

Từ vựng IELTS Speaking toàn tập

IELTS FIGHTER

- Phần 1: 42 chủ đề trong IELTS speaking – part 1 3
- Phần 2: Từ vựng IELTS speaking theo chủ đề - IELTS speaking Uk 48
- Phần 3: Từ vựng IELTS speaking hay – myenglishteacher 127

- ✚ [IELTS Fighter ĐỘC QUYỀN chia sẻ IELTS trên Báo VnExpress](#)
- ✚ [IELTS Fighter địa điểm thi IELTS CHÍNH THỨC CỦA IDP](#)
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42 CHỦ TRONG ĐỀ IELTS SPEAKING – PART 1

IELTS-Fighter.com

- Câu hỏi và câu trả lời mẫu.
- 42 chủ đề thường gặp trong IELTS Speaking Part 1.
- Kèm file mp3 <file ghi âm>.

➤ **Link mp3 full:** bit.ly/IELTS-fighter

42 CHỦ ĐỀ CHO PHẦN SPEAKING PART 1 VÀ CÂU TRẢ LỜI MẪU

PART 1

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Name | 20. Tree |
| 2. Study/major/Work | 23. Memorizing |
| 3. Hometown | 24. Friend |
| 4. Living place & Accommodation | 25. Traveling by train/car/taxi |
| 5. Weather/Favourite Season | 26. Public Transportation |
| 6. Punctual | 27. Letters VS email |
| 7. TV program | 28. Swimming 29. Snacks |
| 8. Museum/gallery | 30. Photography |
| 9. Holiday/Public holiday | 31. Help |
| 10. Film | 32. History |
| 11. Leisure Time | 33. Handwriting |
| 12. Sports | 34. Music |
| 13. Fruits | 35. Colour |
| 14. Math | 36. Teachers |
| 15. Sky | 37. Being in a hurry |
| 16. Clothes | 38. Being alone |
| 17. Weekend | 39. Team work |
| 18. Reading | 40. Countryside |
| 19. Sleep | 41. Social network |
| 21. Newspaper | 42. Hanging out with friends |
| 22. Text message or phone calls | |

Các em lưu ý, tất cả các câu trả lời mẫu dưới đây chỉ có **tính chất tham khảo** cũng như sử dụng để luyện tập. Các em có thể qua bài mẫu tổng hợp từ vựng, rút ra cách trả lời..... để phát huy hiệu quả trong học tập chứ không phải sử dụng để học tủ!

Ngoài ra, hãy sử dụng để LUYỆN TẬP NÓI chứ không phải để ĐỌC nhé!

Lưu ý: file audio do chính giáo viên IELTS Fighter thu âm bằng điện thoại nên có gì sai sót các em inbox cho thầy cô để sửa nhé!

➤ **Link mp3 full:** bit.ly/IELTS-fighter

1. NAME

1. Who gave you your name?
2. Does your name have any particular (or, special) meaning?
3. Do you like your name?
4. In your country, do people feel that their name is very important?
5. Would you like to change your name?
6. Is it easy to change your name in your country?
7. Who usually names babies in your country?
8. Do you have any special traditions about naming children?
9. What names are most common in your hometown?

➤ **Link mp3:** [File nghe 1](#)

My parents gave me my name, my father to be exact. Zhi means knowledge, and Lei means accumulation. So I guess my parents wanted to tell me that being knowledgeable depends on accumulation. You see, they put a lot of pressure on my shoulders with this name.

I quite like my name, and I won't change it for the world, because it is unique. I don't think that anyone else in China has the same name. It's part of my identity, and it is meaningful to me.

People in my country pay great attention to their names because they believe that suitable names will bring them good fortune. Sometimes they even change their names for their business and family purpose.

In China, I believe that fathers are in the position of naming their children. Sometimes they will look through some Chinese classical literatures to seek the meaningful words for their children.

Oh, there are some nick names that are very popular in China. For example, Lili means that their parents hope their daughters would be beautiful; and Kuan kuan, indicates that their sons would be magnanimous when they are grown up

2. STUDY/WORK

Do you work or are you a student?

Is that a popular subject in your country?

What are the most popular subjects in China?

Why did you choose that university?

What are your favourite classes/ courses/ subjects at university?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 2](#)

I'm currently a first year student at Ningbo university. My major is education which I believe is a very meaningful subject. In the future I hope to give back to society by being a responsible high school teacher.

Actually I believe it is quite popular, but only for girls. Since the job most people will apply for after studying education is teaching - girls in China tend to favor this career cuz it's stable.

In my opinion business is probably the first choice for most people. Nearly everyone wants to be rich so they think that majoring in business would help them achieve this goal. I guess the second most prevalent subject would be computing. You know many students like to play computer games so there is no doubt that people are into that subject.

To be honest the main reason is because my score for the college entrance exam was not high enough to go to a better uni. Another factor I should mention is because Ningbo is my hometown and the uni is quite close to now home - my parents might miss me if they don't see me for a long period of time.

Children psychology is my all time favorite subject. As I have mentioned before, I would like to be a teacher and this subject teaches us how children think. It's not only meaningful but also very interesting. I want to be a mother one day so I think it's important to know why children do certain things or what not to say to children.

3. HOMETOWN

1.What's (the name of) your hometown (again)?

2.Is that a big city or a small town?

- =====
3. Please describe your hometown a little.
 4. How long have you been living there?
 5. Do you like your hometown?
 6. Do you like living there?
 7. What do you like (most) about your hometown?
 8. Is there anything you dislike about it?
 9. Do you think you will continue living there for a long time?

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 3](#)

Well, my hometown is the city of Huangshan, which is a small and quiet place. It is surrounded by the mountains so that it is a pretty nice place to live. The weather there is quite pleasant all year round, even in winter the temperatures are quite mild.

Although Huangshan is developing a lot recently, and expanding every year, it is still a traditional town as the new architectures are built in the old-fashioned way. I think that as the tourist city, it should preserve its own characteristic to attract the tourists. In addition, the food there is excellent. You can digest a lot of local snacks that can not be tasted elsewhere. In sum, I believe my hometown is definitely worth a visit.

I was born and raised there. I only moved out when I went to university in 2002. So I had lived there for about 19 years.

Well, my hometown earns a high reputation for its Huangshan Mountain which attracts floods of tourists every year around the globe. It is renowned for its graceful pines, unusual rocks, cloud sea and hot springs. I have been there for two times. I was really attracted by its magnificent natural scenery.

4. ACCOMMODATION

1. What kind of housing/accommodation do you live in?
2. Do you live in a house or a flat?
3. Who do you live with?
4. How long have you lived there?
5. Do you plan to live there for a long time?
6. (If you answer you haven't lived there long) What's the difference between where you are living now and where you have lived in the past?
7. Can you describe the place where you live?

=====

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

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

10. Are the transport facilities to your home very good?

11. Do you prefer living in the house or a flat?

12. Please describe the room you live in?

13. What part of your home do you like the most?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 4](#)

I live in the pretty spacious apartment in Beijing. I live in the 8th floor of a high-rise, and it covers a little more than 120 square metres. It is a fairly nice place. My apartment has six rooms - one living room, one kitchen, two bathrooms and another two bedrooms. All of them are well- decorated and furnished. There is a big bookshelf beside my kids' room so that my boy can easily get books to read. In addition, we have a big balcony beside the dining table so that we can enjoying eating dinner and having tea there.

My family spend most of our time in the living room. We'd like to sit around a set of comfortable sofa there and chat with each other or watch TV. But when I am free, I would prefer to read the story books to my son.

I live with my wife and my kid. My apartment is pretty big so there is enough space for everyone. We rented the apartment four years ago. And my kid is in the kindergarten near my home, so we won't intend to move around in the future.

We sometimes go out by car because it is not convenient to take a taxi in that area, and it needs nearly 30 minutes' walk to the nearest subway station. So generally speaking, it is not good to go out without cars.

5. WEATHER

1. What's the weather like today?

2. What kind of weather do you like (best)? (Why?)

3. What's your favourite weather? (Why?)

4. What do you usually do during your favourite weather (or season)?

5. What's the weather (usually) like in your hometown?

6. Do you like that weather (or, that kind of climate)? (Why?/Why not?)

7. How often is the weather good in your hometown?

8. What did you do the last time the weather was good?

9. Are there any bad points about the weather in your city?

- =====
10. What is the typical weather in China like?
 11. Have there been any changes in the weather over the past few years?
 12. Does the weather ever affect what you do?
 13. How does the weather affect people (or, you)? (If yes, how?)
 14. How do you feel when the weather is cloudy?
 15. Do you always pay attention to the weather forecast?
 16. Can you give any examples of unusual weather?
 17. Do you like snow? (Why?)
 18. Would you prefer to live in a place that has just one, warm season that lasts the whole year or a place with different seasons?
 19. Do people in China play the same sports in different seasons of the year?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 5](#)

It's really freezing today. If I don't have to take the IELTS exams, I would prefer to stay at home. Actually I prefer the cloudy day as it's neither too hot nor too cold. And what's more important to me is that this weather is perfect for photography as the light is soft and tender. So at this time of day, I'll always go out with my camera to the forest parks to take photos.

In my hometown, as it is surrounded by mountains, the weather is quite pleasant, neither too hot nor too cold. Even in winter, the temperature is still quite mild. The weather is good almost all year round as my hometown is a tourist city and there is no any industrial pollution out there.

The bad points about the weather in my hometown are that it doesn't snow as heavily as up north like Beijing. It does snow, but is just a little bit. Every time I saw children having a snowball fight or making a snowman on TV, I really envied them. It was really pity.

I believe though China is a vast country, there are four distinct seasons in most places. But unfortunately in recent years, many places in summer are becoming boiling hot. I guess the changes are primarily due to the green-house effect. So in this extreme weather, I will really prefer to work at home, and the air-conditioning is working all day long, and at night, I even sleep on the floor.

Yes, as Beijing is facing more and more oppressive haze, I always keep a watchful eye on the weather forecast. I installed an app in my mobile phone, and see the indicator of PM 2.5. It has been a routine for me.

As for the unusual weather, the global warming has really become a heated topic around the world. It is caused by the greenhouse effect as the a sheer volume of carbon dioxide have been emitted into the air, preventing the atmosphere from cooling off at night. And another unusual weather, I'm

afraid is the hurricane which can easily flatten thousands of homes near the coast in a short period of time.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with the distinct seasons in each year because each season has its own merits. Whereas I will get bored if it is warm all year round.

No, when in spring and autumn, the temperature is neither too cold nor too hot, people in China tend to hike in the mountains, or go running. When it comes to summer, people can choose more physical activities like swimming, camping in the forests and playing balls, etc. But in winter, people believe it not suitable for outdoor exercises, so they prefer to stay at home for resting

6. Punctual

1. Do you Think it's Important to be on time?

Yeah, I think it definitely is, because it's basic manners to be on time for things. You know, I think you'd agree it's pretty rude to keep people waiting, and so it kind of leaves a bad impression on people.

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 6](#)

2. How do you Feel When others are Late?

Well I guess it kind of depends, because I mean, if there's a good reason for being late, you know, like getting stuck in traffic, then I will not really mind that much. But you know, if the person does not really have any excuse and it's simply because they could not be bothered to arrive on time, then I suppose I might feel a bit annoyed.

3. Are you, Yourself, Late very Often?

If yes:

Yeah, I am. And I know it's a bad habit, but for some reason, no matter how hard I try, I always seem to end up being late for things !

If no:

No, I would not say I am. You know, most of the time I'm pretty good with being on time for things, because I always make a quite big effort not to be late.

3. How do you Feel When you are Late?

I feel pretty bad, especially if I've kept the other person waiting for a long time.

So if I know I'm gonna be late, I will always try to let the person know in advance, you know, like send them a text message or something, so at least they know when to expect me.

4. How do you Think you could be on time Improve and More Often?

I guess the best thing to do would be to always allow lots of time to get anywhere. So for example, if it normally takes me, say, half an hour to get to the city centre, then I should probably leave home about an hour before I need to get there.

6. Do you Wear a Watch?

If yes:

Yeah I do - you can see it right here !

If no:

No I do not, because I do not think it's really necessary to wear a watch anymore. You know, if I wanna know the time, I'll just look on my mobile !

7. When does time SEEM to move fast, and When does it SEEM to move Slowly?

Well, I think most people would agree that time moves fast when you're having fun. And a prime example would be when playing computer games, cos I mean, whenever I play online with my friends, it always seems that only an hour or two has passed, but in actual fact, it's probably been four or five hours !

And time normally goes slowly when you're bored or simply just not enjoying yourself. For example, I remember at school, some of my classes felt like they would never end, when in fact they were just, like, 45 minutes long !

8. If you could go back in time, What Would you do Differently?

That's a good question. What would I do differently? Um, ok well first of all, if I could go back in time,

I would definitely spend more time practicing the piano, because you know, I never really practiced that much when I was younger, and I kind of regret it now, because I'd love to be able to play the piano well

7. TELEVISION

1. How much TV do you (usually) watch?
2. What's your favourite TV programme?
3. Did you watch much TV when you were a child?(How much?)
4. What (types of) programmes did you watch when you were a child?
5. Do you think television has changed in the past few decades?
6. (Possibly) Do you think television has changed since you were a child?
7. Has television changed your life in any way?

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 7](#)

Seldom. I only turn on the TV to watch the football match on weekends. That is once a week. I am a big fan of football so I watch a lot of football matches. It's exciting and entertaining to see how players push their limits to win the games. Besides I enjoy watching movies, especially when I connect my computer to the TV screen and watch the High Definition movies on bed, it is really enjoyable at night. Lately I have tried to watch the BBC programmes, because it is all in English and it can improve my listening for my IELTS exams.

Oh, yes, I was a really a couch potato when I was a little boy. When on weekends, my parents went out to do other things, I was left alone at home with TV all day long. Therefore, I was deeply obsessed with various TV programmes, even including the adverts. I can still remember the favourite cartoons like Transformer, Tom and Jerry, Dragon Ball, etc, which all went along through my childhood.

Yes, as the techniques have advanced in these years, the TV has also developed a lot. They have become thinner and clearer to be exact. I remembered that old TV screen was made with plasma

panel, making the whole TV heavy and big. Then the LCD technology and the LED display come out lately, making the TV thinner and lighter while we can enjoy brighter and clearer programmes.

I believe that watching TV has benefited me in some way, as well as bringing me some detrimental consequences. Watching TV programmes had enabled me to broaden my vision as I was born and raised in a small county and there were many places and things I had no opportunities to experience. But the TV had helped me to see them. But spending too much time in front of TV also made me addicted to it and did harm to my eyes unfortunately. So I had to wear glasses since middle school

8. MUSEUM

1. Are there many (or, any) museums in your hometown?
2. Do you think museums are useful for visitors to your hometown/country?
3. Do you often visit a museum?
4. Did you go to any museums when you were a child?
5. When was the last time you visited a museum?
6. Do you think museums are important?
7. Do you think it's suitable for museums to sell things to visitors?

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 8](#)

Not so many, actually there is only one museum in my small county about the local history. It allows the local residents to know better about their traditions and historical celebrities.

I go to the museum a lot, when I come to the new place, I'll find some local museums that have interesting features. The museum I visited last time was the Guanfu Museum located in the rural area of Beijing. It is a private-owned museum featuring Chinese antiques like porcelain, furnitures, jade and some paintings.

Museums are really important in protecting, preserving, propagating and researching numerous human treasure. Once the antiques are in the museums, they are permanently out of circulation, which means they can be seen by public.

=====

Yes, the reason is that generally, most museums are nonprofit organisations, and these goods are their large portion of income, except the tickets, and also partly because these items are closely related to the theme of the museums, which cannot be bought in most other bookstores or shops.

9. HOLIDAYS

1. What public holidays do you have in your country?
2. Do people in your country celebrate Christmas?
3. Do you like public holidays?
4. Which public holidays do you like the most?
5. What did you do during the last public holiday?
6. What do other people in your country usually do on public holidays?
7. What would you like to do during then next public holiday?
8. Do you think public holidays are important?
9. Do you think there should be more public holidays in your country?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 9](#)

We celebrate a lot of public festivals in my country. I am sure you know about the Spring Festival which is the most important one. In addition, we get together with our family for the Mid- Autumn Day and the National Day.

Yes, there are so many people in my country, it's really hard to say, probably most people tend to go shopping with families or friends to take advantage of the sales the shops are offering, but personally speaking, I am afraid we don't celebrate Christmas like the way in Western countries.

Yes, I am fond of holidays. The main factor is that on these days, I don't have to work and have plenty of time travelling around to unwind myself and also I will have more consecutive time with my family.

I believe my favourite public holiday would be the National Day because I will have at least seven days to go travelling and also it's the best time to go around, the weather is neither too cold nor too hot, and the foliage of trees have turned yellow or red, which will give you picturesque views.

It's kind of hard to say but people that I know around me tend to go shopping with families or friends to take advantage of the sales the shops are offering, but maybe for others, they probably stay at home for resting.

=====

I believe the public holidays are rather important and there should be more of them in my country. The main factor is that people really need unwind themselves without any distractions after tiring work and also public holidays can dramatically boost consumption as the goods will be sold at a discount during these days.

10. FILM

1. Do you like to watch films?
2. Do you prefer foreign films or Chinese films?
3. How often do you go to a cinema or watch a movie?
4. Do Chinese people like to go to a cinema to watch a film?
5. What kinds of movies do you like best?
6. What was the first film that you watched?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 10](#)

I'm really into watching films because some films are very entertaining and provoking. I sometimes go to cinema with my friends and family to enjoy our leisure time in the weekends.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I will probably go with the foreign films, especially the Hollywood films because most of them are well-acted, with lots of charismatic celebrities and always are enormous box-office hit; whereas you know, the Chinese films are almost low-budget, so they are not as attractive as their American counterparts.

I go to cinema to watch movies from time to time. Normally if I'm not busy with my work, I'll check out the movies to see whether there are any movies that attract me; but if I have lots of things on my hands, I'll probably focus on my work.

It's kind of hard to say but people that I know around me tend to like watching movies in the cinema, but maybe for others, they just prefer stay at home and watch TV programmes.

As for me, I like the drama films the best because sometimes they just tell simple but warm and heartfelt stories with provoking endings, which would touch on my deepest emotions.

The first film that I watched was the The Lion King many years ago in the cinema with my parents. What I can remember now is the terrific animation and the amazing soundtrack. I particularly liked the song Can You Feel the Love Tonight that I knew it was produced by Elton John later. And I'd learned lessons from this movies. It was about living up to our responsibilities, no matter how hard it is.

