_heading=h.3dy6vkm)

[**Would you like to play in a public garden or park?**](#_heading=h.1t3h5sf)

[**What do you like to do when visiting a park?**](#_heading=h.4d34og8)

[**How have parks changed today compared to the time when you were a kid?**](#_heading=h.2s8eyo1)

[**Would you prefer to play in a personal garden or public garden?**](#_heading=h.17dp8vu)

[**3.** **GETTING LOST**](#_heading=h.1ksv4uv)

[**Have you ever lost your way?**](#_heading=h.44sinio)

[**How can you find your way when you are lost?**](#_heading=h.2jxsxqh)

[**Can you read a map when you get lost?**](#_heading=h.z337ya)

[**Have you ever helped someone who got lost?**](#_heading=h.3j2qqm3)

[**4.** **Concentration**](#_heading=h.2xcytpi)

[**Is it difficult for you to stay focused on something?**](#_heading=h.1ci93xb)

[**What do you do to help you concentrate?**](#_heading=h.3whwml4)

[**what may distract you when you're trying to stay focused?**](#_heading=h.2bn6wsx)

[**When do you need to be focused?**](#_heading=h.qsh70q)

[**5.** **Shoes**](#_heading=h.49x2ik5)

[**Do you like buying shoes? How often?**](#_heading=h.2p2csry)

[**Have you ever bought shoes online?**](#_heading=h.147n2zr)

[**How much money do you usually spend on shoes?**](#_heading=h.3o7alnk)

[**Which do you prefer, fashionable shoes or comfortable shoes?**](#_heading=h.23ckvvd)

[**6.** **Science**](#_heading=h.1hmsyys)

[**Do you like science?**](#_heading=h.41mghml)

[**When did you start to learn about science?**](#_heading=h.2grqrue)

[**Which science subject is interesting to you?**](#_heading=h.vx1227)

[**what kinds of interesting things have you done with science?**](#_heading=h.3fwokq0)

[**7.** **Weather**](#_heading=h.1v1yuxt)

[**What kind of weather do you like most?**](#_heading=h.4f1mdlm)

[**What's the weather like in your hometown?**](#_heading=h.2u6wntf)

[**Do you like the weather in your hometown?**](#_heading=h.19c6y18)

[**Do you prefer dry or wet weather?**](#_heading=h.3tbugp1)

[**8.** **Headphones**](#_heading=h.37m2jsg)

[**Do you use headphones?**](#_heading=h.1mrcu09)

[**What type of headphones do you use?**](#_heading=h.46r0co2)

[**When would you use headphones?**](#_heading=h.2lwamvv)

[**In what conditions, you won't use headphones?**](#_heading=h.111kx3o)

[**9.** **Handwriting**](#_heading=h.3l18frh)

[**Do you like handwriting?**](#_heading=h.206ipza)

[**Do you think handwriting is important?**](#_heading=h.4k668n3)

[**Which do you prefer, handwriting or typing?**](#_heading=h.2zbgiuw)

[**What are the differences between handwriting and typing?**](#_heading=h.1egqt2p)

[**10.** **Color**](#_heading=h.3ygebqi)

[**What's your favorite color?**](#_heading=h.2dlolyb)

[**What's the color you dislike? why?**](#_heading=h.sqyw64)

[**What colors do your friends like most?**](#_heading=h.3cqmetx)

[**What color makes you uncomfortable in your room?**](#_heading=h.1rvwp1q)

[**11.** **APP**](#_heading=h.4bvk7pj)

[**What apps have you recently used?**](#_heading=h.2r0uhxc)

[**What kinds of apps are you usually interested in?**](#_heading=h.1664s55)

[**What was the first app you used?**](#_heading=h.3q5sasy)

[**What kinds of apps would you like to use in the future?**](#_heading=h.25b2l0r)

[**12.** **Work or studies**](#_heading=h.kgcv8k)

[What technology do you use at work?](#_heading=h.34g0dwd)\*

[What technology do you use when you study?](#_heading=h.1jlao46)\*

[**What subjects are you studying?**](#_heading=h.43ky6rz)

[**Why did you choose to study that subject?**](#_heading=h.2iq8gzs)

[**Do you like your subject?**](#_heading=h.xvir7l)

[**Is it very interesting?**](#_heading=h.3hv69ve)

[**Are you looking forward to working?**](#_heading=h.1x0gk37)

[**Do you prefer to study in the mornings or in the afternoons?**](#_heading=h.4h042r0)

[**Why did you choose to do that type of work (or that job)?**](#_heading=h.2w5ecyt)

[**Do you like your job?**](#_heading=h.1baon6m)

[**Is it very interesting?**](#_heading=h.3vac5uf)

[**Do you miss being a student?**](#_heading=h.2afmg28)

[**What work do you do?**](#_heading=h.pkwqa1)

[**13.** **The area you live in**](#_heading=h.39kk8xu)

[**Where do you like to go in that area?**](#_heading=h.1opuj5n)

[Do you know any famous people in your area?](#_heading=h.48pi1tg)\*

[**What are some changes in the area recently?**](#_heading=h.2nusc19)

[**Do you like the area that you live in?**](#_heading=h.1302m92)

[**14.** **Hometown**](#_heading=h.3mzq4wv)

[**Do you think you will continue living there for a long time?**](#_heading=h.2250f4o)

[**Please describe your hometown a little.**](#_heading=h.haapch)

[**How long have you been living there?**](#_heading=h.319y80a)

[**Do you like your hometown?**](#_heading=h.1gf8i83)

[**Do you like living there?**](#_heading=h.40ew0vw)

[**What do you like (most) about your hometown?**](#_heading=h.2fk6b3p)

[**Is there anything you dislike about it?**](#_heading=h.upglbi)

[**Where is your hometown?**](#_heading=h.3ep43zb)

[**Is that a big city or a small place?**](#_heading=h.1tuee74)

[**15.** **Home/accommodation**](#_heading=h.4du1wux)

[**What kind of house or flat do you want to live in in the future?**](#_heading=h.2szc72q)

[Are the transport facilities to your home very good?](#_heading=h.184mhaj) \*

[**Do you prefer living in a house or a flat?**](#_heading=h.3s49zyc)

[Please describe the room you live in.](#_heading=h.279ka65)\*

[What part of your home do you like the most?](#_heading=h.meukdy)\*

[**How long have you lived there?**](#_heading=h.36ei31r)

[**Do you plan to live there for a long time?**](#_heading=h.1ljsd9k)

[What's the difference between where you are living now and where you have lived in the past?](#_heading=h.45jfvxd)\*

[**Can you describe the place where you live?**](#_heading=h.2koq656)

[What room does your family spend most of the time in?](#_heading=h.zu0gcz)\*

[**16.** **Handwriting**](#_heading=h.3jtnz0s)

[**1 Do you like handwriting?**](#_heading=h.1yyy98l)

[**2 Do you think handwriting is important?**](#_heading=h.4iylrwe)

[**3 Which do you prefer, handwriting or typing?**](#_heading=h.2y3w247)

[**4 What are the differences between handwriting and typing?**](#_heading=h.1d96cc0)

[**17.** **The area you live in**](#_heading=h.3x8tuzt)

[**1 Where do you like to go in that area?**](#_heading=h.2ce457m)

[**2 Do you know any famous people in your area?**](#_heading=h.rjefff)

[**3 What are some changes in the area recently?**](#_heading=h.3bj1y38)

[**4 Do you like the area that you live in?**](#_heading=h.1qoc8b1)

[**18.** **Wild animals**](#_heading=h.4anzqyu)

[**1 Do you like to watch TV programs about wild animals?**](#_heading=h.2pta16n)

[**2 Did you learn something about wild animals at school?**](#_heading=h.14ykbeg)

[**3 Where can you see wild animals?**](#_heading=h.3oy7u29)

[**4 In which country do you think you can see many wild animals?**](#_heading=h.243i4a2)

[**19.** **Wallet**](#_heading=h.j8sehv)

[**1 Do you use a wallet?**](#_heading=h.338fx5o)

[**2 Have you ever lost your wallet?**](#_heading=h.1idq7dh)

[**3 Have you ever sent a wallet to someone as a gift?**](#_heading=h.42ddq1a)

[**4 Do most of your friends use wallet?**](#_heading=h.2hio093)

[**20.** **Sky and stars**](#_heading=h.wnyagw)

[**1 Do you like to look at the sky? Why?**](#_heading=h.3gnlt4p)

[**2 Can you see the moon and stars at night where you live?**](#_heading=h.1vsw3ci)

[**3 Do you prefer the sky in the morning or the sky at night?**](#_heading=h.4fsjm0b)

[**4 Is there a good place to look at the sky where you live?**](#_heading=h.2uxtw84)

[**5 Do you like to see the stars at night?**](#_heading=h.1a346fx)

[**6 Do you want to live on other planets?**](#_heading=h.3u2rp3q)

[**21.** **Relax**](#_heading=h.38czs75)

[**1 What would you do to relax?**](#_heading=h.1nia2ey)

[**2 Do you think doing sports is a good way to relax?**](#_heading=h.47hxl2r)

[**3 Do you think vacation is a good time to relax?**](#_heading=h.2mn7vak)

[**4 Do you think students need more relaxing time?**](#_heading=h.11si5id)

[**22.** **Primary School**](#_heading=h.3ls5o66)

[**1 What did you like to do the most when you were in primary school?**](#_heading=h.20xfydz)

[**2 How did you go to your primary school?**](#_heading=h.4kx3h1s)

[**3 How do you like your primary school?**](#_heading=h.302dr9l)

[**4 What did you do in your leisure time in your primary school?**](#_heading=h.1f7o1he)

[**23.** **Holidays**](#_heading=h.3z7bk57)

[**1 Where did you go for your last holiday?**](#_heading=h.2eclud0)

[**2 Do you like holidays? Why?**](#_heading=h.thw4kt)

[**3 Which public holidays do you like best?**](#_heading=h.3dhjn8m)

[**4 What do you do on holidays?**](#_heading=h.1smtxgf)

[**24.** **Flowers**](#_heading=h.4cmhg48)

[**1 What kinds of flowers do you know?**](#_heading=h.2rrrqc1)

[**2 Are there any flowers that have special meanings in China?**](#_heading=h.16x20ju)

[**3 Have you planted any flowers?**](#_heading=h.3qwpj7n)

[**4 Have you sent flowers to others?**](#_heading=h.261ztfg)

[**25.** **Festival**](#_heading=h.l7a3n9)

[**1 How do you celebrate festivals in your country?**](#_heading=h.356xmb2)

[**2 What special food and activities do you have for these festivals?**](#_heading=h.1kc7wiv)

[**3 How do you celebrate Spring Festival?**](#_heading=h.44bvf6o)

[**4 What is your favorite festival?**](#_heading=h.2jh5peh)

[**26.** **Environmental protection**](#_heading=h.ymfzma)

[**1 Would you like to work in a company related to environmental protection?**](#_heading=h.3im3ia3)

[**2 How can we protect the environment?**](#_heading=h.1xrdshw)

[**3 Do you think you've done enough to protect the environment?**](#_heading=h.4hr1b5p)

[**4 Is there education about environmental protection at school?**](#_heading=h.2wwbldi)

[**27.** **Car trip**](#_heading=h.1c1lvlb)

[**1 Do you like to travel by car?**](#_heading=h.3w19e94)

[**2 When do you travel by car?**](#_heading=h.2b6jogx)

[**3 Where is the farthest place you have traveled to by car?**](#_heading=h.qbtyoq)

[**4 Do you like to sit in the front or back when traveling by car?**](#_heading=h.3abhhcj)

[**28.** **Barbecue**](#_heading=h.1pgrrkc)

[**1 Do Chinese people like a barbecue?**](#_heading=h.49gfa85)

[**2 What kind of food do you like to eat for barbecue?**](#_heading=h.2olpkfy)

[**3 Would you like to have a barbecue with your family or your friends?**](#_heading=h.13qzunr)

[**4 Did you have a barbecue when you were a child?**](#_heading=h.3nqndbk)

[**29.** **Advertisement**](#_heading=h.22vxnjd)

[**1 What kinds of advertisements do you watch?**](#_heading=h.i17xr6)

[**2 Where can you see advertisements?**](#_heading=h.320vgez)

[**3 Have you ever bought something because of its advertisement?**](#_heading=h.1h65qms)

[**4 Do you watch advertisements from the beginning to the end?**](#_heading=h.415t9al)

[**30.** **Special costumes**](#_heading=h.2gb3jie)

[**1 Do you like to wear special costumes?**](#_heading=h.vgdtq7)

[**2 Did you try any special costumes when you were young?**](#_heading=h.3fg1ce0)

[**3 When was the time you wear special costumes?**](#_heading=h.1ulbmlt)

[**4 Do you ever buy special costumes?**](#_heading=h.4ekz59m)

[**31.** **Weekend**](#_heading=h.2tq9fhf)

[**1 what do other people in your hometown usually do on weekends?**](#_heading=h.18vjpp8)

[**2 What will you do next weekend?**](#_heading=h.3sv78d1)

[**3 Did you do anything special last weekend?**](#_heading=h.280hiku)

[**4 What do you usually do on weekends?**](#_heading=h.n5rssn)

[**32.** **Maths**](#_heading=h.375fbgg)

[**1 Do students learn math in secondary schools in China?**](#_heading=h.1maplo9)

[**2 Do you learn math now? Why/why not?**](#_heading=h.46ad4c2)

[**3 What can people do with math in their daily life?**](#_heading=h.2lfnejv)

[**4 Do you think math is difficult?**](#_heading=h.10kxoro)

[**33.** **Spending time with others**](#_heading=h.3kkl7fh)

[**1 Do you like talking with people?**](#_heading=h.1zpvhna)

[**2 How do you like spending time with your friends?**](#_heading=h.4jpj0b3)

[**3 Would you prefer to study alone or with others?**](#_heading=h.2yutaiw)

[**4 Do you remember a time when you need to cooperate with others?**](#_heading=h.1e03kqp)

[**34.** **TV program**](#_heading=h.3xzr3ei)

[**1 Do you talk with your friends about the program you watched?**](#_heading=h.2d51dmb)

[**2 Do you like watching the same kind of program all the time?**](#_heading=h.sabnu4)

[**3 Do you often watch programs on the TV or on your cellphone?**](#_heading=h.3c9z6hx)

[**4 What kind of TV programs do you like?**](#_heading=h.1rf9gpq)

# Pets and animals

## What’s your favorite animal? Why?

## What is the most popular animal in Vietnam?

## Have you ever had a pet before?

## Where do you prefer to keep your pets, indoors or outdoors?

watch their house 🡪 serve as guards in our houses 🡪bark when they see strangers.

adorable dynamic and playful 🡪 cheer you up 🡪 hug and stroke these pets 🡪 have soft fur

serve as stress relievers 🡪 loyal companions to human. 🡪 dogs respond with all their love and affection

keep an eye on them

abandoned or kidnapped.

be allergic to dog fur 🡪trigger asthma attack

1. **Are there many people keeping pets in your country?**

Well, I think there are quite a large number of people who love to raise pets here in my country. They raise dogs, cats, birds or fishes. For those who are more **adventurous**, they also keep snakes or lizards as pets, which is really **bizarre** in my opinion.

1. **Have you ever had a pet when you were young?**

Yes when I was little, I had a dog named Lucky. To me, she was one of the cleverest dogs ever. However, she **died in an accident** when I was studying at school. That really **broke my heart into pieces** and I have never adopted any pets since then.

1. **What pet will you keep if you want?**

Well, I am a **dog person** **(a person who keeps dogs as pets),**so I definitely want to **raise a dog** like Huskies. I like their appearance and fluffy fur and I have been told that Huskies are really dynamic and **playful** and can be **good companion (A domestic partner).**

1. **Do you think it is necessary to protect wild animals?**

Absolutely yes, there are many species that are**on the verge of** **extinction**and if we don’t**take actions** to protect them, they will become extinct, which can detrimentally affect our **biodiversity (diversity of plant and animal species in an environment).**

1. **What wild animals do you like?**

I am particularly into the Kiwi – New Zealand’s national bird. I find them interesting as although they are birds, they are **flightless (incapable of flying).** However, a kiwi can **outrun (to run faster than)**a person due to its**muscular (having well-developed muscles) legs.**

**6. Do you have a pet?**

Yes, when I was a child, **my aunt got me a puppy**. My aunt got me one when he was really young. He didn’t recognise us at first and **kept hiding under the bed or sofa**. However, as he grew older, he began to recognise our faces and became more comfortable and friendly in our surroundings. Now, my pet and I **share a very special bond.**

**7. Do you like animals?**

Yes, I am a huge animal lover. Animals have always had a special place in my heart, and I’ve animals like dogs, fishes, and cats since I was a child.

**8. What’s your favourite animal?**

I would say dolphins. They’ve **intrigued (=attract, arouse someone’s curiosity or interest)** me since I first saw them in a dolphin show when I was a child. They are such **fun-loving** creatures, and they are intelligent and friendly too.

**9. What is a popular pet to have in your country?**

The majority of people own cats and dogs as pets in their homes. Like any other country, cats and dogs are favoured over all other animals because they are **gentle, intelligent, and faithful** to their owners. Also, they **serve as stress relievers** in the family.

**10. Did you have a pet as a child?**

Yes, a dog. In fact, I still have it. As I said before, my aunt gave it to me when I was 15 years old. My parents did not **encourage me to have a pet** before that, so I didn’t have any. Having a pet, they reasoned, is a significant responsibility for a child.

**11. Why do people have pets?**

I believe there are many reasons, but the most important is finding a comfortable friend in the form of a pet. Pets help owners **cope with (= deal with)** stress and sadness by bringing joy to their lives. It is one of the reasons why they are regarded as family members.

1. **What’s your favourite animal? Why?**

**Despite the fact that there are a variety of pets, I always give a priority to raise a dog mainly because**

Dogs will **C2 spring to my mind** immediately. Simply because its **loyalty and adorable** traits. Whenever C2 I am down in the dumps, he would be the best listener without complaints. On top of that, I always know that there is someone waiting for me at home and welcoming me.

Dogs. I am raising two dogs at present. Whenever I **head back home from work**, they are **waiting to welcome me at the door**. Also, they make me feel better **when C2 I’m down in the dumps**. That’s why I love dogs.

My best-loved animal is dog of course! This is because being in the same environment with your **beloved dog can cheer you up** when you **feel low and have a companion to confide in.** Unlike humans, **dogs respond with all their love and affection** and most importantly **they would never harm us with malicious intentions.**

My favorite animal is the dog. They are friendly, adorable, and entertaining. They make very good companions and are always loyal to their owners.

1. **What is the most popular animal in your country?**

Out of all the animal species in India, the Bengal tiger is probably the most famous. They are the largest cat species in the world; capable of killing animals over twice their size. In addition, Cows are considered holy and as such, the animal is worshipped and decorated during Indian festivals.

Vietnamese people generally C1 **have a tendency to** feed a dog to **watch their house** because it will C2 **bark** when they see some strangers. Although there are a wide range of options, dogs are always **the top priority.** On the other hand, cats are the second choice because its C2 **exquisite** and mysterious beauty and ability to catch mice and it more often than not wind and cuddle people’s legs, which is a psychological **therapy** for its owner with a heart disease.

Well, it is dogs, perhaps. In the countryside, each household typically **has a dog to watch their house** as dogs usually **bark when they see strangers.** In the cities, many people, **especially the young, do not hesitate to spend money** on buying a dog and **take care of them like babies.**

I suppose the most popular animal in my country is the dog. A lot of Vietnamese **children grow up with fond memories** about their **puppies** as their childhood best friend. Besides, you can see that there are many dog rescue groups in the main cities, which **aims to save dogs from being abandoned or kidnapped**.

1. **Have you ever had a pet before?**

I used to **have a bulldog.** You know, it was **a present from** one of my buddies. I had had it for more than a year **before it was stolen.** Since then, I have never wanted to have any pet again as **the feeling of losing** something **you love dearly is terrible**.

I used to **have a puppy corgi** when I was a kid. He and I were best friends. I remember taking him to the park, **feeding him with milk** and **training him with many cool tricks.** Sadly, when I got older, I discovered that **I am allergic to dog fur**, so I had to **give him away**.

A couple of years ago, my mom purchased **a fish tank** to feed some fish, she **was enthusiastic about** it at that time. Unfortunately, once my mom and I went out to the market, my young brother broke the fish tank **whether accidentally or deliberately = intentionally**. When I got home, all fish were dead on the floor with many broken pieces. After that terrible event, my mom **turned into the state of obsession** and she even got the nightmare. That’s the reason why she hasn’t allowed any family members to raise any animals any more.

Oh yes! I had a pet when I was a child. It was a Pomeranian dog named – ‘Harry’. We together made great companions and showered unconditional love, come rain or shine. Unfortunately, he died 2 years ago and I miss him so-so much.

Yes, I have always had dogs as pets. I love dogs and so does everyone in my family. Right now, I have two dogs Nora and Naughty. They are always entertaining me with their antics. Whenever I come home, they are very happy to see me and greet me with a wagging tail.

**4. Where do you prefer to keep your pet, indoors or outdoors?**

To be honest, I prefer to **keep my dog indoors for most of the time.** I feel dogs are the kind of animals that feel unhappy if they are **forced to keep outside**. They are highly social animals and seek continuous interaction with their masters. Moreover, I’ve seen pets… that are kept outside, are more stressed and **develop behavior problems such as barking, digging, escaping,** and being overly aggressive.

I prefer to keep my pets indoors. The breed I **have is an indoor breed** and they can get too hot or **cold outside.** Also, I treat my dogs like family members and **would rather have them inside** where I **can keep an eye on them**. They are **very affectionate and follow us from room to room.**

It depends on various situation. Obviously, if I **decided** to keep a pet, I must **assume responsibilities to** provide it with **B2 a decent shelter**. I would **give the B2 priority to** keep them in the house. **Having said that**, but if family members **had allergies to fur** or other health problems**,** I would **have a second thought because I don’t want to influence others. Apart from** this, if it is a big pet, it can **break things** and **disturb other family members**, so I **am bound to leave it in the garden** with a larger space. **By doing so** they will feel more comfortable, can **freely run around,** and do whatever they like.

**Do you like animals?**

To be honest, I only like friendly animals such as dogs, cats and birds. I consider them human’s friends and keeping them as pets will help me release my negative emotions.

**Are people in your country fond of animals?**

Actually no. It’s sad to admit but this is the truth. Instead of loving animals, most Vietnamese people enjoy torturing them and taking photos to show other people or put on Facebook to get satisfaction.

**What kinds of animals as a pet do the people have in your country?**

Just like other countries in the world, we tend to keep dogs and cats as companions. This is because these animals are tame and easy to live with humans.

**Do you think cities are suitable places for keeping a pet?**

I don’t think so. This is because cities are areas of bumper-to-bumper traffic and heaps of construction, causing harm to pets’ health, and they are likely to face road accidents or a lack of playing space.

**Do children in your country like animals?**

Yes. Vietnamese children are keen on playing with animals, especially dogs and cats, which are so friendly and **have soft fur**. They can **hug and stroke these pets.**

**What kind of animals do you think children like?**

I think it really depends on their personality. I can’t say for sure. For the most part, children love dogs and cats since they can play and **roam about with them**. Some children, however, adore birds because of their beautiful voice. Also, there are some who always enjoy teasing or hurting animals.

**What was your favorite animal when you were a child?**

I was a big fan of dogs. If my memories serve me right, I used to play with a neighbour’s dog called Kiki whenever my parents got into an argument. That was a way I chose to escape from the uncomfortable situation. For this reason, I love dogs so much and now I own a dog with the same name.

**Did you have any pets when you were a child?**

Unfortunately, no. My parents didn’t allow me to keep a pet as they were worried that I could be bitten by them.

**What do you think are the benefits of a child having a pet?**

Well, there is **a wide range of benefits** for children if they have a pet. The most obvious advantage is that they can learn how to show love to other animals by **hugging or stroking them**. In addition, they could probably take responsibility for some household chores by feeding their pet or taking it for a walk.

**If you have children in the future, will you allow them to keep a pet?**

Yes, of course. I suppose keeping a pet is beneficial to a child’s development. By living side by side with them, pets can become their friend and give them emotional support.

**Why do some people keep pets at home?**

Well, there are a number of reasons, but I think the most important one is having a pet is like having a comforting companion. They can help **relieve stress** and cheer people up when they are upset or tired. That is why many people treat pets, such as cats or dogs, as a member of the family.

I think we would all agree that pets are **loyal companions to human**. Especially for those who adopt pets when they were just newborns, these animals are like the precious children to many families.

**What kinds of animals do you like?**

I am into all kinds of birds. For me, they are beautiful and lovely creatures. In fact, some of them may be naughty, but watching their behavior can be something really relaxing to do.

**Do you like to see animals in the zoo?**

To be honest, I have to say “no’” because I always feel sorry for animals that are kept in the cages. Although they are well looked after and are provided with food, they don’t have the freedom like living in their natural habitat.

**HAVING A PET**

**Do you like to have a pet?**

(Answer 1)

Yes I do, however, I’m living in an apartment and our landlady doesn’t allow us to keep pets in our units. She doesn’t want to **hear noises** from dogs or cats as they may **disturb other occupants.** Well, there’s nothing I can do but **obey the rule.**

(Answer 2)

Yes definitely! I’m an animal lover, in fact, I have different kinds of pets at home. I have two rabbits, two parrots, a poodle dog, and a Siamese cat. I don’t know but I have a soft spot for animals ever since I was a child.

(Answer 3)

Well, **keeping pets is not my cup of tea.** Of course, I never dislike animals, it’s just that, I’m not into it. To have a pet like dogs is costly, most especially when they are sick, sometimes the medication is much more expensive than humans when they get ill. And because of that, I’m afraid that I cannot afford to provide the needs of my pet if I have one.

LEXICAL RESOURCE

Landlady [noun] – a woman who owns or runs an apartment; inn

Occupants [noun] – resident; tenant

Keep (pet) [verb] – to own/have

Animal lover [noun] – a person who has affection or love to animals

Soft spot (for) [noun] – a strong liking for something or someone

Not my cup of tea [phrasal verb] – not interested in

Be into [phrasal verb] – be interested in

**Have you ever had a pet when you were young?**

(Answer 1)

Yes I had, I had a black and dappled labrador dog. He’s a very **faithful and playful** dog, I remember, every time I **came back home from school**, he always **jumped on me and licked my face**. Oh I miss those days but I know he’s **in a dog heaven** now.

(Answer 2)

Unfortunately not, since my mom is an asthmatic. As you know, the dander of animals **can trigger asthma attack**. Well I really wanted to keep a pet when I was little but I just couldn’t because of my mom’s condition.

LEXICAL RESOURCE

Dappled [adj.] – marked with lighter spots

Labrador [noun] – a type of dog of retriever breed predominantly in black or gold color

Lick [verb] – pass the tongue over something

Dog heaven [expression] – a place where the souls of good dogs stay

Asthmatic [adj.] – a person who has asthma; a person who has respiratory condition that causes difficulty in breathing

Dander [noun] – refers to protein in skin flakes, urine, feces, saliva, and hair of animals; these are small particles that are carried through the air and can land on body part that **comes into contact with** people’s nose or mouth

Trigger [verb] – cause to happen

**What animals you would like to have as pets?**

Well like most people love having, I want dogs or cats! I love dogs as they are loyal and playful. Not to mention **they can serve as guards in our houses**. Also, I want to keep cats because they’re independent and I enjoy listening to them **when they purr.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE

Loyal [adj.] – faithful; true-hearted

Playful [adj.] – lively; jolly

Keep [verb] – to own; have

Independent [adj.] – not dependent on something/someone

Purr [verb] – to make a low continuous vibratory sound

**What animals you wouldn’t want to have as pets?**

Well, I can’t imagine myself having **reptiles** as pets. They’re just **frightening**! I always **get goosebumps** every time I see some **snakes, iguanas, or chameleons**. I can’t really comprehend why on Earth there are those people who want to keep these animals as pets. I feel like **they’re out of their minds.**

# PUBLIC PARKS & GARDENS

## Would you like to play in a public garden or park?

## What do you like to do when visiting a park?

## How have parks changed today compared to the time when you were a kid?

## Would you prefer to play in a personal garden or public garden?

**I’M** CONSTANTLY **UP TO MY EARS IN WORK AND STUDY**

**metropolis** --> **trapped in a concrete jungle with all those skyscrapers plus the overpopulation.**

**an ideal place** for me to **stroll around** (go for a stroll) and **BLOW OFF SOME STEAM xả hơi** every weekend.

some **green space** so that people can **go there and escape from the crowds**

and **get away from the hustle and bustle of city life**.

**spread a blanket on the ground, get comfy,** and **look up at the cosmos.**

**surrounded by** the flowers, trees and birdsong in the park.

**get close to nature = immerse myself in nature, makes me feel at peace with nature.**

looking at **the beautiful flowerbeds.**

**unwind and breathe** cleaner air / minimize air pollution

transformed drastically compared to when I was small.

as opposed to the past, was pretty much only grass, lakes, and trees.

**spacious** areas **outdoor activities**

**accommodate a lot of people** 🡪 best places to **hold such events**

provide **recreational facilities** and **adventure playgrounds, trade fairs, flower festivals. Street food, clubs**

a habitat of some birds and other living creatures.

**do community gardens** normally **have a wider range of flora and fauna** than their **private counterparts,** they also better **foster social relationships** since access is given to everyone.

**provide aesthetic to the city or town**

attract the visitors/ foreign tourists

**1. Would you like to play in a public garden or park?**

For sure, I’m a self-described **outdoorsy person** so I love playing in green spaces. I’ve been going to various parks and **botanical gardens** that have an interesting variety of **flora and fauna**, which really **makes me feel at peace with nature.**

* **outdoorsy person**: người thích ở ngoài trời
* **botanical gardens**: vườn bách thảo
* **flora and fauna**: thảm thực vật động vật
* **feel at peace**: cảm thấy thư giãn, bình yên

I absolutely like to play in public spaces such as gardens or parks. I am an outdoorsy person and as such **I indulge in quite a few outdoor activities**, for example Badminton and Football.

**There’s no doubt that people in the metropolis are a big fan of public gardens** and I am no exception **they’re trapped in a concrete jungle** – with all those skyscrapers plus the overpopulation needs some green space so that people can go there and escape from the crowds feel highly elated by seeing a plethora of beautiful flowers over there do exercises and jogging. But, old persons **visit parks and sit on the benches**. they’re great places to **go for a stroll and decompress there are thousands of types of rose flowers** which attract the visitors. during the spring season, the garden seems just like nature that comes on the earth **have a place to unwind and breathe cleaner air** especially to those people who are living in the city host some local or national events These special events **need spacious areas** to accommodate a lot of people and the parks are the only best places to hold such events

**2. What do you like to do when visiting a park?**

There’s a whole lot of things I can do in a park, really. But what I **love most is going jogging**. I mean, where better to do it than surrounded by the flowers, trees and **birdsong** in the park.

Well..There are plenty of fun things to do in the park. I love to play Scavenger hunt with my friends. We also do Stargazing where we **spread a blanket on the ground**, **get comfy, and look up at the cosmos.**

Answer:- Well, when individuals go to the public gardens, they **feel immensely glad to** **see the beauty of nature**. they think that they are going **more and more close to nature**. apart from it, they **click pictures of the garden** with the help of their smartphones and then, **upload it on social media.** whenever I visit any garden, I **feel myself in the lap of nature** and, I love to clicks photographs over there like others.

**3. How have parks changed today compared to the time you were a kid?**

Well, I suppose parks nowadays have **transformed drastically** **compared to when I was small**. The bulk of them now has more **recreational facilities** and **adventure playgrounds,** as **opposed to the past,** when all I could see in a park was pretty much only grass, lakes, and trees.

Parks today have **monumentally changed** in contrast to 10-15 years back. They have better playground equipment for children, well-maintained walking/jogging paths and some parks even have soccer/cricket fields.

**4. Would you prefer to play in a private garden or public garden?**

I’d say that I **have a stronger preference for** the latter. It’s because not only **do community gardens** normally **have a wider range of flora and fauna** than their **private counterparts,** they also better **foster social relationships** since access is given to everyone.

Honestly, I **don’t have a preference** between personal or public garden. Both are just fine to me! The only thing where public gardens **have an upper hand** is that they are open to all. Therefore, there’s more opportunity to **foster social relationships with strangers**.

* **foster social relationships:** nuôi dưỡng, gắn kết quan hệ xã hội.

**Are there many public parks in your country?**

***(If you are UNSURE)***

To be honest with you, I’m not sure because I’ve not traveled to all the places in my country. I’ve just **visited a handful of places** and each of those places has parks. Perhaps there are plenty of **state-owned parks** in my country since it’s a common project of **the local government units** in my country.

***(If the answer is YES)***

Yes definitely! There are plenty of public parks in our country because it’s **a mandate of** our national government to every local government to build parks, in order for the citizens to have a place to **unwind and breathe cleaner air** especially to those people who are living in the city.

**Are public parks important in your country?**

In my opinion yes, since public parks are one of the common places where people **can relax with their friends or loved ones.** Also in this country, public parks are commonly used to **host some local or national events** such as commemorating the war, celebrating Christmas, holding New Year’s Countdown, and the like. **These special events need spacious areas to accommodate a lot of people and the parks are the only best places to hold such events.**

**What are the benefits of having gardens in the city?**

 Well, for sure there are too many to mention but let me **focus on the primary benefits**: Gardens **provide aesthetic to the city or town** that will **make the place look inviting especially to tourists**. Also, gardens **minimize air pollution** as **plants absorb carbon dioxide** that factories and cars emit. This also **serves as a habitat of some birds and other living creatures**.

**Why do people living in cities like public gardens?**

**There’s no doubt that** **people in the metropolis are a big fan of public gardens** since they’re **trapped in a concrete jungle** – **with all those skyscrapers plus the overpopulation**. These **contribute stress to their daily lives** and so, a change of scene like those state-owned gardens in cities helps them **get close to nature**, **breathe fresh air** and more importantly make them **get away from all kinds of stress that the city life** has.

**Are there many public gardens in your country?**

Answer:- Yes of course, nowadays, there are many public gardens in my country which are made with the support of people. For instance, there is a popular public garden named rose garden in Chandigarh, Punjab. there are thousands of types of rose flowers which **attract the visitors.** during the spring season, the garden seems just **like nature that comes on the earth.**

**Do you think, there are enough public gardens in your hometown?**

Answer:- Well, I belong to a small village but, it is a developing village with **modern facilities** in it such as a school, **good water supply, a dispensary,** small restaurant and so on. Recently, a youth club in my village has made a beautiful public garden in my village. everyone supports this youth club to do such as development I think, it is enough for my village’s people.

**Very often, public garden is not designed in a simple way but, instead, are laid out in a rather complex way. why do you think this the case?**

Answer: - Well, according to my perceptions, designing the gardens in modern or complex ways attract more and more people to visit over there. I have located in my maternal city. In that garden, the shrubs have **cut in beautiful shapes** such as birds animals and human beings. this attraction of the garden.

**Do you think governments should provide public gardens for people to visit?**

Answer: - Yes, of course, authorities ought to provide the garden to cities because it can help them to **give a message to human beings** to keep their city **more green, neat, and clean**. moreover, public gardens attract people to visit over there with gladness. I believe, the government can do so with the help and good support of people.

**How do people of different age groups use public gardens?**

Answer:- Well, according to my knowledge, when children visit the gardens, they **feel highly elated** **by seeing a plethora of beautiful flowers over there**. they love to see a lot of plants of flowers in one place. if I **talk about young ones,** then, they **feel on the ninth cloud by clicking the pictures of natural beauty** as well as, photographs of themselves with help of their smart or android phones and they **upload such the pictures on social media**. but on the other hand, senior citizens go to the gardens to see the beauty of nature as well as, sit on the benches which set up over there.

**What are the benefits of the park in the city?**

Answer: - Well, there are a number of benefits of having a park in cities. first of all, children can go to the park to play there with their friends. they can do many activities there. Moreover, people go to the parks to **do exercises and jogging.** But **old persons visit parks and sit on the benches**. they talk with their friends or read newspapers over there.

**Do you like parks?**

Yes, I love parks because they’re great places to **go for a stroll** and **decompress**. I think every city **needs some green space so that people can go there and escape from the crowds**.

**How often do you visit parks?**

These days, I’m **constantly up to my ears in** work and study so I don’t have **the luxury of** time to visit parks **on a regular basis**. I just visit the park near my house **once in a while = occasionally** to **immerse myself in** nature.

**Why are parks an important part of many towns and cities?/ Would you like to see some more parks and gardens in your hometown?**

(Yes) I am totally **aware of** the significance of green spaces in city life. They are like an **oasis**where the community can come together and **get away from the hustle and bustle of city life**. **On top of that**, they considerably promote the image of the city.

**What do you think could be done to make parks better? / Do you think the parks and gardens where you live could be improved in any way?**

I think that the parks in the city are already good, but they would be better if **more lighting systems were installed to make them a bit brighter at night**. Besides, there should be **more playgrounds for children.**

**Are public gardens very important in your country?**

Yes, absolutely. This is simply because people can enjoy a great time with their friends or families in public gardens via some activities like **going for a stroll** or looking at the **beautiful flowerbeds**.

**Are there many public gardens in your country?**

Not much I have to say. People tend to be so **tied up at the workplace** or at school, therefore, there is no need to have many public gardens, from the government’s perspective.

**Do you think there are enough public gardens in your hometown?**

I think it’s pretty enough **as I am more concerned about** the quality rather than the quantity. And most of the public gardens in the place where I am living, which is also my hometown, offer me a great experience you know, looking at the beautiful plants and flowers every time I **tire myself out**.

**Do you have a garden where you live?**

*Answer:* Well, I’m currently **living in an apartment in a condo near the heart of** Hanoi, so as you can imagine, there is **no space for a garden** in there. However, I do have a lovely garden in my parents’ house where I grow all kinds of flowers and plants.

**Is there a park near your house?**

*Answer:* Fortunately yes, my house is located near a large park with a wide variety of flowers and big trees, so it is **an ideal place for me to stroll around and blow off some steam every weekend.**

**Would you like to change anything about the park?**

*Answer:* The park itself is really nice, but it would be better if there were more lights around the park to **make it slightly brighter.** To be honest, I find it a bit scary when jogging there at night, so I only go there during the day.

**Từ vựng**

1. Condo/ Condominium: chung cư cao cấp
2. Stroll around: đi dạo
3. Blow off some steam: giải khuây/ xả hơi

# GETTING LOST

## Have you ever lost your way?

## How can you find your way when you are lost?

## Can you read a map when you get lost?

## Have you ever helped someone who got lost?

**1. Have you ever lost your way?**

**It would be a lie if I said no.** This is **embarrassing** but it has happened **many times before**. The reason is I **have a very bad sense of direction (because I'm hopeless at directions)**, **plus**a bad memory, so you can **imagine the struggle** when it comes to **finding my way** around the city. But thankfully, **locals often helped me reach here**.

**2. How can you find your way when you are lost?**

**An easy solution** is to **use navigation apps** on my phone such as Google Maps. However, I absolutely **advise against** using it while **riding a scooter**as a lot of people do in Vietnam because it could lead to **dire consequences.** **Another approach could be to pull over and ask people around the area for direction.**

**3. Can you read a map when you get lost?**

Definitely. map reading **can be my thing.** I think **being able to navigate using a map** is **an essential survival skill**, which **I conveniently picked up from playing video games as a child. So** I can easily **interpret different geographical locations portrayed on the map**.

**4. Have you ever helped someone who got lost?**

**If I'm familiar with that area.** **I am willing to support** that person **from the bottom of my hear**t and I will **give them Direction without a second thought**. More than that I will even **take them along with me, if we go the same way. Otherwise**, I would just **be honest and tell them to ask for help from someone else.**

**1. Have you ever lost your way?**

Oh yes, many times I had **lost my track**. In fact, today itself while coming to the test centre, I **took an extra turn and lost my way**. But thankfully, **locals helped me reach here**.

**It would be a lie if I said no.** This is **embarrassing** but it has happened **many times before**. The reason is I **have a very bad sense of direction (because I'm hopeless at directions)**, **plus**a bad memory, so you can **imagine the struggle** when it comes to **finding my way** around the city.

**2. How can you find your way when you are lost?**

**An easy solution** is to **use navigation apps** on my phone such as Google Maps. However, I absolutely **advise against** using it while **riding a scooter**as a lot of people do in Vietnam because it could lead to **dire consequences.** **Another approach could be to pull over and ask people around the area for direction.**

Well…I **use internet** whenever **I feel like I am lost.** I am of the view that Google maps is the best thing **since sliced bread**. **Gone are the days when asking people about directions** was **our sole option.** With G Maps, one could **get the layout of roads**, the locations of cities and towns, state boundaries, geographical features, restaurant reviews and even **satellite images**. What more help could somebody want?

* ***dire consequences****: hậu quả thảm khốc*

**3. Can you read a map when you get lost?**

Ammm.. map reading **can be my thing.** I can easily **interpret different geographical locations portrayed on the map**. So, to answer your question. Yes, I can read and find my way through some **uncharted territory** with the help of a map.

Definitely. I think **being able to navigate using a map** is **an essential survival skill**, which **I conveniently picked up from playing video games as a child. So** I can easily **interpret different geographical locations portrayed on the map**.

**4. Have you ever helped someone who got lost?**

Let me think… Yes, recently I helped an old man who appeared to be **separated from his family at the Golden Temple.** He was **suffering from Dementia**. So I **grab his hand and take him to the help desk**. They made an announcement and within minutes he **was reunited with his family.**

**If I'm familiar with that area.** **I am willing to support** that person **from the bottom of my hear**t and I will **give them Direction without a second thought**. More than that I will even **take them along with me, if we go the same way. Otherwise**, I would just **be honest and tell them to ask for help from someone else.**

I certainly have, but **I only do this when I’m 100 per cent sure of the directions** that I’m about to give the person. **Otherwise**, I would just **be honest and tell them to ask for help from someone else.**

# Concentration

## Is it difficult for you to stay focused on something?

## What do you do to help you concentrate?

## what may distract you when you're trying to stay focused?

## When do you need to be focused?

When do you need to concentrate the most?

When is concentrating hard for you?

What helps you concentrate more?

Is it easy for you to do two or more things at the same time / simultaneously?

Do you prefer to study in a silent environment or in a place that has some noises?

What do you do if there’s too much noise and you want to study?

When do you find it easiest to concentrate?

Focus on = concentrate on > deep concentration = pay/fix/devote my attention to

# be distracted = annoyed > **dismiss the distractions**; **my mind become scattered**

**Behind the wheel, take an exam, work/study assignments**

In **a worsened physical state**[ˈwɜːsən]

**routine tasks = multitasking** = do two things simultaneously

remove things [turn off my smartphone and keep my laptop hidden]

**set the time restrictions**

**as a matter of fact:** spoken used when adding more details about what you have just said

1. **Is it difficult for you to stay focused on something**?

Well, sometimes I find it **rather** difficult to focus on something especially when I am stressed out or under the weather. I have **a relatively weak body** so I sometimes **suffer from a light headache** easily, especially when **the weather changes**, which **greatly influences my level of concentration**. Also, when I **have a debate or argument with** someone, **I feel drained and my mind will become too scattered to dismiss any distractions coming my way.**

1. **What do you do to help you concentrate?**

practicing yoga and meditation

sip a glass of coffee THE BEST attention booster.

remove some of the things that are distracting me

turning off most of the notifications on my phone

set some short-term aims with time restrictions

1. **what may distract you when you're trying to stay focused?**

**tons of distractions** around me; they might **come from my mates,**

**hunger, fatigue, illness, worrying**, and **daydreaming** that **sidetrack my focus.**

The continuous drumbeat of noise from email, social media messages, and cell phone

my neighbour had a party and the music was too loud.

1. **When do you need to be focused?**

I really need to focus in all kinds of situations, but I believe **the two most important times** are when **I’m driving and when I’m taking an exam.** While **behind the wheel**, if I **don’t fix my attention on the road**, I’ll **run the risk of getting into an accident**. And on examinations, such as this one, **deep concentration will** help me to **perform better.**

**1. Is it difficult for you to stay focused on something?**

Well..sometimes I find it **rather** difficult to focus on something especially when I am stressed or **under emotional breakdown**. To be honest; I’m **a firm believer** that **multitasking isn’t always bad.** However, when I **have way too many plates spinning at one time**, **my focus feels depleted.**

Well. **Being tired** or not **feeling a hundred percent** can **have an influence on** my level of concentration. **In a worsened physical state** [ˈwɜːsən] it is **much harder** to **force myself to focus on** something. Also, when **I’m worried, my mind can** **become scattered** as it’s harder to **dismiss any distractions** **coming my way**.

**Do you ever find it difficult to stay focused?**

I have **a relatively weak body** so I sometimes **suffer from a light headache** easily, especially when **the weather changes**, which **greatly influences my level of concentration**. Also, when I **have a debate or argument with** someone, **I feel drained and my mind will become too scattered to focus on anything.**

**2. What do you do to help you concentrate?**

Honestly, I have been **practising yoga and meditation** in the morning for about 2 months now to help me improve my concentration. I also **remove some of the things that are distracting me**, such as**turning off most of the notifications on my phone**, and I **create a daily to-do list** to help me focus on one thing at a time. To help me focus, I **sip a glass of coffee** and start my activity. Coffee, I believe is **THE BEST attention booster.**

To make myself concentrate better, I like to **remove things that may distract me**. For instance, during my reading time, I actually **turn off my smartphone and keep my laptop hidden**. I also like to **set some short-term aims** with **time restrictions.** This helps me to be **more mindful** about what I’m doing, which often **allows me to accomplish more.**

**3. What may distract you when you are trying to stay focused?**

**The continuous drumbeat of noise** from **email, social media messages,** and cell phone can **cause distraction** to me. If I want real focus, I take myself offline until **I’ve accomplished my task.** Moreover, there are also **internal distractions** such as **hunger, fatigue, illness, worrying, and daydreaming that sidetrack my focus**.

There are **tons of distraction**s around me; they **might come from my mates**, family, neighbours or **social networking sites**, such as **Facebook notifications**. For example, last weekend when I was **working on my new project**, I couldn’t really focus on my work because **my neighbour had a party** and **the music was too loud.**

**4. When do you need to be focused?**

There are many situations when I need to **focus 100% on** what I’m doing. For instance, it is necessary to **stay focused** all the time when I’m **driving on the road**, to **avoid accidents** or other **dangerous situations**. Or when I have to **study for exams**, **do a test like this or work my butt off to meet deadlines,** concentration is **a vital key to** success.

I really need to focus in all kinds of situations, but I believe **the two most important times** are when **I’m driving and when I’m taking an exam.** While **behind the wheel**, if I **don’t fix my attention on the road**, I’ll **run the risk of getting into an accident**. And on examinations, such as this one, deep concentration will help me to **perform better.**

**work my butt off:** làm việc hết sức

**Is it easy for you to do two or more things at the same time?**

Hmm. I think that this **depends on the complexity or importance of the activity**. For **simple routine tasks around the home**, it’s not a problem. ***As a matter of fact***, I prefer doing it as it can **save time**. But for **major responsibilities**, such as **big work assignments**, **multitasking** is the way for me to go. I like to **devote my full attention** by doing one thing at a time to the things that **matter the most to me**.

**Do you prefer to study in a silent environment or in a place that has some noises?**

Well, I can only study when **everything around me is quiet,** I **literally** cannot think when there is too much noise. I don’t understand why some of my friends enjoy listening to music when they study, I **find it annoying.**

**What do you do if there’s too much noise and you want to study?**

If I could do anything to **make those noises disappear**, I would. For example, if I was studying and my parents were **watching TV**, I would just tell them to **turn it off**. **Otherwise,** I would just have to find another place to study.

**When do you find it easiest to concentrate?**

I’m not **a morning person**, and I can’t really concentrate in the afternoon, **either.** I would say evenings are the best times for me to work or study.

**(\*): morning person** = người có thể làm việc hiệu quả vào buổi sáng

# Shoes

## Do you like buying shoes? How often?

## Have you ever bought shoes online?

## How much money do you usually spend on shoes?

## Which do you prefer, fashionable shoes or comfortable shoes?

1. **Do you like buying shoes? How often?**

**Absolutely yes!** Especially those**fancy trainers** never **fail to excite me** (or **never fails to tickle my fancy**) (lol). because they are **so light, airy and trendy**.They are **comfortable to wear** and I can **use them all-year round.** Also they can **never be out of fashion** since they are always suitable to wear **in almost all kinds of occasions**.

I would love to buy as many shoes *as I can provided*, if I had enough money. Also, it’s one of the **must-have accessories**to **top off your outfits**and really shows your **sense of fashion**

1. **Have you ever bought shoes online?**

No, that has **never crossed my mind,** **I don’t have any experience of buying one** and since I’m afraid that if I buy shoes online, **they may not fit my size because I’m not able to try them on first**. More than that **I have lost confidence in online retailers**. The result is that **the actual product does not look anything like advertised.** online shopping altogether. So Whenever I buy shoes, I always **go to familiar shops** so I can try them on and see if **they look good on me**.

1. **How much money do you usually spend on shoes?**

Well, Only **a small fraction,** **on an average** , I **spend somewhere around** **5-10% of my monthly income.** The reason is that I enjoy being a **frugal shopper** and **saving money for** rainy day/ **contingency**. More importantly, I need to be **more conscious or careful** about spending **my hard-earned money,** Having said that, I **never compromise quality** like buying **refurbished shoes**, and the way I go about this is **by either shopping from trusty local dealers or using vouchers**. Some of my dress shoes were actually bought this way and they **saved me hundreds of bucks**.

* **frugal shopper**: người mua sắm tiết kiệm
* **contingency**: tiết kiệm
* **refurbished shoes**: giày tân trang

1. **Which do you prefer, fashionable shoes or comfortable shoes?**

**The type of shoes someone wears reflect their character**. **I’d say the latter** because **I give precedence to functionality over aesthetics**. In fact, my favorite shoes item is **a comfy pair of new balance** with **a memory foam footbed.** I love to **slot my foot into it** and **mope around the house**, sometimes even crawling **under the sheets** with it on.

* **mope around**: đi quanh
* **under the sheets**: dưới tấm trải giường

For me, Comfort is always a priority! **Fashionable shoes undoubtedly look eye-grabbing from a distance** but as it’s said the devil is in the details; they **mostly lack cushioning and comfort**. On the other hand, comfortable shoes **are affordable with a great fit.**

**Ideally,** they would be **a combination of both**. I couldn’t wear a**n ugly pair of shoes**no matter how comfortable they were because they will not **suit my outfits/ complement my outfit**. **On the other hand**, even if I loved the way the shoes looked, I **wouldn’t want to be in pain**every time I wore them.**Even worse, my feet would be worn-out**

1. **Do you like buying shoes? How often?**

Yes, I love purchasing **footwear**, especially **sneakers or football cleats**. **I’ve taken out a subscription to newsletters from world-famous sportswear brands** like Nike or Adidas just to **stay on top of** their latest**fashion-forward** items, and I **sift**through them at least a couple of times per day. Just last week I ordered a pair of Nike Air Max and had it **delivered to my doorstep.**

I definitely like buying **shoes for me and my family**. I often go to supermarket every month located **within hailing distance** to my home, and **purchase some new trendy footwear** for the whole family.

As I’m **a sporty person, I love trainers**! They are comfortable to wear and I can **use them all-year round.** Also they can **never be out of fashion** since they are always suitable to wear **in almost all kinds of occasions**.

**Absolutely yes!** Especially those**fancy trainers** never **fail to excite me** (or **never fails to tickle my fancy**) (lol). I would love to buy as many shoes *as I can provided*, I have enough money. Also, it’s one of the **must-have accessories**to **top off your outfits**and really shows your **sense of fashion**.

Yes, of course! I’m quite a **girly girl (very feminine)**, so I’ve always been into shoes since I was a little girl. My mother used to **catch me trying on her high heels in her closet**! Moreover, I’m a **fashionista (a person who likes fashion)** so I feel that shoes really tie the whole outfit together.\

Mm I would say every couple month. I’m trying to **save up for** a new car right now, so I don’t like to **spend too much unnecessary money.** With this said, I usually buy a new pair at the start of every season

Nowadays, just so rare as I have already a lot of pairs of different types of shoes. Back then, I used to **buy thrice or four times a year** since I didn’t have any priorities, it was like a hobby for me collecting shoes. However, these days as **I’m living on my own**, I need to be more conscious or careful about spending **my hard-earned money,** I’ve many bills to pay that the idea of buying new shoes is already a luxury.

High heels 100%! I feel that they really tie the whole outfit together. Moreover, I feel feminine when I wear them, not to mention that they accentuate my legs. I have spent several years getting used to them so I can now **strut my stuff** **(walk confidently)**in heels everywhere I go!

1. **Have you ever bought shoes online?**

Yes but **I’ve stopped doing it** because I **have lost confidence in** online shopping altogether. In my eyes now, **online retailers** are nothing but **unscrupulous** characters, **finessing** customers by **playing down products’ less desirable features**. The result is that **the actual product does not look anything like advertised**. like the Nike sneaker, I mentioned earlier which came to my house with **torn fabric** and **bleeding colour**.

* ***unscrupulous***:*vô đạo đức*
* ***finess sb****: lấy lòng ai đó*
* ***bleeding color:****phai màu*

No, **I don’t have any experience of buying one** and that has **never crossed my mind,** since I’m afraid that if I buy shoes online, **they may not fit my size**, although there are always **specifications**, still I can’t trust them. Whenever I buy shoes, I always **go to brick-and-mortar shops** so I can try them on and see if **they look good on me**.

Of course, although **I don’t prefer it**. I have only **bought shoes online from familiar stores**, like Aldo and Zara, which I know **fit me well**. On the other hand, I don’t like to buy shoes from new stores when **I’m not able to try them on first**.

Yes, I do a lot of shopping online. Recently, I bought Nike Air Max 90 shoes on Amazon. It was **a marvelous experience.** I think on websites like Amazon/Flipkart …Convenience is the **biggest perk**. Where else can you comfortably shop at midnight while in your pajamas? There are no queues to wait in or cashiers to **track down to help you with your purchases**, and you can do your shopping in minutes.

Yes, actually I did buy a pair of Zara shoes **a couple of years ago** from **a reputable shop** on Facebook. They are **quite reliable**and I’m still wearing them even now.

1. **How much money do you usually spend on shoes?**

Only **a small fraction,** like **5-10% of my monthly income.** The reason is that I enjoy being a **frugal shopper** and saving money for **contingency**. Having said that, I never compromise quality like buying **refurbished shoes**, and the way I go about this is **by either shopping from trusty local dealers or using vouchers**. Some of my dress shoes were actually bought this way and they **saved me hundreds of bucks**.

* **frugal shopper**: người mua sắm tiết kiệm
* **contingency**: tiết kiệm
* **refurbished shoes**: giày tân trang

Well, **on an average,** I **spend somewhere around** 1500-3000 INR on my footwear. Actually, I look for **some doorbuster deals** and never misses any Black Friday’s ever.

1. **Which do you prefer, fashionable shoes or comfortable shoes?**

**I’d say the latter** because **I give precedence to functionality over aesthetics**. In fact, my favorite shoes item is **a comfy pair of new balance** with **a memory foam footbed.** I love to **slot my foot into it** and **mope around the house**, sometimes even crawling **under the sheets** with it on.

* **mope around**: đi quanh
* **under the sheets**: dưới tấm trải giường

**The type of shoes someone wears reflects their character**. For me, Comfort is always a priority! **Fashionable shoes undoubtedly look eye-grabbing from a distance** but as it’s said the devil is in the details; they **mostly lack cushioning and comfort**. On the other hand, comfortable shoes **are affordable with a great fit.**

**Ideally,** they would be **a combination of both**. I couldn’t wear a**n ugly pair of shoes**no matter how comfortable they were because they will not **suit my outfits**. **On the other hand**, even if I loved the way the shoes looked, I **wouldn’t want to be in pain**every time I wore them.**Even worse, my feet would be worn-out**.

Definitely, good looking, hopefully comfortable too! I care much more about the appearance and if they **complement my outfit.** However, I try to buy nicer brands so that more comfortable should be expected. Moreover, many comfortable shoes are often unattractive, like Crocs for example.

1. **Do you know anyone who likes to buy a lot of shoes?**

**Considering my circles of friends** or my family, I know no one. I guess they’re not really into shoes or they’re just satisfied having a pair or two. If I know someone who has that kind of habit, I can assume that he **must have very deep pockets.**

**I would agree up to a point** because we should **never judge a book by its cover**. **Having said that**, it’s possible to **discern**things about a person probably from their certain shoes such as **creativity, extroversion, and introversion.** For example, if you see a girl wearing**jazzy shoes,** she is **a flamboyant person** for sure.

1. **Where do you usually buy your shoes?**

Well**, I have a strong preference for** Nike brand shoes because they are **so light, airy and trendy.** However, **to be honest with you (or: to tell you the truth)**, I don’t really trust Nike stores in Vietnam, so I often ask my friends Ami in New York to order **a pair of Nikes** for me every year.

1. **Is it good to have a lot of shoes?**

**Certainly!** Having a lot of shoes would definitely **provide various choices**for you to **mix and match with your outfits**. **Additionally,**we need different shoes for **numerous occasions**such as wedding party, trekking or sports activities.

1. **Why do some people have too many shoes?**

Well, there could be various reasons. I think one is that perhaps they see shoes on sale so they **buy them on a whim (buying something without thinking about it)**, even if they don’t need them. Moreover, some people are really into shoes so they like to collect them. Lastly, maybe they keep their old shoes so their collection keeps growing.