11. LEISURE TIME

1. What do you do in your spare time?
2. What do you do to relax?
3. How do you usually spend your evenings?
4. What do you usually do after work/after classes?
5. Do you prefer to stay at home in the evenings or do you prefer to go out?
6. Do you think modern lifestyles give people enough time for leisure?
7. Do you think people today have more time to relax than in the past?
8. Do you think it's important for people to have leisure time?
9. Do old people and young people spend their leisure time in the same way?
10. What do you think are the good points and the possible bad points about having leisure time?
11. How do people in your country spend their holidays?
12. Do you like to travel in your holidays?
13. If you had a child, what leisure places would you go to with your child?

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 11](#)

Well, I enjoy self-driving travelling in my spare time. I always drive my car with my friends or family to the rural areas of Beijing during the weekends to loosen up. I feel that self-driving travel can not only enable me to go somewhere I want to at any time, but I can also make my own itineraries and discover the stunning places that others may not find.

Normally, I'll hang out with my friends because I want to loose up, but after being a father, I spend more time at home to stay with my kid, telling stories to him or playing games with him.

If I were to choose between the two, I'll probably spend more time at home to stay with my kid, telling stories to him or playing games with him, whereas, hanging out with friends will reduce my quality family time with my son.

=====

Oh, definitely not, you know, modern lifestyle can bring people convenience, however, the modern fast paced society and fierce competition have made most people spend more time with work, resulting in less quality time with family and friends.

Yes, definitely. After tiring work, people really need to loose up. Apart from earning money, I still need to enjoy family time, hang out with friends to socialise and travel around to experience different lifestyle.

Well, between the two, old people are fond of slow-pace of life compared to young people, for example, old people enjoy walking in the garden or chatting with old friends, on the contrary, young people are fond of energetic activities such as football and hiking in the mountains.

Well, it's kind of hard to say but people that I know around me tend to hang out with friends for dinner, but maybe for others, they will probably go shopping with family in the shopping malls to enjoy themselves.

Well, I'm really into taking my kid travelling around in the natural scenery spots during the weekends to loose up. Although travelling to other places is really time consuming, I still like going out because I believe that staying close to the nature can cultivate people' s mental development

12. SPORTS

1. Do you like to watch sports on TV?
2. Do you play any sports?
3. Do you have a favourite sports star?
4. What's the most popular sports in China?
5. What kind of sports would you like to try in the future?
6. Have you ever tried any dangerous sports?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 12](#)

Yes, I'm really into watching sports on TV because it entertains me a lot. Besides, I like seeing other people do the things that I can't do and wish I could do.

Yes, I sometimes play football with my friends in the garden during the weekends' morning to get some exercises.

=====

I feel that my favourite sports star is Messi who is a forward in Barcelona. He is the perfect blend of speed, strength, skill and toughness. He is also an icon in the modern football.

I guess the most popular spectator sport in China is basketball. Basketball is also played by many young people, mainly boys, for basketball courts are easy to find and it doesn't require specific facility or expensive equipment other than a basket and a ball.

Well, I guess what I'll try in the future is the tennis because it can help me build my strength and improve my flexibility and balance. Besides, tennis is social, it's a sport I can enjoy with friends if I play regularly.

Oh, no, though my life is quite a bit boring, I'm too scared to do any extreme sports because I don't think I have enough guts to put myself in the difficult situations.

13. Vegetables and fruits

1. What's your favourite vegetable and fruit?

2. How often do you eat fruits?

3. Are there any special fruits in your hometown?

4. Should we eat vegetables every day?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 13](#)

My top three are broccoli, celery and grape because all of them are both nutritious and delicious. Also, I want to give mushrooms an honourable mention as they are one of my favourite things to cook with, although they are a fungus.

I think I eat fruits at home on a daily basis. I always buy a lots of different fruits in the shopping mall in the weekends for my whole family.

Oh yes, there are loquat trees everywhere in my hometown. Loquat is very sweet and has lots of nutrition and can become medicine.

Yes, we do. We really need to eat vegetables everyday because you simply cannot find another food group that is as perfectly matched to our everyday human needs as vegetables. There are various protein, fibre and vitamin that cannot be found in other food like meat.

14. MATHS

1. When did you start learning maths?
2. Do you like maths?
3. Who taught you maths?
4. Who's your favourite teacher so far?
5. Is maths difficult for you to learn?
6. Do you like to use a calculator?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 14](#)

I firstly started to learn maths when I was in the first grade in primary school. I was about seven years old then.

To be honest, I disliked maths at all because there were always too many abstract formulas I had to remember. You know, I was not good at memorising things, so I often used the incorrect formula in the exams, and made lots of mistakes and got low marks as a result.

My maths teacher was an elderly woman. She was very kind and patient, but she always tended to be demanding with us, she seemed like making the simple theory very complicated. And she liked leaving endless homework to us.

Yes, I'm afraid that I wasn't quick at fingers. And I was also bored with these abstract formulas and found it hard to pick the appropriate ones to solve the maths problems in exams.

No, actually we were not allowed to use the calculator in class or exam because we were asked to calculate the results with pencil and paper. Therefore I'm not used to use the calculator now.

15. SKY

1. Do you like to watch the sky?
2. What is the sky like at night in your hometown?
3. Do you like to watch stars?
4. Have you ever taken a course about stars?
5. Is it important to study stars?
6. What's your favourite star?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 15](#)

Yes, I am really into watching the sky especially at night to count the countless stars when I was a kid. I remember I sometimes laid down in the grass for hours to watch the shining stars when in summer because I was fond of imaging the folk stories about the stars.

Well, as my hometown is a tourism city and there is no any industrial pollution, the sky is always clean and clear, and I can see the stunning night sky with countless and glittering stars and sometimes even the galaxy. But unfortunately in a metropolis like Beijing light pollution makes the night sky invisible.

No, I have never been in any sorts of courses about stars because actually there was no such courses in the schools or university. But fortunately my grandmother once sent me an encyclopaedia about nature in which there were loads of stories about stars, I got the most of the knowledge about stars from it.

Yes, I believe that astronomy has always had a significant impact on our world view as it can help open our eyes, give context to our place in the cosmos and that can definitely reshape how we see the world.

My favourite star constellation is Orion. It's very easy to spot on winter nights. Firstly, it has a huge red giant star, which may explode any time soon. Besides, it has a massive blue star which is very young. On top of that it also has a big nebula where new stars are being born - so it has everything !

16. CLOTHES

1. What clothes do you usually like to wear?
2. Do/did you wear the same clothes at school and at home?
3. Will you change your clothes when you go home today?
4. Did you have any special clothes to wear when you were a child?
5. Did you like them?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 16](#)

Well, actually I don't have an instinct for fashion and my look says I'm a laid-back kind of guy. So I usually wear casual clothes. I'm most comfortable wearing jeans, a T-shirt and my flip-flops. Oh, definitely not. I always wore the school uniforms which was a blue jacket with a white shirt. They were very simple and boring. So when I reached home, I intended to put on my favourite outfits.

Oh, yes. The formal clothes really make me nervous so after I go home later, I'll take them off and change my sweatshirts.

Yes, when I was a child, I needed to wear a uniform at school from primary school all the way to the very last year of high school, which is an institution, so I believed my parents had to follow this tradition.

No, I really couldn't stand the school uniform because the clothes were a bit too old- fashioned; in addition, sometimes I was reluctant to wear them because they were too large. I doubted why they couldn't be a bit more trendy and colourful like the ones in other countries, like Japan and Australia.

17. WEEKEND

1. How do you usually spend your weekends?
2. In your country, do men and women usually do the same kind of things on weekends?
3. When do you spend time with your family?
4. What do you usually do on weekends?
5. What did you do last weekend?
6. What do other people in your hometown usually do on weekends?
7. What are you going to do next weekend?
8. Is there anything new that you'd like to do on weekends?
9. Do you like working on weekends?
10. Do you think employees should have to work on weekends?
11. Do you feel that weekends now are more important to you than when you were a child?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 17](#)

Normally I'll go out to some stunning natural sceneries to let off steam with my family or friends on weekends; but if it's not sunny, I'll stay at home for the whole weekend. Mostly I just use the internet to kill time.

I guess some men play sports while women may just do housework. So men may probably do things to their own interest, by contrast, women spend more time for their families.

I always spends the whole weekends with my family. I barely work on weekends.

Last weekend, I took my son to the Beijing Botanic Garden to go around to see the various plants. Besides we went into the greenhouse exhibition of plants which is very remarkable.

Well, there are so many people in my hometown, it's really hard to say, probably most people tend to stay at home to enjoy the family time, but personally speaking, I guess there are not much entertaining facilities in my small hometown for people to go.

Next week, I plan to go to do some shopping because as the Spring Festival is just around the corner, I need to go to some super markets to prepare some food and other groceries; besides, I have to buy some new clothes for my family for the coming new year, it's an old Chinese tradition.

Yes, actually I've been thinking about going to the gym on Saturdays. I have to do some exercise, I'm so out of shape now !

Absolutely no ! That's crazy. I have to relax no matter what. Weekends are not for work ! ! !

If I were an employee, I would think this is a horrible idea. Employees are human, we all deserve to have some off-work time.

Yes, the main factor is that after five-day of hard work, I really need some leisure time to let off steam, or travel around to experience the stunning natural scenery. Whereas, when I was a kid, I had plenty of time to play, every day was almost the same.

18. READING

1. Do you like reading books? Why or why not?
2. What (kinds of) books do you like to read?
3. Did you read much when you were a child?
4. What (kinds of) books did you like reading when you were a child?
5. Do (young) children like reading books?
6. For children, what do you think are the benefits of reading?
7. What do you think are the benefits of reading to children?

Link mp3: [file nghe 18](#)

Yes, I'm really into reading because I believe that reading can be both entertaining and educational. Reading broadens my knowledge by opening up the whole world to me. While I'm reading, I can be visiting another country or a different time period, or traveling through space. I can find out how people solve problems or think up new ideas.

Oh, it's a tough question, or it should be more of what books I don't read. I have a really open mind to books and what genre they are. Classic literature, novel, autobiography, historical story...whatever.

Yes, I remember when I was a kid, I'd like to take some historical books from my father's bookshelf, and read the historical stories, which were really entertaining and educational to me. As a result, I'm very familiar with our Chinese ancient history.

It's kind of hard to say but young children that I know around me tend to read fairy tales to cultivate their mental development, but maybe for others, they just want to watch TV and play toys.

I believe if you want your children to be smart, they have to acquire a love for reading, which has numerous benefits. Reading opens the door to child's early academic success, imparts a love of learning and leads to higher grades in every subject. Besides, reading can help children improve linguistic skills in the form of a richer vocabulary, correct grammar, and more articulate oral communication. On top of that, books teach child about relationships, situations, personalities, and what is good and what is bad in the world he lives in.

19. SLEEP

1. How many hours do you sleep every day?
2. Is it necessary to take a nap every day?
3. Do old people sleep a lot? Why?
4. How to have a good sleep?
5. Do you like to get up early in the morning?
6. Can you sleep well if you are in a noisy environment?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 19](#)

Usually I sleep for seven to eight hours every day in order to let my body relax. But if I want to do something very important at night, I could only sleep for less than four hours.

Yes, I believe that after having lunch at noon, it's beneficial for body to take a nap, half of hour would be enough, to brace for the tasks in the afternoon.

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Yes, I guess the elderly people do need to sleep more. I believe the reason is that after years of working, stress and the natural process breaks down people's body until all they want to do is sleep, consequently, their bodies take longer to recharge the batteries.

I believe you have to follow several rules to get a good sleep regularly. Firstly, go to bed at the same time every night. Choose a time when you normally feel tired, so that you don't toss and turn. Besides, make sure your bed is comfortable so that you can stretch and turn in bed comfortably. As well as that, stay away from big meals at night or try to make dinnertime earlier in the evening, and avoid heavy, rich foods before bed.

Yes, getting up early in the morning is really beneficial for health, because I can enjoy the fresh air in the morning; besides, I have plenty of time in the morning so that I can do some physical exercises liking running and jogging; as well as that, I can prepare a good dinner for the family. Well, I'm afraid I can't fall asleep in the noisy place like barking dogs, loud neighbours and city traffic because I used to sleep quietly from childhood. So sometimes I envy someone who grows accustomed to environmental noise and can sleep well in whatever place.

20. TREE

1. Do you like trees?
2. Are there any important trees in your country?
3. Is there a forest near your hometown?
4. Would you like to live in a place that has a lot of trees?
5. Where can one find trees (or forests) in your country?
6. Do you think places with trees attract more visitors than places with few trees?
7. Did you ever climb trees when you were a child?
8. Have you ever planted a tree?
9. Do you think more people should plant trees?
10. Do you think we should plant more trees?
11. Do you think trees are important?
12. What would you say are the benefits of having trees?
13. Do you think we need to protect trees?

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 20](#)

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Yes, I am a tree lover because trees let me breath better, without them I couldn't survive any longer. There are many important trees in my country. The use of bamboo, for example, can be ranged from furniture making to building construction. Besides, the weeping willow trees symbolise the new hope in ancient China, therefore, there are many poem complimenting them. Yes. It's just the world-renowned Huangshan Mountain with various kinds of trees living there, the most famous one are pine trees.

Yes, I'm really into getting close to nature cos I believe it's the most healthy and natural way of living. Although it's unreasonable to have such lifestyle in Beijing now, I still hold that dream in my life.

I guess trees can be easily seen in my country. If you are in cities, there are always many sycamore trees along the streets; or if you are in the suburb areas, you will see forests in various sizes.

Well, yes. Obviously places with lots of trees are more shady, cooler, more humid and much less windy, therefore, people will feel more comfortable and more likely to get close to nature.

Yes, of course. There are many trees in my community when I was a kid, I always climbed trees to get higher or to seek the birds' eggs.

Yes, once. I remembered when my middle school once organised hiking in a mountainous area, we planted several saplings in the forest, and I guess they have grown up into big trees already.

Yes, I believe more trees should be planted both in and outside the cities because they can absorb the pollutant gases and provide enough oxygen; besides, tree can save water and prevent soil erosion. Therefore, trees are critically important to keep our eco-system balanced. We are supposed to not only plant more trees, but protect the existing ones.

21. NEWSPAPER

1. Do you often read newspapers?
2. Which do you prefer reading, magazines or newspapers?
3. What kinds of newspapers (or magazines) do you usually read?
4. How old were you when you first started to read newspapers?
5. Do you think it's important to read newspapers? (Why?/Why not?)
6. Why do you think people read newspapers?
7. What different types of newspapers are there in China?
8. Do you care about the news?
9. Is the news important to you?
10. What kinds of news do Chinese people read in newspapers?

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11. Do you prefer to read about domestic (or local) news or international news? (Why?)

12. What are some methods that newspapers use to attract readers?

13. What influence do you think newspapers have on society?

14. Do you think the internet is a good way to get news?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 21](#)

Not very often. Newspaper always take time to get published so that they are not so updated. Besides, I have to go to the kiosks and spend money to buy newspapers. It's quite troublesome.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with reading magazines in my spare time because they are well printed and always have in-depth reporting on some particular events; whereas, you know, newspapers always report the same news as the Internet, so they now seem to be not so indispensable.

I'm more interested in newspapers about foreign cultures. I like to learn about their religions, customs, and the foods they eat. Occasionally, foreign news interests me, too. I really like reading scientific related news.

I got the habit of reading newspapers when I was in high school, 18 years old maybe. The library in my school had several kinds of newspapers and magazines so that as long as I had free time, I'd like to go to read some news about the latest political events, sports and fashion news.

Yes, I feel that it's very important for me and other people to know what happened in the domestic and international events.

It's kind of hard to say but people that I know around me tend to read the political news because they are interested in what happens in the domestic country and abroad, but maybe for others, they just care more about the sports and fashion events.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with reading domestic news because they are closer to home, and affects me more; whereas, you know, international news sometimes have nothing to do with my daily life, so I just read the headlines.

Well, I feel that newspaper agents always try to use the bold headings, attractive advertisements, and insights in the article to get the readers' attention.

Well, I guess that newspapers have a great influence on society. Newspapers keep them informed about economy, political activities, science, education. Besides, it gives a true and correct picture of the society, country. Moreover, they also help us to educate people about their rights and duties.

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Yes, getting news from internet is a regular source now because it's very convenient for me to get news from internet such as mobile phone. The news apps in my mobile phone usually send me the most urgent notifications to me so it keeps me posted.

22. Text messages

1. Do you text someone if he doesn't answer your phone?
2. Is there any chance when texting someone is better than calling him?
3. Have you ever had difficulty replying?
4. How often do you send text messages?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 22](#)

Yes, when my friends can't answer my phone, I will text him to let him know and wait for his reply.

I believe when the person answering the phone is having a conference or in a cinema, it's better to text him instead of having a telephone call.

Yes, I remember when I have to refuse some requests of friends, I have to think carefully about how to reply for a long time.

I almost send text messages on a daily basis. I always text my friends and family to greet, chat and make a travelling plan.

23. MEMORISING

1. What do you remember to do every day?
2. What helps people to remember things?
3. Why do old people forget about things easily?
4. Have you ever forgotten something important?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 23](#)

Well, there are many things I have to remember to do every day. For example, after getting up in the morning, I need to take some simple physical exercises like doing some crunches and push-

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ups. Besides, another important thing that I should keep in mind is to teach my son to read the traditional Chinese poems in the evening.

Well, it's kind of hard to say but people I know around me use the to-do-list apps in their mobile phones to help them remember what to do next; but maybe for others, they may probably write the urgent things down in the notebooks.

Well, I guess it's quite normal that people are more and more forgetful when they are becoming ageing. Apart from some negative emotional factors like stress and depression, elderly people are easier to forget things because of their normal ageing.

Oh yes, I nearly forgot the birthday of a woman I liked last time. I once asked her what her birthday was, and told her I would send her a gift, but I just unbelievably forgot it until the evening that day. Fortunately I asked her out to dinner to celebrate with her.

24. FRIEND

1. How often do you like to hang out with friends?
2. Who do you usually like to hang out with?
3. Where do you like to go when you hang out with your friends?
4. Do you like to go out with a big group or just few friends?

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 24](#)

I hang out with my friends to somewhere from time to time. Normally if we have lots of time in the weekends, we will go to the cinema to watch movies with our kids to have a good time; but if we don't have plenty of time, we'll just have dinner together in a restaurant.

Usually I'd like to hang out with one of my close friends. Actually we live in the same community so we can meet frequently. Besides, both of our kids are in the same class in the kindergarten, so we'd like to take them to the park or playground together.