1. **Are people willing to buy expensive shoes?**

Some people! I think people who are wealthy are more **apt to (likely to)** buy expensive brands. On the other hand, there are some people who would rather have a few quality items rather than a bunch of cheap quality pairs. So, I think this type of person often tends to buy more expensive shoes also.

1. **What kind of shoes do you usually wear?**

A) I mostly wear flat shoes rather than high heeled shoes because I find them more comfortable. I also go for shoes that aren’t lace-ups so that I can slip them on and off whenever I need to.

1. **Do you think the type of shoes someone wears reflects their character?**

Yes, I do. People say that first impressions are important and I think that goes for shoes too. If you see a person **wearing a worn-out pair of shoes,** it gives you the impression that they that are sloppy. On the other hand, if you see someone wearing brand name shoes that cost a fortune, you know that the person has plenty of money to **splash around** and doesn’t care about costs. So, shoes can tell you a lot about someone’s character.

**Useful Vocabulary**

**lace-ups = shoes with laces**

to slip something on and off = to put them on and take them off easily

worn out = tatty, shabby, the worse for wear, tired

**sloppy = not tidy, lazy, slovenly**

cost a fortune = cost an arm and a leg, expensive

have money to splash around = have money to waste, to throw around **Vocabulary highlights:**

**Tickle sb'sfancy**- If something tickles your fancy, you like it and want to have it: khiến cho bạn thích cái gì đó  Example: Does anything on the menu **tickle your fancy**?

**Worn out** adjective/ˌwɔːn ˈaʊt/ -something that is worn out can no longer be used because it is so old or because it has been damaged by continued use: bị mòn, kiệt sức

Example: My jeans are almost **worn out** because I've worn them so much. : Quần jean của tôi gần như bị mòn vì tôi đã mặc chúng rất nhiều.

**Discern** verb /dɪˈsɜːn/ -to see, recognize, or understand something that is not clear: phân biệt

Example: It is difficult to **discern** any pattern in these figures. : Thật khó để phân biệt bất kỳ mô hình nào trong những số liệu này.

**Jazzy** adjective/ˈdʒæz.i/ **=**very bright and colourful: sặc sỡ

Example: a **jazzy** tie/dress : cà vạt / váy sặc sỡ

**Flamboyant** adjective/flæmˈbɔɪ.ənt/ - very confident in your behaviour, and liking to be noticed by other people, for example because of the way you dress, talk, etc.: màu mè, khoa trương, sặc sỡ

Example: The writer's **flamboyant** lifestyle was well known. : Lối sống khoa trương của nhà văn đã được biết đến.

**Top off something** phrasal verb /tɑp/ - to make something completeor satisfying: khiến cho cái gì đó hoàn hảo, hoàn thiện

Example: A fabulous cherry pie **topped off the meal**. : Một chiếc bánh anh đào tuyệt vời làm hoàn hảo bữa ăn thực sự.

# Science

## Do you like science?

## When did you start to learn about science?

## Which science subject is interesting to you?

## what kinds of interesting things have you done with science?

1. **Do you like science?**

**Yes**

To be frank with you, I’m not exactly a big fan of science ‘cause it’s always been **a closed book** to me. Though I know it helps me to **acquire an in-depth understanding of** the world, I always find it **perplexing**.

* **a closed book**: một đề tài, môn học khó
* **acquire**: có được
* **an in-depth understanding of**: một sự hiểu biết sâu rộng
* **perplexing:** phức tạp, rắc rối

Yes, **I am extremely fond of** Science. Science is **the building block of our today’s modern world** and **from a very young age,** I have always **questioned the world**. Science almost always gave me the answers **to my never-ending torrent of queries,** and it continues to do so. Having answers to my questions **compelled me to want to know more**. In short, **science fed and continues to feed my curiosity.**

Yes, definitely! **I take a keen interest in** learning science because it gives me a better understanding of the world around me, about existing **substances**, and **explains seemingly simple phenomena** such as fire, hard water, energy transformation etc.

Yes definitely! **I’m more into** learning sciences because it **helps me acquire an in-depth understanding of the world** that I’m living in – everything around me has relation with science: the air that **I’m breathing, gravity, the sunrise and sunset,** the **flora and fauna,** the **human anatomy**, **to name a few**. Well, I can’t understand why there are some people who consider this subject as boring as I find it more than interesting.

No:

**Not at all!** Science is one of the subjects that **I really loathed** when I was a student, especially when I started **studying Physics and Chemistry**. I don’t know, I just **couldn’t absorb the lessons. It’s such a shame** that oftentimes I got a C in most of **my major science exams**. I think **it wasn’t my cup of tea!**

Science. I am **the lover of science** since I was 8 My mother was very good in Science because of her I am also very good in science (Never scored below 35 in the exam of 40 Marks). So here are some reasons that Why do I love science

It fascinates me. I **was very good in science** since start. I **have a great interest in** Science. (Specially Quantum mechanics and Astronomy). It gives me an idea to understand about How the things work. Helps me to understand things better. There is Science behind everything. I find **biology** a bit boring but I also love Biology.

1. **When did you start to learn about science?**

**It was way back in the early part of my school years**. I got to study **rudimentary**maths, physics and biology. I was pretty good at them **back then**, unlike now, when a math problem could **give me a really hard time**solving it.

* **rudimentary**(a): cơ bản, thô sơ
* **have a really hard time**: gặp khó khăn việc gì

In Vietnam, the **compulsory education program** **from elementary to high school** includes **science subjects** and I **started studying** **basic science subjects** such as mathematics, **natural science**, **geography, biology**, from 3rd grade in primary school. Later in high school, I learned more subjects like chemistry and physics. I did some interesting **practical experiments** at school.

In Vietnam, science topics are included in the obligatory education curriculum from elementary to high school, and I **began learning fundamental science subjects** such as mathematics, natural science, geography, and biology from third grade in primary school. Later in high school, I studied more topics such as chemistry and physics. At school, I conducted several intriguing practical experiments.

It’s just the same as most students learn! During my first year in high school, I studied Science and Technology, then Biology during my sophomore year, the year after, I studied Chemistry, and for my last year in high school, Physics. Of all those branches of science that I spent time studying, Biology is the most fascinating and Physics is for me the most challenging.

**If my memory serves me right**, I didn’t study science in primary school, I started studying science when I was in secondary school because it’s **part of our curriculum**. I had to learn Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Technology **especially about Electrical Engineering**. And because of my love of science, I decided to **take up** Biology as my major course in the university, and here I am, planning to **study further** in one of the best universities in the US so I can acquire a Master’s degree in Biology

As I’ve just mentioned, I started studying science when I was a high school student. That was the very time I learned anything about science. However, Biology **captured my interest** the most since I had this burning **desire to** learn about Human Anatomy and Physiology. During those times, I always **wondered how human organs function** and how they influence on people’s everyday life.

Both, I came from a primary and secondary school in which science education has a major part in the school’s curriculum. So as early as 7 years old, I was already exposed to learning basic science experiment like osmosis. I have to say the training in those kinds of schools is way better than the ordinary state schools or even private schools since we learned some scientific theories that helped us develop our analytical skills.

My science adventure started *when I was in school*. I **conducted hundreds of exciting practical science experiments** there. Whoever said that school is not exciting has **never attended a proper science lesson!**

Apart from Math and science entries, I didn’t study any other science subjects in elementary school. When I was in secondary school, I first came to know and study other subjects like Physics, Chemistry, and Biology because they are part of our curriculum.

1. **Which science subject is interesting to you?**

Well, I **have a keen interest in** chemistry. Back when I was in secondary school, I was **infatuated with** this subject ’cause I **took enormous enjoyment in** watching all **these chemical reactions and balancing chemical equations.**

* **have a keen interest in**: quan tâm đến, thích
* **infatuated with**: say mê với
* **take enormous enjoyment with**: thấy vui khi làm gì

**My dearest science subject** is ‘Physics’. I think there’s nothing that explains nature better than Physics. This subject is for anyone who **has an enquiring mind**, **passion for understanding how things work, and versatile ideas.**

During my secondary and high school years I always loved chemistry. I have a particular interest **in chemical compounds, chemical equations, and laboratory experiments**. **Watching compounds change slowly into other substances through chemical reactions has always intrigued me.**

1. **What kinds of interesting things have you done with science?**

If my memory serves me right, **there have been a few occasions** that I’ve **had fun doing scientific experiments**. I remember there was one time when I almost **burned the class down** because of my **clumsiness** during a chemical experiment. The whole class **was engulfed in smoke** and everybody actually **burst into laughter.**

* **engulfed**(adj) chìm trong
* **burst into laughter**: bật cười

I have done several things with science. As I remember, once I made a food science project to transform drinks into semi-solid balls that pop in your mouth. The technique is called spherification and it is part of a larger food science trend called **molecular gastronomy**— but we just called it yummy science!

Wow, there's a lot of things I've done but perhaps the experiment of producing oxygen through a chemical reaction and surgery of a frog to identify its internal organs are the two experiments I'm most excited about.

In chemistry, I get to learn how to combine liquid together and how it works. We have a chemistry room where we can practice and observe the result. The consequence will depend on how we mix it and the condition in the process we make which makes us very nervous but excited at the same time.

1. **Do you think science classes are important?**

I think it depends on a person’s personal view, however, I strongly believe that science classes play a crucial role in our lives. With science, we learn so many things about our world even simple phenomena like understanding the weather, how the movement of the moon affects the tides, when storms occur, among others. Those phenomena influence our everyday lives, the absence of knowledge of those things have a negative impact on people’s lives.

I couldn’t emphasize the importance of science classes enough! They are important as we learn about the world, natural phenomenon, the human physiology, the living things – well, life in general! Besides, in this era where science and technology is the main industry, it is imperative to learn science in order to secure a better job in the future.

**When did you start to learn about science?**

**Which science subject is interesting to you?**

**what kinds of interesting things have you done with science?**

# Weather

## What kind of weather do you like most?

## What's the weather like in your hometown?

## Do you like the weather in your hometown?

## Do you prefer dry or wet weather?

I prefer a cool and **pleasant / mild** climate; **cuddle up under a blanket**; show off my fashionable outfits**; uplifts my mood**; The **ambiance** of summertime, humid days; experienced any extreme weather conditions; the key features about the climate. living in tropical countries

1. **What kind of weather do you like the most?**

I like warm days when the air is a little cool but the sun makes it feel warmer. I like to **cuddle up under a blanket** when it **gets cold outside.** Spring-like temperature in March and November of the year is my favorite. Apart from that, I like the **thunderstorms** we get in the summer months. I may sound absurd but the sound of thunderstorm is… just amazing.

**There is no doubt that** it is winter. Mainly because when the winter comes, I **feel pleasant** and comfortable. I can **dress up in winter clothes**. More importantly, I can **sleep all day long** without **being annoyed**. And in the summer, I often feel uncomfortable because **it’s boiling hot**. I **sweat a lot** And I often must **have a wash** because my skin's sticky.

I prefer **a cool and pleasant / mild climate** (OR: Well, a cool and mild climate is my cup of tea). This type of weather always **uplifts my mood** (or: **promotes an uplifting mood**). You know, I can **show off my fashionable outfits** with different layers and enjoy my favorite hot pot (or BBQ).

What I love most is cool, dry weather. I am fanatical about being able to **sit outside** **on a balmy evening with a drink,** rather than **cooped up inside** like you are in the winter.

Well as I’ve just said, I like dry or sunny weather. There are no any other types of weather that can suffice the happiness that I feel during sunny days, as I can do various things such as **running errands, doing the laundry, taking a walk in the park, swimming**, not to mention enjoying driving my bike.

Without a doubt, it’s summer! **The ambiance of summertime** is just so different **– people’s faces are painted with happiness**. That’s because they can **enjoy staying outside** and do some outdoor activities with family and friends. Actually, I dream of **living in tropical countries** since those types of countries have the happiest people. I imagine how beautiful their life is.

The weather in my home town is quite nice actually. It is mild all the year round, neither too cold in winter nor too hot in summer. We haven't **experienced any extreme weather conditions.**

It **has four clear-cut seasons.** In spring, it is windy and warm, sometimes, very dusty. In summer, it is rainy and hot with a few rather **humid days** which can make us very uncomfortable. In autumn, the sky **is clear and sunny,** but it can be very **foggy** on some days. In winter, it is dry and cold with the temperature going down to 10 degrees Celsius sometimes

Well, the weather in my home town is **very similar to** what we have here in this city. It's not very hot in summer the highest about 35 degrees Celsius. In winter, it's not very cold, about 20 or 21 degrees Celsius. Spring and autumn are **both mild and pleasant** with **temperatures** ranging from 25 to 28 degrees Celsius.

The weather in this area is always very **changeable.** You just can't tell what weather you will have in the next hour. I think the key features about the climate there is that it is very dry and windy all the year round.

There are 4 seasons: Winter is **cold, dry and windy** spring is short and rainy; summer is hot and humid with temperatures as high as 35 degrees Celsius or even 37 degrees **in the sunshine**, making this city one of the four furnaces in Vietnam. It can be terrible in summer unless you **have air conditioning**: and autumn is probably the best season neither too hot nor too cold or humid. It's very comfortable.

You're probably aware that Vietnam **has a tropical climate.** The sky is fairly hot; only in the summer, from June to November, is the air more comfortable and humid. I enjoy the weather during this time of year because I enjoy chilly, windy weather and being able to **wear light and light garments** on the street instead of having to **wear bulky clothes** in the winter. Actually, winter in Vietnam is not that cold, with **temperatures hovering around** 25 degrees Celsius, but due to my sinusitis, I **suffer from severe headaches and pain**. Every time winter arrives, I **get chilly quickly**, thus I dislike cold weather.

1. **What’s the weather like in your hometown?**

My hometown's weather fluctuates with the seasons. It is highly sunny throughout the dry season, making people unable to work outside and creating numerous ailments. When it rains, it becomes chilly and the temperature drops below 20 degrees. At the time of transition between the two seasons, the weather is more pleasant

The weather in my hometown is quite severe. You know because Vietnam is in the region of tropical Monsoon climate, so we have two seasons: the dry season and the rainy season. In the dry season, we get boiling hot days within 3 to 5 months. And in the rainy season, we get unceasing rainy days.

Summers in my hometown are quite hot, with temperatures reaching 40 degrees in some years. Aside from that, my hometown is frequently **impacted by floods and storms** throughout the rainy season. Alternatively, during special events such as Tet. The weather in Vietnam is pleasant.

The weather in my hometown (Ludhiana, Punjab) remains calm and enjoyable, with temperatures usually hovering between 0°C and 26°C. We relish the pleasant climate and countless festivals during winters, that make it the best time of the year to explore city’s tourist spots.

Well, my hometown is no different from any other places in my country. We do have four seasons. When it’s winter, we experience below zero degrees. When it’s autumn or spring, we have chilly and rainy days, and when it’s summer, our temperature reaches 38 degrees Celsius. The temperature in summer is just manageable but not winter’s temperature is unimaginable.

1. **Do you like the weather in your hometown?**

Yes, I absolutely enjoy the weather in my hometown. Even though there are no four seasons like in the north, the weather has different seasons. My hometown is Quang Nam, a province in the heart of Vietnam, thus the climate influences and varies depending on the season.

To be honest, I **feel annoyed with** the weather in my hometown mainly because when you travel to work or study, you can **suffer from the high temperature**, the sun can **make your skin tanned**. So, I often **wear a mask, jacket, and gloves to protect my skin**. More than that. when I arrive at the company, my body is so sticky. Conversely, in the rainy season, the street is flooded and it's very dangerous because when you drive you can suddenly fall on the street and **you can be soaked with dirty clothes.**

To be honest, **I am irritated by** the weather in my area, mostly because when you travel to work or school, you might **suffer from high temperatures** and the sun can **brown your skin.** As a result, I frequently wear a mask, jacket, and gloves to protect my skin. More than that, my body is quite sticky **when I get to the firm**. In contrast, during the rainy season, **the roadway is flooded,** **making driving extremely risky** since you might suddenly fall on the street and **become wet with unclean clothes.**

Honestly speaking, I am not a huge fan of the summers in my hometown, winters are okay!!! The **scorching heat** in the months of May & June **is unbearable at my place**. But thank God, we have cooler places like Dalat where I **go to escape from the heat.**

1. **Do you prefer dry or wet weather?**

I enjoy the wet season since I can **plainly feel some cool breezes**. My skin is also **moisturized.** Furthermore, consider that in rainy weather, **it is preferable to** **consume more tasty food** than in dry weather. Aside from that, I enjoy going to coffee shops since it relaxes and **chills me out** after a long day at work.

I would always **pick wet weather over the dry season**. This is because, after months of **searing summer heat**, the monsoon is a welcome change. I **am fond of cool weather, cloudy sky, and the downpour.**

**Whether I like the rain or not depends on the situation.** If **I am in a sluggish/ lazy mood** and **lounging around the house**, **I am content with** the rain as it gives me a good excuse to read my favorite book. Whereas, if I had a prearranged plan which required a sunny day, I would feel very disappointed.

Absolutely yes! I mean, **who doesn’t?** It just happened the other day, you know, when I was just about to go to the bookshop, then **out of the blue,** it **started raining cats and dogs**. So, I had no choice but to **postpone my plan.**

Of course, I would prefer to **live in a predominantly dry area** because I can **do more outdoor activities,** especially going to the beach. Without a doubt, life is so much better in the sun because sunshine makes me happy.

**I prefer the former** since I can **be very productive,** when **the sun’s up, I’m usually loaded with** so much energy. Also, I’m a person whose mood is greatly influenced by the weather, so if it’s dry and sunny I can work more efficiently and happily, however, if it’s rainy I **can be as lazy as a sloth.**

# Headphones

## Do you use headphones?

## What type of headphones do you use?

## When would you use headphones?

## In what conditions, you won't use headphones?

**1. Do you use headphones?**

Yes, I use headphones pretty often. It’s a great way to [**help**](https://www.readingielts.com/describe-an-occasion-when-you-helped-someone/)**me time out any distractions**. Plus, listening to music is a much better experience when you have headphones on. You can hear everything more clearly. When I have headphones on, I can also **turn up the music as loud as I want without bugging anyone**

Yes, in fact I am an **audiophile**. As such, I am in love with my headphones! They command the outside world to be silent. So whenever I feel like not talking to anyone I simply **plug in my headphones** and **listen to music.**

Yes, I do and it’s very often. I use them not only for listening to music but also for my work. My headphones **have a built-in microphone** which is pretty convenient as I can use them when I attend some conference calls with my co-workers.

I’m not sure if we can call earbuds a type of headphones, but I do use earbuds since they’re extremely convenient, unlike the **traditional headphones that are heavy and bulky.** I normally use earbuds when I **talk with someone over the phone** and when I listen to music to relax.

Yes, I do. I sometimes use headphones to listen to music, watch movies, or when I am on an online video call. When I am**on the go (very busy)** and still want to listen to some pieces of music, I also wear headphones to **make the most of (to use sth so that it gives the greatest benefit)** time.

1. **What type of headphones do you use?**

Well, I have **Over-the-hear** headphones made by JBL. I feel they are the best kind of **earbuds** for professional recording. You can get them for **listening to music** at work and **benefit from noise-cancelation**. **Over-the-ear** headphones are **top-class in gaming** as well.

I really like using wireless headphones. When I use the ones with wires, they **always get tangled up** and sometimes they fall out. So I **have earbuds** that I can use with Bluetooth. It’s so convenient. I also find that the **sound quality** is better. They’re more expensive than I would like, but **I think it’s worth it overall.**

Well, I **have over-ear headphones** and **they’re noise-canceling**. The brand is Plantronics and they’re kind of **expensive** but the **quality is superb**. **The sound is crisp and the built-in microphone doesn’t pick up my breathing.**

They’re earbuds so basically, they’re **on-ear headphones.** They’re tiny and the color of them is **identical to my skin tone** so normally people **won’t easily notice me wearing earbuds**. I got them for less than $50 from Amazon.

My favorite headphones are the Sennheiser **wireless headphones** which my brother bought for me when I turned 28. Beside **their good quality,** they are also convenient as I don’t have to worry about the wires **entangling (twisting something up such as a wire so it is stuck and can’t**

1. **When would you use headphones?**

Mostly, I use headphones **while sweating at the gym or commuting to work**. **During bedtime**, I used to **listen to slow and classical music** that can help me sleep.

As I said earlier, I use them when I spend time listening to music and when I need to **attend online meetings.** Honestly, I’d never **seen them as a necessity** until I **started working from home**. I even bought an extra set of headphones **in case the other one malfunctions.**

Well, when I want to relax like listening to music or podcast while I’m traveling or exercising or when I need to **chat with my friends or co-workers over the phone**. Thanks to this type of technology, we can enjoy listening to something in a more convenient way.

I usually use headphones when I am on the bus to my office. Having them to listen to music, watch movies makes my time spent on **commuting ( traveling regularly to and from work)** become shorter.

1. **In what conditions, you won’t use headphones?**

I don’t use headphones if I really need to focus. Sometimes, listening to music can be more distracting than helpful. So **take out my headphones** and just work in silence. Other Times, I don’t use headphones if **I’m in public** because I want to **be aware of my surroundings.**

As you know, **any distraction while driving can be fatal.** So I won’t be using headphones **while** **steering a car or bike**, that’s for sure! Another condition is apparently, when I have the company of my kinfolks. With family or friends, using headphones and **isolate yourself is certainly inappropriate.**

Well, when I don’t need them like I don’t need to attend online conferences or **I’m not in the mood to listen** to music. I actually just use them when I have the need to use them.

I **avoid using** them when I’m walking, running, or cycling. **Wearing earbuds** or headphones is extremely dangerous when you’re outside as you can’t **hear your surroundings**. I’m actually afraid for those joggers or runners who wear headphones as they **can’t hear the running cars or the cars honking.** You know **accidents can happen in the most unexpected way**, so **it is a must to know what’s happening around you.**

# Handwriting

## Do you like handwriting?

## Do you think handwriting is important?

## Which do you prefer, handwriting or typing?

## What are the differences between handwriting and typing?

**Legible and neat # illegible** and messy **penmanship**

Write **in cursive** = write in a rush = jot down

Stereotype - organized - well oriented # happy-go-lucky personality – clumsy – unorganized

**Do you like handwriting?**

Of course, I enjoy **writing by hand.** Although typing **is faster, more legible, and neater**, handwriting **makes a lasting impact** because it may **convey the individuality of the characters**. The writer **assists you in determining who it is**; for example, when you read a letter or a wedding card written in handwriting, it **makes you feel respected.** Handwriting, on the other hand, is always **a priority at major occasions**. Above all, when studying, taking notes in handwriting **allows you to be more creative** and makes it **easier to recall the lesson**. Writing is one of the things that I love doing in **my leisure time.** I practice writing every day to **sharpen my language and writing skills** as well as **relieve stress** after a hardworking day.

**What are the differences between handwriting and typing?**

Writing by hand will **give you hand cramps** where writing on a computer will **give you carpal tunnel.**

Other than **the physical aspects** there really shouldn’t be any difference between the two methods. But it seems like there is. I actually use both methods while I write. I use the computer to **write the bulk of my content** and I find that it’s easier to **fix typos** while I type and some of the smaller mistakes that I catch naturally. I then **print out my pages and go over them with a pen** to catch everything else.

For some reason, I can’t really **edit my work on the computer screen. Holding the actual paper and going over the words with pen allows me to catch** more than I otherwise would. I also **enjoy the freedom the pen gives me in rearranging my words**.

It’s probably **all psychological**. I’m okay with that. I’ve got too many other mental issues to really worry about dealing with that one. Especially since it really doesn’t **cause any harm.** Just **uses more paper and ink.**

**1. Do you often handwrite?**

Not very often. Recently, I spend more time on typing on computers and texting on my phone, so I no longer use handwriting. However, I still love handwriting a lot, although my handwriting sometimes is spidery and illegible.

**2. Do you prefer handwriting or typing on the computer?**

Honestly, I love handwriting more. Although, the benefits of typing on computers are enormous on these days, I still love handwriting. Because, I think that I can use my own style in my handwriting and it is completely unique.

**3. What are the benefits of handwriting?**

On my perspective, the most obvious benefit of handwriting is that it can promote people intellectual development. To me, people possessing good handwriting skills are often smarter and have leadership role.

**4. Would you say that having good handwriting is important?**

Definitely yes! In my opinion, possessing good handwriting skills is obviously crucial because it can promote people intellectual development. Most of my friends who have good handwriting are more brilliant than the other ones.

**5. Do you think that computers will completely replace handwriting?**

Absolutely no! As you know, in the fourth industrial revolution when modern technology is flourishing, technological devices are used more frequently, the importance of handwriting is undermined. I, however, strongly believe that computers cannot completely replace handwriting. Handwriting can be of some help on certain occasion. For example, I often handwrite party invitations to my friends to show my love and honesty to them.

**6. Do you think handwriting is still important?**

Yes, I think so. Handwriting skills will always be important. Formal letters are needed in business. Writing skills are also needed in writing resumes. We all know that we belong to a global village. Today we have to compete with children all over the world. We have to apply for jobs in multinational companies. So we need good writing skills.

**7. Do you think computers might one day replace handwriting?**

Even though technology has reduced the need of writing skills, still, I feel that it is very important in today’s world and will remain in future as well.

**8. Do you usually write by hand or write using a computer?**

Well it depends on the situation, if I am sending an email to my friends or texting them then it is usually by computer or mobile phone. When I am studying and making notes then I usually write by hand.

**9. When do children begin to write in your country?**

Nowadays the children have started writing a lot earlier. They normally join the schools at the age of 4 and they begin to write at the age of five

**10. Do you think handwriting will die in the future?**

No, definitely not. Handwriting will never die. Its need may decrease because of technology; still there will be many areas in which handwriting will be needed. I also feel that, that day is still very far when each and every person on earth will have access to technology.

**11. Do you think children should be taught to write like in the old days?**

Yes, I think so. Writing is an art, which is going down because of modern technology. Computers automatically check the spelling and grammar because of which children are losing such skills.

**Do you often write with a pen?**

Yes definitely! I’m a doctor **so every now and then** I **write prescription to my patients** with a pen. That’s **traditional** but **the quickest way** to do than typing the prescription on the computer.

Yes I do but not so often as I’m not a student – oftentimes it’s the students who write with a pen. Normally, I just use a computer at work whenever I need to **type something** since it’s much more convenient and that’s great since **I have bad penmanship. Chữ viết tay của một người**

Not really anymore. These days I find myself typing a lot on computers and texting on my phone, so I rarely use paper and a pen anymore. **Having said that,** I still have to **jot down notes** in class whenever laptops are not allowed. And I think that’s a pain.

**Is your handwriting easy to read?**

I’m proud to say yes, I believe I **belong to** the 1% of doctors who have **legible handwriting**. **Stereo-typically**, doctors are known to **have illegible penmanship** but **I’m an exception**. I always make sure that my patients won’t **have any difficulty reading the prescription** I provide them.

**Unfortunately not,** most especially when I **write in cursive**. I remember when I was a student my teacher often **put some red marks on my composition** simply because **my penmanship was illegible**. These days, I’ve been **putting so much effort just to improve my handwriting** and I believe I can **see a bit of improvement.**

**Write in cursive viết ẩu**

Composition [noun] – a form of writing; **a piece of writing such as essay**

**Do you think handwriting will be replaced by computers**?

Absolutely not, because it’s one of the most important skills that people learn **at a young age**. Besides, handwriting is needed when **signing some official or important documents** as it’s **a formal way**.

Yes, **it’s undeniable** that these days the use of **electronic pen** is **apparent especially** when **signing electronic documents**, but I believe that can **never replace the conventional handwriting.**

You know, in this day and age, modern technology **have largely marginalized handwriting**. And you don’t see people writing much as they did in the past. However, I still think handwriting could be of **some help on certain occasion**. For example, you should always **handwrite a wedding invitation** to **show some respect to your guests.**

**Does the handwriting of a person tell something about his personality?**

For me, yes **it does speak volumes** – a person who has **legible** and **neat handwriting** is usually an **organized person and goal-oriented,** **whereas** a person whose **penmanship** is **unintelligible** and **messy** **is construed as unorganized, clumsy, and having a happy-go-lucky personality.**

Perhaps, it does but not totally and I think it’s **hard to generalize** like if one has good penmanship, he’s already organized and if one doesn’t have, he’s already unorganized person. Well, we need to consider that sometimes a person can **write neatly**, especially when **he’s not in a rush** or when **he’s in the mood to write**, but if not, he can **be as messy as a grader.** Although we can **get an idea of the personality of person through his handwriting**, it’s **still not the ultimate basis.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE

**Speak volumes [phrase] make something very clear; be good evidence for** nói một cách hùng hồn

**Construe [verb] – interpret**

**Happy-go-lucky [adj.] – easy-going vô tư lự, mặc dòng đời xô đẩy**

**Generalize v nói một cách khái quát một vấn đề gì đó**

**Is it still necessary to teach children how to write by hand?**

Definitely. I think it’s very **crucial** to teach young children to **handwrite properly**. Because handwriting exercises really **do wonders for their cognitive development**. For example, my young brother who has a beautiful handwriting is a really **brilliant** kid.