Well, that depends. We sometimes go to the restaurants to enjoy the tasty food if someone finds a decent place; and if we have plenty of time, we'd like to plan a hike or camp in the nearby forest park to enjoy the natural life. That would be a very memorable experience.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I will probably go with hanging out with a big group people because I feel that I am an extrovert, I like to meet different people to know about different

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kinds of life and make myself more sociable; whereas, you know, with few people around, it would be hard to find something interesting to do, such as travelling, hiking, etc.

25. TRAVELLING

1. Do you like travelling?
2. In which seasons do you prefer to travel?
3. Would you say your country welcomes travellers? (or tourists)?
4. Would you say your country is a good place for travellers to visit?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 25](#)

You bet ! I am a big fan of travelling around. I spend months all together each year to go somewhere else. I feel that it's not only an indispensable part of my life, but also can culture my mental development.

I guess the autumn is the best time to travel. As it is neither too hot nor too cold, people will feel comfortable to go out. Besides, as the foliage of trees will turn yellow or red, you will find the picturesque views all around you. Wherever you go, you will experience a memorable trip.

Yes, Chinese people are renowned for their hospitality to visitors. And there are also numerous tourist attractions around the country. For instance, you can visit the natural landscape to see the picturesque views, or you can go to the historical relics to know the events through the long Chinese history, or you can just stay at the metropolises to experience the local people's lifestyle.

26. TRANSPORTATION

1. What's the most popular means of transportation in your hometown?
2. How often do you take buses?
3. Can you compare the advantages of planes and trains?
4. Is driving to work popular in your country?
5. Do you think people will drive more in the future?
6. Would you ride bikes to work in the future?
7. What will become the most popular means of transportation in China?
8. Do you prefer public transportation or private transportation?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 26](#)

Well, I guess people in my hometown always ride bike to go work or somewhere else because my hometown is a small town and it's very convenient to go out by bike.

I barely go out by bus because I have my own car now, so I always go somewhere by car.

Well, between the two, travelling by planes is relatively very fast, for example, it just takes three hours for me to go between Beijing and Shanghai which covers distance of 1500 kilometres; on the contrary, travelling by trains is an increasingly cost-effective alternative to planes, particularly if I'm going a relatively short distance.

Yes, people that I know around me tend to go to work by car because it's very convenient to drive, but I believe that maybe for others, they just take buses to office because it's cheap and always on time.

Yes, I believe that as people earn more money and lead a better life, they will tend to buy cars for their families, and apparently drive cars to offices.

Oh no, it's impossible to ride bike to work because you know, Beijing is a big city, I always drive about 20 kilometres to office, so I'll be late if I ride bike.

I believe private transportation will be the most popular means of transportation in my country because as people get richer in the following years, people will tend to buy cars for their families and business for various purposes, and obviously China has already become the biggest vehicles market in the world.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go to work by my own car because apparently it's much more comfortable than in the crowded bus or subway.

27. Letters or Emails

1. Do you write many letters or emails?
2. Who do you usually write to?
3. Do you prefer to write letters by hand or to use a computer?
4. How often do you write an email or a letter?
5. What are the differences between emails and letters?
6. Is it hard to think of what to write?
7. What kinds of letter/email do you think is the hardest to write?

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8. How do you feel when you receive a letter or email?
 9. What sorts of letters or emails are the most difficult to reply to?
 10. What kinds of emails (or letters) do you receive that make you feel excited?
 11. Which do you prefer to make a phone call or write an email?
 12. Do you think people will still write letters in the future?
 13. How do you communicate with others at work - by emails or is it more convenient to communicate face-to-face?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 27](#)

Yes, I almost write emails for my clients as part of my job on a daily basis. There are many things I have to write, for example, I usually write end user training for my clients to teach them how to use the system, or I write the development guide for my technical staffs to tell them how to code. If I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with writing things with a computer. I believe that in the age of fast living and a culture of convenience, writing things with computers can bring people convenience and efficiency. Whereas, hand writing is really time consuming and hard to share.

Well, between the two, a letter is printed or handwritten on actual paper and sent through the mail while an email is typed on a computer, tablet or smartphone and sent electronically. While emails have become a more popular way of communication for individuals and businesses, traditional letters still have a place in today's modern, tech-oriented society.

Normally it seems like a daily routine for me to write emails to my clients about how to use the system; but if they complain to me about the poor user experience, I sometimes really find myself getting stuck in explaining to comfort them.

I would be feeling both honoured and excited to receive a letter or email from other because the sender has spent time writing it. Especially when someone writes to me to appreciate me or compliment me about my responsible work.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I will probably go with writing an email because I can have plenty of time thinking about how to express my opinion correctly and clearly, besides, the whole conversation can be tracked in the mail list; whereas, you know, making a telephone call usually leads to misunderstanding because sometimes it is not very accurate and obscure.

I believe that as a major method of communication between people, letter writing has a vast and interesting history; besides, handwritten letters are personal. They show the receiver that someone has spent time and effort in communicating with them. They are a way of connecting two people that cannot be achieved through the impersonal use of texts or instant messages. Therefore, I feel that the handwriting letters are irreplaceable in the future.

28. Swimming

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 28](#)

1. Can you swim?

Yes I can. I learnt at school when I was about 7 years old. Swimming lessons were compulsory at our school, like most schools I think.

2. Are there many places to swim near you?

Yes, there are a few public swimming pools. There is the main indoor one at a big sports complex in the center of town. There are also a couple of outdoor ones, but you can only use them in summer as it is be too cold in winter. One is a big one in a park, the other is a much smaller one.

3. Do you think everyone should learn to swim?

Of course, I think it's very important. Firstly, you spend much of your life on holiday by water, for example, when you go to the beach on holiday, so you won't be able to enjoy yourself with your friends if you can't swim. Also, for safety reasons it's very important. You often hear about sad accidents involving young children so it's very important.

29. SNACKS

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 29](#)

1. Do you like snacks?

- No, not really. I generally prefer to eat at meal times rather than graze between meals.
- Yes, I do. Around mid morning I usually have some fruit and then about 3pm I have some biscuits or something like that.

2. What kinds of snacks are popular in your country?

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- Well, I guess that most people eat junk food like crisps, chocolate and biscuits for their snacks.
 - I suppose official workers mainly eat junk food like biscuits but other people sometimes eat fruit or something healthier.

3. Do you think eating snacks is good for your health?

- I think that if you're hungry, it's perfectly fine to have some fruit but if people eat junk food between meals, then it's really unhealthy.
- I think all kind of snacking between main meals is bad for your health. If people avoided snacking, they would be much healthier and less over weight.

30. PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Do you like to take photographs? (Why?)
2. Do you prefer to take photos yourself or to have other people take photos? (Why?)
3. How long have you liked taking photographs?
4. How (Why) did you become interested in photography?
5. How often do you take photographs?
6. In what situations do you take photographs?
7. What kind of photos do you like to take?
8. Do you prefer to take pictures of people or of scenery?
9. Who do you take photos of?
10. How do you keep your photos?
11. Do you keep your photographs on your computer?
12. Are there any photos on the walls of your home?
13. Do you frame (or have you framed) any of your photos? (If yes, which? & why?)
14. Do you prefer to send postcards to people or to send photos that you took yourself?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 30](#)

Yes, I am a big fan of photography in my spare time. I always travel around to the stunning natural scenery with my camera. I have been in the habit of it for almost 8 years. The main factor is that I can

capture the precious moment in my life, such as the graduation ceremony, or the sweet moment with my girlfriend, and also I believe the photography will cultivate my mental development.

If I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with taking photos of others because I feel that different people have different characteristics, so the photos will be distinguishing. Whereas, I barely take a selfie because it will make me embarrassed.

Normally, I'll probably go with the scenery to take photos because I really enjoy the marvellous natural scenery such as the seashore, sunset and twilight, but if I take my son travelling around, I'll take photos of him to capture his happiness.

I store my photos both in my computer disk and Internet for backup. And besides I have a photography website running for 4 years, keeping all my premium photos there.

Yes, I used to print some photos of my kid to hang them in his room, which can help us memorise the warm moment we had together.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with my own photos because they are unique and seeing a lot of comments from friends is really a pleasant thing. Whereas postcards are not as meaningful as photos taken by myself.

31. HELP

1. Do you like to help others
2. When was your last time you helped others?
3. Did your parents teach you the importance of helping others?
4. Have you ever refused to help others?
5. Would you like to keep helping others in future?

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 31](#)

Frankly, I am very happy to help others, especially my neighbours, getting along well with neighbour is also very important to lead a happy life.

Well, let me tell you about a time when I helped someone not familiar. One day in the morning, I met a neighbour in the shop who was an old lady and also lived in the same building as me. She just bought a bag of rice and was ready to take the heavy bag home. I saw the bag was quite heavy and she was trying to lift it up. I walked straightly to her, and told her that I could help her take the bag

home. She was very thankful and agreed to accept my kindness. I could feel that she really hope someone could stand out and do her a favour at that moment.

When I was young, my parents and teachers taught me a lot about helping others. It is the core virtue in my culture, the solidarity of community is the thing that keeps members of society connected so we are always willing to help each other

Yeah, sometimes when I am in hurry or in business I have to say apology to refuse other's ask for help

32. HISTORY

1. Do you like (to learn about) history?
2. What historical event do you find most interesting?
3. Do you think history is important?
4. Do you like to watch programmes on TV about history?
5. Do you think you can really learn history from films and TV programmes?
6. Do you think the internet is a good place to learn about history?
7. Can you name a person from history who you would like to learn more about?
8. Why would you like to learn more about him/her?

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 32](#)

Yes, I am a big fan of reading historical stories. When I was a little boy, I always took some historical books from my father's bookshelf and read the historical events. I feel that history not only can cultivate my mental development, but also give me a better picture of human society.

Personally I am fond of the Battle of Red Cliffs happened in the early period of Three Kingdoms, which was a decisive battle at the end of the Han Dynasty. It was also the typical battle in Chinese history renowned for the fewer and weaker defeating the more and stronger.

Yes, the main factor is that like our native language, history forms a cultural identity and keeps a unique record of country, and also we can learn the experiences from history to correct our current actions.

Yes, I enjoy watching some documentaries about history on TV because I can see a lot of video materials that can not be seen in the textbooks. I always watch them at home during my time off with my son to learn something about history.

I don't feel that watching the current TV series can make you be aware of the history, you know, TV programmes are more engaging than books, however the true historical events in most of the TV

series have been distorted by the producers to cater for the audience. It's really shame as the young people will misunderstand the history by these irresponsible productions.

Yes. History is full of debates so you can find both of the two sides of opinion online which will help you be aware of the true facts and think critically. I always google some engaging historical materials about the Song Dynasty, for example, to know about the truth.

The people I'd like to learn about is Wu Chengen, the author of A Journey to the West. He combined the folk tales and his own imagination to write the great fairy story in the 16th century. I want to know about his personality as much as possible and I believe that his imagination is what is lack of nowadays.

33. HANDWRITING

1. Do you often write things?
2. Do you write everyday?
3. What do you usually write?
4. Do you like writing to people?
5. How often do you send e-mails?
6. What are your main reasons for using e-mails?
7. Do you like to send e-mails?
8. Do you usually write by hand or write using a computer?
9. Nowadays, how do most people write things?
10. Do you think computers might one day replace handwriting?
11. When do children begin to write in your country?
12. How did you learn to write?
13. Do you think handwriting is very important (nowadays)?
14. How can children today improve (or, practice) their handwriting?
15. What impression does a person's handwriting have on other people?

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 33](#)

Yes, I almost write documentaries for my clients as part of my job on a daily basis. There are many things I have to write, for example, I usually write end user training for my clients to teach them

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how to use the system, or I write the development guide for my technical staffs to tell them how to code.

Yes, I'm really into communicating with my clients in emails. I send emails to them almost on a daily basis in my office, discussing business, guiding them how to use the system and solving the problems. I feel like sending emails because I can trace the communication by mail list, which is much more useful than telephone.

If I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with writing things with a computer. I believe that in the age of fast living and a culture of convenience, writing things with computers can bring people convenience and efficiency. Whereas, hand writing is really time consuming and hard to share.

Well, there are so many people in my country, it's really hard to say, probably most people write something with computers, for example, people like to write blogs to share their feelings with friends on the internet, but personally speaking, I don't think that writing without pens can be called writing.

In China, children usually learn to write in elementary school. They firstly learn the basic elements of the Chinese characters, then the simple characters, and finally the complicated ones. They will have to do a lot of writing practises to remember them. The more they practise, the better they write.

Yes, I feel that handwriting can allow people to get more opportunities because if you have a decent handwriting, people will admire you and you are considered to be both well- educated and literate.

34. MUSIC

1. Do you often like to listen to music?
2. When do you listen to music?
3. How much time do you spend listening to music every day?
4. What kinds of music do you like to listen to?
5. What's your favourite kind of music?
6. How often do you listen to that type of music?
7. When did you start listening to this type of music?
8. Where do you listen to it?
9. How do you feel when you listen to this music?
10. Do you like listening to songs?
11. Have you ever been to a musical performance?
12. Have you ever learned to play a musical instrument?
13. Is music an important subject at school in China?

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14. Did you often listen to music when you were a child?(If yes, give details.)

15. What kinds of music are most popular in China?

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 34](#)

Yes, I am a big fan of music all these years. I sometimes listen to music before sleeping at night for one hour and when I am driving, which will both help me relax. I am very fond of pop music from Taiwan and Hong Kong, and I also frequently listen to some American pop singers, like the Backstreet Boys. I can feel the energy when I hear the tune.

Personally, I am interested in the traditional instrumental music, like erhu, mixed with pianos and guitars.

I always get time to listen to these music during the weekends. It is an impressive combination that can give you a both nostalgic and modern feelings. I firstly encountered this type of music when I was driving and listening to the radio five years ago, I forgot the name, but the tune sounded really amazing.

Oh, yes, I saw a pop singer performance several years ago. It was a really memorable night as the live performances were very exciting. I remembered that after the song, when the singer talked to the audience, everyone cheered and clapped crazily. It made me feel so cool being there.

Unfortunately, I had not learned to play any type of musical instrument when I was a little boy. I remembered that in schools, teachers always told us to put all energy into studying and preparing exams. The music lessons, along with physical exercises and paintings, were not so important as the schools claimed to be. I really felt pity when I grew up.

I didn't get enough time to listen to music because I had to give all time to study. That was my biggest pity during my childhood, so when I got to the university, what I firstly did was to buy me a new mp3 player.

I believe currently in China, the most popular music is pop music. There are many famous pop singers now, releasing numerous albums every year, and they are always trendy for a period of time.

35. Colours

1. What's your favourite colour?

2. Are there any colours you dislike (Why?)

3. Are colours important to you?

4. Were colours important to you when you were a child?

- =====
5. When you are buying something, is the colour important to you?
 6. Do you usually wear clothes in your favourite colour?
 7. Is colour very important to you when you are buying clothes?
 8. Do you prefer light or dark (or, bright) colours?
 9. Are there any colours that have a special meaning in your country?
 10. What colour would you choose to paint the walls of your room?
 11. Is there any colour you would not want your walls to be? (Why?)
 12. Do you think different types of people like different colours?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 35](#)

My favourite colour is blue, it is the colour of depth and stability. Blue symbolises wisdom, confidence and intelligence. And I don't like the pink because it is too girly.

I suppose so. You know, different colour conveys different meaning to people. Red represents passion and enthusiasm while green means energetic. So I always choose the suitable colours for things.

Well, yes, I have several clothes in blue, which can bring calm and tranquil feelings to me. I believe that blue is always fashionable in men's outfit.

If I were to choose between the two, I'll probably go with dark because I believe dark represents stability and wisdom, for example I always choose the dark outfit in my office to highlight my profession, whereas light suits juvenile better.

Yes, there are many colours that have special meaning in my country such as black, which would make people think of mystery. Also like red, it means lucky and good fortune in China, when it is New Year, people like to wear red clothes, set red firecrackers and give red pocket money to children.

I would like to paint my walls in light yellow or light blue because light colours convey warm and calm to me which should be suitable for household.

Yes, I believe different people have different psychological demand for colours. Some need peace of mind, whereas others may feel like energetic and rebellious.

36. Teachers

1. Do you have a favourite teacher?

- =====
2. Why do you like the teacher?
 3. How does (did) this teacher help you?
 4. Do you think you could be a teacher?
 5. Would you like to be a teacher?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 36](#)

My favourite teacher was my physics teacher whose name was Mr. Zhang in my middle school. He was the most influential teacher I had ever had. He told us a lot of physical background knowledge to encourage and motivate us because physics was quite complicated for us. I still remembered that he frequently gave us articulate speeches that the physics was the gymnastics for the brain, which inspired my enthusiasm to learn it well.

I don't think I am suitable to be a teacher, I am not a patient man and cannot bear to repeat the same things frequently. Teachers' job is really boring to me, you have to make your explanations as easy as possible for students to fully understand. It is a challenging job, I am afraid I cannot do it.

37. Being in a hurry

When was your last time you did something in a hurry?

Do you like to finish things quickly?

What kind of things do you never do in hurry?

Why do people make mistakes when they are in hurry?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 37](#)

My last time I was in a hurry was the time I rushed to school in a morning for final exam, because I woke up so late

I guess when people are working, for example if a doctor is doing an operation a slight mistake might be vital to the patient. Also if a person is taking a test obviously they should concentrate or they might make mistakes

No, I don't like to make things quickly because I will not concentrate or I might make mistakes.

38. Being alone

1. Do you like to be alone?
2. What do you like to do when you are alone?
3. Do you like to spend time with your friends or just stay at home on your own?
4. When was the last time you were being alone?

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 38](#)

Yes, I'd like to stay alone for some period of time if I have to do something without interruption. But if I have spare time, I would prefer stay with my friends to enjoy the free time.

I really enjoy being alone in the weekend morning, reading some books and playing computer games. During that time, I can do something I am interested in, and don't have to think about how to brace for the coming problems.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I will probably go with hanging out with my close friends because you need to be sociable in the society and friendship really adds spice to my life; whereas, you know, spending too much being alone is really boring and terrible.

The last time I stayed alone at home was when my wife went on business trip with my child for several days, so I was living, eating, sleeping at home with myself. It's quite quiet so I can do something at ease.

39. Team work

1. When was your last time worked with a team
2. Do you like to work or study with others or just by yourself?
3. What's the most important thing for teamwork?
4. Do you like to be a leader?

➤ Link mp3: [file nghe 39](#)

It was the project I did in a team in the second year of my graduate school. Our tutor gave us an assignment to review the server log of an international trade website and give a brief analytics using the data warehouse and data mining technology.