**What sort of impression can a handwriting have on other people?**

Well in Vietnam **there’s a myth** that handwriting can **speak volumes about someone’s personality**. For example, **neat writing** often **comes from a good – hearted person**. On the other hand, if your **handwriting is unintelligible**, they may **think badly of you**. And I think **that’s an antiquated way of thinking**

**Antiquated = old fashionable ko hợp thời**

# Color

## What's your favorite color?

## What's the color you dislike? why?

## What colors do your friends like most?

## What color makes you uncomfortable in your room?

1. **What’s your favourite colour?**

Since my taste always changes, my favorite color at the moment is black. Although I have just bought some black items recently, black surprisingly suits me. It feels like I **become more mature and more mysterious when wearing a black dress.** And because it’s one of the basic colors, it’s easy to **mix and match with other items of different colors and styles.**

Anything that’s **pastel**. I love those colors because they’re soft and **pleasing** *(adj.: satisfying or appealing)*. In fact, our living room **is pastel green**. It looks refreshing and inviting.

Well, it’s really hard to choose one as I’m a big fan of **the primary colors**. I love red as it **symbolizes bravery**, yellow for **jolliness**, and blue for peace. I can’t really choose one among them since they are all my favorites.

***Primary colors****– first colors; red, yellow, blue*

***Bravery [noun]****– courage; being strong*

***Jolliness [noun]****– being cheerful or lively*

***Among [preposition]****– to each one in a group of more than two*

I have not one but two colours on my list of favourites – one is Blue and the other is Green. I am **a nature lover** to an extent that you could call me a tree-hugger. When I see anything in green, I just **gravitate** towards it. Blue is also my favourite because it **resonates with** my personality – **calm and composed.**

My preference **varies for different purposes**. For example, when **choosing clothes,** I tend to **go for blue**, since blue **goes well with my skin tone**. For **house decorations**, I would prefer white as it **creates a peaceful vibe** for the room.

**Pink always resonates with me**. It Also matches with my personality. And the reason why I love pink is quite special. When I was young, I'm a big fan of Barbie dolls. I was affected by the girly characters of this Doll. I not only Design some clothes on that baby And when My doll is in pink, she looks elegant, gentle and feminine

Black is my favorite color since it is both traditional and adaptable. My clothing is mostly black, but I also enjoy blue. Around the house, I prefer softer colors that aren't too loud. Blue is associated with tranquility and lightness.

1. **What’s the colour you dislike? Why?**

Honestly, I am not a huge fan of Pink. For me… pink is just **a wishy-washy colour** and quite frankly, it seems odd to me.

I am not a fan of brown. **All shades of brown look sort of dull to me**. In terms of fashion, it is really hard to **put on a brown item**, unless you are **extremely gorgeous.**

I just **hate neon colors** like **neon green, neon orange,** and such. I **get blinded***(phrasal verb: to make someone unable to see temporarily)* by looking at those colors simply because they’re just **extremely bright**. I just **can’t imagine myself** wearing shirts in those colors.

I don’t like black despite **its elegance.** I just don’t have a good **vibe** ***(noun: a person’s emotional state or the atmosphere of a place)*** with that color. Also, **I avoid wearing black shirts** because they usually **have white stains** all over when I **get sweaty**. That’s too **embarrassing**.

I tend to shy away from warm colors That are a little too **vivid** because I think they are attention-grabbing. When I see somebody wear these **flamboyant colors**, there are some **unpleasant psychological reactions.**

Brown is not my favorite color. To me, **all hues of brown appear drab**. Unless you are exceptionally beautiful, it is incredibly difficult to wear a brown object in terms of fashion.

1. **What colors do your friends like most?**

I’ve got a close friend. She **is passionate about vintage Fashion**. Her closet is full of clothes with vintage colors with three main colors **in the color palette** Including Brown dark yellow and light yellow. She **looks exquisite and elegant** when **put on those**. With this fashion style, **she easily catches attention from** other guys.

I’m not sure…that’s something **I’ve never thought about.** Well, I guess, white? Since I’ve seen them wearing something white **every now and then**. **I bet** *(expression: I imagine or am fairly certain that)* that’s what they like.

Two of my closest friends love Earth tones such as brown, dark green, and other earthly colors. The other friends of mine **are more into monochromatic colors.** Well, all of them look great whenever they wear shirts in those colors.

The majority of my pals prefer dark hues. Because they dislike bright colors, their clothes are usually black, and they believe that black is the color of mystery.

1. **What colour makes you uncomfortable in your room?**

I don’t like black walls, it makes me feel uncomfortable in my room. I usually like **light toned colours**; the hues create magic in a room or hall.

I believe the white color will make my space **feel uneasy**. Because I have a younger sister, she frequently draws on the wall with a pen, making it seem unappealing. and it will discolor and **make me feel disgusted** over time

Well, **aside from** neon colors, which I believe are not suitable colors in a room, I’m not comfortable having the color black in a room. For me, it’s **creepy***(adj.: causing an unpleasant feeling)* and **full of negativity**. I can’t understand why some people paint their room black.

For sure bright colors! A room must have a calming color so one can relax or sleep better. I haven’t seen someone having a bright color in his room. My room is actually **painted with beige color** and that’s a very common color in most people’s rooms.

1. **Do colours affect your mood?**

Absolutely! Colours **directly affect my mood**. For instance, **Red stimulates** love, passion, anger, and power within me. On the other hand, Green **has a calming effect**. I feel **so relieved under green impression.**

Currently, my room is painted with **creamy and bright colors**. I suppose this is my right choice. Because if I chose dark colors such as black, my room would be **gloomy**, **cramped and not cozy** like my current room. Because I know that the colors of the room have an influence **on the mood of the room owners.**

1. **Does colour matter when you buy things? blend together, merge into**

To some extent, **colours matter to me** when I go for shopping. I think Colour affects consumer behaviour in many ways, **from impulse purchases** to **budget-friendly investments.** I normally fall for warm colours that are **pleasing to the eye.**

1. **What is the difference between men’s and women’s preference on colours?**

There’s a vast difference between men’s and women’s choice of colors. Because, Women generally **gravitate** towards soft colors, while men **tend to like bright colors**. Moreover, Men prefer to call Purple…a Purple, w**hereas** women use **nomenclature** like **plum, eggplant, grape, and orchid** to describe the different shades of purple.

1. **Have you ever seen a rainbow?**

I consider myself really fortunate to **witness a rainbow** more than once. In India, we call it Indra Dhanush. As a matter of fact, rainbow is **a symbol of hope** in many cultures. They appear as perfect arcs, often during a rainstorm when the sun shines onto **water droplets**, shattering its white light into an array of brilliant seven colours.

1. **Are colours important to you?**

To me personally, colours are indeed important. Not only can colours make our life more **vivid,** they can also indicate feelings. For instance, I often wear yellow clothing when **my mood is up, but go for black if I am feeling down.**

1. **Were colours important to you when you were a child?**

They were definitely more important to me than they are now. When I was small, I used to **judge objects by their colour, like pink stuff was for girls, while blue things were for boys.** As I grew up, I realized that things are a lot more complicated, and that colours don’t matter that much.

1. **Are there any colours that have a special meaning in your country?**

In my country, **almost all colours are associated with** something. **Take red as an example**, **red symbolizes happy events, like victories or weddings.** In contrast, **black is seen as the colour of death,** **which explains why** Vietnamese people often **wear black clothes to funerals.**

1. **What colour would you choose to paint the walls of your room?**

I am a big fan of **simplicity,** so white is my **go-to colour** when it comes to choosing wall paint. **Scientists have proved that** white can **make a room seem more spacious**. Plus, looking at this colour will help us to **ease our mind**.

1. **Do you think different types of people like different colours?**

In my view, a person’s favourite colour does not necessarily **reflect his or her personality**. In fact, it really **is up to one’s own preference**, so we should not **make any assumptions just through people’s choice of colour.**

1. **Do you prefer bright colors or dark colors?**  
   I prefer the former as they **have so much influence on my mood**. Every time I see **light colors**, I feel more hopeful in life. That is why I really **enjoy the bright colors** during springtime since the atmosphere is just jovial.

***Jovial [adj.]****– cheerful*

1. **Are there any colors that you dislike?**

Well, I have to say **depressing colors** such as black and grey. I always try to **avoid wearing shirts** with those kinds of colors as I feel like I’m a person who is **pessimistic**. So you can never see me wearing shirts or coats in those colors.

# APP

## What apps have you recently used?

## What kinds of apps are you usually interested in?

## What was the first app you used?

## What kinds of apps would you like to use in the future?

**1. What apps have you recently used?**

I most recently used WhatsApp to chat with an old friend of mine. He came back from London after 7 years. Also, I love Hollywood movies and few days back I have installed NETFLIX to **binge-watch my favorite movies** and TV Series.

Communication apps like Facebook, Viber and Zalo are what I cannot do without. I use them **on an hourly basis** to **stay in touch with the world**. To me, using these apps **is no longer a hobby**, but **more like a habit now**.

Well, I have plenty of different kinds of apps on my smartphone. But the app I use the most is Weibo, which is kind of the Chinese version of Twitter but way more entertaining. Its very fun and easy to use. I basically **check the updates** on its every five minutes.

**2. What kinds of apps are you usually interested in?**

**Entertainment apps** are certainly my favorites! Which include Amazon Prime, NETFLIX and YouTube. This is because, I am a movie-fanatic and a Youtuber. Besides, I use social media apps quite a lot. I **share content with** friends and family, colleagues and **in return**, they share like my photos, my videos; and **make me feel privileged.**

I am trying to think of one, but nothing comes to mind at the moment. Perhaps it’s because in this era of information, there is an app for just about anything. Even the simplest tasks like booking a taxi or ordering food can **be facilitated by** mobile applications.

I usually like **apps that involving pictures**. It’s fun to edit your own [photos](https://www.readingielts.com/describe-a-photo-of-yourself-you-have-taken/), or to take pictures and have the app identify what’s in them. For example, I downloaded a nature app that will tell you what kind of plant you’ve taken a picture of. **I**think that’s a cool way to learn about the world around you.

**3. Which was the first app you used?**

To answer this question, **I’ve to walk down memory lane.** As I recall, the first application that I used was Microsoft PowerPoint. I still remember once I **had a group assignment back** in school and the teacher instructed us to **make a solid-looking PowerPoint presentation.** So yeah, it was my first app.

**4. What kinds of apps would you like to use in the future?**

I would definitely be going to use **some AI (Artificial Intelligence) based apps** in the future. The world is changing rapidly and everything is now becoming technology driven. They may sound too **futuristic** but apps like Infant **crying translator** could soon be a reality.

I believe that some technologies, such as **augmented reality**, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence, will become increasingly popular soon. If app developers could **integrate them inside the phone**, that would be ideal. It would provide several advantages to users. For example, I can talk to my mother while se**eing a visual image of** her in front of me. Another example is that if my life was **organized by AI algorithms** and **my job schedule no longer bothered me**, I could save a lot of time.  
I want to see more apps tha**t change the way you look at your surroundings**. It would be cool if you could open your camera and the app would **project images** or even videos onto what you’re seeing. There was a version of that with Pokémon Go, which was really **viral** because everyone loved seeing the Pokémon around them

**5. What was the first App you used?**

I think the first app I ever used was an **instant messaging app** called QQ. You could basically just **friend others With** their QQ number. **I**had a ton of fun friends on QQ who I **got acquainted with on the internet** . Back when smartphones weren’t popular, everyone, mostly young people, used QQ as their first choice for online messaging.

**6 Have you downloaded any new apps recently? Why did you download it?**

**I**just **downloaded a new photo-editing app.** I don’t use it to do any big changes. I think it **looks weird** when you **edit too many things** about your appearance. But its nice **trying out different filters**. I like **posting on**[**social media**](https://www.readingielts.com/ielts-speaking-part-1-topic-mobile-apps/), but I want to make sure that my pictures look good before I share them.

**1. Do you often use apps on mobile phones?**

(Answer) Well, of course I do, I would even go as far as saying I might be **over-reliant on**them.

(Give reasons for your answer) I have installed tons of apps onto my devices, ranging from navigation devices, games, music downloaders to **internet browsers**and social network apps.

**2. What apps do you often use?**

(Answer) For me, social media apps like Facebook and Instagram are those that I turn to the most.

(Give reasons for your answer) The reason is that they are very **versatile**. Not only are they **social network platforms**for us to keep up with the lives of people around, but they also provide sources of daily [news](https://www.readingielts.com/ielts-speaking-part-2-describe-a-magazine-or-newspaper-that-you-like-to-or-often-read/).

**3. Do you want to make an app of your own in the future?**

(Answer) To be honest, I don’t think I either want to or am capable of doing so.

(Give reasons for your answer) Considering the fact that there are already abundant applications for all kinds of purposes available **on the market**right now, it’s almost impossible to create a new app which can **go viral**.

**4. What kinds of apps do you expect in the future?**

(Answer) That’s a really hard question to answer when I think of the myriad range of apps in existence.

(Give reasons for your answer) However, I guess more advanced apps, offering remote security for homes and cars or protection against viruses and online scams will be rising in popularity, since personal safety is one of the **grave concerns**these days

# Work or studies

## **What technology do you use at work?**

## **What technology do you use when you study?**

## What subjects are you studying?

## Why did you choose to study that subject?

## Do you like your subject?

## Is it very interesting?

## Are you looking forward to working?

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

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

## Do you like your job?

## Is it very interesting?

## Do you miss being a student?

## What work do you do?

**5 Common Uses Of Technology In The Classroom And One Challenge For Each**

* Social Media And Digital Learning Tools. ...
* Reading Programs. ...
* Computer-Based Testing. ...
* Calculators, Smartboards, And Clickers. ...
* Learning Management Systems.

Yes, I think technology can be **extremely/incredibly effective** in helping students to learn. For example, **integrating technology** in classrooms can make students **stay engaged** with the lesson. Most young people are very familiar with **mobile devices and tablets**so will **relish the opportunity** to interact with them **in an academic environment.** Combining new tech like VR with **traditional classroom instruction** is another example of how the introduction of new technology can **enhance the learning experience**. Finally, **utilizing technology**in schools helps to **break the traditional passive learning model** and instead allows children to **take a more active role** in their own education.

What **do you do?**  
**I’m currently working as a** graphic designer for a fashion magazine for youngsters

**What are your responsibilities?**

Well, I’m mainly responsible for ensuring that students learn proper grammar, writing, and **reading comprehension,** creating lesson plans that will teach students the skills they need. A few of the main duties of an English teacher are answering student questions, **grading student tests and essays**, **tracking student progress**, and teaching students the importance of English. I also have to **communicate to the parents of students** **to inform parents about their children’s performance**  
One of the most important skills that an english teacher will have is the ability to **give constructive criticism.** **Another skill is communication** as the English teacher will need to be able to **communicate effectively with students.**

English teachers work at schools and other institutions. They **teach the principles of the English language, using different methods to deliver successful courses**. English teacher responsibilities can vary **based on the academic level** and native language of the students**.**

We are looking for an experienced English teacher to join our bright team. If you love English and have the ability to **teach the language with patience and tact**, let’s meet.

Your main goal will be to **create a supportive learning environment** which will help your **students meet their learning goals**. Through **interesting and diverse methods**, you’ll teach them the important rules of reading, writing, and speaking in English. You’ll **oversee their progress by tracking their assignment and exam grades**, in order to **provide useful feedback.**

**Responsibilities**

* **Organize classroom lectures and coursework**
* **Prepare materials and activities**
* Assign homework and interesting exercises
* **Identify students with special requirements** and **create individualized plans**
* Determine exam and assignment grades
* Provide feedback based on workload and classroom behavior
* **Keep a record of students’ attendance and grades**
* Research new language teaching methods
* **Manage classroom crises and resolve conflict**
* **Inform parents about their children’s performance**
* **Collaborate with teaching staff** and administrators to foster a good student experience
* Create lesson plans for students
* Grade student essays and tests
* Ensure that the classroom stays orderly
* Encourage students to read out loud in class
* Write progress reports for students
* Create tests for students
* Assign essays and homework to students
* Assign books for students to read

Well I’m mainly responsible for designing the cover of the magazine. I normally work with the concept team to make sure that the final product will both attract the potential buyer’s attention and express the theme of the magazine.

**1. What technology or equipment is used in most workplaces nowadays?**

Advice: give a list of different technologies, then talk about one in detail:

In most workplaces people use equipment such as computers, phones, printers, fax machines and photocopiers. I think the computer is probably the most essential piece of equipment because we rely on it for almost everything: communicating by email, writing reports, organizing data, and finding information on the Internet.

**2. Does technology help workers, or does it make their lives more difficult?**

Advice: talk about the positives AND the negatives:

Technology definitely helps workers because it makes many tasks so much easier. For example, email is such a useful tool for communication between employees in different offices, or even in different countries. On the other hand, technology can make life more difficult, especially when it goes wrong. It causes a lot of stress when the Internet is down or a computer crashes.

**3. What effect does new technology have on employment?**

Advice: give the good effects AND the bad effects:

I think technology is often responsible for people losing their jobs. Machines have replaced people in areas like manufacturing and agriculture, and whenever a new technology is introduced, there are redundancies. At the same time, jobs might be created thanks to a new technology; there would be no computer programmers if the computer hadn't been invented.

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

**It is well acknowledged that** XXX is a big trend/megatrend, so I believe that **an increasing number of people** will **devote themselves into this area**. Personally, 1 strongly believe that the sector of ... will be promising/highly demanded/a sunrise industry. And after my graduation, **there will be a guarantee for my future job-hunting**, **which means I may get a well-paid job**. Honestly, it was not my choice since I was told to .. The biggest reason is that my father is a successful businessman, and I plan **to follow in his footsteps after graduation.**

I am a little bored with **sitting in front of a computer screen all day long**, and I **am longing for a job that involves dealing with people**... Frankly speaking, I am currently experiencing some bottlenecks at work, and I want to **actively look for some breakthrough**, so I have chosen to **improve my competence through studying abroad**.. I hunger for **escaping from my daily life routine and living a different life**.

Generally, the best thing about my job is ... simply/mainly because..

Boost my people skills

I enjoy interacting/ communicating/mingling with different types of clients.

Expand my social network

i may establish a sound relationship in this area.

Meet my requirements: Financial security , Promotion opportunity Self-improvement

I guess it’s because of my artistic passion. The process of creating beautiful things is somehow intriguing to me, so I chose to be a graphic designer, which combines both art and technology. It’s quite interesting, you know.

**Is there some other kind of work you would rather do?**  
**Well, if possible,** **I’d like to be** a freelance writer. **Actually I’m** a big fan of action movies, and I also care about healthy living, so, I’d love to write about these topics and share my stories with people of the same interest.

**1 What do you do?**

For the past few months, I’ve been working for *The Guardian*as a news editor. This is my first job ever, and I’m working hard to contribute to the success of this prestigious newspaper.

**2 What are your responsibilities?**

As a part-time editor, I am responsible for editing news related to current affairs as well as collecting information for the newspaper edition.

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

I guess it’s mainly because of **job flexibility** & my passion for journalism. To be more specific, this job is unlike the **nine-to-five work schedule**, enabling me to find a better balance between work and life. Besides, this job gives me opportunities to pursue my dream to become a journalist.

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

At present, I don’t think I’m able **to dedicate** myself to any other job. It’s the experiences and opportunities I can gain that matters to me.

**5 Describe the company or organization you work for.**

The Guardian is a national British daily newspaper which offers free access both to current news and an archive of three million stories. In April 2011, MediaWeek reported that The Guardian was the fifth most popular newspaper site in the world. I believe that the Guardian is the inspirational workplace for all people who dream of becoming a journalist.

**6 Do you enjoy your work?**

I do, most of the time. Contributing to the news production for a **world-class** newspaper gives me a sense of satisfaction and pride.

**7 What do you like/dislike about your job?**

Well, **the perk** of being a news editor is that you’ll surround yourself with exciting news daily. What I don’t like about this job is that I have to do a thousand edits to get to the final one that meets the requirement of my boss. Sometimes I feel a bit **overloaded** with tons of tasks.

**8 (Possibly)Do you miss being a student?**

I **missed student life** once I **got involved in the workplace**. I think when I was a student, I had someone to guide me, whereas at work you must guide yourself. The academic environment was **a comfort zone**, and I **struggled to fit in the working environment.**

**(Possibly)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.**

**Vocabulary**

* **To fit in:** To become suitable or appropriate  
  **Eg:** Tom tried to fit in with his friends.
* **Job flexibility:** Gives employees flexibility on how long, where, and when they work.  
  **Eg:** Job flexibility plays an important role in retaining employees.
* **Nine-to-five work:** The normal work schedule for most jobs  
  **Eg:** George joined a nine-to-five work and was happy with it.
* **To dedicate:** Devote (time or effort) to a particular task or purpose  
  **Eg:** John dedicated his evenings to his daughter.
* **World-class:**Of or among the best in the world  
  **Eg:** Tom built a new hotel with world-class facilities
* **Perk:** An advantage or something extra that you are given because of your job  
  **Eg:** The new job offer contained a lot of perks.

**Describe the company or organization you work for**  
My company is not huge, it’s just a small art design office, **but is definitely an inspirational workplace with a young, creative, and extremely passionate team**. We **work on the basis of mutual understanding and respect for each other,** so it’s kind of **an ideal environment for me.**

**Do you enjoy your work?**  
Most of the time. **It’s rewarding to co-work** on projects with amazing people in an open and supportive environment to bring out an art production that will ultimately **give me a sense of satisfaction and pride.**

**What do you like about your job?**  
Well, the perk of being a graphic designer is that you’ll surround yourself with inspiring images everyday. **My daily working life involves seeking out inspiration in all sorts of places, researching incredible illustrations and graphics,** and creating them too. It’s great, I think.

**What do you dislike about your job**  
What I don’t like about this job is that **our personal taste** in design varies, and normally I’ll have to do a thousand edits to get the final product that meets the demand of my boss while still \* relating / staying faithful to /remaining true to the initial concept.  
\* conform means ‘to behave according to the usual standards of behaviour that are expected by a group or society’ – this does not relate to things like ‘concepts’.

**VOCABULARY**

*theme* [n] the main subject of a talk, book, film, etc  
Example: The father-daughter relationship is a recurring theme in her novels.

*Intriguing* [adj] very interesting because of being unusual or mysterious  
Example: The Huns are intriguing not only because of their notoriously hawkish history, but also because of their place as middlemen between Mongol and Turkic ethnicity

*On the basis of* [idiom] base on  
Example: Discrimination on the basis of race, gender, age or disability is not allowed.

*Rewarding*  [adj] giving pleasure, satisfation  
Example: The most rewarding aspect of living forever is you have unlimited time to perfect your abilities and accumulate wealth.

*Perk* [n] an advantage or something extra that you are given because of your job  
Example: A company car and a mobile phone are some of the perks that come with the  
job.

*Conform (to sth)*[v] obey the rule or reach the necessary stated standard  
Example: Before buying the baby’s car seat, make sure that it conforms to the official safety standards.

*Cherish* [v] keep hopes, memories in your mind because they are important to you and bring you pleasure  
Example: I cherish the memories of the time we spent together.

**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, high school education lasts 3 years, then I **went onto higher education** at the Foreign Trade University **where I’m currently studying economics.**

**What is your area of specialization?**

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.

**VOCABULARY**

*Make a name for oneself* [idiom] : become famous and respected by a lot of people  
Example: By the time he was thirty-five, he had made a name for himself as a successful railway contractor

*Unduly* [adj] excessively/ to a level that more than is necessary, acceptable, or reasonable  
Example:  
For every new parents, the decision about whether to vaccinate his or herchild has been unduly stressful

*Exam-driven curriculum* [expression] the courses taught a school, college, which focus on teaching what will be on the exam  
Example: Many parents believe that exam-driven curriculum can change their kid’s attitude towards school in profoundly negative ways.

# The area you live in

## Where do you like to go in that area?

## **Do you know any famous people in your area?**

## What are some changes in the area recently?

## Do you like the area that you live in?

**1. Do you like the area you live in?**

One of the greatest things about my area is that dining options are endless. Within a few blocks of my apartment are Vietnamese food, pizza, Korean BBQ, and Thai restaurants. Having endless dining options means I’ll never get bored of what I eat and always having a chance to try something new. Besides, entertainment comes in a lot of forms. From cinemas to shopping malls to public parks and everything in between, my city is plain fun. So, my friends and I can find many favorite places to catch up and share some quality time together.  
I live in a village. It is a very **peaceful area** because it is located away from the city and the main road. All facilities like medical, Bank, grocery shops, Cloth shops and many more are available in my village.

I live in a small alley in the suburbs. This is a very peaceful area as it is located away from the city and main road. All facilities such as medical, bank, grocery store, and many other service facilities are available in the area where I live.

**2. How has your area changed recently?**Yes. it is **slowly and progressively changing.** There was no house when we constructed our house there. **Nevertheless, now many new homes** are built there, And some are under construction. **A new grocery shop** opens in front of my house so. Now we do not need to go to the city even for a small thing.

Correct. it is slowly changing. Before, there were very few houses around our house. However, now many new houses have been built there, and some are under construction. A new grocery store opened in front of my house. Therefore, now we do not need to spend time going to the city to shop.

There have been considerable changes in the area. The most significant one is that there are **more residential buildings than ever. I don’t really like it when my city is gradually becoming a concrete jungle** and all the big trees on the roads have been cut down to make space for more shopping malls, **which makes the summer even hotter and hotter**. Besides, there has been **a surge in the number of cars,** which has made the city **more polluted and caused serious congestion**

**3. Do you know any famous people in your area?**I live in a small village, And no famous people live in my town or near my home. However, I know some people from my town who connect with famous people like politicians and business people.

I live in a small alley, so no famous people live in my town or near my house. However, I know some people from my town who connect with celebrities like politicians and business people.

My favorite spot is our local park. It provides an excellent place for my family and me to take a walk, run and play in the fresh air. Sometimes I just sit on the bench and watch the children having fun at the playground, and sometimes I don’t need any company, and just want to sit quietly and gather my thoughts, which helps me reduce my tension.

**4. Where do you like to go in your area?**As I said, all facilities are in my village. However, I like to spend my free time in the park situated outside of the town. It is a beautiful place. Village authority members maintain it very well. Different types of children swing Chairs. Walking path and colorful flowers are in the park.

As I said above, we have a full range of essential service facilities. However, I like to spend my free time in the park located in the city. It is a beautiful place with walking path and brilliant flowers in the park.

I think there are several famous people in my place, but I don’t know them in person. I don’t really like to invade someone’s privacy, even if they are really famous, cause to me, it’s quite immoral and inappropriate to try to disturb and get their attention just for photos. Besides, I don’t want to waste my time on stalking or talking with famous people as we would never ever have a chance to be close friends or so.

**5. Do you like crowded places? Why?**I would not say I like the crowded place even I avoid going to a crowded place because I feel very suffocated and uncomfortable there.

**6. What are the changes you want there?**Well, Most types of facilities are available where I live except one, and that is the stadium.

**Do you live in a house or apartment?**

Luckily I live in a house, I bought my house ten years ago. At that time, house prices were affordable unlike these days that the prices are incredibly skyrocketing.

I live in a studio apartment, it’s really tiny to be honest but it’s good enough for me. As you know, it’s completely hard to find an apartment that is cheap in this major city. I’m still thankful for this.

Well I live in a detached house with my parents. It’s a two-story house made of wood with a big lawn. I’m just blessed to have lived in a very comfortable house with my beloved parents.

***Incredible [adj.]****– unbelievable; beyond belief*

***Skyrocket [verb]****– increase rapidly*

***Studio apartment [noun]****– an apartment with only one room*  
***Detached house [noun]****– a stand-alone house; a house that is not joined*

***Two-story [adj.]****– having two floors or levels*

***Beloved  [adj.]****– dearly loved*

**How long have you been living there?**

As I said, I bought this ten years ago, so I have been living here for ten years now. And I couldn’t be happier living in this beautiful house of mine.

Well, I have been living in my apartment for three years now. I started living there when I was a freshman and since this year is my last term at the university, I will no longer renew my contract and will find another apartment that is better than what I have now.

I’ve been living in my parents’ house since I was born. So it’s been 22 years now because I’m already 22 and I believe it’s high time for me to start living on my own. It’s kind of frightening since I get used to living in a very convenient house but I will move out once I get a job.