Personally, I would like to work in a team because I'll have partner to shoulder responsibility together and solve problems better, as the saying goes "4 eyes see better than 2"

I think the most important thing for teamwork is task appointment. Every member of team is assigned for specific tasks and he or she should stick to that. Besides team spirit is equally important

Honestly, I would like to be a leader. That position reflects my constant effort that I've done so far in job, and I can win other's respect as well

40. Countryside

1. Would you like to live in the countryside in the future?

2. What do people living in the countryside like to do?

3. What are the benefits of living in rural areas?

4. What are the differences between living in the city and the countryside?

Link mp3: [file nghe 40](#)

Absolutely ! I'm a huge fan of going to the forest. The environment there is just superb. Every now and then I would visit a forest just because there isn't that much pollution so I could smell the fresh air. Also the animals there are also quite cute - especially some colourful birds.

Living in the countryside, people can enjoy various activities that they hardly have in cities like going out at night without fear of street criminals, doing exercise in the early morning to enjoy the fresh air

Living in the countryside can definitely benefit people in a number of ways. For one thing, it's good for

one's health condition thanks to significantly lower levels of pollution. It is undeniable that, air quality in big cities is so bad that long-term exposure to it may cause respiratory diseases and other health problems. Besides, the cost of living in rural areas is likely to be lower than that in cities.

However, Many people have been attracted to live and work in big cities because of better employment opportunities and higher living standards.

41. Social network

1. What kinds of social networking websites do you like to use?
2. Are you a social person?
3. What kinds of people do you like to make friends with on those websites?
4. Is it clear to find real friends on social network?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 41](#)

It's undeniable that social networking sites have become a huge part in our lives, especially young people's. and so am I. I am addicted to Facebook and Google Plus

I suppose I am out-going and kind of socialized. I have many friends on facebook and can easily get along well with others

I would love to make friends with people who have same interests like mine in music, travelling and learning English

I think no, most of friends I have on facebook are normal friends, it is common that people just make friends for fun and do not interact or share things a lot on social websites.

42. Hanging out with friends

1. How often do you like to hang out with friends?
2. Who do you usually like to hang out with?
3. Where do you like to go when you hang out with your friends?
4. Do you like to go out with a big group or just few friends?

➤ **Link mp3:** [file nghe 42](#)

I hang out with my friends to somewhere from time to time. Normally if we have lots of time in the weekends, we will go to the cinema to watch movies with our kids to have a good time; but if we don't have plenty of time, we'll just have dinner together in a restaurant.

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Usually I'd like to hang out with one of my close friends. Actually we live in the same community so we can meet frequently. Besides, both of our kids are in the same class in the kindergarten, so we'd like to take them to the park or playground together.

Well, that depends. We sometimes go to the restaurants to enjoy the tasty food if someone finds a decent place; and if we have plenty of time, we'd like to plan a hike or camp in the nearby forest park to enjoy the natural life. That would be a very memorable experience.

Well, if I were to choose between the two, I will probably go with hanging out with a big group people because I feel that I am an extrovert, I like to meet different people to know about different kinds of life and make myself more sociable; whereas, you know, with few people around, it would be hard to find something interesting to do, such as travelling, hiking, etc.

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IELTS Topic Vocabulary

Dưới đây là 20 chủ đề trong phần thi IELTS Speaking, mỗi chủ đề sẽ là các từ vựng trọng tâm, liên quan tới bài thi giúp các học viên học tập tốt hơn. Ngoài ra, thầy khuyên các bạn nên ứng dụng thực tế và bài học để đạt hiệu quả cao nhất. Dưới đây là 20 chủ đề từ vựng mới cập nhật nhất:

- ☐ [Vocabulary 1: Holidays](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 2: Relationships](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 3: Technology](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 4: Sport](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 5: Food](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 6: Education](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 7: Work](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 8: Health](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 9: Books and Films](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 10: Accommodation](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 11: Clothes and Fashion](#)
- [Vocabulary 12: People – Personality and Character](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 13: Business](#)
- [Vocabulary 14: People – Physical Appearance](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 15: Towns and Cities](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 16: Music](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 17: Weather](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 18: Shopping](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 19: Environment](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary 20: Advertising](#)

49 | Page

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Amy: Yes ... we have a lot of **holiday resorts** along the coast that are popular with tourists ... most people come on **package holidays** and stay in one of the many hotels and **self-catering** apartments.

Part 2-style task

Describe a beautiful place you once visited. You should say:

- ☐ when you went to this place
- ☐ where it was
- ☐ who you went with

and say why you liked it so much.

Sally: A few years ago I went on a **long weekend** to the Lake District in the UK ... it's a very popular **holiday destination** in the north of England ... I went on my own and had a wonderful time ... I stayed in a **youth hostel** and met some really nice people ... but the most memorable thing about the holiday were the **breathtaking views** ... and lovely **picturesque villages** ... it can get very busy with **hordes of tourists** so I decided **to go out of season** in the autumn ... the weather was fantastic and the shops were full of **local crafts** ... a really great holiday ... it's certainly not the kind of **short break** for someone looking for a busy nightlife but if you want to relax in the middle of **stunning landscape** I would certainly recommend a holiday to the Lake District.

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What do you think has led to the growth in the tourist industry?

Miguel: It's much easier and affordable to travel now ... nowadays you can get cheap **charter-flights** or **all-in packages** ... to somewhere near or to a **far-off destination**.

Examiner: How do people tend to choose a destination?

Anna: The Internet is a great source of information and high street **travel agents** are still very popular ... that's where I like to go to get **holiday brochures** for the place I'm interested in.

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Examiner: People sometimes say flying is the most glamorous form of travel. Do you agree?

Amy: I'm not so sure really ... flying can be quite boring ... queuing up at the **check-in desk** ... going through **passport control** ... sitting for ages in the **departure lounge** ... then the flight itself can be quite uncomfortable ... no ... I'm not sure I agree.

Definitions

- ☐ **all-in package/package holiday**: a holiday where you purchase the travel and accommodation together
- ☐ **breathtaking view**: an extremely beautiful view
- ☐ **charter-flight**: a cheaper form of flying than a scheduled flight
- ☐ **check-in desk**: the place at the airport where you register for your flight and deposit your luggage
- ☐ **departure lounge**: where you wait for your flight to be called
- ☐ **far-off destination**: somewhere a long way away
- ☐ **to get away from it all**: to take a holiday to escape a busy or stressful lifestyle
- ☐ **guided tour**: an organised group shown around a place of interest by an expert
- ☐ **holiday brochure**: a glossy publication with details of holiday packages
- ☐ **holiday destination**: where you go for a holiday
- ☐ **holiday of a lifetime**: a special holiday that you are unlikely to repeat
- ☐ **holiday resort**: a place where lots of people go for a holiday
- ☐ **hordes of tourists**: crowds of tourists
- ☐ **local crafts**: objects produced locally
- ☐ **long weekend**: an extended weekend holiday including Friday or Monday
- ☐ **out of season**: outside of the main holiday period
- ☐ **picturesque village**: very pretty village
- ☐ **passport control**: the place where your passport is checked
- ☐ **places of interest**: sites of interest to tourists
- ☐ **wildlife safari**: a holiday, often in Africa, to observe wild animals
- ☐ **self-catering**: a holiday where you supply your own food
- ☐ **short break**: a short holiday
- ☐ **to go sightseeing**: to look around the tourist sites

- ☐ ***stunning landscape***: extremely beautiful countryside
- ☐ ***travel agent***: a shop that specialises in booking holidays
- ☐ ***tourist trap***: somewhere where too many tourists go
- ☐ ***youth hostel***: a cheap form of accommodation

IELTS Relationships Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 2: Relationships

IELTS Relationships vocabulary

Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the ‘Definitions’ section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don’t understand.



Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you see your friends very often?

Louisa: Yes ... we meet up most weekends ... we all **get on really well** and **have a lot in common** so we’re always happy doing the same things and going to the same places.

Examiner: What do you like about your close friends?

Anna: I think we **enjoy each other’s company** ... we **see eye-to-eye on** most things so we rarely **fall out with** each other.

Examiner: Have you known each other long?

Amy: Most of them yes ... although my closest friend Carrie ... we **struck up a relationship** at college and **got on like a house on fire** ... but yes ... my other friendships **go back years** to when we were at school.

Part 2-style task

Describe a person you are very close to. You should say:

-
- ☐ who this person is
 - ☐ when you met them
 - ☐ where you met them

and say what it is about them you like so much.

Reiko: I'd like to talk about my boyfriend ... Jose ... we **got to know** each other at University almost 4 years ago ... we were in the same department ... initially we were **just good friends** and used to go out in a group with our other friends ... when Jose went back to Spain for the holidays we would **keep in touch with** each other ... then one year he invited me to come to Spain with him ... and that's when we **fell for** each other I think ... so you couldn't really say it was **love at first sight** as it had been over a year since we'd met ... but we really **hit it off** and by the time we got back to university in September we were able to tell all our friends that we were **in a relationship** ... what do I like about Jose ... well he's very kind ... very funny ... and very supportive ... and we're really **well matched** in our interests ... he hasn't **popped the question** yet though ... we've talked about getting married and I think we're both ready **to settle down** and have children ... we'll just have to wait and see ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Do you think marriage is still as important as ever?

Cristine: Yes ... it certainly is in my country ... I think the problem for some people is a lack of commitment ... all relationships **have their ups and downs** ... but some people prefer to **break up** rather than **working at** the relationship.

Examiner: What do you think is the ideal time to get married?

Terry: Personally ... I think you should wait until you've found yourself first ... decided if you want a career ... perhaps do some travelling ... you should do this before **tying the knot** ... although if you **fall head over heels in love** plans like these can easily be forgotten.

Examiner: Is it important to keep in contact with our friends when we're in a relationship?

Maria: Absolutely ... it's so easy to **drift apart** from your friends when you **fall in love** ... but I

think both partners should try not **to lose touch with** their friends ... that's the best way to have a **healthy relationship** with your partner.

Definitions

- ☐ **to break up:** to end a romantic relationship
- ☐ **to drift apart:** to become less close to someone
- **to enjoy someone's company:** to like spending time with someone
- ☐ **to fall for:** to fall in love
- ☐ **to fall head over heels in love:** to start to love someone a lot
- ☐ **to fall out with:** to have a disagreement and stop being friends
- **to get on like a house on fire:** to like someone's company very much indeed
- ☐ **to get on well with:** to understand someone and enjoy similar interests
- ☐ **to get to know:** to begin to know someone
- ☐ **to go back years:** to have known someone for a long time
- ☐ **to have a lot in common:** to share similar interests
- ☐ **to have ups and downs:** to have good and bad times
- ☐ **a healthy relationship:** a good, positive relationship
- ☐ **to hit it off:** to quickly become good friends with
- ☐ **to be in a relationship:** to be romantically involved with someone
- ☐ **to be just good friends:** to not be romantically involved
- ☐ **to keep in touch with:** to keep in contact with
- ☐ **to lose touch with:** to not see or hear from someone any longer
- ☐ **love at first sight:** to fall in love immediately you meet someone
- ☐ **to pop the question:** to ask someone to marry you
- ☐ **to see eye to eye:** to agree on a subject
- ☐ **to settle down:** to give up the single life and start a family
- ☐ **to strike up a relationship:** to begin a friendship
- ☐ **to tie the knot:** to get married
- ☐ **to be well matched:** to be similar to
- ☐ **to work at a relationship:** to try to maintain a positive relationship with someone

IELTS Technology Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 3: Technology

IELTS Technology vocabulary

The subject of ‘Technology’ frequently comes up in the IELTS Speaking exam. You may be asked to talk about something you own, your favourite websites, how technology has impacted on education etc. You’ll need to show the examiner your ability to express yourself using as wide a range of vocabulary as possible.



Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the ‘Definitions’ section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don’t understand.

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you enjoy using technology?

Stephan: Well ... I wouldn’t call myself a **techie** or a **computer buff** but I enjoy using computers ... I’d like to find out more about how they work ... when my **computer crashes** I never know what to do.

Examiner: Do you use the Internet for your studies?

Sophie: Yes ... I’d be lost without it ... I do lots of **video conferencing** to practise speaking and **social media** like Facebook is a good way to meet up with other students ... and I **download podcasts** that teach English vocabulary and grammar.

Examiner: Do you have your own computer?

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Tania: Yes ... I have a Macbook Pro ... I use it all the time ... for **word processing** ... **browsing websites** and catching up with TV programmes I've missed.

Part 2-style task

Describe an item of technology you have that is very important. You should say:

- ☐ what the technology is
- ☐ when you got it
- ☐ how often you use it

and say how different your daily life would be without it.

Mattie: I don't have many **gadgets** ... just a computer ... a laptop and my mobile phone ... but I'll talk about my computer as it's so useful ... it's funny really ... 2 years ago I was still learning to use computers ... how to use email ... **send attachments** how to **access websites** ... then I decided to do a **digital editing** course for video and photography ... and so I bought the laptop when I started the course ... my husband had a **desktop PC** but it was very slow so I decided **to upgrade** to a powerful one because we do a lot of video editing on the course ... it's a **high-spec** laptop ... very fast ... the latest **operating system** ... it **boots up** really quickly and it's fun to use so it makes working a pleasure ... I've become a competent computer user now ... if I didn't have it I daresay I'd have to spend more time at college using their computers ... but on the positive side I suppose I'd read a lot more if I didn't have it ... I probably waste a lot of time **surfing the web** ... but hopefully I won't have to be without it ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What do you think are the important things people need to learn when they start using computers?

Alejandro: Well ... there are things like how to use the Internet ... how **to enter a web address** ... how **to navigate websites** ... that kind of thing but it's also important to know how **to back up** your files in case your computer crashes ... and all about **Internet security**.

Examiner: What kind of technological developments have made the biggest impact on our lives?

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Faydene: In my lifetime it has to be the Internet of course but I also think wifi has made a huge difference to how we interact with the Internet ... **wireless networks** at home and public **wifi hotspots** mean we can **go online** easily ... **access our mail** ... log into our work intranet and basically be connected wherever we are.

Examiner: Do computers make it much easier to study?

Jane: Definitely yes ... researching information is much easier with the Internet. you can **bookmark web pages** for future reference and writing essays is much easier ... being able **to cut and paste** sections of text means you can experiment with organisation ... so yes ... compared to years ago when you had a pile of books on your desk and a pen and paper ... it's now much easier.

Definitions

- ☐ **to access websites/email:** to locate
- ☐ **to back up files:** to make a copy of files in case of a computer problem
- ☐ **to boot up:** to start a computer
- ☐ **to bookmark a webpage:** to mark a webpage for future reference
- ☐ **to browse websites:** to look at websites
- ☐ **a computer buff:** an expert computer user
- ☐ **to crash:** to suddenly stop working
- ☐ **to cut and paste:** to move text or images from one place in a document to another place
- **a desktop PC:** a computer that isn't portable and remains in situ on a desk
- ☐ **digital editing:** to edit digital materials like audio or video files
- ☐ **download (podcasts):** to save a copy of a file from the internet to your own device
- ☐ **to enter a web address:** to type the address of a website into the address bar of your browser
- ☐ **a gadget:** a technological tool like a mobile phone or camera
- ☐ **to go online:** to start using the Internet
- ☐ **high-spec (laptop):** powerful computer with top quality components
- ☐ **Internet security:** Internet safety

- ❑ ***intranet***: a network of connected computers within an organisation that is not accessible by unauthorised visitors
- ❑ ***to navigate a website***: to find your way around a website
- ❑ ***operating system***: the software that tells the computer how to work
- ❑ ***send an attachment***: send an email with an accompanying file
- ❑ ***social media***: media used to interact with other people such as Facebook or Twitter
- ❑ ***to surf the web***: to look at a series of websites one after the other
- ❑ ***a techie***: somebody who has an interest in technology
- ❑ ***to upgrade***: to obtain a more powerful or feature-rich computer or piece of software
- ❑ ***video conferencing***: to see and hear people from different locations using the Internet
- ❑ ***wireless hotspot***: a public place where you can access the Internet
- ❑ ***wireless network***: a network where users can access the Internet without the use of fixed cables
- ❑ ***word processing***: producing written texts on a computer

IELTS Sports Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 4: Sport

We all have a relationship with sport: we might watch it, play it or try our best to avoid it. Because it's such an important subject you may find yourself being asked questions about sport in the IELTS Speaking exam.

Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.



Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you do any sports?

Loiuse: Not really ... no ... I always say I'm going **to take up exercise** and try **to get into shape** but I never seem to get started ... I sometimes wonder whether I should get **a personal trainer** ... someone who will sort out **a fitness programme** for me and make me **train hard**

Examiner: How do you spend a typical weekend?

Stella: I'm a big **football fan** and weekends always centre around **a football match** ... I support FC Utrecht and have **a season ticket** so I go to most of the **home games** and quite a few of the **away games** too ... I'm really looking forward to the new **football season** starting soon ...

Examiner: Have you got any hobbies or interests?

Theo: Yes ... I'm really keen on sports ... I **do judo** once a week and **play tennis** in the summer ... I think it's really important **to keep fit** ... it makes you feel good and energised for work and your studies

Part 2-style task

Describe a place you like going to in your leisure time. You should say:

- ☐ what this place is
- ☐ when you go there
- ☐ what you do there

and say why you enjoy it there so much.

Maurice: I'd like to talk about my local **sports centre** ... it's a place I spend a lot of time in ... it's a new building with all the latest **sports facilities** ... I probably go there at least twice a week ... sometimes more often ... it's a huge place ... there's an outdoor **athletics track** and some **football pitches** ... I **play football** so I'm often out there ... there are several indoor **squash and tennis courts** that I use occasionally ... a big **swimming pool** ... although I don't use that very often ... I'm not a very **strong swimmer** ... there's a gym ... lots of things really ... why do I enjoy going there ... it's just a really fun place to be ... there's a good social side to it all ... you can enter competitions ... meet up with other people who want to do the same sports ... and because there are so many activities on offer it gets you interested in different things ... for example I was listening to some people talking about training **to run the marathon** and I've decided I might even think about that ... I **go jogging** a couple of times a week so it would give me something to aim for ... so yes ... the sports centre ... that's the place I really like to visit ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Should people be encouraged more to take up sport?

Alejandro: I think young people should be given the chance to discover which sport they might like ... watching sport is sometimes a good way to get people started ... not on TV but actually getting out ... take athletics for example ... they could go to **an athletics meeting** ... there are so many different sports on show one might interest them ...

Examiner: Why do some people enjoy participating in sport more than others?

=====

Florrie: That's a good question ... I suppose some people are more concerned about their health ... they can't stand the thought of **being out of condition** ... other people might be driven to excel ... they want **to set records** or get **personal bests** ...

Examiner: Which sports do you think are best for people who aren't used to physical activity?

Julie: Well ... I think people like this should avoid **strenuous exercise** so things like **circuit training** are definitely out of the question ... maybe just doing **a brisk walk** every day ... or swimming is always a good way to get started ...

Definitions

- ☐ ***an athletics meeting***: an event where various athletics sports are held
- ☐ ***an athletics track***: a running track
- ☐ ***an away game***: a football match played in the opposing teams stadium
- ☐ ***a brisk walk***: a fast walk
- ☐ ***to do judo***: (not go or play)
- ☐ ***a football fan***: someone who likes football
- ☐ ***a fitness programme***: a schedule of activities to keep fit
- ☐ ***a football match***: a game of football
- ☐ ***a football pitch***: the surface on which you play football (as opposed to a stadium, which is the building)
- ☐ ***a football season***: a period in the year when football is played
- ☐ ***to get into shape***: to become fit
- ☐ ***to go jogging***: to run around the streets
- ☐ ***a home game***: a football match played in the teams own stadium
- ☐ ***to keep fit***: to stay in good physically condition
- ☐ ***to be out of condition***: to not be physically fit
- ☐ ***a personal best***: to achieve the best personal result so far in a sport
- ☐ ***a personal trainer***: a sports coach that helps you on a one-to-one basis
- ☐ ***to play tennis/football***: (not do or go)
- ☐ ***to run the marathon***: to run a distance of 42.195 Kilometres

- **a season ticket:** a ticket that gives you entry to most of a team's home games during the sporting year.
- **to set a record:** to achieve the best result in a sport
- **a sports centre:** a public building where people can do various sports
- **sports facilities:** the equipment and services needed to do a sport
- **a squash/tennis/badminton court:** the surface where you play these sports
- **strenuous exercise:** exercise that needs a lot of physical effort
- **a strong swimmer:** a good swimmer
- **a swimming pool:** the place where you swim
- **to take up exercise:** to start doing exercise
- **to train hard:** to train with a lot of effort

IELTS Food Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 5: Food

The topic of food often comes up in the IELTS Speaking exam. You might be asked questions about what you like to eat, your favourite restaurants or about a popular dish in your country.

Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the ‘Definitions’ section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don’t understand.



Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you like to cook?

Mandy: Not really no ... most of the time I eat **ready meals** and **take-aways** ... that’s one of the reasons I love visiting my mum ... you can always guarantee lovely **home-cooked food** ...

Examiner: What time do you usually eat dinner?

Michelle: We have our **main meal** at around 7.00 ... I’m usually **starving hungry** by then ... in fact I often **grab a bite to eat** as soon as I get home from college ... a sandwich perhaps ... but not too much **to spoil my appetite** ...

Examiner: Are there any types of food you don’t like?

Lionel: No not really ... I’m not **a fussy eater** at all ... actually I **eat like a horse** ... I do a lot of sport and **work up quite an appetite** ...

Part 2-style task

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Describe a restaurant that you like to use. You should say

- ☐ where this restaurant is
- ☐ what kind of food it serves
- ☐ how often you go there

and say why you like eating there so much.

Howard: OK ... this is a nice topic to talk about ... there's a restaurant just around the corner from where I live ... it's an Italian restaurant so as you'd expect you can eat various pasta dishes and pizzas and I usually go there with my family for **a slap-up meal** if we have anything to celebrate ... it's quite a posh restaurant ... the kind of place you would take someone if you wanted **to wine and dine** them ... we usually order **a 3-course meal** ... a light starter then a main dish ... and I have quite **a sweet tooth** so I always look forward to the dessert ... I usually order Tiramisu ... it **makes my mouth water** just to think about it ... I'm always totally **full up** by the end ... why do I enjoy it there ... well ... it's not cheap ... my parents always **foot the bill** and we couldn't afford to go there regularly so it's always a nice treat ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: How can we encourage people to eat more healthily?

Anna: I think the best approach is to have everything in moderation ... **processed food** won't kill you if you only eat it occasionally ... but people should also be encouraged **to eat a balanced diet**... try to cook fresh ingredients at home a few times a week ...

Examiner: Do you think people enjoy their food as much as they should?

Florrie: I don't know really ... I suppose it's true that people will often eat **a quick snack** because they're bored not because they're **dying of hunger** ... and often they just **bolt it down** and don't savour it ... so yes ... perhaps we could take more time over our food ...

Examiner: Do you think cooking is a pleasure or a chore for people who have busy lives?

Julie: Well ... whether you **follow a recipe** of make something up as you go along ... I think cooking is a very creative process ... and cooking for other people is a particular pleasure ... there's nothing more satisfying than seeing people you love **tucking into** something you've cooked yourself ...

Definitions

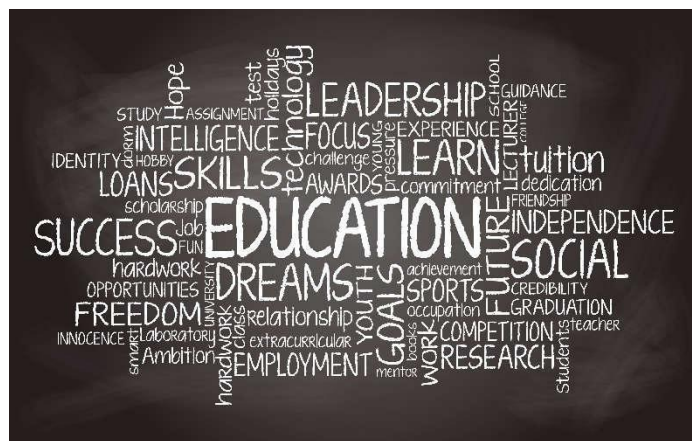
- ☐ **to be full up:** to eat to the point that you can no longer eat any more
- ☐ **to be starving hungry:** an exaggerated way of saying you are very hungry
- ☐ **to bolt something down:** to eat something very quickly
- ☐ **to be dying of hunger:** an exaggerated way of saying you are hungry
- ☐ **to eat a balanced diet:** to eat the correct types and amounts of food
- ☐ **to eat like a horse:** to eat a lot
- ☐ **to follow a recipe:** to cook a meal using instructions
- ☐ **to foot the bill:** to pay the bill
- ☐ **a fussy eater:** somebody who has their own very high standards about what to eat
- **to grab a bite to eat:** to eat something quickly (when you're in a rush)
- ☐ **to have a sweet tooth:** to enjoy sugary food
- ☐ **home-cooked food:** food cooked at home from individual ingredients
- ☐ **the main meal:** the most important meal of the day, usually eaten in the evening
- ☐ **to make your mouth water:** to make you feel very hungry for something
- ☐ **to play with your food:** to push food around the plate to avoid eating it
- ☐ **processed food:** commercially prepared food bought for convenience
- ☐ **a quick snack:** to eat a small amount of food between meals
- **a ready meal:** see 'processed food'
- ☐ **a slap up meal:** a large meal
- **to spoil your appetite:** to eat something that will stop you feeling hungry when it's meal-time.
- ☐ **a take away:** a cooked meal prepared in a restaurant and eaten at home
- ☐ **to tuck into:** to eat something with pleasure
- ☐ **to wine and dine:** to entertain someone by treating them to food and drink
- ☐ **to work up an appetite:** to do physical work that leads to you becoming hungry

IELTS Education Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 6: Education

You're likely to be asked questions about your studies during Part 1, you might have to talk about a class, a teacher or a school memory in Part 2 or give your opinions on education in Part

3. Therefore, being able to call on a wide range of vocabulary to talk about education is very important.



Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Are you studying English at a school?

Michel: Yes ... I'm taking **an intensive course** at a local **private language school** ... I **attend classes** three times a week ...

Examiner: Would you say you are a good student?

Susan: I'm OK I think ... I'm pretty good at **meeting deadlines** and I'm **keeping up with my studies**... plus I find it quite easy to **learn things by heart** which is useful when learning a language ...

Examiner: When you were younger did you enjoy your time at school?

=====

Theo: Yes ... I liked school ... it was an ordinary **state school** ... nothing special ... **a single-sex school** ... which I'm not sure I liked ... but the teachers were great ... I had lots of friends and I never **played truant** like some pupils there ...

Part 2-style task

Describe a time during your education that you really enjoyed. You should say:

- when this period was
- where you were
- what you were studying at the time

and say why you were so happy.

Caroline: I'd like to tell you about my time at university ... I was **a mature student** ... I didn't go to university until I was 25 ... and it was my first time away from my parents so it was very exciting ... I was doing **a Bachelors Degree** and it was a bit of a challenge ... some people **take a year out** but I'd been away from education for 8 years ... plus I had **to work my way through uni** so I was very busy ... and **sitting exams** at the end of each year was a new experience for me as well but I really enjoyed **higher education** learning about a subject I loved ... history ... and the social life was great as well ... I don't think I've ever had so many friends ... I had my **graduation ceremony** last year in the local cathedral and I know my parents were really proud ... so yes ... that was a really happy time ... I'm thinking of doing a **Masters Degree** soon ... though that might be through **distance learning** as I have a full-time job now ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What qualities do you think a good teacher has?

Anna: They should be patient ... they should be **subject specialists** and be able to explain the subject clearly ... they should **give feedback** quickly ... for example not hang on to essay for ages like some of my teachers ...

Examiner: What are the advantages of studying on a distance learning course?

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Florrie: It's a more flexible way of studying especially if you have a job ... **tuition fees** are usually cheaper ... but you have to be very motivated ... and I would imagine more people **fall behind with their studies** compared to **face-to-face classes** ...

Examiner: Do all children get equal opportunities in education?

Julie: In my country I think it is quite equal but in the UK I've heard that most people who go to the top universities have studied at **public schools** ... you have to be very rich to study in a school like that ... they're usually **boarding schools** as well so the fees are enormous ...

Definitions

- **to attend classes**: to go to classes
- **bachelors degree**: an undergraduate course which usually lasts 3-4 years
- **boarding school**: a school where pupils live during term time
- **distance learning**: a way of studying where tuition is carried out over the Internet or by post
- **face-to-face classes**: as opposed to distance learning the traditional way of studying in a classroom with colleagues and a teacher
- **to fall behind with your studies**: to progress less quickly than others
- **to give feedback**: to offer guidance on a student's work
- **a graduation ceremony**: an event where a successful student receives his or her academic degree
- **higher education**: education, usually in a college or university, that is followed after high school or secondary school
- **an intensive course**: a course that offers lots of training in order to reach a goal in as short a time as possible
- **to keep up with your studies**: to not fall behind
- **to learn something by heart**: to memorize it
- **a mature student**: a student who is older than average and who has usually returned to education after a period at work

-
- ***masters degree***: a period of study which often follows the completion of a bachelors degree or is undertaken by someone regarded as capable of a higher-level academic course
 - ***to meet a deadline***: to finish a job or task in the time allowed or agreed
 - ***to play truant***: to stay away from classes without permission
 - ***private language school***: an independent school run as a business concern
 - ***public schools***: exclusive independent schools in the UK
 - ***a single-sex school***: a school where only boys or girls attend (as opposed to a mixed-sex school)
 - ***to sit an exam***: to take an exam
 - ***state school***: a school paid for by public funds and available to the general public
 - ***subject specialist***: a teacher who has a great deal of knowledge about the subject they teach.
 - ***to take a year out***: to spend a year working or travelling before starting university
 - ***tuition fees***: the money paid for a course of study
 - ***to work your way through university***: to have a paid job whilst studying to support yourself financially

IELTS Work Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 7: Work

If you're employed, getting the necessary qualifications for a job, or still trying to decide what kind of career you're interested in, you'll need to be able to tell the examiner about this if you're asked questions about work.



Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: What do you do?

Sasha: I **do a job-share** with a friend in a boutique ... I enjoy it ... I like working with customers ... unfortunately it's only **temporary work** but **one of the perks of the job** is I get a discount on the clothes ...

Examiner: Do you have any career plans yet?

Carly: Yes ... I'd like to **be my own boss** one day ... I'm interested in programming and I'd like to create apps for myself or for other companies ... I know being **self employed** would be a challenge but the idea of doing a **nine-to-five job** doesn't appeal to me at all ...

Examiner: What do you see yourself doing in 10 years time?

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Marie: I'd hope to be working ... not a **high-powered job** ... but I'm quite a creative person so something where I can **work with my hands** would be nice ... as long as I'm not **stuck behind a desk** doing something boring **in a dead-end job** I'll be happy ...

Part 2-style task

Describe your ideal job. You should say:

- what this job is
- whether you would need any qualifications
- whether it would be easy to find work

and say why you would enjoy this job in particular.

Max: I've always loved watching wildlife programmes on TV and often thought how much I'd enjoy working with animals ... perhaps in a safari park ... something like that ... you'd probably need a degree to have any chance of being **called for an interview** and whether there are many **full-time jobs** I don't know ... I'm sure a lot of parks rely on **voluntary work** so it might not be easy ... and it probably wouldn't be **well-paid** either but money isn't everything ... I'd get so much **job satisfaction** ... I can't imagine it being the kind of job where you get **stuck in a rut** ... and I think I'd be good at it as well ... I'd love to work with animals I enjoy **manual work** and I'm a **good team player** ... so even though the **working conditions** might not be the best I think that would be my ideal job ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: If there are a limited number of jobs available who should be given priority, young people or older people with more experience?

Anna: Things are so different these days ... a few years ago older employees would often **take early retirement** or go onto **part-time** contracts and there were always opportunities for younger people but now jobs are so scarce ... I think younger people need to be given the chance whenever possible ...

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Examiner: What are some of the important things a candidate should find out before accepting a job?

Ali: Well... you'd need to know about your area of responsibility ... and your salary of course and then there are things like **holiday entitlement** ... **maternity or paternity leave** ... if you're thinking of having children ... and what the situation is regarding **sick leave** ... that kind of thing ...

Examiner: What are the advantages of having your own business rather than working for someone else?

Julie: Well ... unfortunately being an employee at the moment is very stressful ... people have very **heavy workloads** ... they're always under pressure to **meet deadlines** ... **running your own business** isn't easy ... but I do think it would be far more satisfying ...

Definitions

- *to be called for an interview*: to be invited to attend an interview
- *to be your own boss*: to have your own business
- *a dead-end job*: a job with no promotional opportunities
- *to do a job-share*: to share the weekly hours of work with another person
- *a good team player*: somebody who can work well with other people
- *full-time*: the number of hours that people usually work in a complete week
- *a heavy workload*: to have a lot of work to do
- *a high-powered job*: an important or powerful job
- *holiday entitlement*: the number of days holiday allowed
- *job satisfaction*: the feeling of enjoying a job
- *manual work*: work that requires physical activity
- *maternity leave*: time off work given to a woman about to have a baby
- *to meet a deadline*: to finish a job by an agreed time
- *a nine-to-five job*: a normal job that consists of an 8 hour day (approximately)
- *one of the perks of the job*: an extra benefit you get from a job
- *part-time*: working less than full-time
- *to run your own business*: see 'to be your own boss'

-
- ***to be self-employed***: see ‘to be your own boss’
 - ***sick leave***: time allowed off work when sick
 - ***to be stuck behind a desk***: to be unhappy in an office job
 - ***to be/get stuck in a rut***: to be in a boring job that is hard to leave
 - ***to take early retirement***: to retire early (retire: to reach an age when you are allowed to stop working for a living)
 - ***temporary work***: work done for a limited time only
 - ***voluntary work***: to work without pay
 - ***to be well paid***: to earn a good salary
 - ***working conditions***: the hours, salary and other entitlements that comes with the job
 - ***to work with your hands***: to do manual work

IELTS Health Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 8: Health

During the IELTS Speaking exam you may be asked questions to do with health and fitness. Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the ‘Definitions’ section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don’t understand.



Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Have you got a relation you’re particularly fond of?

Sinita: Yes ... my granddad ... he’s 94 years old but generally he’s **as fit as a fiddle** ... we’re very close and see each other a lot ... whenever he **goes down with a cold** or **is under the weather** I make a point of visiting him ...

Examiner: Do you do any sport?

Jon: Yes ... I’m keen on skateboarding ... but I haven’t done it for a while ... I had a bad fall recently and **pulled a muscle** and had a few **cuts and bruises** ... but I’m **on the mend** and hope to be doing it again soon ...

Examiner: Is there anything you’re particularly afraid of?

Davide: The dentist ... I hate going to the dentist ... I only ever go if I **have a toothache** so it usually means I have to **have a filling** or even **have a tooth out** ... I really don’t like it ...

Part 2-style task

Describe a time when you were ill. You should say:

- when this was
- what your symptoms were
- how long the illness lasted

and say how it affected your life at the time.

Pierre: This is a tricky one really as I'm usually quite healthy ... I've never been seriously ill ... like everyone else I sometimes get a few **aches and pains** or **catch a cold** ... I can remember a few months ago I had to have time off work with a **heavy cold** ... I had the usual symptoms ... a **blocked nose** ... **sore throat** ... it lasted quite a while ... about 2 weeks I think though I didn't have that much time off work ... for a few days I remember **feeling poorly** but I was **over the worst of it** after a few days and went back to work ... I always find it's better to be active when you feel ill as it keeps your mind off your symptoms ... I think my family get a little fed up with me when I'm ill though ... I tend to feel sorry for myself and lie on the sofa all day as if I'm **at death's door** ... but as I said earlier ... on this occasion it was nothing serious and didn't really cause me any problems ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What costs are involved when you are ill in your country?

Anya: Well ... people have to pay **prescription charges** which can be quite expensive ... but fortunately general healthcare is free ... unless you want to **go private** of course and then you can pay a fortune for your treatment ...

Examiner: In your experience are people too quick to take time off work when they're ill?

Alicia: Yes .. I've got friends who have a day off work if they wake up with a **runny nose** ... and in most cases they seem **to make a speedy recovery** after they've **phoned in sick** ...

Examiner: Do women pay more attention to their health than men?

Julie: I think so yes ... women are more likely to see their **GP** for a **check-up** if they're concerned about something ... men tend to avoid facing up to any health problems they have ...

=====

my dad always seems to have a very **chesty cough** but refuses to go to **make an appointment** to see the doctor ...