**LEXICAL RESOURCE**

***Couldn’t be happier [expression]****– to be very happy*

***Freshman [noun]****– first year student*

***High time [expression]****– an appropriate time*

***Move out [phrasal verb]****– to leave*

**Who do you live with?**

I live with my wife and my two sons. I can’t imagine myself living alone, it must be dull. I believe a house is not a home if you have no one to share and live with.  
Well like I said I’m alone, my apartment is only suitable for one person. Actually I like living on my own because I learn how to live independently, I believe I have become more mature compared to the time when I was living with my parents.

Of course my parents and I love living with them as our relationship as family becomes much stronger. I feel so valued and I’m forever grateful for the love that they have shown to me.

**LEXICAL RESOURCE**

***Dull [adj.]****– uninteresting*

***Suitable [adj.]****– fit; suitable*

***Mature [adj.]****– adult; fully grown-up*

**Which is your favorite room and why?**

Without a doubt, it’s my bedroom because I find peace and privacy in there. I can do whatever I want as it’s my personal space. To be honest with you, I’m a homebody so staying in my bedroom is my greatest pleasure.

I love the living room because it’s the best place where every member of the family gathers – sharing stories and laughter. Not to mention, spending such a great time watching movies!

**LEXICAL RESOURCE**

***Without a doubt [phrase]****– indisputably*

***Homebody [noun]****– a person who likes to stay at home*

***Pleasure [noun]****– satisfaction; happiness*

***Not to mention [phrase]****– in addition to; as well as*

**What is your neighborhood like?**

As I’m living in the metropolis, I can see nothing but skyscrapers and it surely has different kinds of pollution such as air and noise. Although, I’m living in this concrete jungle, I’m still grateful for having my own shelter to live in.

It’s a typical countryside – peaceful, no traffic, fresh air, few people and quiet. And the neighbors are very friendly – we’re like a family since we care for one another. I can say it’s a heaven on Earth.

**LEXICAL RESOURCE**

***Metropolis [noun]****– the capital city*

***Concrete jungle [noun]****– modern city*

***Skyscraper [noun]****– a very tall building*

***A heaven on Earth [expression]****– a very pleasant place or situation*

**Where do you like to go in that area?**

In the evening, I often go to the starlight bridge, eat ice cream while walking. The night is very nice there, the air is very fresh and there is not much traffic. at the weekends, there will be a specular water music show at 7pm.

**Do you know any famous people in your area?**

**What are some changes in the area recently?**

**Do you like the area that you live in?**

**1. Do you like the area you live in?**  
I live in a village. It is a very peaceful area because it is located away from the city and the main road. All facilities like medical, Bank, grocery shops, Cloth shops and many more are available in my village.

**2. How has your area changed recently?**Yes. it is slowly and progressively changing. There was no house when we constructed our house there. Nevertheless, now many new homes are built there, And some are under construction. A new grocery shop opens in front of my house so. Now we do not need to go to the city even for a small thing.

**3. Do you know any famous people in your area?**I live in a small village, And no famous people live in my town or near my home. However, I know some people from my town who connect with famous people like politicians and business people.

**4. Where do you like to go in your area?**As I said, all facilities are in my village. However, I like to spend my free time in the park situated outside of the town. It is a beautiful place. Village authority members maintain it very well. Different types of children swing Chairs. Walking path and colorful flowers are in the park.

**5. Do you like crowded places? Why?**I would not say I like the crowded place even I avoid going to a crowded place because I feel very suffocated and uncomfortable there.

**6. What are the changes you want there?**Well, Most types of facilities are available where I live except one, and that is the stadium

# Hometown

## Do you think you will continue living there for a long time?

## Please describe your hometown a little.

## How long have you been living there?

## Do you like your hometown?

## Do you like living there?

## What do you like (most) about your hometown?

## Is there anything you dislike about it?

## Where is your hometown?

## Is that a big city or a small place?

# Home/accommodation

## What kind of house or flat do you want to live in in the future?

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

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

## Please describe the room you live in.

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

## How long have you lived there?

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

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

## Can you describe the place where you live?

## What room does your family spend most of the time in?

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

* For the past 21 years, I have been living in a house with my family, and I think if I can move out and start **making a living** on my own, I would **try my best to have an independent place** where I can plan and design a house layout that**suits myself** since sharing a room or a flat with strangers sounds **troublesome** to me.

**2 Do you like a house or a flat/ an apartment?**

* I believe most people would prefer to have their own house rather than to rent a place and so do I. Hence, if I **have my way**, a house with a small garden would be my choice since I don’t enjoy the constant disturbance from next-door apartments and elevator rides every time coming home.

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

* Well, definitely I’ll spend some **me-time** there. I study, I **chill out** by reading, drawing and dancing **all by myself**. Sometimes I also invite one or two friends to spend time with. We’ll watch some movies together and tell each other endless stories.

**4 How long have you lived there?**

* Although during my childhood my family had to move a lot, I’ve lived in the most recent house for almost ten years. Comparing to the old houses, I think this house has been the best so far.

**5 Who do you live with?**

* I live with my family. There are 5 of us and we all have our own room, which is way more comfortable as the older we grow, **the more privacy** we need for ourselves. I think our house is big enough for us yet still a **warm and cosy**place that I call home.

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

* The answer would be yes if the respondent is my parents since moving in and out is too time-consuming and exhausting. Cleaning and arranging everything **all over again** would be like **torture** to them. For me, on the other hand, as I’m thinking of moving out to start my adult life, hopefully soon **I’ll be able to afford to** live in a flat or an apartment.
* **All over again (idiom):**used for saying that you do the whole of something again starting from the beginning, or that the whole of a long process happens again

**6Can you describe the place where you live?/ Please describe the room you live in**

* Briefly, my **humble** house is located in a small and quiet street, so coming home to me is like all the craziness happened outside is left behind. Just beside my house stands a big old tree. I have my own room with **walls painted violet**, which is kind of a peaceful colour. The air outside is fresh. I usually open the window to enjoy the wind and sunshine, which will help **cool down my room** without an **air conditioner**. Since I spend most of my time staying at home, my room means the whole world to me. It’s like a friend who is always there to **share ups and downs** with me. So yeah, I would always miss my house, my room whenever I’m away.

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

* **As I’ve already mentioned** my family moved several times when I was younger. And the most current house where we’ve been living for about ten years is the best house so far. All of us have separate rooms for our **need of privacy** yet a big dining room where we can spend the whole evenings together watching TV or having dinner.

**8 Which part of your home do you like the most?**

* It’s the dining room where my family spends our time together.  Not only lunch or dinner but all our **family reunions** take place in the dining room where we can enjoy a **harmonious** atmosphere. We always try to keep the family dinner as something we **cannot go a day without**, since for us it’s the family bonding that lies behind.

**9 Should we live in a flat or a house?**

* It heavily depends on people’s preference and **affordability** since each type of property has its own **perks**. If one enjoys the modern **amenities** that an apartment complex can provide such as gyms, swimming pools and convenience stores and, of course, he has money, an apartment would be a great choice. In contrast, houses are usually suitable for those who prefer privacy and a quiet lifestyle.

**10 Why do you think some people invest a huge amount of money in buying houses?**

* People certainly have different reasons to buy **property**. I believe the most important one is privacy. You will gain much more independence and freedom to **refurbish**the place **as you please** since you are the owner. Besides, it would create **a pride of ownership**. No matter how small or big your house is, it is yours to **renovate** or brag about.

**Vocabulary**

* **Suit myself :** to do exactly what you like/want  
  **Eg:** He wanted a dress that suit him.
* **Troublesome (adj.):**causing difficulty or annoyance  
  **Eg:** These kids are troublesome
* **To make a living (v):**to earn enough to support one’s self  
  **Eg**: She is working as a waitress to make a living
* **Chill out (phrasal verb):**relax  
  **Eg:** we are chilling out with family
* **Me-time (phrase):** time for one’s self alone  
  **Eg:** I want some me-time for diverting my mind from work.
* **To do Something all by one’s self (phrase):** to do Something alone  
  **Eg:** She wants to do it all by herself.
* **All over again (idiom):**used for saying that you do the whole of something again starting from the beginning, or that the whole of a long process happens again  
  **Eg**: They are repeating it all over again.
* **To help (SO) do Something :** to make it easier or possible for (someone) to do something by offering them one’s services or resources.  
  **Eg:**The manager asked him to help clean the room after the concert.
* **To share ups and downs :**together being through good and bad times  
  **Eg:** She is sharing all her ups and downs of her life with her friends.
* **Torture :**great physical or mental suffering  
  **Eg:** The dog is being tortured by its master.

# Handwriting

## 1 Do you like handwriting?

## 2 Do you think handwriting is important?

## 3 Which do you prefer, handwriting or typing?

## 4 What are the differences between handwriting and typing?

**Do you often write with a pen?**

**Is your handwriting easy to read?**

**Do you think handwriting will be replaced by computers**?

**Does the handwriting of a person tell something about his personality?**

**Do you write by hand?**

**Do you think writing will be replaced in the future?**

**Is it still necessary to teach children how to write by hand?**

**What sort of impression can a handwriting have on other people?**

**Do you often write things?**

**Do you prefer to write by hand or write using computer?**

**Do you think computers might one day replace handwriting?**

**When do children begin to write in your country?**

**How did you learn to write?**

**How can children today improve their handwriting?**

**Do you like writing things when you were a child?**

**Legible and neat # illegible and messy penmanship**

**Write in cursive = write in a rush = jot down**

**Stereotype - organized - well oriented # happy-go-lucky personality – clumsy – unorganized**

**-**

**Do you often write with a pen?**

(Answer 1)

Yes definitely! I’m a doctor **so every now and then** I **write prescription to my patients** with a pen. That’s **traditional** but **the quickest way** to do than typing the prescription on the computer.

(Answer 2) Yes I do but not so often as I’m not a student – oftentimes it’s the students who write with a pen. Normally, I just use a computer at work whenever I need to **type something** since it’s much more convenient and that’s great since **I have bad penmanship. Chữ viết tay của một người**

**Is your handwriting easy to read?**

I’m proud to say yes, I believe I **belong to** the 1% of doctors who have **legible handwriting**. **Stereo-typically**, doctors are known to **have illegible penmanship** but **I’m an exception**. I always make sure that my patients won’t **have any difficulty reading the prescription** I provide them.

**Unfortunately not,** most especially when I **write in cursive**. I remember when I was a student my teacher often **put some red marks on my composition** simply because **my penmanship was illegible**. These days, I’ve been **putting so much effort just to improve my handwriting** and I believe I can **see a bit of improvement.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE

**Legible [adj.] – readable** /ˈle-dʒə-bəl/

**Stereotypically [adv.]** – in a way that one would expect someone or something to be although this idea is not always true

**Illegible [adj.] – not clear**

**Cursive [adj.] – a form of writing in which letters are joined together viết thảo ra giấy**

**Write in cursive viết ẩu**

Composition [noun] – a form of writing; **a piece of writing such as essay**

**Do you think handwriting will be replaced by computers**?

Absolutely not, because it’s one of the most important skills that people learn **at a young age**. Besides, handwriting is needed when **signing some official or important documents** as it’s **a formal way**.

Yes, **it’s undeniable** that these days the use of **electronic pen** is **apparent especially** when **signing electronic documents**, but I believe that can **never replace the conventional handwriting.**

**Does the handwriting of a person tell something about his personality?**

(Answer 1)

For me, yes **it does speak volumes** – a person who has **legible** and **neat handwriting** is usually an **organized person and goal-oriented,** **whereas** a person whose **penmanship** is **unintelligible** and **messy** **is construed as unorganized, clumsy, and having a happy-go-lucky personality.**

(Answer 2)

Perhaps, it does but not totally and I think it’s **hard to generalize** like if one has good penmanship, he’s already organized and if one doesn’t have, he’s already unorganized person. Well, we need to consider that sometimes a person can **write neatly**, especially when **he’s not in a rush** or when **he’s in the mood to write**, but if not, he can **be as messy as a grader.** Although we can **get an idea of the personality of person through his handwriting**, it’s **still not the ultimate basis.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE

**Speak volumes [phrase] make something very clear; be good evidence for** nói một cách hùng hồn

**Un**intelligible [adj.] – impossible to understand

Messy [adj.] – chaotic; dirty

**Construe [verb] – interpret**

Clumsy [adj.] – awkward in handling things

**Happy-go-lucky [adj.] – easy-going vô tư lự, mặc dòng đời xô đẩy**

In a rush [idiom] – very busy; having very little time

Grader [noun] – a pupil of a specified grade in school

**Generalize v nói một cách khái quát một vấn đề gì đó**

**Do you write by hand?**

Not really anymore. These days I find myself typing a lot on computers and texting on my phone, so I rarely use paper and a pen anymore. **Having said that,** I still have to **jot down notes** in class whenever laptops are not allowed. And I think that’s a pain.

**Having said that : mặc dù nói là vậy nhưng**

**Do you think writing will be replaced in the future?**

You know, in this day and age, modern technology **have largely marginalized handwriting**. And you don’t see people writing much as they did in the past. However, I still think handwriting could be of **some help on certain occasion**. For example, you should always **handwrite a wedding invitation** to **show some respect to your guests.**

**Is it still necessary to teach children how to write by hand?**

Definitely. I think it’s very **crucial** to teach young children to **handwrite properly**. Because handwriting exercises really **do wonders for their cognitive development**. For example, my young brother who has a beautiful handwriting is a really **brilliant** kid.

**What sort of impression can a handwriting have on other people?**

Well in Vietnam **there’s a myth** that handwriting can **speak volumes about someone’s personality**. For example, **neat writing** often **comes from a good – hearted person**. On the other hand, if your **handwriting is unintelligible**, they may **think badly of you**. And I think **that’s an antiquated way of thinking**

**Antiquated = old fashionable ko hợp thời**

**Do you often write things?**

(Answer) Absolutely yes.

(Explain) Writing is one of the things that I love doing in my leisure time. I practice writing every day to **sharpen my language and writing skills** as well as relieve stress after a hardworking day.

**Do you prefer to write by hand or write using computer?**

(Answer) It depends.

(explain) When writing about everyday things or practicing for the IELTS test, I’d rather write by hand. I only use a computer to **write academic reports**.

**Do you think computers might one day replace handwriting?**

(Answer) I don’t think so.

(Explain) It’s true that the computer has been doing a good job in helping people to write. However, I don’t think that it will totally replace the traditional way of writing as there will be no computers to **rely on in urgent cases**.

**When do children begin to write in your country?**

(Answer) Vietnamese kids start learning to write **at the age of around 5 to 6**,

(explain) which is considered quite early by some European experts. But Vietnamese kids know how to do it well actually

# The area you live in

## 1 Where do you like to go in that area?

## 2 Do you know any famous people in your area?

## 3 What are some changes in the area recently?

## 4 Do you like the area that you live in?

1. Do you like the area that you live in?

= What do you like about the area around where you live?

2. What are some changes in the area recently?

3. Where do you like to go in that area?

4. Do you know any famous people in your area?

**HỌC NGAY TỪ VỰNG LIÊN QUAN ĐẾN CHỦ ĐỀ NÀY NHÉ:**

      –        dining options are endless: có rất nhiều nơi để ăn uống

–        Within a few blocks of my apartment: cách nhà tôi có vài dãy nhà

–        entertainment comes in a lot of forms: có rất nhiều hình thức giải trí (thay vì nói: there are many forms of entertainment)

–        everything in between: và những thứ kiểu như vậy

–        a concrete jungle: khu rừng bê tông

–        a surge = a sudden increase

–        cause serious congestion: gây ra tắc đường

–        don’t need any company: ko cần ai hết

–        sit quietly and gather my thoughts: ngồi im và suy nghĩ

–        reduce my tension: thấy bớt mệt mỏi

–        know them in person: biết một chút về ai

–        invade someone’s privacy: xâm phạm quyền riêng tư của ai

–        get their attention : để họ chú ý

**1. Do you like the area that you live in?**

= What do you like about the area around where you live?

One of the greatest things about my area is that dining options are endless. Within a few blocks of my apartment are Vietnamese food, pizza, Korean BBQ, and Thai restaurants. Having endless dining options means I’ll never get bored of what I eat and always having a chance to try something new. Besides, entertainment comes in a lot of forms. From cinemas to shopping malls to public parks and everything in between, my city is plain fun. So, my friends and I can find many favorite places to catch up and share some quality time together.

**2. What are some changes in the area recently?**

There have been considerable changes in the area. The most significant one is that there are more residential buildings than ever. I don’t really like it when my city is gradually becoming a concrete jungle and all the big trees on the roads have been cut down to make space for more shopping malls, which makes the summer even hotter and hotter. Besides, there has been a surge in the number of cars, which has made the city more polluted and caused serious congestion.

**3. Where do you like to go in that area?**

My favorite spot is our local park. It provides an excellent place for my family and me to take a walk, run and play in the fresh air. Sometimes I just sit on the bench and watch the children having fun at the playground, and sometimes I don’t need any company, and just want to sit quietly and gather my thoughts, which helps me reduce my tension.

**4. Do you know any famous people in your area?**

I think there are several famous people in my place, but I don’t know them in person. I don’t really like to invade someone’s privacy, even if they are really famous, cause to me, it’s quite immoral and inappropriate to try to disturb and get their attention just for photos. Besides, I don’t want to waste my time on stalking or talking with famous people as we would never ever have a chance to be close friends or so.

**Question 1: Tell me about the place you are living in.**

Answer: Well currently I live in an apartment in downtown Hanoi. It’s quite a bustling area with a lot of shops, offices and quite a big park just around the corner from my house. You can also find people from all walks of life around the area.

**Question 2: Do you know a lot of people there?**

Answer: No, not really. I know just a couple of people who live in my building, but otherwise I don’t really know anyone.

**Question 3: Do you like your neighbours?**

Answer: Sure. I mean we don’t meet each other very often or anything but they all seem to be nice, friendly people.

Từ vựng

Bustling: bận rộn

People from all walks of life: người đến từ nhiều nền văn hóa khác nhau với phong cách sống khác nhau

# Wild animals

## 1 Do you like to watch TV programs about wild animals?

## 2 Did you learn something about wild animals at school?

## 3 Where can you see wild animals?

## 4 In which country do you think you can see many wild animals?

* *not even once in person = before my naked eyes.*
* *don't deserve to be prisoned > enjoy torturing them and taking photos; are kept in the cages.*
* *succumbed to heart disease;* am allergic to dog fur,
* *running after their prey*
* *waiting to welcome me at the door, keep dogs and cats as companions. hugging or stroking them, take it for a walk, give them emotional support, play and roam about with them, too endearing to me, their fluffy and soft ears,* *relieve stress and cheer people up*

**Have you ever seen any wild animals before?** waiting to welcome me at the door (Answer 1) Yes, I have and some examples of wild animals that I've seen are **zebras, gorillas, giraffes,** coyotes, **hedgehogs**, otters, and lions. Actually, I consider myself **a travel buff** and **an animal lover** so every time I travel abroad, I **make a habit to** **visit a zoo or a wildlife center** just to see some wild animals.

(Answer 2) **Honestly,** **not even once in person** **but of course** plenty of times on TV **through National Geographic TV shows.** **In my twenty-one years of existence**, **I still haven't seen one real wild animal** **before my naked eyes.** I really don't have a chance to visit any zoos in this country.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Travel buff [noun] – a person who loves to travel Make a habit [idiom] – to do something regularly Wildlife center [noun] – a place where wild animals are taken care of by professionals In person [phrase] – physically; personally Before my naked eyes [expression] – in front of one's very eyes

**What wild animal do you like the most?**

(Answer 1) **Seriously, that's a very hard question to answer**, **I'm torn** **between a panda and a koala.** Both are so **adorable**! I enjoy watching **pandas wiggle** – they're just **too endearing** to me. Koalas are **also** a favorite of mine because they're quiet, they **have small eyes but a big nose**. **Also**, **their fluffy ears** make me **fall in love with them**.

(Answer 2) **Without question,** it's a lion. **As we know,** it's **the king of the jungle,** I **admire** how **fierce** lions are and how they **value unity** whenever they **are hunting prey**. They always **have teamwork** when **running after their prey** and when they **succeed** – they all **share their food.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE Torn between (something and something) [idiom] – finding it difficult to choose between two possibilities **Wiggle [verb] – to move up and down or from side to side** ngọ quậy **Endearing [adj.] – lovable; cute** Fluffy [adj.] – hairy; shaggy; covered with fluff Without question [expression] – cannot be questioned; without a doubt Fierce [adj.] – having a ferocious aggressive behavior; unafraid Prey [noun] – an animal that is hunted and killed by another animal for food

**Do you like to go to the zoo**?

(Answer 1) Yes definitely! It is one of **my greatest pleasures** seeing different kinds of wild animals. Visiting zoos helps me **broaden my understanding** of the many kinds of behavior of wild animals which I couldn't learn in school.

(Answer 2) Not at all! I'm **an animal lover**, I want animals to be free. **Caging** them in zoos is just **an act of cruelty.** They **don't deserve to be prisoned** as they have their natural place to live in, which is the forest. I don't understand why people put them in a zoo, they are **taking their rights away** to live on their own – people **make those animals become dependent on them.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE Pleasure(s) [noun] – happiness Broaden [verb] – expand; widen Cage [verb] – to confine in a cage; imprison Cruelty [noun] – brutality Take (their rights) away [phrasal verb] – to remove

**Have you ever kept a pet?**

(Answer 1) Yes, I have! And I've been taking care of my dog for ten years now. He's a Labrador dog – **such a lovely and playful dog**. He's actually my best friend!

(Answer 2) Not recently, after my dog **succumbed to heart disease** two years ago, I decided not to have one as the passing of my dog **broke my heart into pieces**. He was with me for 15 years, we shared so many wonderful memories together – he was my best friend. Honestly, **I haven't gotten over his death yet.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE Labrador [noun] – a dog of retriever breed with black or yellow coat typically **Succumb to [idiom] – to die** **không chống cự nổi mà chết** Passing [noun] – death Get over [phrase] – overcome a difficulty

# Wallet

## 1 Do you use a wallet?

## 2 Have you ever lost your wallet?

## 3 Have you ever sent a wallet to someone as a gift?

## 4 Do most of your friends use wallet?

**Do you use a wallet?**

(Answer 1) Yes, I do but it's not for **paper money**. It's for my different cards like **credit cards, debit cards, rewards cards**, and the like. I've been using this card case wallet since last year. You may not know, we've become **a cashless society** here, so this kind of wallet is just what most people are currently using.

(Answer 2) Of course, I have **a breast wallet** ví dài nhiều ngănwhich I use when I have a business trip. I like using it because both of **my cheques and banknotes aren't folded.** Also, I have **a bi-fold wallet** ví nam gấp lại which I always use when I go to the supermarket.

**Have you ever lost your wallet?** ***Absent-minded*** *đãng trí,* ***my mind went blank***

(Answer 1) Yes, unfortunately. I have lots of experiences where my wallet got lost on a train, in a taxi, and **worse** when someone **pickpocketed** me **while sightseeing abroad**. Well, sadly I experienced that twice when I had my holidays in different countries. I was careless then but **I've learned a lesson.** (Answer 2) Not at all. I'm proud to say that I'm very careful with my wallet. **Most of the time**, I keep it safe**. I can't imagine losing my wallet**, I think **I might not be able to go to sleep** if that happens. I always make sure to **keep it in a very safe place**.

**Complicated procedure to redo my personal identification/ papers**

LEXICAL RESOURCE Pickpocket [verb, as used in the answer] – to steal from the pocket of someone Can't imagine [phrase] – be unable to imagine or think

**Have you ever sent a wallet to someone as a gift?**

(Answer 1) I **can't remember gifting** a wallet to someone, maybe I had given a wallet as a gift in the past, I just can't recall. Well, anyway, I think that's a great present to give especially for men as it somehow **encourages the recipient /rɪˈsɪpiənt/ to save money** (laughter). I might buy one and give it to my brother as he's going to celebrate his birthday very soon.

(Answer 2) Yes, I remember I gave my mom a Saint Laurent Zip Wallet on her 60th birthday. It was actually expensive but I didn't mind **the hefty price tag** for that wallet as I was just wanting to give something very special to her and she did like it.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Recipient [noun] – a person that receives something from someone I don't mind [expression] – not to care **Hefty price tag [noun] – a high price**

**Do most of your friends use a wallet?**

(Answer 1) Definitely, but as I said earlier, we're in a cashless society so we don't use the traditional wallets. Most of my friends' wallets are **the same as mine**. We have a card case wallet and a few of my friends are using a phone case wallet, where its main purpose is for **phone protection**, however, there's **a compartment** where they can store their cards as well.

(Answer 2) I believe so. I think all of us use a wallet – may it be a phone case wallet, bi-fold wallet, card case wallet, or something like that. We need to have a wallet where we can keep our **cards** or our money. I don't know anyone who doesn't have one.

# Sky and stars

## 1 Do you like to look at the sky? Why?

## 2 Can you see the moon and stars at night where you live?

## 3 Do you prefer the sky in the morning or the sky at night?

## 4 Is there a good place to look at the sky where you live?

## 5 Do you like to see the stars at night?

## 6 Do you want to live on other planets?

* *witness the amazing glimmer of the stars and the ENDEARING and calming view of the moon that reflects on rivers or seas.*
* *take a quick look at the sky to see if it there are any dark clouds on the horizon and it might rain.*
* *go out on the beach at night with a blanket and gaze (watch) at the brilliance of the shining stars*
* *gifted me an encyclopedia loaded with useful information.*
* *the sky is always hazy at night- obstructs the view of the sky.*

**How often do you look at the sky? Gaze at = contemplate**

That's an interesting question! To be honest, **that has** **never crossed my mind**, I can't even remember the last time I looked at the sky. **My time** **is always occupied by my busy schedule** at home like **doing house chores** and **raising my kids** and at work, I am much busier – **meeting clients and training some workers**. It's a pity that I haven't stopped for some time and **enjoyed the exceptional beauty of the sky**.

**Do you ever look at the sky?**

Answer: **To be honest, the only time** I really **pay any attention to the sky** is if there is **an amazing sunset** or if I need to **see what the weather is like**. The weather can be **changeable** where I live, so I sometimes **take a quick look at the sky** to see if it there are any **dark clouds on the horizon** and **it might rain.**

**Do you like to watch the sky?**

Yes, I do! Actually, my **region** in Spain, Andalusia, is known for having over 300 days of sun a year! **With this said**, there are few things more relaxing than **lying out on the beach on summer afternoons**, **staring up at the cloudless sky. Furthermore**, **the sunsets** here are just **magnificent**, often **displaying colors like cotton candy**. Since I live on the tenth floor of my building, I almost always **watch the sunset.**

**Do you like to watch stars?**

**Absolutely! For one**, it’s a very romantic activity, **so** I like to do it with my boyfriend. **Moreover,** I like to **go out to star-gaze with my friends**. We **have a fun activity** where we try to **find different shapes in the stars then call them out to each other**.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Cross (one's) mind [idiom] – to occur suddenly; to be thought of (My time is always) occupied (verb) – to be filled with a lot of things to do It's a pity [expression] – feeling sorry or disappointed about something

**Do you prefer the sky in the morning or the sky at night?**

***In the daytime / nighttime vào ban ngày***

**Like I've just said**, I've never spent time looking and **appreciating the beauty of the sky** these days, but if I were to choose, I would prefer to see the **sky during night** **time** **as it's magical** – I can **witness the amazing glimmer of the stars** and **the ENDEARING and calming** **view of** **the moon that reflects on rivers or seas**. I can **imagine how spectacular** it is!

**What is the sky like at night in your hometown?**

**Marvelous!** Since **there isn’t much light pollution** here, you can **see the stars very clearly** at night. I sometimes like to **go out on the beach at night with a blanket and gaze (watch) at the brilliance of the shining stars**. It **makes me feel in awe of** just **how amazing the universe is**. There are few things more romantic than that!

LEXICAL RESOURCE Appreciate [verb] – to show admiration Magical [adj.] – beautiful; delightful; resembling magic **Glimmer [noun] – twinkle;** glow; shimmer **Endearing [adj.] – lovable; appealing** Spectacular [adj.] – beautiful; **eye-catching** = **splendid c1**

**Can you see the moon and the stars at night where you live?**

**Unfortunately not,** as I'm living **in the metropolis** /məˈtrɒp.əl.ɪs/, the sky is always **hazy** at night. **That simply because of** **pollution** – too many **cars and factories** **emit** carbon dioxide and other **gases** **that** pollute the air **which** **obstructs the view of the sky.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE Metropolis [noun] – chief city Hazy [adj.] **– cloudy; smoggy** Obstruct [verb] – **block ; hazy: Hazy air or weather is not clear, especially because of heat:**

**Which parts of your country are the best places to look at the moon and the stars at night?**

**I suppose all** **rural areas** in my country are the best places to enjoy looking at the moon and the stars at night as those places **have usually clear skies.** **As I said**, **metropolitan areas** are polluted, **it's always impossible to** see the moon and the stars. **And that I think is the main reason why** **I've never thought of stopping and spending time looking at the sky since** there's nothing to see in the place where I'm currently living.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Metropolitan area [noun] – another term for metropolis Polluted [adj.] – contained with harmful and poisonous substances

**Have you ever taken a course about stars?**

No, I have never **formally studied Astronomy** since **it wasn’t available at my school. However**, I think it would be interesting. **Fortunately**, my grandfather **was really into astronomy** **so** he shared his knowledge with me, **as well as gifted me an encyclopedia loaded with useful information**.