Definitions

- ***aches and pains***: minor pains that continue over a period of time
- ***to be a bit off colour***: to feel a little ill
- ***to be at death's door***: (informal) to be very ill indeed
- ***to be on the mend***: to be recovering after an illness
- ***to be over the worst***: to have got through the most serious or uncomfortable stage of an illness
- ***to be under the weather***: (informal) to not feel well
- ***a blocked nose***: when the nose has excess fluid due to a cold
- ***to catch a cold***: to get a cold
- ***a check-up***: a physical examination by a doctor
- ***a chesty cough***: a cough caused by congestion around the lungs
- ***cuts and bruises***: minor injuries
- ***to feel poorly***: to feel ill
- ***as fit as a fiddle***: to be very healthy
- ***to go down with a cold***: to become ill
- ***to go private***: to choose to be treated by commercial healthcare rather than by services offered by the state
- ***GP***: General Practitioner (family doctor)
- ***to have a filling***: to have a tooth repaired
- ***to have a tooth out***: to have a tooth removed
- ***a heavy cold***: a bad cold
- ***to make an appointment***: to arrange a time to see the doctor
- ***to make a speedy recovery***: to recover quickly from an illness
- ***to phone in sick***: to call work to explain you won't be attending work due to illness
- ***prescription charges***: money the patient pays for medicine authorised by a doctor
- ***to pull a muscle***: to strain a muscle
- ***a runny nose***: a nose that has liquid coming out of it

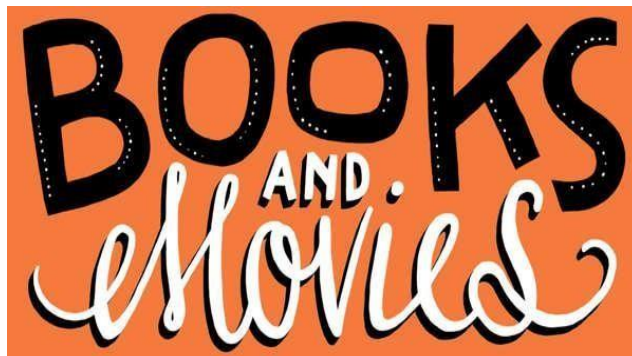
- *a sore throat*: inflammation that causes pain when swallowing

IELTS Books and Films Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 9: Books and Films

It's quite possible that the examiner will ask you questions about your reading habits or ask you to say something about a book you've read or a film you've seen. Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the 'Definitions' section

at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.



Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you like to read books?

Marie: Yes ... I love reading ... I like nothing more than **to be engrossed in** a good book ... I regularly **take out** books from the library and usually read them **from cover to cover** in no time ... and I can't go to sleep at night without some good **bedtime reading** ...

Examiner: How often do you go to the cinema?

Jemma: Unfortunately we don't have a cinema near us so we have to go into the nearest town **to catch the latest movie** ... I usually avoid seeing popular **box-office hits** which I'm not always keen on seeing ... I prefer **low-budget films** ... **sci-fi** especially ... and there's a great cinema I go to that has frequent **showings** of films like these ...

Examiner: Do you prefer reading books or watching films?

Louisa: I'm not really **a big reader** ... I find books quite **heavy-going** ... so I much prefer to see a film ... perhaps it's the **special effects** or the **soundtrack** ... I don't know ... I just prefer a film ...

Part 2-style task

=====

Describe a book you have read or a film you have seen. You should say:

- what this book or film was
- when you read or saw it
- why you decided to see the film or read the book

and say if you enjoyed it and why.

Pauline I like reading ... especially English novels ... it's a great way to improve your vocabulary and there are so many fantastic authors to choose from ... one book that **came highly recommended** by my teacher was The Mayor of Casterbridge ... I was studying at a school in The UK at the time and she said it would give me a picture of what life was like years ago in the area I was living ... well I have to say I absolutely loved it ... it was **a real page-turner** ... it's a **historical novel** and **the setting** was a fictional town called Casterbridge ... but actually it was **based on** a town near where I was studying called Dorchester ... it had such a great **plot** ... to cut a long story short **it tells the story of** the downfall of a man called Henchard **the central character** who lives during a period of great social change around the time of the industrial revolution ... the reason I enjoyed it so much ... apart from the great story ... it gave me a picture of what life had been like in the place I was studying at the time ... I really **couldn't put it down** ... a fantastic story ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Is reading as pleasurable in digital format?

Alise: Personally I prefer reading a **paperback** or **hardback** ... especially if I'm reading a **classic** which I don't think feels right as an **e-book** ... but I can see it can be good for others ... my grandmother has an **e-reader** and she loves the way you can enlarge the text ...

Examiner: Do you think bookshops will survive the digital revolution?

Thomas: I think so ... at least I hope so ... I love **flicking through** books in a bookshop ... online shopping is useful ... finding out on Amazon if a book you want has **got a good**

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review ... maybe getting one that is difficult to find ... but I still love the experience of being in a bookshop ...

Examiner: Statistics show that visits to the cinema are up despite the availability of DVDs and online downloads. Why do you think this might be?

Jamie: I think it's the whole experience that the cinema offers ... going out **to see a film** when it goes on general release ... and seeing it **on the big screen** is more exciting than **watching the film** at home on TV ... especially if it's **an action movie** ... and watching it with others makes it even more special ...

Definitions

- **an action movie**: a film with fast moving scenes, often containing violence
- **to be engrossed in**: to be completely focused on one thing
- **bedtime reading**: something to read in bed before you go to sleep
- **to be a big reader**: someone who reads a lot
- **to be based on**: to use as a model
- **a box office hit**: a financially successful film
- **to be heavy-going**: difficult to read
- **a blockbuster**: a film that is a big commercial success
- **to catch the latest movie**: to see a film that has just come out
- **the central character**: the main person in a film or book
- **a classic**: of the highest quality
- **to come highly recommended**: to be praised by another person
- **couldn't put it down**: wasn't able to stop reading a book
- **an e-book**: a digital book
- **an e-reader**: a device for reading e-books
- **to flick through**: to look quickly through a book
- **to get a good/bad review**: to receive positive or negative feedback
- **to go on general release**: when a film can be seen by the general public
- **hardback**: a book with a rigid cover (see 'paperback' below)
- **a historical novel**: a story set in the past

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- ***a low budget film***: a film made with a small amount of money
 - ***on the big screen***: at the cinema
 - ***a page turner***: a book that you want to keep reading
 - ***paperback***: a book with a flexible cover (see ‘hardback’ above)
 - ***plot***: the main events in a film or book
 - ***to read something from cover to cover***: to read a book from the first page to the last
 - ***sci-fi***: science fiction
 - ***to see a film***: to see a film at the cinema (see ‘watch a film’ below)
 - ***the setting***: where the action takes place
 - ***showings***: performances of a film
 - ***soundtrack***: the music that accompanies a film
 - ***special effects***: the visuals or sounds that are added to a film which are difficult to produce naturally
 - ***to take out (a book from the library)***: to borrow a book from the library
 - ***to tell the story of***: to outline the details of someone’s life or an event
 - ***to watch a film***: to watch a film on TV (see ‘to see a film’ above)

IELTS Accommodation Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 10: Accommodation

The examiner may ask you to talk about the place you live or would like to live in the exam. Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.



Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you live in a house or an apartment?

Callum: Actually I live **on campus** ... in a **single room** in **halls of residence** ... all first year students are encouraged to do that as they're close to the university ... next year I plan to move into **student digs** in town ...

Examiner: Tell me about where you live.

Julia: I live with my parents **in the suburbs** of Madrid ... we only **moved in** recently ... in fact we had a **house-warming party** just a few weeks ago ...

Examiner: What kind of accommodation do most people live in in your city?

Maria: In the city itself the majority of people live in **apartment blocks** ... that's what surprised me about England ... most people seem to live in **terraced houses** with lovely **back gardens** ...

Part 2-style task

Describe a house or an apartment you would like to live in. You should say

-
- what kind of accommodation it would be
 - where it would be
 - who would live there with you

and say why you would enjoy living in this place.

Paolo: I think most people when answering this question would say they'd like to live in a big **detached house** with **spacious rooms** ... views of the countryside and so on ... but actually my **ideal home** would be a lot different ... I've always loved the idea of having a **mobile home** ... a really expensive one with **all the mod cons** ... so I could live wherever I wanted or at least have lots of holidays and be able to take all my **home comforts** with me whenever I travelled ... I realise this would have to be a second home as I'd need a base ... a **permanent address** ... but the mobile home would be the accommodation I'd find it exciting to live in ... I suppose once I settle down and have children I'll want **to get on the property ladder** ... I'll be like everyone else ... saving up **to put down a deposit** on a house or an apartment ... I don't think my family would want to live in a mobile home ... but I like to think I'll still keep that **dream home** in mind ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Is it better to own your own home or to rent?

Ana: I think both have their advantages ... living in **rented accommodation** isn't necessarily a bad thing ... you don't have a huge debt like you do when you **take out a mortgage** but I suppose the **property market** offers you an investment for the future ... I'm sure that's why most people prefer **to own their own home** ...

Examiner: What options are available to young couples looking for accommodation in your country?

Toni: If they want to buy their own home it isn't easy for **first-time buyers** ... mortgages are hard to get so most people live with their parents or in **rented accommodation** ... but that can also be very expensive ... you often have to **pay rent in advance** ... and if the accommodation isn't **fully furnished** you have the expense of buying furniture ...

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Examiner: What are some of the pleasures involved in making a home for ourselves?

Suki: I suppose it starts with **house-hunting** ... finding your ideal home ... some people enjoy **doing up an old property** ... giving a property that's old and tired a new lease of life ... others like making wherever they live feel like home with some **home comforts** ...

Definitions

- **(all the) mod cons**: technology at home that makes jobs easier such as a washing machine, dishwasher etc.
- **apartment block**: a large building made up of smaller units of apartments
- **back garden**: a garden at the rear of the house
- **detached house**: a house that is not physically connected to another property
- **to do up a property**: to repair an old building
- **dream home**: a home you regard as perfect
- **first-time buyer**: someone buying a property for the first time, especially when taking out a loan (mortgage)
- **fully-furnished**: a rented property with all furniture included
- **to get on the property ladder**: to buy a property with the aim of buying another bigger or more expensive one later in life
- **hall of residence**: a college or university building where students live
- **home comforts**: things that make a home feel comfortable to live in
- **house-hunting**: looking for a property to live in
- **house-warming party**: a party to celebrate moving into a new home
- **ideal home**: a perfect home
- **to live on campus**: to live on the university or college grounds
- **mobile home**: a home that can be moved by a vehicle or one that has its own engine
- **to move into**: to begin to live in a property
- **to own your own home**: to have bought the property you live in
- **to pay rent in advance**: weekly or monthly rent paid at the beginning of the week or month
- **permanent address**: a fixed address
- **property market**: the buying and selling of land or buildings

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- ***to put down a deposit***: to pay an amount of money as the first in a series of future payments
 - ***rented accommodation***: property owned by someone else and for which a person pays a fixed amount to live in
 - ***single room***: a room for one person
 - ***spacious room***: a large room
 - ***student digs***: student accommodation
 - ***the suburbs***: a residential area on the edge of towns or cities
 - ***to take out a mortgage***: to borrow a large amount of money, paid back over several years, in order to buy a house
 - ***terraced house***: a house connected on both sides by other properties

IELTS Clothes & Fashion Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 11: Clothes and Fashion

The examiner may ask you to talk about the clothes you like to wear or your attitude towards fashion. Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you enjoy buying clothes?

Pedro: I used to ... yes ... like most young people I was a bit of a **slave to fashion** and I'd always have to buy that **must-have** shirt or pair of shoes ... I'm not so bothered now though ... I wouldn't feel comfortable wearing something **old fashioned** but I'm not as bothered as I used to be about what I wear ...

Examiner: What kind of clothes do you like to wear?

Marco: I prefer **casual clothes** actually ... I hate **getting dressed up** for special occasions ... personally I think it's possible **to look good in** a pair of jeans ... but that's my opinion ... I don't think my wife would call me a **fashion icon** that's for sure ...

Examiner: Are there many clothes shops where you live?

Sylvia: Yes ... there are lots in my town ... apart from the big chain stores we've got a couple of really nice shops that sell **vintage clothes** ... old clothes but in a **classic style** that never really **go out of fashion** ... I love going there ...

Part 2-style task



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Describe someone you know who dresses well. You should say

- who they are
- how you know them
- what kind of clothes they wear

and say why you like the way they dress.

Tomoko: I'd like to talk about one of my teachers ... Miss Evans ... she teaches us English in the school I go to ... we always look forward to seeing what she's going to wear when our lessons start ... she's always very **well dressed** and **takes a lot of pride in her appearance** ... it's not that she dresses in very **smart clothes** ... she doesn't come to school **dressed to kill** or anything like that ... but what she wears really **suits her** ... and she has a great **sense of style** as well ... we often ask her where she gets some of her clothes and most of the time they're just **off the peg** ... and she says she's not interested in **designer labels** or anything like that ... she doesn't seem too concerned about **keeping up with the latest fashion** ... she just wears clothes that are **timeless** ... yes ... Miss Evans is the person I think looks great in the clothes she wears ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What factors do you think affect the clothes we choose to wear?

Maki: It depends ... where we are or where we're going is a big factor ... if you are going out to a club or party you're going **to dress for the occasion** ... and then there are those who think it's important to look like they're **on trend** ... they'll want to wear the latest fashions ... there are lots of factors really ...

Examiner: What kind of things determine what is in fashion and what we should be wearing?

Martin: I suppose the big **fashion houses** and **fashion shows** must have an effect but the clothes you see **on the catwalk** don't always reflect what normal people wear ... so I suppose it will be things like what singers are wearing in videos or models are wearing in magazines ... that kind of thing ...

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Examiner: Is it possible to look good without spending lots of money on clothes?

Corinna: I'm sure it is ... yes ... I suppose it's about **having an eye for** what looks good ... knowing how **to mix and match** different items of clothing that go well together ... I think you can pick up great bargains in charity shops ... sometimes for youngsters even **hand-me-downs** can look good ...

Definitions

- **to be on trend**: to be very fashionable
- **casual clothes**: not formal
- **classic style**: a simple, traditional style that is always fashionable
- **designer label**: a well-known company that makes (often expensive) clothing
- **dressed to kill**: wearing clothes that attract admirers
- **to dress for the occasion**: to wear clothes suitable for a particular event
- **fashionable**: in fashion
- **fashion house**: a company that sells (usually expensive) new styles in clothes
- **fashion icon**: a person who is famous for their sense of fashion
- **fashion show**: an event where models show off the latest in fashion designs
- **to get dressed up**: to put on nice clothes, often to go out somewhere special
- **to go out of fashion**: to not be in fashion any more
- **hand-me-downs**: clothes that are passed down from older brothers or sisters to their younger siblings
- **to have an eye for (fashion)**: to be a good judge of
- **to have a sense of style**: the ability to wear clothes that look stylish
- **the height of fashion**: very fashionable
- **to keep up with the latest fashion**: to wear the latest fashions
- **to look good in**: to wear something that suits you
- **to mix and match**: to wear different styles or items of clothing that aren't part of a set outfit
- **must-have**: something that is highly fashionable and therefore in demand
- **off the peg**: clothing that is ready made
- **old fashioned**: not in fashion any more

- ***on the catwalk***: the stage that models walk along to show off the latest fashions
- ***a slave to fashion***: someone who always feels the need to wear the latest fashions
- ***smart clothes***: the kind of clothes worn for a formal event
- ***to suit someone***: to look good on someone
- ***to take pride in one's appearance***: to pay attention to how one looks
- ***timeless***: something that doesn't go out of fashion
- ***vintage clothes***: clothes from an earlier period
- ***well-dressed***: to be dressed attractively

IELTS Personality Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 12: Personality

During the IELTS Speaking exam you may be asked to talk about someone's personality or character. Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.



Part 1-style questions

Examiner: How would you describe yourself?

Paula: Everyone tells me I **take after** my mum as I'm quite **laid-back** ... I think I'm **good company** but you should ask my friends if they agree ...

Examiner: In which ways are you similar to your friends?

Manuel: I seem to be attracted to **introverts** ... not people who are **painfully shy** but most of my friends are a little **reserved** ... and I think that's what I'm like ...

Examiner: Are you similar or different to your brother(s)/sister(s)?

Mira: I think my brother and I are very similar ... I'd say we're **fun-loving** and tend to be a bit **extroverted** ... my brother is certainly **the life and soul of the party** ... I'm not sure that applies to me ...

Part 2-style task

Describe a teacher you once had who you enjoyed being taught by. You should say

-
- who this person was
 - when they were your teacher
 - which subject they taught you

and describe what it was about their character that you liked.

Carolina: I'd like to describe my English teacher from school ... Miss Thomas ... this was a few years ago now and she was my teacher at a time when I was getting a little bored with being at school ... unlike some of the other teachers Miss Thomas never **lost her temper** ... she was very calm and **easy-going** ... she was also very **broad-minded** ... we were able to ask her questions about lots of subjects that some other teachers would refuse to discuss which made us respect her even more ... she had a great **sense of humour** too ... she'd laugh at our jokes as well as making us laugh ... and she would also **bend over backwards** to help us with our work ... she always **put us first** and often stayed around at the end of class to talk with anyone who needed help ... apparently she was highly respected within her field but you would never know as she was the type that **hid her light under a bushel** ... she was very modest and **self-effacing** ... so yes ... Miss Thomas was a teacher I have fond memories of ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Which personal qualities do you think we most want to pass on to our children?

Martin: I certainly would want my children to be **self-confident** and **self-assured** ... I really believe that people who feel good about themselves are in a good position to face what life has to offer them ... and I'd hope they wouldn't be **self-centred** ... but remembered to think about others ...

Examiner: Which characteristics do you think are the least appealing in a person?

Marianne: Well ... people who are very **narrow-minded** are difficult to get on with ... it's nice when someone is open to other people's opinion and willing to think about their own views ... and people who are **two-faced** can be a little irritating ... relationships are built on trust and without honesty there's not much left ...

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Examiner: Which personality types do you think are less likely to suffer from stress or anxiety?

Sol: Probably people who are **thick-skinned** ... who don't let people or problems affect them too much ... and if you are **fair-minded** you' ll be less likely to overreact to situations or be **quick-tempered** ...

Definitions

- **to be the life and soul of the party**: a fun person, someone who is the centre of activity
- **to bend over backwards**: to try very hard to help someone
- **broad-minded**: prepared to accept other views or behaviours
- **easy-going**: relaxed and not easily worried about anything
- **extrovert**: an energetic person who likes the company of others
- **fair-minded**: to treat people equally
- **fun-loving**: to enjoy having fun
- **to hide one's light under a bushel**: to hide one's talents and skills
- **good company**: enjoyable to socialise with
- **good sense of humour**: the ability to understand what is funny
- **introvert**: someone who is shy
- **laid-back**: see 'easy-going'
- **to lose one's temper**: to suddenly become angry
- **narrow minded**: opposite of 'broad-minded' (see above)
- **painfully shy**: very shy
- **to put others first**: to think of others before yourself
- **quick-tempered**: to become angry quickly
- **reserved**: shy
- **self-assured**: confident
- **self-centred**: thinks only of oneself
- **self-confident**: believes in one's own ability or knowledge
- **self-effacing**: to not try to get the attention of others (especially in terms of hiding one's skills or abilities)
- **to take after**: to be like (often another member of the family)
- **thick-skinned**: not easily affected by criticism

- ***trustworthy***: can be trusted
- ***two-faced***: not honest or sincere. Will say one thing to someone to their face and another when they are not present.