**What’s your favorite star?**

**I’d have to say** **the star constellation Orion,** which **is easily spotted** on winter nights. I **find this constellation interestin**g because it has everything, **including a giant red star** **which** could **explode at any moment**, **a young blue star**, and even **a nebula (a cloud of gas)** **where new stars are being born.** It’s complex and magnificent!

**Is star-gazing popular in your country?**

Answer: **I wouldn’t say it was popular** but there are quite a few people who enjoy it, **I suppose**. In summer, we often get really clear night skies when you can **see a multitude of stars** and they’re all **incredibly bright**. I must say, even I **go out and take a look then.**

**Vocabulary**

* **Gaze:** watch  
  **Eg:** He gazed at the stars
* **Nebula:**a cloud of gas **tinh vân**  
  **Eg:** The nebula is visible clearly in the photograph
* **Astronomy:**study of the sun, moon, stars, planets, comets, gas, galaxies, gas dust phenomena.  
  **Eg:** I want to study Astronomy.
* **Constellation:** A group of stars forming a recognized pattern that is traditionally named after its apparent form or identified with mythological figure. **Chòm sao  
  Eg :**A beautiful constellation of stars is formed in the sky.
* **Meteor** /ˈmiːtiə $ -ər/ **sao băng > the meteoric** /ˌmiːtiˈɒrɪk/ **rain/ shower mưa sao băng**
* **Shooting star/ falling star sao băng**
* **Comet sao chổi /ˈkɒmɪt $ ˈkɑː-/**
* **Mercury, Venus , Mars, Jupiter , Saturn, Uranus , Neptune, Pluto** dwarf planet
* **Orbit**
* **Satellite**
* **The Earth’s atmosphere**
* **The Milky Way dãy ngân hà**

# Relax

## 1 What would you do to relax?

## 2 Do you think doing sports is a good way to relax?

## 3 Do you think vacation is a good time to relax?

## 4 Do you think students need more relaxing time?

**What do you do to relax?**

(Answer 1) **Well, it depends.** If I **have ample time to relax** I normally **do meditation** for 40 minutes or so, or I **go running or swimming**. However, if I just need to **have a quick break** from work, I just **listen to music or surf the internet.**

(Answer 2) Most of the time, I just **hang out at my favorite cafe,** **sip some good coffee and listen to music**. Or if I don't **feel like going out**, I just **stay at home, lie in bed, and check my social media profiles.**

ANSWER 1

Listening to music gives me a great relief when I’m stressed. In addition, any time I **need to let off a bit of steam**, I call my friends and talk. I believe friendly chit-chat is an excellent stress buster.

ANSWER 2

I love to do gardening to relax. Gardening brings me closer to nature and helps me forget about the daily hurdles of life. Tending to the plants, watering them, and watching them grow gives me joy. Even sitting outside in a garden after a hectic day brings me calm.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Ample [adj.] – enough Surf the internet [idiom] – to navigate the internet Hang out [phrasal verb] – to spend a lot of time in a place Sip [verb] – drink

**Do you think doing sports is a good way to relax?**

***Exercise can not only improve your mood, but also stamina. relax your mind/ the sedentary / recharge my battery / sedentary practices, behaviors, job, lifestyles.*** ***after we havent seen each other for ages. It is a effective way/ tighten the family bonds. Make the family ties stronger.***

(Answer 1) It is for some people, but for some, it's not since **doing so makes them feel exhausted**. I think everyone **has their own ways to relax**. Mine is running, swimming, and listening to music **as I said earlier.**

(Answer 2) **I believe so because** your **stress or tension** can **be relieved** since **your body becomes active.** Well, **according to** some health articles that I read, playing sports is one of **the best and effective forms of relaxation.**

ANSWER 1

Absolutely! It’s a great way to relax. Physical movement of any kind is the quickest and easiest way to bust stress. You can take a walk around the block, put on some music and dance, or play in the ground with your family.

ANSWER 2

Yes, doing sports is a good way to relax. The physical action involved in sports is not only beneficial for our physical health but also our mental and psychological well-being. When we play sports, our bodies produce endorphins that make us feel good. Also, playing sports helps us sleep better and gives us a chance to socialize with other players.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Exhausted [adj.] – to become very tired Tension [noun] – emotional or mental strain

**Do you think a vacation is a good time for you to relax? Self- reflection**

(Answer 1) Definitely! **Who doesn't consider it as the best time to relax?** I do think that everyone loves vacations, especially in this generation where a lot of people **romanticize overworking**. Well, perhaps for those kinds of people, they might not consider vacations as a great time to relax.

(Answer 2) Yes! **I can't imagine my life** without a vacation. Well, not just me but I believe everyone **shares my opinion.** Vacations are **a must to make** us relaxed, that's **why it's mandatory** for every company to **provide** workers **a paid leave of absence** so they can **have a holiday** and **recharge their batteries.**

ANSWER 1

Well, It seems to me that a holiday is a perfect time to loosen up a bit. Vacations can have physical and psychological health benefits. People who take a break have lower stress, less risk of heart disease, a better outlook on life, and more motivation to achieve goals.

ANSWER 2

Yes, vacation is a good time to relax. Taking a vacation is a good way to unplug from work and other day-to-day activities. It is also a great time to spend with family and helps strengthen family bonds. It recharges our batteries and leaves us feeling refreshed.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Romanticize [verb] – make something appealing than it really is Mandatory [adj.] – required; compulsory Recharge one's batteries [phrase] – regain one's strength and energy

**Do you think students need more relaxing time?**

(Answer 1) Without a doubt! Most schools these days **require students** to **do a lot of homework** or activities that **make them miss doing some things** that they **are passionate about**. Plus there are parents who **are pressuring their children to get straight** As. I really believe **that balance** is important so students or children can **equally enjoy their time** studying and playing.

(Answer 2) In my opinion, that **depends on the school's system** because not all **schools are putting stress on their students' lives** like they really need to study hard, otherwise, they'll **be kicked out** if they **have failing marks**. Some students are just so relaxed with their studies because their school is not **pressuring them**.

ANSWER 1

Yes I think so! It is incontrovertible that students nowadays are under tremendous stress to build their careers. Relaxing your brain is fundamental for learning better. Not only does it help to boost a student’s level of concentration but also their accomplishments. Additionally, it aids in enhancing their class attendance, their conduct and behaviour, general health, as well as their well-being.

ANSWER 2

Yes, students need more relaxing time. Students have a very packed schedule and stress is inevitable. More relaxing time in between classes or after school is essential for their mental health and well-being. it also makes them more productive and improves their focus.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Without a doubt [phrase] – certainly Otherwise [adv.] – or else; if not Kick out [phrasal verb] – dismiss

# Primary School

## 1 What did you like to do the most when you were in primary school?

## 2 How did you go to your primary school?

## 3 How do you like your primary school?

## 4 What did you do in your leisure time in your primary school?

**What did you do in your leisure time in your primary school?**

(Answer 1) As I was **a hyperactive child,** I was **running around the school's playground** with my friends **during our break time** or before we went home. I spent time **sliding, swinging, climbing on the monkey bars, playing tug of war,** and the like. Remembering **those passing days at this very moment is really bittersweet.**

**(have a go on a swing and see- saw, play shuttlecock kicking, slip rope, jumping rope)**

(Answer 2) Well, like what normal kids do, playing. I **played some sports** with my friends or **played hide and seek** or just **spent time enjoying the playground** in our school. It was lovely actually because I **made some good friends who weren't my classmates.**

**What did you like the most when you were in primary school?**

(Answer 1) Well, I enjoyed everything about my primary school. I loved my classmates, my teachers, my classes, my school, and most especially the time when my friends and I **spent time at the playground**. I really **had lovely memories** of my primary school days and I really **treasure them.**

(Answer 2) Wow, **so many years have passed** since **I went to primary school**. Anyway**, attending the Physical Education class** was my favorite. **I was more into** sports activities since **I wasn't an academically inclined student.**

**How did you go to your primary school?**

(Answer 1) **More often than not,** I just **went to school on foot** since the school was **just a stone's throw away from our house**. The distance was just too convenient that I had a lot of instances where I went to school late.

(Answer 2) I went there by bus, especially when both of my parents were so busy that they couldn't take me to school by car. But honestly, I did enjoy going to school by bus at a very young age since I learned **how to be independent** which **made streetsmart.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE More often than not [phrase] – usually A stone's throw away [idiom] – a short distance Street-smart [adj.] – someone who knows how to deal with difficult or dangerous situations especially in big cities

**How do you like your primary school?**

* ***She sees the world through rose - colored (rose - tinted) glasses.***
* ***see things through rose - tinted spectacles***
* ***Kids are really innocent and unaffected, naïve, childish, have a playful mood***
* ***have moral lessons, the studying pressure is not high***
* ***primary school was a good time in my life***

(Answer 1) Well, as I said earlier, I love everything about my primary school. That's where I started to **acquire education** and **more importantly gained friends** that eventually became **my lifetime friends**.

(Answer 2) My school was actually a **sectarian** school so **I learned a particular religious belief** that I **adhered to**. That school **helped me mold my personality** thanks to the **doctrine** that our teachers taught us. That's actually **the most wonderful thing** that I love about my school.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Acquire [verb] – obtain Sectarian school [noun] – a school that strongly practices a certain religious belief Adhere [verb] – to believe in and follow the practices Mold [verb] – influence; guide; shape Doctrine [noun] – a belief or set of beliefs by a church, religious group, etc.

# Holidays

## 1 Where did you go for your last holiday?

## 2 Do you like holidays? Why?

## 3 Which public holidays do you like best?

## 4 What do you do on holidays?

**Where did you go for your last holiday?**

I went to Ladakh on my most recent holiday. Last month, when the COVID restrictions were eased, we head straight to the mountains to experience the stroll along the world’s highest saltwater lake- the enchanting Pangong Tso. Ladakh is altogether a different realm within India.

**Do you like holidays? Why?**

Absoultely! Who doesn’t ???? Holidays give you opportunity to break the monotony of life and do something new. Going on holiday can give you a fresh wave of motivation and the strength to keep your life moving forward when you come back..

**Which public holiday do you like the best?**

My favourite public holiday is Christmas. I like it because it has the wintery feel and all the kindness in the air.The holiday spirit is just mindblowing!. All the decorations, trees, and lights make me feel cheered up. The best part of Christmas is that my family reunite and celebrates the eve.

**What do you do on holidays?**

Holidays are supposed to be fundays! I usually like to explore new places, try different cuisines, and shop grocery items on holidays.

**How many public holidays do you have in your country?**

(Answer 1) Well, **I can't be accurate as I've never paid much attention to the number of public** **holidays** here. I suppose there are more than ten in a year. Anyway, I love public holidays because whenever I work on those special days, I can earn double.

(Answer 2) As I'm a teacher of **sociology,** I can't be wrong on this, to be exact 15 **all in all**. And the most important national holiday in my country is **Independence Day.** We give so much importance to that holiday as **it reminds us about** how our **ancestors fought for their rights to attain freedom** and we can't thank them enough as we are now enjoying our **liberty**.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Accurate [adj.] – correct; precise; exact Pay attention [phrase] – to listen, watch, or consider very carefully I suppose [expression] – another way to say ‘I think' All in all [phrase] – on the whole Attain [verb] – achieve (I) Can't thank you enough [expression] – is said when one is very grateful for one's words or actions Liberty [noun] – freedom; independence

TIPS

i.) ANSWER 1: The speaker delivered a very honest answer by stating that he couldn't be correct in his answer as he didn't count the numbers of holidays. And in order for him to add more to his answer so as not to make his answer short, he talked about the benefit of working on public holidays. Such a smart way to make his answer longer.

ii.) ANSWER 2: The speaker made it easy for him to answer the question because he related the question to his profession. He was so sure of the number of holidays and for him to express himself a bit more, he did talk about the most significant holiday in his country. This way, he's able to showcase his English communication skills to the examiner. Great answer!

**How do you usually spend your holidays?**

**Unwind c2, revitalize rejuvenate**

Well, **it depends**, if I have **consecutive** **holidays** I usually travel abroad and enjoy **sightseeing**. I **always** have this travel **bug in me** that I can **never** ignore. I know that traveling **costs an arm and a leg** but I **find pleasure in it**. **However,** if the holiday is just a day or two, I **normally** stay at home and rest.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Consecutive [adj.] – successive Travel bug [expression] – a strong desire to travel Cost an arm and a leg [expression] – very expensive Find pleasure [phrase] – to enjoy TIP i.) The speaker simply gave a situational answer saying ‘it depends'. This is more realistic and something that we all do. This way of answering makes you extend your answer a bit more, thus, showing the examiner your language skills.

**Do you think people need more public holidays?**

**Allocate holidays properly**

(Answer 1) Yes, I do think so! As more and more companies have **become so demanding** to their workers these days, it is just right for workers to be given more holidays **in order** **for them to** **recharge their batteries**. I do believe that government should provide a little bit more public holidays to citizens so that they'll be able to **spend a good amount of time** **resting or enjoying their personal time with their family.**

(Answer 2) **Well to be honest with you**, I can **only** talk about the people in my country since I don't have any idea about the other people in other countries and the situation they're in. **Speaking of** my countrymen, I don't think they need to be given more holidays **because** our country has already a lot of national holidays, the current number of public holidays in this country is **already enough**. **If** we add more, **businesses will be affected** and it will **have a negative impact on the economy**.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Demanding [adj.] – difficult Recharge (one's) batteries [expression] – to rest and relax in order to regain energy Take into consideration [phrase] – to consider; give a thought Current [adj.] – present TIPS

i.) FIRST ANSWER: The speaker gave a straightforward positive answer then explained why people need to be given more holidays. He did explain thoroughly plus he used collocations and advanced words. Make sure to use collocations or some advanced vocabulary words when you can.

ii.) SECOND ANSWER: The speaker was also being honest with his answer, instead of giving a very general answer, he just explained to the examiner that he could only answer based on what he knew about his country. This kind of answer is really good as the examinee expresses himself naturally.

**What's your favorite holiday?**

(Answer 1) **Without a doubt**, it's Christmas! For me it's always the best time of the year, I like the **ambiance** and I love to **see the smiling faces of people** during this holiday. I feel the love that people show wherever I go and that really **inspires me.** **I wish every day is Christmas!**

(Answer 2) **Obviously**, it's New Year! I just love it – having to start with a clean slate and being excited about **what lies ahead**. Surely, I enjoy spending time with **my loved ones** during that holiday and **I'm more than eager to** make New Year's resolutions. That's just an amazing holiday!

LEXICAL RESOURCE Without a doubt [phrase] – indisputably Ambiance [noun] – atmosphere A clean slate [idiom] – an opportunity to start fresh despite past problems or mistakes Lie ahead [phrasal verb] – be going to happen

TIPS i.) The speaker simply explained his most loved holiday and then described his feelings towards the holiday that he enjoyed very much. Brief answer and naturally developed.

ii.) The speaker gave a straightforward answer and expressed his feelings towards the New Year holiday. He made sure to use some topic vocabulary words and collocations so he could express his answer better.

**OTHER IMPORTANT HOLIDAYS (may vary in countries)**

**Independence Day**

**New Year Eid'l Adha Eid'l Fitr**

**Thanksgiving Day**

**Chinese New Year**

**Lenten Season**

# Flowers

## 1 What kinds of flowers do you know?

## 2 Are there any flowers that have special meanings in China?

## 3 Have you planted any flowers?

## 4 Have you sent flowers to others?

* *Look things through rose tinted spectacles nhìn thế giới qua lăng kín màu hồng*
* *The kingdom of flowers, colorful, vibrant rực rỡ, various, varied , gorgeous colors*
* *The fragrance c2/ smelling / perfume/ scent of flowers + lingers c2 in the room mùi hương phảng phất*
* *Arrange flowers*
* *Spring to my mind; have a green thumb;* an avid flower lover.
* *represent, associate with, symbolize*
* *brighten up my days and lift my spirits.*
* *contemplating the beauty of flowers with raindrops*
* *When spring arrives, flowers and leaves come out in buds.: hoa lá đâm chồi nảy lộc.*
* *Sprout v đâm chồi; bloom v nở hoa ; germinate v nảy mầm*

Cherry blossom : hoa anh đào

Carnation : hoa cẩm chướng

Daisy : hoa cúc

Peach blossom : hoa đào

Gerbera : hoa đồng tiền

Rose : hoa hồng

Lily : hoa loa kèn

Orchids : hoa lan

Gladiolus : hoa lay ơn

Lotus : hoa sen

Apricot blossom : hoa mai

Tuberose : hoa huệ

Sunflower: hoa hướng dương

Narcissus : hoa thuỷ tiên

Dahlia : hoa thược dược

Camellia : hoa trà

Antigone: hoa ti gôn

Roe-mallow : hoa dâm bụt

Water-rail : đỗ quyên

Peony flower : hoa mẫu đơn

White-dotted : hoa mơ

Phoenix-flower : hoa phượng

**Milk flower** : hoa sữa

Climbing rose : hoa tường vi

**What kinds of flowers do you know?**

**MARK : Frankly speaking, although I’m an avid flower lover, I’m not good at remembering names, especially the names of flowers in English as they’re numerous c1 = innumerable c2** /ɪˈnjuː.mər.ə.bəl/ so it’s extremely **tough** **b2** to **bear them in mind**. **But having say that, some names have just been sprung to my mind namely c1 roses, lotuses, jasmine flowers, lavenders, carnations and sunflowers and many more. That’s all I’ve got now.**

(Answer 1) I don't think I can name everything that I know as **they're just numerous**, **but anyway**, **let me mention my favorites** such as roses, lilies, daffodils, carnations, tulips, and sunflowers. **These flowers are what I love the most** and **I'm happy to say that** I have all of these flowers in my garden.

(Answer 2) Well, I know lots of flowers like violets, **jasmine** flowers, azaleas, **lavenders**, poppies, **among others**. Although I don't **have a green thumb**, I make sure to have some flower plants at home to make my house lively. You may wonder if that's really possible, well honestly, it is. I ask my husband to plant flowers in our garden and take care of them since he's naturally good at planting.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Numerous [adj.] – countless Have a green thumb [idiom] – to have the ability to grow plants well

**Are there any flowers that have special meaning in your country?**

**Enlightenment, purity, rebirth, elegance**

**MARK:**

**Well. Without a doubt**, Lotus is our **national flower**, it **plays an indispensable role** **in Vietnamese culture. Generations by generations**, lotus has become a symbol of the Vietnamese **due to the way it blossoms** which **makes it stay away from IMPURITY**. To the Vietnamese, lotus **symbolizes the purity, and serenity of a person***.* The flower **grows in a murky pond** but it **rises above the surface** to **BLOOM WITH AN EXQUISITE BEAUTY** **AND FRAGRANCE**, just **which** **is associated with** **the COURAGEOUS c1 Vietnamese with and RESILIENCE**. Although we have **undergone thousands of years of Northern dominant and a hundred years of Western colonization**, we still **manage to gain back our independence** and **stand tall till today**. For this reason, despite lotus has not been officially recognized as Vietnam national flower, it is already the national flower to the Vietnamese. No surprise if you see lotus **always win the first position** in any election of **Vietnam national flower. International friends** **have long been familiar with the image of** **Vietnamese golden lotus** as well since it is **the logo of Vietnam Airlines**, our national airlines. Besides being a wonderful flower to look at, lotus also **has a wide range of other usages in cooking and medicine**. **The young stems of the flower** can be used in salads **while the lotus seeds can be candied** or be **an essential ingredient in many dishes including** **main dishes and sweet soups**. **Moreover**, there is a kind of **tea** called **lotus tea** which **is made from** **lotus stamens.**

(Answer 1) Well, jasmine is our **national flower**, it **symbolizes purity, simplicity, humility, and strength**. We also believe that red roses are **a symbol of our passionate love** for someone while **chrysanthemum symbolizes** our **deepest sympathy** to the **bereaved family.** Gia đình có người quá cố

(Answer 2) I'm pretty sure there are but **I'm not certain about** their significant meaning, **except for** cherry blossoms. They **represent** a new beginning, a new life, a new adventure, something like that. So that's why every month of April, we **feel so delighted to** see cherry blossoms. They give so much life and that **makes us so inspired**.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Bereaved [adj.] – suffering the death of a loved one Certain [adj.] – having no doubt; being true or real Something like that [idiom] – something similar to what has been mentioned

**Apricot blossom (Hoa Mai)**

If you come to the south of Vietnam on the Tet holiday, **you will definitely catch sight of apricot blossom everywhere**. This flower is **the token of southern spring** since it often blooms in spring and its bright and vivid color **makes the atmosphere of the holiday more joyful and delighted.** Apricot blossom has two main colors which are white and yellow. While the white apricot blossom **is associated with purity and resilience** /rɪˈzɪl.jəns/ tính kiên cường c2, the yellow color of the apricot blossom **symbolizes luck, prosperity, and longevity**. **Yellow is also considered the color of the royal**. For this reason, during the Tet holiday, almost every house in the south of Vietnam has an apricot blossom tree either in white or in yellow. If the tree is in full bloom during the first free days of the new year or until the fifteenth, it means good things will come to the family.

**Peach blossom (Hoa Dao)**

While apricot blossom is the queen of southern spring, peach blossom takes this place in the north. Originally, the reason why people use peach blossom trees to decorate their house is to drive away evil spirits. Nowadays, although the majority of the youngsters have not known about this anymore but buying a branch of peach blossom has become a beautiful cultural custom of people living in the north. Similar to apricot blossom, peach blossom represents wealth and good fortune. Its soft pink color not only makes the cold weather of the northern spring warmer but also spreads the love and joy among people in the biggest holiday of the year. It also makes people think of Hanoi girls who are very gentle, a little bit reserved but still very dignified.

**Phoenix flower (Hoa Phuong)**

Phoenix tree is often 10 – 15 meters tall, thus it is grown in schools **for shading.** Because of this, the phoenix flower **is often associated with students** and summer since it blooms in the summer and it has **become an indispensable part** of students’ unforgettable memories. The blooming of the phoenix flower is considered **a signal of summer**. It informs that a school year is going to **pass by** and there **comes a boiling hot summer** with no homework but getting up late, visiting hometown or going on a vacation. It is also the evidence of **students’ first love** which is **so pure but also very passionate**. A Vietnamese student shows his or her **love for the other half in a very romantic** way by **pressing phoenix petals** **in an exceptionally beautiful notebook** then give it to the one he or she falls for. This act of love has **become a source of inspiration for** a large number of **poems as well as songs.**

**White Cheesewoods or Milk flower (Hoa Sua)**

If you ask someone in Hanoi about a kind of flower that is firmly imprinted in their mind, it would be milk flowers. Each season in Hanoi has its own special kind of flower. However, for people living there and anyone who has come to Hanoi in fall, what impresses them most must be milk flowers. Besides many historical sights and tourist attractions such as Sword Lake and The Huc Bridge, the milk flower is praised as one of the symbols of Hanoi. It is deemed to represent a Hanoi girl - beautiful and sweet. Milk flowers blossom in late fall and early winter when the weather is a little bit cool, making the atmosphere more romantic and poetic. For this reason, the milk flowers, just like the phoenix flower, is an endless inspiration for artists, poets, and songwriters. There is an array of paintings, photos, poems, songs that take the image of milk flowers as the centerpiece.

**Summary of Vietnam's National Flowers**

There is a range of flowers in Vietnam due to the settled weather of the nation. The lotus has not been officially recognized as Vietnam national flower; however, it is always dominant in any race to this position. Besides, other kinds of flowers mentioned including apricot blossom, peach blossom, phoenix flower, milk flower are particularly popular in Vietnam, both in real life and in artworks.

**Have you planted any flowers?** Không gian trồng, thời gian, kiến thức kỹ năng

*Time consuming, labor consuming, be preoccupied with ST bận tâm với việc gì.*

(Answer 1) Yes, I **have a flower garden** at home. I planted most of them since I was a college student. My interest in planting flowers started when I **bought a bouquet of roses** for my girlfriend. I realized that the price was incredibly expensive, especially that I was only a student then. I was thinking that I'd better **grow my own roses** so I didn't need to buy flowers every Valentine's day. Since then, **I've fallen in love with planting** many kinds of flowers at home.

(Answer 2) Yes, several times but they just died. I believe I don't really **have the natural ability to** grow plants but that does not stop me from **collecting ornamental plants** at home. Thank God, my husband is great at planting so we have a lovely garden at home.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Bouquet [noun] – a bunch of flowers arranged attractively Incredibly [adv.] – unbelievably Fall in love [phrase] – develop a liking for something Ornamental [adj.] – decorative

**Have you sent flowers to anyone?**

**Express my gratitude (unc) / a deep affection**

(Answer 1) Of course! I have sent flowers to my mom every year **during Mother's Day and her birthday**. She loves **carnations** so I never **miss sending** her some during those special days. And to my girlfriend every Valentine's. **Somehow** it has **become my tradition** to send flowers to them and I like it.

(Answer 2) Yes! **In our country**, sending flowers to our parents, lovers, and teachers **is part of our** **culture**. So every year, we **make an effort to** buy **a bouquet of flowers** and give them to **people who are near and dear to us**, but for me, I just **pick flowers in our garden** and send them to my parents or to my closest friends who **celebrate their birthdays.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE Somehow [adv.] – in some way Near and dear [idiom] – of great importance to and held in very high esteem by one

**Do you like flowers? (Why?)**

Answer: Yes, I do like flowers. As an **introvert**, sometimes, I **find** myself feeling peaceful and relaxed while **enjoying nice flowers** in my garden. I **have a habit of taking pictures of flowers after the rain**. I **feel most at peace spending chunks of good time** on my own, in relative silence, **contemplating the beauty of flowers with raindrops** through my camera lens.

**Watch a1> gaze b2 > contemplate c2**

**Feel + annoyed**

**Find + ST + adj > I find this book interesting**

**Have a habit of + Ving**

Từ vựng:

- Introvert (n): Người rụt rè.

- (a) chunk of (n): Một số lượng đáng kể của một cái gì đó

-  Good-time (n) (of a person): Thời gian đẹp của một người

- To contemplate (v): Chiêm ngưỡng

Or:

A: Yes. I do. **It is needless to say,** flower is one of the best things to **represent beauty in this world**. I **am keen on** flowers, which are **colorful and meaningful**. **As a matter of fact = and,** life would be **so boring and gloomy** without these lovely flowers.

Từ vựng:

- It is needless to say (pharse): Không cần phải nói thêm

- Represent (n): Đại diện

- Tobe keen on: Yêu thích cái gì đó

**- as a matter of fact :** used to add something more to what you have just said:

**Which/What is your favorite flower?**

**Answer:**White roses are truly my favorite flower. They **are** traditionally **associated with** marriages and new beginnings. However, their beauty has also **made them a gesture of remembrance tưởng nhớ người chết**. Therefore, a **bouquet** /bəʊˈkeɪ /of white rose is a perfect way to say “**I’m thinking of you**”.

**Từ vựng:**

**Express the affection and gratitude to the loved ones.**

**Be associated with**

* Gesture (n): Một cử chỉ thể hiện ý nghĩa
* (a) Bouquet of (flowers) (phrase):  Một bó hoa được sắp xếp hấp dẫn, đặc biệt là một món quà được tặng như một món quà hoặc được mang theo tại một buổi lễ.

**Or:**

My favorite flower is sunflower. It **represents strong will [ý chí] and independence**. I **set** the picture of a bright sunflower **as** my **desktop background** in order to **remind me of** **the goals** **that** I am going to achieve.

**Từ vựng:**

**Remind SB of ST nhắc nhở ai đó việc gì đó**

**Achieve goals đạt được mục tiêu**

- Independence (n): Sự độc lập

**Do you think flowers are important?**

**Answer:**

Yes, they are important. Because two reasons.

Firstly, Flowers **bring vivid colors to the world**, especially **when it comes to** **fashion, decoration and presents** **on special occasions.**

Secondly, flowers **contribute /kənˈtrɪbjuːt/ to the economic growth both domestically and internationally**. For example, flower **has brought** **a huge benefit** to the economy of Sadec City (a city of flower in Vietnam country).

- Bring vivid (v): Mang lại sự sinh động

- Contribute to (v): Đóng góp vào

- A huge benefit (n): Một lợi ích to lớn.

**Answer:** For an introvert like me, enjoying the **harmonization** of various types of flowers with different **gorgeous colors** in the garden or **in florist shops** could **brighten up my days and lift my spirits**.