IELTS Business Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 13: Business

During the IELTS Speaking exam you may be asked to talk about the subject of business. This might involve describing a business you know well or talking about your own ambitions. Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.



Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you work or are you a student?

Hati: I **run my own business** actually ... I have an online business selling cosmetics ... I **set up the business** 5 years ago and I'm really enjoying **working for myself** ...

Examiner: What is your ideal job?

Kaori: I don't think I'd enjoy working for a big company ... I think I'd like **to go it alone** and be **self-employed** ... I'm not sure what area of business it would be but I think I'd enjoy the process of **drawing up a business plan** and seeing if I could be successful ...

Examiner: Is your town a nice place to live?

Monique: It's OK ... the main problem we have is our local high street ... it used to be a busy centre but lots of shops have **gone bust** ... it must be very difficult **to make a profit** when you have huge supermarkets in the area and a lot haven't been able to survive with such **cut-throat competition** ...

Part 2-style task

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Describe a business you know that you admire. You should say

- what this business is
- what the business sells
- how long you have known about the business

and say why you like it so much.

Magda: Actually I discovered a business very recently that I like so much I'd like to do something similar in the future ... it's a small **niche business** that runs courses in how to cook ... especially bread ... the owner uses his kitchen for the courses and **went into business with** a local community shop and sells a lot of the bread and cakes they make in the shop ... I first got to hear about the business last year ... my wife paid for me to do one of the baking courses and I got to know the owner during the training ... it's a **lifestyle business** really ... he doesn't have plans **to take on employees** or expand into new areas ... he's happy **earning a living** doing the thing he loves ... I really admire what he does and I'm sure a lot of people would love to do something similar ... he **has a web presence** ... in fact that's how we got to find out about his company ... and he uses social media **to raise the company profile** ... but he's the only person involved in **running the business** so he's in complete control of where the business goes ... that's something that must make it really satisfying ... as long as he's managing **to balance the books** and the **cash flow** is healthy I'm sure he must be very pleased with what he has achieved

...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Why do some people decide to set up their own business?

Marion: I suppose it's the idea of being in control of your own destiny ... or of believing in a product or service idea you may have ... plus it must be very exciting ... **launching products** ... **winning contracts** ... and seeing your **sales figures** improving must be wonderful.

Examiner: What are some of the dangers involved in starting a business?

Hiro: Well ... obviously you need to have a good idea ... some people say you need to **do market research** beforehand so you know what the market wants ... if you don't do this you could **go under** ... and if it is a good idea the chances are someone else is doing the same thing so you could end up facing **stiff competition** ...

Examiner: What are some of things you have to do when running your own business that might not appeal to everyone?

Katy: Personally i don't like being in debt so **taking out a business loan** wouldn't suit me at all ... and I know a lot of companies do **cold calling** to try and **drum up business** ... that's something I'd hate to do ... and **laying people off** if the business gets into trouble ... that would be horrible ...

Definitions

- **to balance the books**: to not spend more money than you are earning
- **to be self-employed**: to work for yourself/to not work for an employer
- **to cold call**: to make a sales call to someone without asking them for permission first
- **cut throat competition**: when one company lowers its prices, forcing other companies to do the same, sometimes to a point where business becomes unprofitable
- **to do market research**: to do research into what potential customers would or wouldn't buy
- **to draw up a business plan**: to write a plan for a new business
- **to drum up business**: to try to get customers
- **to earn a living**: to earn money
- **to go bust**: when a business is forced to close because it is unsuccessful
- **cash flow**: the money coming in and going out of a business
- **to go into business with**: to join another person to start or expand a business
- **to go it alone**: to start your own business
- **to go under**: (see 'to go bust')
- **to have a web presence**: to have a website or social media profile that showcases your business
- **to launch a product**: to start selling and promoting a new product

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- ***to lay someone off***: when a company ends an employee's contract of employment
 - ***lifestyle business***: a business that is set up to bring in a sufficient income and no more
 - ***to make a profit***: to earn more money than it costs to run the business
 - ***niche business***: a business that serves a small, particular market
 - ***to raise a company profile***: to make more people aware of a business
 - ***to run your own business***: to have a business of your own
 - ***sales figures***: a report of the income a company generates through sales of products or services
 - ***to set up a business***: to start a business
 - ***stiff competition***: strong competition from other companies in the same area of work
 - ***to take on employees***: to employ people
 - ***to take out a loan***: to borrow money
 - ***to win a contract***: when a business gets legally-binding work with an individual or company
 - ***to work for yourself***: (see 'to be self-employed')

IELTS Physical Appearance Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 14: Physical Appearance

During the IELTS Speaking exam you may want to talk about what people look like. This might involve describing their physical appearance or the type of clothes they like to wear. Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you look like any other people in your family?

Carlo: No ... not at all ... take my brother for example ... he has short **cropped hair** and has quite a **pointed face** ... he's also quite **fair-skinned** compared to me ...

Examiner: Tell me about your family.

Andrea: My father's **getting on a bit** ... he's **in his 60s** ... but he **looks very young for his age** ... he still does lots of exercise and is quite **well-built** ...

Examiner: What does your best friend look like?

Mandy: She's the same age as me ... she has **shoulder-length hair** ... **fair hair** ... she has a **slim figure** and is **medium height** ...

Part 2-style task

Describe a person whose appearance you like. You should say

- who this person is
- what their relationship is to you
- what they look like

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and say what it is about their appearance you like.

Monique: OK ... I'd like to talk about my aunt ... her name's Marta and she's quite a character ... she's **middle-aged** but has a very **youthful appearance** ... she's a little **overweight** I suppose but not too much ... she has a friendly **round face** framed by **thick blonde hair** ... she has a lovely **complexion** and she's always **well-turned out** ... she actually always looks like she's going out for the evening to somewhere special ... there's **never a hair out of place** ... I've always thought she **bears a striking resemblance to** someone on TV ... I can't remember the name now ... she **wears glasses** and always seems to have a different pair on every time I see her ... I like the way she looks because she wears clothes that are right for her age and manages to look glamorous without it looking like she's too done up ... yes ... I'll be happy if I look like her when I'm her age ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Is it important to dress well whenever we go out?

Mark: It depends where you're going ... I know some people **get done up** just to go to the shops ... but I don't see the point ... you shouldn't go out looking **scruffy** with **disheveled hair** but I really don't see the point in **getting dressed up to the nines** unless you're going somewhere special ...

Examiner: Do people worry too much about their appearance as they get older?

Mira: I'm sure they do ... yes ... but it happens to all of us doesn't it ... we all **go grey** eventually and get **hard of hearing** ... we start **to lose our figure** ... that's why plastic surgery is so popular ... personally I think we just need **to grow old gracefully** and not worry too much about how we look ...

Examiner: Is attractiveness a quality worthwhile aiming for?

Phoebe: I'd like to say no ... it shouldn't matter what we look like in terms of our physical appearance ... but unfortunately it seems women especially are taken more seriously if they are **good looking** with a **slender figure** with perfect **make up** and so on ...

Definitions

- **to bear a striking resemblance:** to look very similar to
- **cropped hair:** very short hair
- **disheveled hair:** untidy hair
- **to dress up to the nines:** to dress very smartly or glamorously
- **fair hair:** light-coloured hair
- **to be fair-skinned:** light skinned
- **to get done up:** to dress smartly
- **to be getting on a bit:** to be getting old
- **to go grey:** to have hair that is turning grey
- **to be good looking:** to be attractive
- **to grow old gracefully:** to act in a way that embraces the fact you are getting older
- **to be hard of hearing:** to find it difficult to hear
- **in his/her 30s/40s:** to be 20/30 something
- **scruffy:** dressed untidily
- **to look young for your age:** to look younger than you are
- **to lose one's figure:** to have a figure that has lost its toned shape
- **complexion:** natural skin colour and texture
- **make up:** cosmetics
- **medium height:** average height
- **middle-aged:** approximately between 45-65
- **to never have a hair out of place:** perfectly styled hair
- **to be overweight:** to weigh more than is regarded as healthy
- **pointed face:** the opposite of a round face
- **shoulder-length hair:** hair that comes down to the shoulders and no further
- **slender figure:** a figure that is tall and slim
- **slim figure:** attractively thin
- **thick hair:** a lot of hair
- **to wear glasses:** to use spectacles
- **to be well-built:** to be muscular
- **to be well-turned out:** to look smart

- *youthful appearance*: to look young

IELTS Town and City Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 15: Town and City

In the IELTS Speaking exam you may be called upon to showcase your vocabulary to describe towns and cities. Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.



Part 1-style questions

Examiner: What is it like where you live?

Christiane: I live in a **residential area** of a busy town in the south of Spain ... we have all the facilities you need ... good **public transport** ... a good **shopping centre** ... it's nice ...

Examiner: Do you like living in the city?

Andrea: Yes I do ... I like going out with my friends and there are lots of **lively bars and restaurants** within walking distance of my apartment ... I'm a bit of a culture vulture as well so it's great to have access to art exhibitions and that kind of thing ...

Examiner: Do you get many tourists visiting your area?

Mandy: Not really no ... I live in the **inner-city** and the area is a little **run down** ... it's basically a lot of **high-rise flats** and many of the shops are **boarded up** ... so nothing to interest tourists really ...

Part 2-style task

Describe an interesting town or city in your country that visitors might enjoy. You should say

- what the place is called

- where the place is
- what the facilities are like

and say why visitors might enjoy going there.

Monique: Anyone who comes to my country really should spend some time in Barcelona ... it's a beautiful place ... it's not what you would call a **sprawling city** ... it's quite compact really and you could walk across the city in a couple of hours ... but there's no need to do that as we have a fantastic **public transport system** so it's easy **to get around** ... there are various districts all with their own character ... you have the **upmarket shops** in the centre ... you'll find lots of **chain stores** you'll recognise from your own country but also local brands as well ... we have the narrow streets in the Gothic district with lots of **fashionable boutiques** and **tourist attractions** ... there's the Olympic area and the beaches along the coast ... and dotted around the city are some lovely **public spaces** ... parks and squares in the **city centre** and **on the outskirts** of Barcelona where people relax with their friends and family ... and of course **pavement cafes** everywhere ... all that and some great historical **places of interest** ... so a great destination for tourists ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What are the advantages of living in a city or big town?

Carrie: I think it's having access to **local facilities** really ... local shops as well as access to larger **shopping malls** in the city centre ... and if you're well-off you can afford to live **in the suburbs** away from the busy traffic ...

Examiner: In your experience are city centres usually attractive places?

Mary: Some can be yes ... especially those with a historical interest ... but sometimes they're full of ugly **office blocks** ... **multi-story car parks** ... and residents living in **poor housing** ... it depends on the city doesn't it?

Examiner: What are some of the challenges facing towns and cities?

=====

Penny: I suppose **traffic congestion** is a major problem ... and the growth in **out-of-town supermarkets and retail parks** mean lots of town centre shops are **closing down** ... plus a shortage of good quality housing ... I think these are the major challenges ...

Definitions

- **boarded up shops**: shops that are no longer doing business
- **chain stores**: well-known brands with shops in multiple cities
- **to close down**: to stop doing business
- **fashionable boutiques**: fashionable clothes shops
- **to get around**: to travel around
- **high-rise flats**: multi-story apartments
- **inner-city**: the central part of a city where people live and where conditions are often poor
- **in the suburbs**: the outer area of large towns and cities where people live
- **lively bars/restaurants**: bars or restaurants with a good atmosphere
- **local facilities**: local buildings or services serving the public
- **multi-story car parks**: car parks on several floors
- **office block**: a large building that contains offices
- **out of town shopping centre/retail park**: large shopping centres outside of the town or city
- **pavement cafe**: cafes with tables outside on the pavement
- **places of interest**: buildings that have a particular interest for visitors
- **poor housing**: housing that is not in good condition
- **public spaces**: areas in a town or city that are open to the public
- **public transport system**: public vehicles such as buses and trains that operate at regular times on fixed routes
- **residential area**: an area where people live
- **run down**: old and of a poor standard
- **shopping centre**: an area consisting of multiple shops
- **shopping malls**: large indoor shopping centres
- **sprawling city**: a city that has grown over time and which covers a wide area
- **tourist attraction**: a place of interest to tourists

- *traffic congestion*: heavy traffic making it difficult to move around a town or city
- *upmarket shops*: expensive fashionable shops

IELTS Music Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 16: Music

In the IELTS Speaking exam you may be asked questions about the music you listen to or instruments you play. Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the ‘Definitions’ section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don’t understand.

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: What kind of music do you listen to?

Katherine: I’m a big fan of **classical music** ... it doesn’t make me very popular with my children ... their **taste in music** is completely different ... they always want to listen to their favourite **rock bands** ...

Examiner: Do you play any instruments?

Jamie: No I don’t ... I’ve always wished I’d **taken up a musical instrument** ... I’d love to be able to play the guitar ... but I think I’m a bit **tone deaf** so perhaps I’d find it hard ...

Examiner: Have you got any hobbies or interests?

Marco: I’m really into **live music** ... I go to a lot of **music festivals** ... I think a **live performance** always sounds more exciting than a recorded version ... as long as the performers can sing and play well of course ...

Part 2-style task

Describe a song you like to listen to. You should say



-
- what the piece of music is called
 - how long you have liked it
 - when you like to listen to it

and say why you like it so much.

Millie: Well ... I'm a little older than most students and when I was young Abba the Swedish **pop group** were very famous ... I don't think it was cool to like them even though they had a **huge following** but I think now people have realised what wonderful songs they wrote ... one **piece of music** in particular is called 'Slipping through my fingers' ... it wasn't a **massive hit** but I love it ... it's a song for parents and it's all about how quickly our children grow up ... it's a **slow number** and like a lot of their songs it's a very **catchy tune** ... the two women in Abba had great voices and it's the kind of music you can also **sing along to** easily ... even if you don't have a great voice ... I listen to Abba when I feel like a **sing-song** ... and I especially like to listen when I'm doing the housework ... it stops me thinking about the hard work ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Is the Internet a good or bad thing for the music industry?

Thomas: On the one hand it's good for marketing new **musical talent** or particular bands but it's so easy to share and **download tracks** for free I think it is costing the industry a lot of money ...

Examiner: Should music be treated as seriously as subjects like maths or sciences at school?

Carla: I think it should ... I don't think it should be taught in a boring way ... I mean making children **read music** ... but I do think they should be encouraged to play instruments and to **play things by ear** perhaps ... to keep the lessons fun ...

Examiner: Where do people usually enjoy listening to music?

Sally: In lots of ways or places ... as **background music** when they are doing something else ... at concerts when a band **goes on tour** ... or in clubs or discos ...

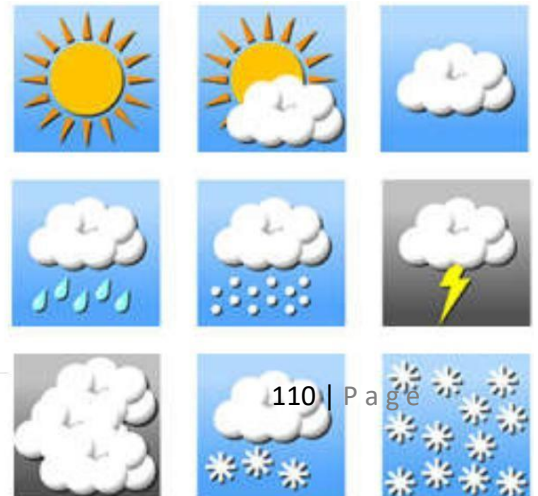
Definitions

-
- **adoring fans**: people who love a particular band or singer
 - **background music**: music that is played while something else is happening
 - **a catchy tune**: a song that is easy to remember and makes you want to sing it
 - **classical music**: music that is regarded as part of a long, formal tradition
 - **to download tracks**: to obtain music from the Internet
 - **to have a great voice**: to sing well
 - **to go on tour**: to go on a planned series of performances around a region or country
 - **a huge following**: a large number of fans
 - **live music**: music that is listened to while it is performed (not recorded)
 - **live performance**: (see live music)
 - **a massive hit**: a record that sells lots of copies
 - **a music festival**: music performances at a venue often over several days
 - **musical talent**: skilled at music
 - **to be/sing out of tune**: to not be in harmony/to sing the wrong notes
 - **a piece of music**: an item of music
 - **to play by ear**: to play without reading the musical notes
 - **a pop group**: a small group of people who play or sing pop music together
 - **to read music**: to understand and follow written musical notes
 - **a rock band**: a group of musicians that play rock music
 - **to sing along to**: to join in singing
 - **a sing-song**: to sing informally, often with other people
 - **a slow number**: a song with a slow tempo
 - **to take up a musical instrument**: to begin learning a musical instrument
 - **taste in music**: the music someone likes
 - **to be tone deaf**: to be unable to distinguish the different notes in music

IELTS Weather Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 17: Weather

In the IELTS Speaking exam you may be asked questions about the topic of ‘the weather’, perhaps the weather in your



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country or when you've travelled to other countries. Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: What's the weather like in your country?

Katie: It's quite **changeable** really ... we have periods of time with **clear blue skies** then all of a sudden we'll have **torrential rain**.

Examiner: Which months have the best weather in your country?

Ernst: Well ... I suppose it's a matter of personal taste really ... I like it around the end of October and November ... I'm not fond of the **heat waves** we often get during the summer ... it's not **freezing cold** during these months and we still get lots of **sunny spells**.

Examiner: Does it bother you much when it rains?

Junko: It depends ... if I **get caught in the rain** and I **get drenched** I don't like it ... but I'm a gardener so **a drop of rain** is good for my plants.

Part 2-style task

Describe a time when you experienced extreme weather conditions. You should say

- when this was
- where you were
- what the weather was like

and say how you felt about the experience.