- Harmonization (n): Một sự kết hợp tốt

- Gorgeous (adj): Đẹp, rất hấp dẫn

- Brighten up (phrasal verb): Làm dễ chịu và hạnh phúc hơn

- Lift our spirits (expression): Làmchúng ta hạnh phúc hơn

**Are flowers important in your culture? (Give examples)**

**Answer:**  Definitely. With beautiful meanings, some flowers are chosen to **show people’s key virtues**. Lotus flowers, for example, have been regarded as the national flower. The lotus plants grow **from the marsh** but their leaves and flowers grow toward the direction of the sunlight, which **symbolizes the purity and faithfulness of people’s spirits.**

- **Virtue (n): Phẩm chất hoặc đặc tính tốt**

- To regard as (v): Xem xét hoặc suy nghĩ theo một cách cụ thể

- To symbolize (v): Là biểu tượng của..

**Or:**

Yes, flowers have an essential role to pay in our country's traditional culture - representing beauty, especially on special occasions such as birthday party, wedding, new year and orther celebrations.  
Among these, Lotus is chosen to be the national flower of my country as it **represents the virtues of the people namely purity, trust and honest.**

- An essential: Một điều cần thiết

- Vole to pay: Vai trò quan trọng.

**Do people in your country ever use flowers for special occasions?**

**Answer:** Flowers are widely used in many occasions and festivals in our country to represent for a blessing, happiness and good luck. Most families have at least one kind of plants or flowers at home.

**What are the occasions when people give or receive flowers?**

**Answer:** A bunch of flowers is considered as a gift for a wide range of occasions for both people to send and receive flowers. For example, in a birthday party, Women’s day, or Valentine’s day**, colorful flowers are arranged nicely in a small vase** and given to each other.

- A bunch of flowers (phrase): một số thứ, thường cùng loại, phát triển hoặc gắn chặt với nhau

**Or:**If you have no ideas what gifts to give others on their special days, then **a beautiful bouquet of flowers can save your life**. Why? Gifts, or flowers have been an essential part of any parties, especially birthday, wedding and graduation day. Flowers are **given as congratulation gifts** and **enlighten the atmosphere of the party**. And also, imagine a Valentine's day without flowers? Then where is love and romance?

**Từ vựng:**

- a beautiful bouquet (n): Một bó hoa đẹp.

- enlighten (v): Soi sáng, làm nổi bật

**In your country, do people (ever) give flowers as a gift?**

**Answer:**Yes, they do. As mention above, flowers play an essential role in different occasions as a special gift for people to show love to one another. People, especially girls, are happy and pleased when they receive their favorite flowers from beloved ones on their birthday.

**When was the last time you gave flowers to someone?**

**Answer:** It was a couple of weeks ago when I bought a bouquet of flowers as a present for my mom. She was **deliriously** happy when receiving it and **put in in the sitting room** so that everyone in my family can admire its beauty too.

# Festival

## 1 How do you celebrate festivals in your country?

## 2 What special food and activities do you have for these festivals?

## 3 How do you celebrate Spring Festival?

## 4 What is your favorite festival?

**How do you celebrate festivals in your country?**

**(Answer 1)** Most **festivals** in our country are **religious-oriented**, so we normally offer **prayers** to our God – **thanking Him for the blessings** that we receive and we **pray for prosperity and good health.** We **hold some traditional dance performances** as our way of **expressing our gratitude**.

**(Answer 2)** **It all depends on** what festivals we are **celebrating.** If it’s **a religious festival**, we **go to a** **solemn place** **and pray.** If it’s **non-religious** like a festival related to our national government or country, we normally **exhibit our culture and traditions** **by holding some performances** like dancing, singing, writing contests, **among others**.

**The traditional customs vary from festival to festival,** so I also celebrate each festival **in a distinct way**. During Tet holiday, I will cook **delicacies**, and **on Reunification day,** I usually go to Ho Chi Minh **Mausoleum** to **watch the flag raising ceremony.** But something that all my festival celebrations **have in common** is that I always try to spend as much time as I can with my family and close friends. I do believe this is how most Vietnamese celebrate festivals as well.

**LEXICAL RESOURCE**

***Prosperity [noun]****– the condition of being successful*

***Gratitude [noun]****– appreciation*

***Solemn [adj.]****– dignified*

***Exhibit [verb]****– show; display*

***Among others [phrase]****– to indicate there are more things like the ones mentioned but you intend not to mention them*

**What special activities and food do you have for these festivals?**

**(Answer 1)** **As I said**, we **hold some dance performances**, well actually **traditional dance**. But I don’t think I can **describe the way** we **perform this traditional dance** because **the meaning of it** will only be **fathomed tìm hiểu thăm dò** when it’s watched **rather than explaining it in words**. As for the food that we eat during the traditional festivals in our country, we **have rice cake**, **roasted meat, well basically traditional foods**.

**(Answer 2) As I mentioned**, if it’s **religious**, we **spend our time in a church** – **kneel down and say our prayers**. **Right after that**, we **light a candle** to **symbolize our gratitude** for **the gift of life**. **With regard to** non-religious festivals, we just simply **express our love of our country** through holding some performances **which I mentioned earlier.**  **And for the food**, well, of course, traditional foods.

Again, like I mentioned, Vietnam has a huge collection of festivals with a variety of special food and activities meant for each one. If we talk about **the Mid-autumn festival,** **five-fruit trays and moon cakes** will be the typical traditional dishes served. On the other hand, in the Cold Food Festival, many Vietnamese as well as I normally eat “banh troi” and “banh chay” to celebrate. The activities are also **extremely diverse.** During the Mid-autumn Festival, it is common for us to **watch lion dance parades** and **carry lanterns in different shapes**. But for the Cold Food Festival, making banh troi and banh chay with the whole family is the go-to activity for **numerous households.**

**LEXICAL RESOURCE**

***Fathom [verb]****– comprehend*

***Kneel down [phrasal verb]****– to go down on both knees in front of something*

***With regard to [phrase]****– in respect of; regarding*

**What is your favorite festival?**

**(Answer 1)** **Without a doubt**, the New Year Festival because it’s **a symbol of a fresh start**. Well, this isn’t **religiously symbolic** **contrary to what I mentioned earlier but** this is truly my favorite as I can **start refocusing myself** on working on **achieving my goals** and I normally **get so inspired doing some new things.**

**(Answer 2)** **It’s such a shame to admit this but I don’t have any**. **Well, I do** celebrate all kinds of festivals in our country and I **value them** but **I don’t consider** one as my favorite. I dunno, I just **treat all festivals the same way.**

Answer: I have to say, Mid-Autumn Festival would be my favorite festival. Like the name suggests, this festival takes place in the middle of Autumn, which is August 15th according to the Lunar Calendar. I love all the special treats during this holiday, especially moon cakes**.**

***It’s such a shame [expression]****– it is unfortunate*

***How do you celebrate spring Festivals?***

Spring festivals in Vietnam are associated with pilgrims, as well as family gatherings. Every family member would come together, and some may return to their hometowns or visit graves of their ancestors to show respect. Throughout this festival, pagodas and temples are crowded with people, and fireworks are lit across the country, celebrating the beginning of a new year. We spend a lot of time making traditional food, decorating the house with flowers such as peach blossoms and apricots and just enjoying each other’s company.

**What is the most popular Vietnamese festival?**

Answer: Well, the most popular Festival in Vietnam is the Lunar New Year Festival. It’s the time for **family reunions** as people who work far away from home can get to **spend some valuable time** **with their loved ones** after a long year of being separated.

This is not easy to choose, since Vietnam has so many festivals all through the year. However, a celebration that I really like is the Hoi An Lantern Festival. This is quite **a local festival**, as it only **occurs in the ancient town** on the 14th day of each Lunar month. Thousands of ornate **lanterns light up the city** that day and **candlelit ceremonies** are also **held in many temples**. I have been to this festival once a few years back and was so impressed that whenever anyone mentions “Vietnamese festival”, the image of lanterns and candles’ **soft amber hues** under Hoi An’s night sky will resurface in my mind.

**Do you like western festivals?**

Answer: Honestly, I only know a little about western festivals, but I guess the one I find most interesting would be Halloween. You know, it’s just a lot of fun to see people **dressing up** in many different creative costumes. If I had a chance, I would definitely want to celebrate it in other countries to see what it’s like.

# Environmental protection

## 1 Would you like to work in a company related to environmental protection?

## 2 How can we protect the environment?

## 3 Do you think you've done enough to protect the environment?

## 4 Is there education about environmental protection at school?

**Would you like to work in a company related to environmental protection?**

**Be willing to + Devote myself to … / contribute to = make a contribution to / dedicate for …**

(Answer 1) Well, why not? I would love to if there's an opportunity. To be honest, **I'm really passionate about** protecting the environment. I've joined several environmental organizations that **promote environmental awareness to people**, especially those who are **city dwellers** who **are indifferent c2 to** this issue and I'm loving it so much. I **go for** this company **regardless of c1 obtaining a decent pay or not.**

(Answer 2) Not at all, my **educational attainment** doesn't **fit** that kind of company. Practically speaking, I **go for** a company where I can **utilize the degree** that I **obtained** and more importantly a company that **pays decently.** Although I don't **have any interest in** working in that kind of company, it doesn't mean that **I'm indifferent to** [thờ ơ] environmental protection, I do **care about** the environment.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Awareness [noun] – knowledge of a situation or fact Dweller [noun] – a person that lives in a specified place Go for [phrasal verb] – to choose something Utilize [verb] – make use of Obtain [verb] – get; acquire Indifferent [adj.] – unconcerned

**How can we protect the environment?** **Dump c2** the garbage into the river

**Propagandize v** [tuyên truyền], **litter b2 indiscriminately** [vứt rác bừa bãi]

(Answer 1) **Being ordinary citizens**, I believe we can do a lot. ***First of all***, we must **strictly comply with regulations**. We can **practice recycling**, **save electricity** as much as we can, **avoid wasting water = conserve water, minimizing the use of cars**, **and many more.** **These things I've mentioned are the little things that we ordinary citizens can do**, **however**, when everyone is **doing all of these things**, I'm pretty sure that the current environmental condition will **significantly improve**.

**strictly b2 comply with c1 / abide by environmental laws = legislation c2 /regulations**

(Answer 2) Well, we can **do the common ways** which our parents or teachers taught us like **recycling and saving energy**. But if we are really serious about environmental protection, we need to **elect b2 public officials** or **choose a political party** that truly cares about the environment or we have to **pressure these government leaders to act on providing solutions** to the **never-ending** environmental problems. I believe that's **more powerful** in protecting the environment.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Abide by [phrasal verb] – to obey or conform to the rules Significantly [adv.] – notably; remarkably Pressure [verb as used in the answer] – persuade

**Do you think you've done enough to protect the environment?**

(Answer 1) **Despite** **being an active volunteer** to several environmental organizations, **I'm ashamed b1 to** **admit that** I haven't done enough. I know that **I can still do more than what I've done** and because of that, I will **continue contributing** something that can **improve the state of Mother Earth.** It **sounds cringy** for some but **I already claimed that** that's one of **my missions in life.**

(Answer 2) I don't think so. Yes, I've been practicing some little ways to protect the environment but **I'm not religiously doing** that **every single day of my life**. However, I'm trying to **be more responsible** because our planet Earth **is undeniably changing** like the **weather** has **become so unpredictable,** so **many natural disasters have occurred**, **icebergs** /ˈaɪsbɜːɡ $ -bɜːrɡ/ **are melting**, and **the sea level is rising.** These things make me think that **we're starting to pay the price.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE Admit [verb] – acknowledge State [noun] – condition **Cringy [adj.] – to cause embarrassment** Claim [verb] – claim; profess Religiously [adv.] – with consistent and conscientious regularity Pay the price [idiom] – to suffer the consequences of one's actions

**Is there education about environmental protection at school?**

(Answer 1) Yes, back when I was a student, we **had one curriculum b1 about science and the environment** which taught us **the importance of environmental conservation and preservation**. To be honest, I **found it boring = tedious c1** = **monotonous** **c1** since I didn't **have a clear understanding of the value** of it. **I'm glad** that **I've exposed myself to certain environmental organizations** as it helped me **open my mind**. I just hope that schools these days **realistically teach** their students about environmental protection.

(Answer 2) I believe so because there's a science subject in primary and secondary schools. I'm pretty sure teachers **teach their students some environment-related topics** as I had them when I was a student. And I must say, that was **one of the valuable lessons** I learned in school.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Conservation [noun] – prevention of wasteful use of resources Preservation [noun] – the act of keeping something as it is Open one's mind [phrase] – be prepared to consider or acknowledge Pretty [adv.] – fairly; reasonably

# Car trip

## 1 Do you like to travel by car?

## 2 When do you travel by car?

## 3 Where is the farthest place you have traveled to by car?

## 4 Do you like to sit in the front or back when traveling by car?

## 5 **Do you like to travel by car?**

**(Answer 3) Yes,** I love to **commute by car** because one of the **most significant benefits** of travelling by car is **flexibility**. I can **stop wherever I want**, **take any street**, any **shortcut that suits my commute hours**. **Another benefit of** travelling by car is getting to **enjoy fantastic views.** **Also,** I can **save my time** and in my car is **the most convenient mode of transport.**

(Answer 1) Definitely! It’s way more convenient than public transport. **I’m more than grateful to** have owned a car, especially these days that it’s not completely safe to go to crowded places like stations since the threat of contracting the coronavirus is serious.

(Answer 2) Yes, I do because undeniably it provides nothing but convenience. However, I don’t have a car so **I’m left with no choice** but to take a bus or train every single day.

**(Answer 4)** To be honest, I am quite uncomfortable while traveling by vehicle because when I have motion sickness, I feel **dizzy and nauseated** when I get off the car, so when I arrive, I am very uncomfortable. Instead, I prefer to go by motorcycle, even if it is not air-conditioned, since I feel more comfortable and have more spirit.

**When do you travel by car?**

(Answer 3) **I prefer to** travel by car when I **go to farthest places.** Cars **allow me to** **travel in an air-conditioned environment** and **provides adequate protection** from **inclement weather**. **In addition,** cars **are fast and perfect** for **covering long distances** **in a short period of time.**

(Answer 1) Well, every day, when I go to work and when I need to go to the supermarket. As I said, I don’t use any modes of public transport, especially these days. Although traveling by car is very convenient, I must say it’s incredibly costly to own a car.

(Answer 2) When my friends invite me to travel somewhere – that’s the only time that I can travel by car. However, these days I don’t have any opportunity because my friends and I temporarily delay our travel plans due to the travel restrictions caused by the pandemic.

**Where is the farthest place you have traveled to by car?**

**(Answer 3) Last year** my cousin came from Canada and he wanted to see **Golden temple** that time I traveled by car because he had **come for only two weeks** and we did **not have enough time for train reservation**.

(Answer 1) Let me think…I guess when my family went to the neighboring island of our city. If my memory serves me right, that was four years ago. So we had to take our car on the ferry in order to get to the island and I enjoyed driving around that island because its beauty is just mesmerizing.

(Answer 2) I suppose when my friends and I traveled to the western part of our state. I don’t know how many miles we had traveled then but we came from the northeast part of our city and it took us almost six hours to reach our destination. That was a great trip but I felt sorry for our driver.

**Do you like to sit in the front or back when traveling by car?**

**(Answer 3) Well, it depends on the situation** like when I go with my family then I like to **sit in the back seat** but when I **go with my partner** then I love to **sit in the front row**. I **see the various majestic views** whenever I sit in the front seat.

(Answer 1) Well, if **I’m not the driver**, I prefer the back seat because I can **rest or sleep**. It’s impossible for me to sleep when I sit in the front because I feel like it’s my obligation to have a chat with the driver so he won’t feel drowsy, especially if it’s a long hour drive.

(Answer 2) It depends, if I’m asked to sit in the front, then I won’t say no. It’s nice to sit in the front, especially if I’m traveling in scenic spots, I’ll be able to enjoy the spectacular view completely since there’s no obstruction of my eyes.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Drowsy[adj.] – sleepy Scenic [adj.] – picturesque; pleasing Spectacular [adj.] – eye-catching; beautiful Obstruction [noun] – barrier

# Barbecue

## 1 Do Chinese people like barbecue?

## 2 What kind of food do you like to eat for barbecue?

## 3 Would you like to have a barbecue with your family or your friends?

## 4 Did you have a barbecue when you were a child?

**Do people in your country like barbecues? + nhân dịp nào ? ăn gì ? khi nào?**

(Answer 1) Definitely, **as** that's **part of our culture**. We **have easy access to different barbecue street foods** wherever we go. Also, when there's **a special gathering in a family**, like **celebrating a birthday** **or anniversaries,** barbecue is one of **the sought-after foods**, so **it's undeniable that** barbecuing is one of the ways to prepare food for the visitors.

(Answer 2) Yes, we love barbecues! We enjoy barbecuing, especially when we **go on a picnic at the beach.** We normally **have brisket, chicken, sausages, corn, and marshmallows**. Barbecuing is actually very common during summertime in this country.

Yes, my family loves having barbecues. So when I was a kid, we had them pretty regularly during the summer. I have **lots of fond memories** of my family hanging out at our place. We loved to **eat great food and catch up with each other.** It was always a good time

LEXICAL RESOURCE **Sought after [adj.] – generally desired** **Brisket [noun] – a cut of meat from the breast or lower chest of beef**

**What kind of food do you like to eat for barbecue?**

**scrump‧tious /ˈskrʌmpʃəs/ adjective*informal* hảo hạng** **SYN delicious = appetizing**

(Answer 1) **This may sound weird to you**, but since you asked that question, I'd love to share this with you. I love the **giblets.** gib‧lets /ˈdʒɪbləts/ In our culture, we enjoy eating those types of barbecue more than anything else. I know some people from other countries think that **it's gross** but it's really **tasty**. I've been eating this type of barbecue since I was little.

(Answer 2) **Like I said earlier**, I enjoy eating barbecues **such as sausages, marshmallows, beef, chicken, and some vegetables like potatoes, corn, and carrots**. Talking about barbecues at this very moment **makes my stomach growl,** as I imagine **the savory smell** of barbecues (laughter).

I really love ribs . You know, it’s **a pretty messy type of food**. You usuall**y eat them with your hands**, and there’s typically a lot of sauce on them. So I wouldn’t recommend eating them if you’re trying to impress someone. But they taste amazing. **The meat is always so tender and juicy.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE **Giblets [noun] – the heart, liver, gizzard, and neck of a chicken or other fowl** Gross [adj.] – extremely unpleasant **Growl [verb] – if your stomach growls, it makes a deep low noise**

**Would you like to have a barbecue with your friends or family?**

(Answer 1) I love doing it with my friends more than my family because it's fun. But I'm not saying that it's not enjoyable doing that with my parents and siblings, I'm happy barbecuing with them, however, when **my relatives are around**, I really **abhor** doing so because they are **nit-picky** on the way I barbecue, plus, they keep asking me lots of personal questions that I really don't want to answer while barbecuing.

(Answer 2) Both! I mean I love having a barbecue dinner or party with friends or family. It's just that the **vibe** is kinda different. Whenever I do that with friends, there's so much laughter and craziness because we **talk about our silly experiences in life**. As for doing that with my family, I feel like our **relationship** as a family **becomes stronger and we become much closer**. And that's one of the reasons why we **set up a barbecue party** twice a year.

I prefer having a BBQ with my friends! I mean, I love my family. But I can relax a lot more when I’m with my friends. I don’t have to worry about being proper as much. So it’s nice to **kick back and relax** on the weekend with my friends.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Be around [idiom] – to socialize with or have close proximity to somebody **Abhor [verb] – strongly hate** **ab‧hor /əbˈhɔː $ əbˈhɔːr, æb-/ verb (abhorred, abhorring) [transitive not in progressive] formal**; despise **Nit-picky [adj] – refers to someone who is overly focused on tiny, unimportant details, especially when criticizing something Vibe [noun] – the emotional state or the atmosphere of a place** Silly [adj.] – foolish

**Did you have barbecues when you were a child?**

(Answer 1) Well, **let me recall**, I suppose I didn't experience having a barbecue with my family. I may be wrong but I don't really remember. Well, I ate lots of barbecues when I was a child but it wasn't my parents who prepared those barbecues, they just simply bought those somewhere. As far as I remember, I experienced having a barbecue at home **using a charcoal grill** when I was already a high school student.

(Answer 2) Of course! I had lovely memories of barbecuing when I was a child. Actually, our house is just **a stone's throw away from a white-sand beach**, so every summer, my parents **hosted a barbecue party and invited my aunts**, uncles, cousins, and grandparents. Honestly, it was one of the best memories of my childhood that **I hold dear.**

Yes, people in my country love to have barbecues in the summer. Barbecues are a great, easy way to bring together family and friends. The food is always loved by everyone, even small children who are picky eaters. Barbecues also **encourage people to eat and socialize outside and get fresh air.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE I suppose – another way of saying, I think **A stone's throw (away) [idom] – a short distance**

**Hold dear [idiom] – to feel that somebody or something is of value**

# Advertisement

## 1 What kinds of advertisements do you watch?

## 2 Where can you see advertisements?

## 3 Have you ever bought something because of its advertisement?

## 4 Do you watch advertisements from the beginning to the end?

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

Answer 1: I believe that **the increasing number of advertisements** **is mainly due to** **the fierce b2 competition** among companies nowadays. **All brands** want to **promote their products to attract the attention of a wide range of consumers b2** and **stand out b2 from their rivals c1** , so they **are willing to** spend a lot of money **on** ads and **marketing compaigns c1** **as well to enhance their brand recognition**

**stand out from their rivals b2 > be prominent c1** ; Compete with b2

Answer 2: **I guess it’s due to** the benefits of the companies. First, advertisements are the easiest way to **reach b2 customers to attract their attention** to a particular brand or product. From that attractive information, customers will be able to **choose an appropriate b2 one**. Second, it also **plays a crucial b2 role** in the **marketing strategy b2** that the company apply to attract customers.

**Have you ever bought something because of its advertisement?**

(Answer 1) **Definitely and a lot of times!** **For some reason**, **I'm easily convinced with** **testimonial ads**. I dunno, I find those kinds of commercials **enticing, intriguing, and credible**. **My latest purchases** **were heavily influenced** by those types of ads that I watched and **I have no regrets** though.

(Answer 2) **Yes, I've done that several times,** **but** I don't **easily** **get convinced by** the ads that I watch. I normally **check the reviews of the products** before **making a decision because** I really want to make sure to buy something which I believe **is of high quality**.

LEXICAL RESOURCE **Testimonial ads [noun] – an advertising method that highlights the end user's statement** extolling the virtue of a product or brand **Enticing** [adj.] – attractive & tempting Intriguing [adj.] – fascinating; arousing one's curiosity Credible [adj.] – acceptable

**Do you watch advertisements from the beginning to the end?**

(Answer 1) **Well, if** **the advertising medium** is TV, **then** I do watch the ads till they finish. **However**, **if they appear** **on social media platforms**, I always have a choice not to **watch the entire ad**. **Like I said earlier,** I **make a habit** to watch ads on my favorite Youtube channels because it's my way of helping **the content creators.**

(Answer 2) **Never!** I don't want to **waste my time** watching those ads, **though** I **normally** **watch a portion of the ad**, I never want to **watch the entire ad**, especially if **the duration is a minute or two**. I can **tolerate watching ads** for no more than ten seconds.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Make a habit [idiom] – do something habitually Tolerate [verb] – allow

**How do you feel about advertisements?**

Answer 1: Back when I was a little kid, I really enjoyed watching advertisements on TV. Probably because they were pretty short and generally **have catchy background music**. However, as I get older, I find advertisements rather **annoying and overwhelming sometimes**, especially **commercial breaks** during a film because they **ruin the flow.** Besides, advertisements that **pop up** on my laptop screen when I am watching Youtube or **surfing the Internet** also **get on my nerves.c2**

Answer 2: Sometimes, I find it a little bit disappointing because **the quality products** are usually **overrated.** However, there are **other beneficial advertisements** in supermarkets which **has informative contents** for customers such as on which days there will be **promotions** or which new products will **be launched.**

**Do you like advertisements?**

Advertising is **a double-edged sword,** which has its **pros and cons b2**. **Apart from = aside from = except for** **informative sources / contents** which **facilitate c1** search, **I am overwhelmed and disturbed** **c1** with **a flood of** ads which **are flooded = bombarded with** unnecessary information on mass media **I presume c1 that** advertising **play an indispensable part** in the industry 4.0 era, **but having said that**, I would **be prone to it c2** as long as it doesn’t pop up when I am watching Youtube

**Imperative c2 (adj) extremely important = URGENT**

**be** **biased in favor of** thiên vị / **be biased against** + thành kiến **c1 = be prejudiced in / against c1 = be prone to ST c2 it**

**integral c1 - indispensable c2**

**a ton of** **b2**= **a flood of** **c2**

**facilitate formal c1**

**annoyed b1 = irritated b2 = disturbed** **c1**

**suppose a2 = assume b2 = presume c1**

**What kind of advertisements do you watch?**

(Answer 1) I watch **all sorts of advertisements,** **I mean** I don't have any choice but to watch whatever ads that appear on TV. **However,** **when it comes to** ads on social media, **I'm selective** on what ads **I'm fine watching** **and the good thing is that I can** skip some ads **but if** I'm watching a channel of my favorite Youtubers, I **never skip ads** as I want them to make money from their hard work.

(Answer 2) As **I'm more into gadgets**, most of the time, I enjoy **watching commercials** that **are tech-related** **because** I want to **be updated with the latest products from my favorite tech companies**. **Though I also** enjoy **watching commercials on beauty products**, **I can say that** I don't watch those ads **as often as gadget-related ads.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE Sort [adj.] – type Tech [noun] – technology

**Where can you see advertisements?**

(Answer 1) Advertisements are **undeniably** everywhere! We all can see them on TV, newspaper, online, **billboards,** and even hear them on the radio and podcast. **The advertising industry** is **a gargantuan money-making industry,** **as a result**, they appear everywhere.

(Answer 2) **Well,** most of the time **on TV, online, streets, and malls**. I believe they're part of everyone's life. Everyone sees ads **at home and outside.** **Wherever we go**, we see ads **any time of the day** and that makes me believe **they're seriously part of our existence.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE Undeniably [adv.] – unable to be denied **Gargantuan [adj.] – massive**

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

Answer 1: As I said earlier, advertisements **are pretty much everywhere** in my country. **Apart from TV commercials, magazines and newspapers,** you can also see **adverts** on buses, taxis and in coffee shops. When you **go to bustling roundabouts** in Saigon such as Phu Dong or Dien Bien Phu, your eyes would **be bombarded with (**bị đưa dồn dập) **dozens of billboards** /ˈbɪl.bɔːrd/ from different brands. **Each of them** comes **in different sizes and are brilliantly designed with eye-catching colors and interesting slogans.**

**Bombard verb [ T ] US /bɑːmˈbɑːrd/** to attack a place with continuous shooting or bombs:

Answer 2: Advertising is here, there, and everywhere. It gets to people through different types of communication such as **flyers and banners** on the streets or printed ones on newspaper, magazines or **electronic** ones **on social media**. It could be **written, verbal or a short movie**.

Answer 3 There are lots and **diverse**, for example, you see them **on the internet, on websites, social media**, **YouTube and so on**. Then there are **TV commercials, radio ads, and newspapers and magazines** always have lots of advertising in them, and then there are the ads you see **outdoors on billboards.** You see those **big billboards** **at the side of the road and on buildings,** large **banners advertising events or brands**, and there are all kinds of **advertising campaigns c1 on buses, cabs, and cars that go around.** Also **in the subway and on other trains, in store windows** – and **the list is endless b2**. There’s almost nowhere you won’t see ads. Advertising is **an integral part** of everyday life, it’s everywhere, **whether we notice it or not.**

**Where do you see the most advertising?**

Nowadays, advertisements are **all over TV and movie streaming services.** Also, there are **loads of ads on social networks** like Facebook, Instagram, and, of course, YouTube.

I guess although there's a lot of advertising everywhere, you'll see it in stores and on the street, for example. But you **see the most ads on websites and apps, movie and TV streaming services** (Hulu, Netflix, Amazon Prime Video) and **social media.**

If you play video games, **many free mobile video games have ad campaigns within them**. And, if you still **read traditional media** such as magazines or newspapers, you'll see a lot of ads in those too.

**Are there many advertisements in your country? = Is there much advertising in your country?**

Answer 1: **Absolutely yes**. Advertisements are **a common sight** in Vietnam, **whether it’s** on TV, on websites **or** on social media.

Answer 2: **Definitely**, there are. They appear **all over the place** **from the streets to social media** **with a high density c1.** For example, there is **a multitude of** **colorful flyers** **stuck on the street walls** in Sydney.

*a* ***multitude*** *of = a large number of people or things:*

**What are some different forms of advertisement?**

There are **tons of different forms of advertising**, but here are just some of the most popular.

**Advertising on TV and radio** has been with us for a long time, and they're both effective ways **to get your message out into the world.**

**Billboards and other ads** like **bus signs or any outdoor advertising** is another way you can **target specific people** who seem interested in what you're offering. It also **allows brands to find new audiences** that may not be **aware they need a service/product yet.**

**Social media ads** are always **present on all platforms** like Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, and others.

When **marketers design campaigns**, they have many different goals. These **often extend past awareness into actual sales**, for example, **purchase behavior**. So, these **goals drive how marketers design ad campaigns, and the relationship with clients** - us.

# Special costumes

## 1 Do you like to wear special costumes?

## 2 Did you try any special costumes when you were young?

## 3 When was the time you wear special costumes?

## 4 Do you ever buy special costumes?

**Do you like to wear special costumes?**

(Answer 1) Yes, I do **but of course** **not on ordinary days**. **It would be silly** **if I** wore a special costume **without any occasion or event.** I usually wear a costume **during the Halloween season** **because** I **attend some Halloween parties**. **It's the best time to** **showcase my creativity** by wearing a costume.

(Answer 2) **Not at all**. I **find it bothersome = troublesome** and **that's the reason why I** always **miss attending** Halloween parties or any parties or events that require people to wear **some sort of** costumes. I dunno, I just don't like the idea of wearing special costumes.

Yes, I like **wearing special costumes**. They are worn by people either during an event or a themed occasion such as Halloween parties. I put on such special attires only during the Halloween season, and I must say that it's one of the best times to see people showing off their **extraordinary creativity** by wearing such costumes.

Showcase [verb] – display **Bothersome [adj.] – annoying** Sort [noun] – type , **chi-l-di-sh , mature.**

**Did you try any special costumes when you were young?**

(Answer 1) **Definitely,** especially **in schools**. **In this country**, all schools **celebrate United Nations** month every October, and students **are required to** wear a special costume of a country that **represents** the country's **culture or identity**. **So,** when I was a student, I **wore several costumes** of countries like Japan, China, and some Western countries. **That was incredibly fun**!

(Answer 2) **Yes,** **when I was a kid**, I **was fond of** wearing some special costumes like **those costumes from Disney characters and Marvel superheroes**. **As you know**, **children** **love those stuff**, I **admit** I did enjoy wearing some of those **costumes back in the day. However,** when I **became a teenager**, I **started to** **lose interest in any kind of special costume** **because like I said**, wearing one **is just a pain in the neck.**

Oh, yes, I remember that my school organized fancy dress competitions where everyone had to dress differently. So, my ingenious mother dressed me as a Chocolate bar using aluminum foil covers and color papers. It was an amazing costume that all my friends loved. The reason behind me dressing as a chocolate bar was because I was extremely fond of them.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Incredibly [adv.] – extremely Stuff [noun] – things **Back in the day [phrase] – in the past A pain in the neck [idiom] – something or someone that is annoying**

**When was the last time you wore special costumes?**

(Answer 1) **LET ME RECALL**, oh well, **that was** **before the pandemic**. I attended a **Hawai themed** birthday party of my closest friend. I **wore a polo** **with huge floral prints,** **khaki shorts, and a garland** around my neck. **I was glad that I** really attended that party **because after that**, **the news about the pandemic broke**. **That was** **the last social gathering** **I was able to attend** **without any worries.**

(Answer 2) **That was a long time ago** **when** I **celebrated my 10th birthday**. I **put on a Spiderman costume because at that time** I **was crazy about** Spiderman **like I** **imagined myself being a superhero after** **being heavily influenced by reading** Marvel **comics.** **Remembering those days now** **makes me miss my childhood.**

Well, I recently attended one of my closest friend's birthday party, which was themed on the Marvel movie, Avengers. So, I decided to become Captain America, and wore a costume with a long-sleeved blue & red t-shirt and blue pants, sewed with duct tape. However, I bought the fake vibranium shield online. I got a superhero feeling once I put on the costume.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Garland [noun] – a wreath of flowers or leaves worn on the head or around one's neck Crazy about something [phrase] – to be very interested

**Do you ever buy special costumes?**

(Answer 1) **Rarely,** I usually **create my own costume** if I attend a Halloween party or **any other events because** I want to **express my own creativity**. **However,** **if** **I'm under a time constraint,** **I'm left with no choice** **but** to buy a special costume.

(Answer 2**) It's been more than** ten years **now since** **the last time** I wore a special costume, **so** **I can say that never in my life** have I bought a costume. **Although** I wore some special costumes **when I was little**, **it was my parents' money that** was spent on those costumes**. I've never had any experience spending my own money on costumes.**

No. I don't spend money buying special costumes, as they are **worn occasionally**. Rather, I **create my own costumes**, by **purchasing the materials** from the local shop that is required and then **sew them together**. This way, I'm able to **exhibit my creativity.**

# Weekend

## 1 What do other people in your hometown usually do on weekends?

## 2 What will you do next weekend?

## 3 Did you do anything special last weekend?

## 4 What do you usually do on weekends?

spend **valuable time** with their **loved ones**, **eating** out, going for a **drive**, doing some **exercise** at the park.

**indulge in a shopping spree** , improve **family bond +** an **amusement park**

**treat myself** to **eating something special**

**reward myself** for **staying up late**

having a **short meet-up** like having **coffee / meet up with friends**

i lay on my **bed** for hours and hours and spent time **binge-watching** **my favorite TV series**.

**What do you usually like to do on weekends?**

(Answer 1)

As a **homebody**, I usually **spend my free time on weekends** **cleaning the house, watching Netflix series, and cooking**. I **find pleasure in** **doing these things** ***rather than*** going out or meeting people, **doing the latter** simply **drains my energy.**

(Answer 2)

I love **hanging out with my friends** as that’s the only time we can **see one another** and **spend a great time updating each other’s lives**. Most of the time we **have a packed schedule** **on weekdays** that even **having a short meet-up** like **having coffee** isn’t possible. But **unfortunately** **these days,** we’ve decided to **minimize meeting outside** just **for safety purposes**. Living during this **pandemic** **needs extra careful  – prevention** **is better than cure** are **words to live by**.

LEXICAL RESOURCE

**Homebody** [noun] – a person who likes to stay at home

Find pleasure [phrase] – to enjoy doing something very much

Drain [verb] – makes one feel physically or emotionally exhausted

Hang out [phrase] – to spend a lot of time in a place or with someone

Meet-up [noun as used in the answer] – meeting

**Words to live by [idiom] – a motto; a piece of advice that one is adhered to  một lời khuyên nên tuân theo**

**What did you do last weekend?**

(Answer 1)

Honestly, I was kind of lazy last weekend, I **didn’t do anything productive** as I just wanted to **get a good rest**. I just **lay on my bed for hours and hours** and **spent time binge-watching** **my favorite TV series**. I don’t usually do that, but for some reason, **I wasn’t inspired to do something valuable** and I think that’s alright **since** it’s not all the time that **we’re at our best.**

(Answer 2)

Well, what did I do? Oh yeah, I **baked a banana cake** after watching some baking videos on Youtube. It was actually my first time to bake a banana cake and **I couldn’t be happier with** the result since I was able to **achieve the texture** *kết cấu*, **the taste** which I **consider perfect**, and **the right moistness**. I might **learn more about** baking this weekend.

LEXICAL RESOURCE

**Binge-watch [verb] – to watch several episodes**

**At one’s best** [idiom] – in one’s most excellent condition or state

**Couldn’t be happier** [idiom] – to be very happy

Moistness [noun] – the quality of being slightly wet

**What will you do next weekend?**

(Answer 1)

**I’ve nothing in mind yet**. I dunno, I might **treat myself to eating something special** or going to the cinema, just to **reward myself for staying up late** preparing for this IELTS exam. I think I **deserve something lovely** this weekend, but honestly, I **can’t decide yet on** what to do this **upcoming** weekend **at the moment** as **my mind is preoccupied with this IELTS exam.**

(Answer 2)

Well,I’ve already planned to **visit my grandparents** since I haven’t seen them for several months now. And my grandpa will turn 80 next month so I’d like to **celebrate his birthday in advance** as I don’t know if **my schedule will be available** on his birthday. I don’t want him to **be disappointed** so I better see him **while my schedule is not tight yet.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE

**Stay up late [idiom]** – to remain awake past one’s usual bedtime

**Preoccupied** [adj.] – **engrossed in thought**

Turn [verb] – become

Tight [verb] – when the schedule is tight, it means busy

**Do you like going to the cinema on weekends?**

(Answer 1)

**Not at all**, I **feel uncomfortable** being with **the crowd of moviegoers**. If I want to watch movies, I often do it online or I do the traditional one which is buying or renting a DVD from a shop and **enjoy watching it in the comfort of my room**.

(Answer 2)

Yes but I go to the cinema **only when** there’s a great **movie** **that’s just released** or when my friends invite me. It’s great to **watch a movie on the big screen** **every now and then** but **I can’t imagine** **doing it oftentimes**, I’ll surely **go broke** if I do it every weekend.

LEXICAL RESOURCE

Crowd [noun] – a large number of people gathered together

The big screen [noun] – the cinema

**Broke [adj.] – having no money**

**What do other people in your hometown usually do on weekends?**

(Answer 1)

I’m not sure but **I assume** they **spend valuable time with their loved ones**, **probably** eating out, **go for a drive**, **or perhaps** do some exercise at the park. I’m sorry, I don’t exactly know how the people in my hometown **make use of their free time** on weekends as I’m not living in my hometown for several years now.

(Answer 2)

**It’s common** for the people in my hometown to **indulge in a shopping spree** since our **neighboring town** is very **commercialized** – there are big shopping malls that people can shop. **Not only that**, there are several **entertainment facilities** like **an amusement park** where **families can bond** that can surely **make their weekend more meaningful**.

LEXICAL RESOURCE

**Indulge** [verb] – to **allow oneself to enjoy the pleasure of something**  **tự tận hưởng**

**Shopping spree** [noun] – **a short period of time in which someone buys a lot of things**

Commercialized [adj.] – profit-orientated

# Maths

## 1 Do students learn math in secondary schools in China?

## 2 Do you learn math now? Why/why not?

## 3 What can people do with math in their daily life?

## 4 Do you think math is difficult?

**Do you like math? (Is math your favorite subject?)**

(Answer 1)

**It’s such a shame to say never**. **I’m not into** numbers, I’m **the dumbest** when learning mathematics. I remember when I was a high school student I always **got a D or D- mark in major exams** and **no matter how hard I tried**, **I just couldn’t** **improve my grades** most especially in Trigonometry and Statistics.

(Answer 2)

Definitely! **I don’t want to** **BLOW MY OWN TRUMPET** but to be honest with you, I **got very good grades** in mathematics **from primary school to secondary school**. And that’s the main reason why I’m currently **majoring statistics** in my university, I want to **be a statistician** someday. I believe I **inherited my dad’s mathematical and analytical skills** and **I’m so grateful for** that.

LEXICAL RESOURCE

It’s such a shame [expression] – it means it’s very unfortunate

Be into (I’m not into) [expression] – to be interested in

Dumbest [adj. in superlative form] – stupid; lack of intelligence

D mark [noun] – it’s a grading system that means less unsatisfactory performance [A is the highest grade]

**Blow one’s trumpet [expression]– to crow, brag, boast**

Statistician [noun] – an expert in doing analysis of statistics

Inherit [verb] – derive [behavior/ characteristics] genetically from one’s parents or ancestors

Grateful [adj.] – thankful; blessed

TIPS

i.) ANSWER 1: The speaker started his answer with a very good expression expressing his negative answer. That expression was a good start instead of just saying ‘no’. And he used some good topic vocabulary words related to math study.

ii.) ANSWER 2: The speaker gave a straightforward positive answer then he proceeded to his explanation. Then he related his main reason to what he wanted to have as a profession. Also he had used some topic vocabulary words or expressions. His answer was direct with good expressions and very natural.

**When did you start learning mathematics?**

**If my memory serves me well,** I learned that subject when **I was** **in my first grade of primary school**. I **learned the basic arithmetic**, but only **addition and subtraction**. Like **counting how many apples** or candies and **subtracting the apples** if I ate one or two, something like that. **That was a piece of cake!**

Bốn phép tính cơ bản **Four basic operations.**

Tôi không hiểu phép tính tích phân. **I don't understand integral calculus.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE

If my memory serves me well [expression] – used for saying that you think you have remembered something correctly

Basic arithmetic [noun] – the basic calculation such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division

A piece of cake  [idiom] – very easy

**Do you use a calculator?**

(Answer 1)

Yes I do! I often **use my phone’s calculator** when I **go shopping at the grocery store**. I always make sure to **keep track of my expenses** as I don’t want to **go beyond my budget.** My phone’s calculator is a big help for me to **not overspend**.

(Answer 2)

No I don’t since I’m not a student anymore. If I need to calculate something I just **do it on my mind** or if **the numbers are just too huge for me to handle**, I just **do a manual calculation** using a pen and a piece of paper.

LEXICAL RESOURCE

Keep track [phrase] – to make sure that you know what is happening

Beyond (my) budget [expression] – another way to say over the budget; out of budget

Manual calculation [noun] – to calculate without using a calculator

**Do you think mathematics is important?**

Yes, it is very **essential** in our everyday lives since **everything in this world** **is interconnected with math.** From **reading the time and dates** to **counting money** and budgeting, **not to mention** understanding **the prices of goods** and how much we need to pay. If we’re **all ignorant of basic math**, we surely can **never survive.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE

Essential [adj.] – very important

Interconnected [adj.] – all parts connected to one another

**Not to mention [phrase] – used to introduce an additional fact**

Ignorant  [adj.] – uneducated; lack of knowledge

# Spending time with others

## 1 Do you like talking with people?

## 2 How do you like spending time with your friends?

## 3 Would you prefer to study alone or with others?

## 4 Do you remember a time when you needed to cooperate with others?

**1 Do you like talking with people? Why?**

Yes! I **am fond of socializing with** people. Because I am an [**inquisitive**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/inquisitive) person. I like talking to people to know about them, their views, and their experiences and also to **share my stories** as well. In fact, I have a job with **ample amount of public dealing** and as such I talk to hundreds of people on a weekly basis.

**To tell you the truth,** I am quite an **extrovert** person, so I enjoy **communicating with** people and making new friends. In fact, I like to **strike up (= start ) conversations** with the passengers on the bus when I commute to work on a daily basis..

Honestly, **I’m very selective abou**t the people whom I talk with. I avoid those who **have an air of superiority** (expression: an arrogant way of behaving) because **I can’t stand** (phrase: can’t tolerate) with them. Also, I only talk to **people who are sensible and like-minded** (adj.: having similar tastes or opinions).

**I’m nervous talking with acquaintances** but I definitely **enjoy talking with my friends and my loved ones** because obviously, I know them. You know what, one of my biggest weaknesses is starting a conversation with someone I don’t know. **I really struggle with that a lot**

**2 How do you like spending time with your friends?**

Spending time with friends is [**one heck of** an adventure](https://cictalks.com/ielts-speaking-band-7-8-9-vocabulary-words-idioms-pdf/). We **gather around** every weekend at one of our friend’s farm house. And we play Badminton, cook food, watch movies and **discuss politics.** **That’s how** I typically **spend time with my companions.**

I really enjoy **spending quality time** with my close friends to go shopping, enjoy**palatable (very delicious)** meal at our favorite restaurant, and go to the cinema **in close proximity to** **(close to, near)** my house to **watch a new movie released.**

**3 Would you prefer to study alone or with others?**

To be honest, I **prefer to study in groups** rather than alone because I like to discuss with my study partners about the lessons we have learnt and I think I can be more **diligent** (= hard working) and **concentrate on** study when studying with others.

Before the pandemic, I often spent time with my friends at a restaurant or at a mall and that was **incredibly fun** because we got to do the things that we love doing together. But that has stopped, unfortunately, as you know we need to **prioritize our health and our safety**. **I’m really looking forward to doing** things that we usually did in the past again.

I consider my closest friends a family so spending time with them is one of the best things in the world. During these difficult times, we’re able to **lift each other’s spirits** (idiom: to make one feel happier) and that’s just wonderful because we **feel the essence of our friendship**.

**Honestly speaking**, I prefer to study in **isolation**. Because I hate **distractions** which **are too common in group studies**. Moreover, being **a solo reader**, I can **plan a study schedule** that works best for me and **take breaks** when I please.

**be swept along = felt drawn into the conversation bị cuốn theo cuộc nói chuyện**

**and lose track of time mất khái niệm thời gian**

**4 Do you remember a time when you needed to cooperate with others?**

Yes, There was a time when I **collaborated with** Government agencies and NGO partners to launch a social welfare program – *Unnati*.. The project was my brainchild. From planning till execution, everything was a team effort.

Yes. When I was a student, I needed to work with others in a team for a project. That was good cooperation because we had a nice leader who **managed the team efficiently** and received respect from other members.

**I’m more effective when I study on my own** because my concentration is 100%. I don’t like studying with my friends because I easily **get distracted**. Besides, there won’t be any study sessions to happen since we **simply end up chatting or talking about the latest movie** that we watch.

**I’m not really studious** (adj.: spending a lot of time studying) but I enjoy studying with my friends or other people because I get motivated. I’m really lazy when it comes to studying, I dunno but I **easily get bored studying some thing**s. So, having someone to a**ccompany (verb: to go with) me in studying will be very helpful.**

Not that much. I’m an introvert so it’s a challenge for me to work with other people. I find it hard to **express my ideas or feelings** to others and I easily **get overwhelmed** (verb: to cause someone to feel sudden strong emotion). But, most of the time I try my best to **work harmoniously with others,** especially if I don’t have any choice.

Yes, I don’t have any problem working with other people because I’m a team player (noun: a person who plays or works well as a member of a team) anyway. I **enjoy learning others’ ideas** as it helps me **widen my perspective on life**. Besides, I always believe that no man is an island. We need each other to survive.

# TV program

## 1 Do you talk with your friends about the program you watched?

## 2 Do you like watching the same kind of program all the time?

## 3 Do you often watch programs on the TV or on your cell phone?

## 4 What kind of TV programs do you like?

### What kind of TV programs do you like?

Well, **I’m interested in** **watching TV drama series and reality shows**. I feel they are **a good source of entertainment, giving people minutes of relaxation after a stressful day.**

(Answer 1) I'm more into watching c**omedy and drama**, well for the obvious reason, I want to be **entertained.** I'm just like all the people in the world who want to **relieve work-related stress**. I want to **laugh through comedy series** and I want to be **inspired and sometimes cry by watching TV dramas**. The film **attracted the audience with many humorous touches. has a surprising twist tình tiết bất ngờ, the plots are intriguing.**

(Answer 2) Honestly, I rarely watch TV programs as I don't have plenty of free time, however, if I get the chance to watch some, **I watch news programs, especially sports and business, documentaries, and National Geographic programs.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE Be into [phrase] – to be very interested in something Obvious [adj.] – clear Get the chance [phrase] – to have the opportunity

### Do you often watch programs on TV or on your smartphone?

(Answer 1) Of course on TV, my smartphone is for **surfing the net and for taking photographs**, besides, **my phone doesn't have a widescreen so it's not very satisfying** to watch TV shows or movies on it. I just love watching TV shows on **a wide-screen TV as it's more appealing and entertaining.**

(Answer 2) Well, **if I'm at home, without a doubt,** I watch my favorite programs on TV, however, **if I'm commuting or traveling**, I watch TV shows or movies on my smartphone. **Thanks to the advancement of technology**, we all can use our phones to **kill time in so many ways**. My smartphone is like **my best companion that never misses to entertain me.**

I rarely watch programs on TV since I have my own cell phone. I only **watch TV when someone offers to watch it with me**, or I will **never turn it on by myself**. You know, with the development of technology, we can watch almost everything on the internet, including programs on the TV.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Surf the net [idiom] – to browse contents on the internet Appealing [adj.] – attractive Without a doubt [phrase] – to emphasize that something is true Commute [verb] – to travel some distance between one's home and place of work Kill time [idiom] – to engage in an activity, making time to pass more quickly

### Do you like watching the same kind of TV program all the time?

(Answer 1) Yes, I do. Like I said earlier, **comedy relieves my stress**, so I never **miss any of my favorite comedy programs**. As for drama, **I've been religiously following one type of detective TV dram**a every weekend. So, yes, I watch the same type of TV shows most of the time.

(Answer 2) Well, no, **my interest varies every now and then depending on my mood**. Although I watch news programs on sports and business, still, I can't say that I do it all the time. As I just mentioned a while ago, I only watch those programs if I have the opportunity and if I feel like watching them.

Yes, I do. I don’t know why but there are some shows that I am so into it that I **re-watch them all over and over again**. Those TV shows somehow **convey many lessons, which motivate me a lot in my life**. For example, I really love the series How I Met Your Mother and I’ve been re-watching it like over 5 times. Every time I watch the show again, I realize something new that I apparently missed last time.

LEXICAL RESOURCE Religiously [adv.] – with consistent and conscientious regularity Vary [verb] – differ; change

### Do you talk with your friends about the TV program that you watch?

(Answer 1) Not at all, my friends are not interested in drama, besides, watching TV programs is the last thing they want to do. They **are all addicted to** computer games or mobile games, so if they are free from work, most of their time is spent on gaming.

(Answer 2) Yes, most especially on business news. I have two close friends who are working in a financial institution who never get tired of educating me about managing my money. If I **watch some news about the economy that I can't comprehend well or that's intriguing to me**, I enjoy sharing that with them because they are more than willing to help me understand.

Yes. I do. Every time **I find a new movie,** I will **immediately share it with my friends** and make them watch it. After that, we will **talk to each other about how we hate or love the character**, **predict the next scene,adore how handsome the actor is** or **admit which actress is our crush**, and sometimes **pick out the scene you can relate to in life**. **At the end of the movie, we discuss the movie, how the movie could end better and the list goes on.**

LEXICAL RESOURCE The last thing you want [phrase] – something that you certainly do not want Intriguing [adj.] – arousing one's curiosity

### Do you often watch TV?

I actually prefer watching TV to **surfing the Internet** due to its **selectivity and accessibility**. Because the**audience**can be children, teenagers and families, the content of TV programs is examine carefully and **suitable time frame is arranged** in order to **avoid having negative impacts on them**.

### What’s your favourite TV programme?

Definitely **music channels** such as MTV or V-channel. These channels **offer a wide variety of music** everyday. In addition, they also **interact with their audience** by allowing them to vote for the Top 20 songs of each week or **to play the songs they requested.**

### What types of TV programmes are popular in your country?

In my country these days **reality shows** and **comedy shows** are among the most popular TV programs. I guess it’s because **its content is suitable for audiences** **of** **any age** **from children to the elderly**. The fans of reality shows **feel interactive and familiar with the competitors** while those of **comedy shows** generally want to be **entertained with jokes and laughter**.

**Do you ever watch foreign programs or films?**

I definitely did **enjoy** quite a lot of **shows** and **programs, from music, movies, fashion, news and** **scientific documentaries** since the foreign are so **good at visual editings and content management*.*** Most of them are in English because **I’m more familiar with** this language compared to French or Japanese.

### What (types of) programmes did you watch when you were a child?

**Like other children,** I watched a number of **cartoons and music programs** for children when I was a child. Tom and Jerry, Barbie, **and the Disney series** are my favorites which still **get me excited** whenever I see them on TV now. My mom said I also was kinda **attracted to music programs** for children that I **focused on** them completely **while eating.**

### Do you think television has changed in the past few decades?/ (Possibly) Do you think television has changed since you were a child?

Televisions indeed **have been changing remarkably** for the past few years. The technology has become so **innovative and competitive** to **meet the customers’ high demand on** entertainment. The variety of TV programs is no longer limited to national level but has **reached to a number of foreign countries;** and is **significantly diversifying** in **content** for **audience preference.**

### Has television changed your life in any way?

I think watching TV has become **a habit** that I would **hardly change**. My family always watch news while **having dinner together**. Personally, I’d love watching TV for relaxing after studying as well as **keeping myself updated on** showbiz, music, movies, landscape discoveries and **fields of science.** **Thus** as long as I do not become **a couch potato**, TV has always**played an important role in**my life, **making my life more colorful and opening in front of my eyes** the places I’ve never been to.

**Topic 35 Music**

**1.Do you like music?**

**sway gently back and forth to the music**

**The tune set our toes twinkling.**

**He beat time to the music with his fingers Nó dùng ngón tay đánh nhịp theo bài nhạc**

I would say yes, music has already **become a part of my life**. I need to **listen to some light music** before I go to bed. It is really helpful in sleeping

**So far I haven’t met anyone who dislikes music**. However, when the **workload**is too heavy that requires me to **stay highly focused**, music is a **huge distraction**. Unlike many people who **listen to instrumental music** because it helps them focus, music makes me feel sleepy.

Yes, absolutely. In fact, I think everyone is a music lover. I can’t think of any reason to dislike music. When I was a child, **my mom sang me a lot of lullabies** so I've been a big fan of music since then. Gradually, I turned to love k-pop and some US-UK pop songs so much that I actually went to a live concert of Big Bang and Demi Lovato. Now I usually **listen to catchy and tuneful song**s when I wake up. They **energize me with vibrant melodies.**

**2.When do you listen to music?**

When I **feel overstressed**, I like listening to some **classical music**. This could **help me get rid of stress and relax for a while**. After that, **my working efficiency** would usually **improve.**

**Well, the whole world likes it, so I’m no exception**. I usually listen to **cheerful music** when I need motivation and **prefer** sad ones,when I’m **in a bad mood.**

**3.How much time do you spend listening to music every day?**

I spend almost two hours. My school is far away from my home; I **usually listen to some pop music on the way to school**. Also I **feel difficult to fall into sleep without any music**.

As I’ve mentioned I prefer working in silence. **To put it simply**, I don’t listen to **music during my working hours**. After a long day at school, I probably want to **chill out for like half an hour and music helps me to stay energetic.**

**4.What kind of music do you like to listen to?**

Actually I am willing to listen to different kinds of music. But pop music and classical music may **be more frequent in my daily life.**

I **prefer a range of music from Western to Eastern**, and from the 90s to modern EDM. But if Korean pop is considered as a kind of music, then yeah, that’s my favourite. More than half of my playlists are Korean songs and I always **keep myself updated** with news related to Korean showbiz.

My favorite kind of music is light music, because it can help me to relax. And **light music sounds more peaceful and easier to make people calm down** and **think clearly**.

**5 Have you ever been to a concert before? Or Have you ever been to a musical performance?**

**I attend concerts, once in a blue moon,**since the **ticket price** for foreign artists’ concerts is **out of my reach.** So I can only stay home and watch online. It was in 2014 that I finally did go to a concert**on my own** and it was an international music concert. **It was absolutely mind-blowing and an unforgettable experience**.

**6 Do you like to listen to live music?**

Unless it’s live at a coffee shop, where literally there is only music and me, then yeah I would love to. But I would **change my mind** if it’s a concert. **The crowd is too crazy.** It’s completely **a mess** most of the time and I **end up with a severe headache.**

**7 When did you start listening to this type of music?**

From the day a friend of mine introduced her favourite group to me. She **couldn’t help herself talking** **on and on** about them that I thought I somehow needed to **catch up with her.** And **the more I got to know about Korean pop, the more passionate I became.**

**8 Where do you listen to it?**

**Almost everywhere,** except for the classroom. It’s the **golden era** of mobile devices. Everyone carries earphone and phones with them all the time, music, therefore, **is on their fingertips.**

**9 How do you feel when you listen to this music?**

Well, **I’m the type of person** whose mood is easily affected by what I’m listening to. Thus as the music changes, **my mood also fluctuates**. But most of the time, listening to some **music helps me pick up my energy and chill a bit.**

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

I learned to play the organ when I was in kindergarten. It was quite funny because I **started out** as one of the performers. Then my teacher told my mom that I had better play the organ instead of performing. So I became her trainee and it continued for around 4 to 5 years until I was 10.

**11 Is music an important subject at school in your country?**

Music is one of the **compulsory** subjects for primary and secondary students in my country. However, the main focus was on singing. We could also add some movements to make the songs more lively. Only those who were selected for the large performances were allowed to use musical instruments.

**12 Did you often listen to music when you were a child? (If yes give details.)**

Since my parents are **music-lovers** and also have very good tastes, **I was exposed to music at a very young age**. Sometimes my mom **sang me to sleep** with her **lullabies.** Although I could not get the message at that time, my mom said that I **buoyed up** when listening to them.

**13 What kinds of music are (most) popular in your country?**

Besides pop music, **the younger generation nowadays is exposed to different types of music**. It is indeed difficult to tell which is **in-demand** since I feel each type has roughly the same popularity. But I guess pop music is the most **sought-after** now. I’ve never met someone who doesn’t know pop songs.

**14 Do you like traditional songs?**

Well, it’s easy for me to name some traditional songs, some of which **I’m very familiar with**. But to be honest, I think **I’m not that into** this kind of music.