I was studying English in a language school a few years ago ... we were in Cornwall in the UK ... we'd been enjoying lovely sunny days ... **not a cloud in the sky** ... when all of a sudden there was **a change in the weather** ... we were in town walking around the shops when it started **to pour down** ... I'd never seen such **heavy rain** before ... within about 10 minutes the

roads were full of water ... I think they call it a **flash flood** ... it was like being in the middle of a **tropical storm** ... the water was almost up to my knees ... the **weather forecast** hadn't predicted it so everyone was taken by surprise ... I'm not sure you could call it 'extreme' weather as a few hours later it started **to clear up** ... **the sun came out** and slowly the water level went down ... but a lot of people's houses were flooded so it would have been extreme for them ... I found it all quite exciting ... in my country we generally have a very **mild climate** and don't often get floods like this so it was quite an experience for me.

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Do you think the weather affects how people feel?

Tierre: Absolutely ... yes ... I don't mind the occasional **cold spell** but I think the winter months can make you feel down. I hate having to leave the house in the winter ... there's often a **thick fog** every morning and we sometimes get **bitterly cold** winds ... the winter certainly makes me feel a little depressed ... though having said that ... it's always nice to see the town covered in a **blanket of snow**.

Examiner: Do you think the weather is changing due to global warming?

Ceri: I don't know if it's due to global warming or not but the weather in my country is certainly changing ... we've been getting quite **mild winters** lately ... the temperatures are sometimes **below freezing** but only occasionally ... and then during the summer it can get **boiling hot** with a lot of older people even suffering from **heatstroke**.

Examiner: In which ways are weather forecasts useful?

Sinita: Well ... if you're planning a trip or going on holiday it's important to know whether you'll need to **dress up warm** or take an umbrella ... farmers need to know what the **long-range forecast** is so they can plan their work ... I suppose people who organise outside events need to know as well in case things get **rained off**.

Definitions

- *to be below freezing*: below zero degrees Celsius

-
- ***bitterly cold***: very cold and unpleasant
 - ***a blanket of snow***: a complete covering of snow
 - ***boiling hot***: very hot (informal)
 - ***changeable***: weather that often changes
 - ***a change in the weather***: when weather conditions change
 - ***clear blue skies***: a sky without clouds
 - ***to clear up***: when clouds or rain disappear
 - ***to come out (the sun)***: when the sun appears out of a cloudy sky
 - ***a cold spell***: a short period of cold weather
 - ***to dress up warm***: to wear warm clothes to protect yourself against wintry conditions
 - ***a drop of rain***: a little bit of rain
 - ***a flash flood***: a sudden and severe flood
 - ***freezing cold***: very cold (informal)
 - ***to get caught in the rain***: to be outside when it rains unexpectedly
 - ***to get drenched***: to get very wet
 - ***heatstroke***: a serious condition caused by being too long in hot weather
 - ***a heatwave***: a period of very hot weather
 - ***heavy rain***: intense rainfall
 - ***long-range forecast***: the weather forecast for several days or weeks ahead
 - ***mild climate***: a climate without extreme weather conditions
 - ***mild winter***: a winter that isn't particularly cold
 - ***not a cloud in the sky***: see 'clear blue skies' above
 - ***to pour down***: to rain heavily
 - ***to be rained off***: to be cancelled or postponed due to poor weather
 - ***sunny spells***: short periods of sunny weather
 - ***thick fog***: a dense fog that makes visibility very poor
 - ***torrential rain***: see 'heavy rain' above
 - ***tropical storm***: a storm typical of ones that you find in tropical climates
 - ***weather forecast***: a TV/radio programme or section in a newspaper/magazine which predicts weather conditions

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IELTS Shopping Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 18: Shopping

It's possible the examiner may ask you questions about your shopping habits in the IELTS Speaking exam. Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the 'Definitions' section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don't understand.



Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you often go shopping for personal items?

Maxine: When I can afford it yes ... my college is in the city centre and I do a lot of **window shopping** ... but being a student I'm **on a tight budget** so I have **to be careful with money** ...

Examiner: Are there many shops where you live?

Jenny: We've got a few **local shops** nearby and a few **independent stores** but none of the big **high street names** ... I have to go into town for them ...

Examiner: Do you enjoy shopping?

Marco: It depends ... I hate it when the sales are on ... crowds of people all trying to **snap up a bargain** ... I find it all a bit stressful ... I also get annoyed when **shop assistants** try to **give me the hard sell** when all I want to do is look around ...

Part 2-style task

Describe a time when you bought something for someone. You should say

- =====
- when this was
 - what is was you bought
 - who you bought it for

and say how you felt about buying it for them.

Coleen: I'd like to tell you about the time ... about four years ago ... my husband and I bought a computer for our daughter ... she was about to go to university and we'd promised her we would treat her to one ... at the time there had been a big **advertising campaign** for the latest Apple Macbook and our daughter was very keen to have one ... she kept telling us they were **value for money** ... even though they seemed very expensive to us ... anyway we tried **to shop around** to see if we could **pick up a bargain** ... this was in the middle of the **summer sales** and wherever you went **prices were being slashed** on **big brand names** ... but unfortunately not Apple products ... we ended up having **to pay the full price** ... I remember my daughter justifying the cost by pointing out how nice the Apple **carrier bag** was ... but it was lovely to see her so excited and the **customer service** she's received during the four years she's had it has been excellent ... so it was value for money after all ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Do you think we will stop using paper money in the future?

Louisa: I think it's almost certain ... at the moment it's still possible **to pay in cash** but I'm sure this will change ... the problem is people are more likely **to get into debt** and **run up a credit card bill** when this happens.

Examiner: How do companies encourage the consumer to spend their money?

Peter: Well ... a recent development in my country is something called 'Black Friday' where people are encouraged **to shop until they drop** and buy the latest **must-have products** ... then there are things like **loyalty cards** to get the customer back in the store ...

Examiner: What do you think shops need to do to create a positive shopping experience?

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Tania: The main thing for me is not being pressurised to buy ... I appreciate that shop assistants are probably **on commission** but if I'm looking for clothes for example I like to take my time ... **to try something on** ... and to ask for help if I need it ...

Definitions

- **advertising campaign**: a series of advertisements to persuade people to buy something
- **big brand names**: large well-known companies or product names
- **to be careful with money**: to not over-spend
- **carrier bag**: bags (usually plastic) supplied by shops
- **customer service**: the degree to which customers are treated well
- **to get into debt**: to owe money
- **to give someone the hard sell**: to put pressure on someone to buy something
- **high street names**: well-known shops
- **independent stores**: small shops independent of large companies
- **local shops**: community shops
- **loyalty card**: a card issued by a shop to allow customers to save money on the basis of what they spend
- **must-have product**: a product that is very popular that a lot of people want to have
- **to be on a tight budget**: to have a limited amount of money to spend
- **to be on commission**: to pay someone in relation to the amount they sell
- **a pay in cash**: to pay for something using coins or paper money
- **to pay the full price**: to pay the full amount for something
- **to pick up a bargain**: to buy something much cheaper than the normal price
- **to run up a credit card bill**: to owe money on a credit card
- **to shop around**: to try different shops to find the best deal
- **shop assistant**: the person who serves customers
- **to shop until you drop**: to do a lot of shopping
- **to slash prices**: to reduce prices a great deal
- **to snap up a bargain**: to buy something quickly that is being sold cheaply
- **summer sales**: a period in the year when things are sold cheaply
- **to try something on**: to see if an item of clothing fits or is suitable

- =====
- *to be value for money*: to be worth the cost
 - *window shopping*: to visit a store to look at items without the intention of buying anything

IELTS Environment Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 19: Environment

You may be asked questions about the environment or environmental problems in your country. Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the ‘Definitions’ section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don’t understand.



Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Are there any environmental problems in your country?

Kelly: Yes ... we have a serious issue with **pollution levels** in some of our big cities ... **exhaust fumes** from cars and lorries are definitely one reason for the problem but we also have a lot of **heavy industry** in some areas and this also results in poor **air quality** ...

Examiner: Do you take an interest in nature?

Jenny: Well ... I’m a city person through and through and don’t **get back to nature** very often I’m afraid ... but like everyone else I’m fascinated by **the natural world** and I like watching documentaries showing wild animals in their **natural habitat** ...

Examiner: Do you or your family take steps to help the environment?

Mira: My parents have always tried to make us aware of our **impact on the environment**... they’re really into **energy conservation** ... and always try to buy **environmentally friendly** products if they have the chance ...

=====

Part 2-style task

Describe an environmental problem that has been in the news. You should say

- when this was
- where the event happened
- what actually took place

and say how you felt about this problem.

Martin: Well ... this is an interesting question ... there are so many issues I could think of ... **natural disasters** like earthquakes and floods seem to be in the news almost every year ... but there was one story recently about some animals that were **under threat** ... it wasn't focused on one place in particular ... it was looking at various animals that could actually **become extinct** in different African countries ... if we don't take steps to protect them ... these were really iconic animals like gorillas ... leopards ... rhinos ... and apparently they're now listed as **endangered species** ... what made it really depressing was they were in danger thanks to us ... in some cases it was due to a **loss of habitat** either because people need more agricultural production ... or even worse I think ... because of hunting and **poaching** ... I hate to think of **future generations** being robbed of the chance to see creatures like these in their **natural environment** ... it's lucky we have lots of organisations that focus on **wildlife conservation** ... hopefully with their help we can put pressure on those in power to do something to stop creatures like these **dying out** ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What do you think is the main danger the world faces in terms of the environment?

Spencer: Well ... **climate change** is a real issue ... in my country we have **flash floods** and heat waves on a yearly basis ... so yes ... I think **global warming** is the biggest issue.

Examiner: What examples are there of how we damage the natural world?

=====

Stella: There are so many examples ... there are factories that empty **toxic waste** into rivers and oceans ... **oil spills** that damage the coastline ... the way we destroy vast areas of land and rain forests in search of **fossil fuels** or to increase agricultural production ...

Examiner: In which ways do we respond well to environmental problems?

Mathius: Well ... on the one hand there are various worldwide agencies that are always the first on the scene with **humanitarian aid** after natural and **man-made disasters** ... and on the other hand we have environmental **pressure groups** that are constantly raising awareness of issues and trying to stop disasters happening ...

Definitions

- **air quality**: the cleanliness of the air we breathe
- **to become extinct**: to no longer exist
- **to be under threat**: to be in danger of becoming extinct
- **climate change**: the change in worldwide weather patterns
- **to die out**: see 'to become extinct'
- **endangered species**: categories of animals or plants that are in danger of becoming extinct
- **energy conservation**: the careful management of energy resources to ensure they last as long as possible
- **environmentally friendly**: behaviour and products that do not harm the environment
- **exhaust fumes**: the toxic gases given off by vehicles powered by petrol
- **flash floods**: floods that happen quickly
- **fossil fuels**: energy resources like gas and oil that are produced deep below the ground over millions of years
- **future generations**: the people who live after us
- **to get back to nature**: to live a life that is closer to nature
- **global warming**: the increasing temperature of the world brought about by gases such as carbon dioxide
- **heavy industry**: the manufacture of heavy articles and materials in large numbers
- **humanitarian aid**: the act of showing support to people struggling to survive

- =====
- **impact on:** the effect on
 - **loss of habitat:** the decline in areas of land where animals and plants would normally exist
 - **man-made disaster:** widespread damage or loss of life brought about by the action of humans
 - **natural disaster:** an event such as an earthquake, flood or hurricane which causes widespread damage or loss of life
 - **natural environment:** the place where animals and plants would normally be found in nature
 - **the natural world:** the world of nature
 - **oil spill:** waste usually deposited in the seas and oceans after an accident at sea
 - **poaching:** to hunt and kill wild animals illegally
 - **pollution levels:** the amount of toxic waste
 - **pressure group:** a group of people who try to raise awareness of issues and try to affect the views and actions of people and organisations
 - **toxic waste:** poisonous, unwanted rubbish often produced by industrial processes
 - **wildlife conservation:** to protect animals and plants and their habitats

=====

Describe an advert you once saw that was very effective. You should say

- where this advert appeared
- when you saw it
- what it was advertising

and say why you thought it was so effective.

Max: OK ... well this was about 4 years ago ... I was looking for some software to create videos ... one day I got an email from a **mailing list** I'd signed up to ... there was a link in it to a **press release** ... a company had written something about a new product that was similar to what I was looking for ... at the end of the press release there was a link to the **sales page** ... I hadn't heard of the company but I was interested and clicked the link to the ad what caught my attention immediately were the number of testimonials from people who had bought the software ... I think testimonials are like the online equivalent of **word of mouth** advertising and are really persuasive ... anyway ... when I got to the bottom of the page there was a great big **call to action** button inviting me to buy ... I was totally persuaded and ended up making a purchase ... what made it so effective I think was the power of those testimonials ... they'd been written by people very much like me ... they'd had a need and the software had obviously turned out to be just what they were looking for ... when you think that this was a newish company they wouldn't have had any **brand awareness** at all ... they probably wouldn't have had much of a budget for advertising ... obviously you wouldn't advertise a product like this through the **mass media** on TV ... they probably didn't even have an **advertising agency** to support them ... and yet they'd managed to create a great deal of **brand loyalty** from previous customers ... I think that was really effective.

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What is it that makes an advert effective?

Spencer: Well ... when a company **launches a product** they have to consider the Internet ... especially how it can be used to spread the word on **social media** ... so in this context a video that **goes viral** is probably the most effective type of advert you could make.

=====

Examiner: What are the advantages to companies of advertising on the Internet rather than TV?

Stelios: I'd imagine the main advantage is you can reach your **target audience** much more effectively ... if you bring out a **niche product** for example ... or you have a tight **advertising budget** ... you can advertise on particular sites that the people you want to reach visit ... that's not something you can do on TV.

Examiner: What things do advertising companies do that might give it a bad name?

Raol: For me the most irritating is **cold calling** ... we must get two or three of these every day at work ... then there's **junk mail** that gets posted through the letterbox ... and of course the online equivalent of this ... **spam emails** ... I think it's this kind of advertising that tends to annoy people.

Definitions

- **advertising agency**: a company that creates adverts for other companies
- **advertising budget**: the amount of money a company decides to spend on advertising
- **brand awareness**: how well people know a particular brand
- **brand loyalty**: the degree to which people continue to buy from the same brand or company
- **buy and sell**: often used to refer to the buying and selling of items between individuals
- **call to action**: something that encourages someone to take a particular action, such as making a purchase or clicking a link on a website
- **celebrity endorsement**: to have a well-known person promote a product
- **classified ads**: small advertisements often put in a newspaper or magazine by individuals
- **to cold call**: to call someone with the aim of selling something without them asking you to do so
- **commercial break**: the short period during TV programmes when advertisements are shown
- **commercial channel**: TV channels that make money from showing advertisements
- **to go viral**: to quickly become extremely popular on the Internet through social media
- **junk mail**: unwanted promotional leaflets and letters

-
- **to launch a product:** to introduce a new product
 - **mailing list:** a list of names and contact details used by a company to send information and advertisements
 - **mass media:** large media outlets like TV, newspapers and magazines
 - **niche product:** a product that is aimed at a distinct group of people
 - **to place an advert:** to put an advert somewhere
 - **press release:** something written by a company for newspapers and magazines and websites to share and publish
 - **prime time:** the time during the viewing schedule when most people watch TV or listen to a broadcast
 - **product placement:** to advertise a product by using it as a prop in a TV show or film
 - **sales page:** a page specifically used to promote a product or service
 - **to show adverts:** to display adverts on TV
 - **social media:** websites that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking.
 - **spam email:** unwanted, promotional email
 - **target audience:** the people a company want to sell their product or service to
 - **word of mouth:** recommendations made by individuals to other individuals about a product or service

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Vocabulary for IELTS Speaking Test

Family

- To raise
- Childhood
- Adolescence
- To play truant
- Juvenile delinquency
- Neglected
- Nuclear family
- To get on well with sb
- Relative
- In-laws
- Red-letter day
- Siblings
- To allow
- Quality time
- To take after sb
- Overprotective
- Strict
- Foster family

Education

- Ongoing assessment
- To be poor at something
- Certificate
- Diploma
- Degree
- Correspondence course
- Grant
- Fee
- Tuition
- With flying colours
- To resit an exam

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Free Time

- Amusement park
- Slot machine
- Roller coaster
- To take up
- DIY
- Pottery
- Knitting
- To mow the lawn
- Hedge
- Sitcom
- Review
- Cinemagoer
- City dweller
- Hiking
- Scenery
- Atmosphere
- Do aerobics/karate
- Play tennis/games
- Go skiing/fishing
- Rowing machine
- Exercise bike
- Crash helmet
- Knee pads
- Extreme sports
- Adrenaline rush
- Mass tourism
- Culture shock
- Currency
- In advance
- Make a complaint
- To embark on
- B&B

Social&Global Problems

- Discrimination
- Protest
- Poverty-stricken
- Crime-invested
- Famine
- Epidemic
- Flood
- Drought
- Global warming

Media

- Tabloid
- Libel
- Broadsheet
- Censorship
- Broadcast
- Forecast
- Coverage
- Be on (the) air
- Remote control
- Prime time

Health

- To give smth a boost
- Vulnerable
- To be prone to
- Sedentary lifestyle
- Cut down on
- NHS
- Nervous breakdown
- Alternative medicine
- Plastic surgery
- Sick leave
- Common cold
- Flu
- Pneumonia
- Cancer
- Childhood diseases

Work

- Perk
- Promotion
- Job satisfaction
- Rewarding
- Health insurance
- contribution
- Be made redundant
- Workaholic
- To be in charge of...
- To deal with...
- To involve

Có thể bạn chưa biết, IELTS còn là viết tắt của:

I: Imaginative (Sáng tạo)

E: Excellent (Xuất sắc)

L: Laid-back (Thoải mái)

T: Tuned-in (Nhạy bén)

S: Smart (Thông minh)

Hãy nhìn vào mỗi từ trên và xem: có bao nhiêu từ đồng nghĩa (từ có nghĩa tương tự) bạn có thể nghĩ đến lúc này?

Không nhiều đúng không? Đã đến lúc để tìm hiểu một số từ mới và ôn lại những cái cũ rồi nhé.

À, tiện thể thì, 'revise' có một từ đồng nghĩa mà thầy rất thích: **BRUSH UP**. Khi tôi nghe thấy từ này, tôi luôn hình dung một cái bàn chải đánh răng lớn chà các tế bào não của tôi.

OK, hãy xem một vài ví dụ:

Tại sao chúng ta lại nói về các từ đồng nghĩa?

Chúng cực kỳ quan trọng nếu bạn muốn thể hiện tiếng Anh một cách thành thạo hơn.

Bởi sẽ có lúc đầu óc bạn trở nên trống rỗng (quên những từ mà bạn đã biết) thì bạn có thể có dễ dàng thay thế bằng một từ vựng đồng nghĩa khác mà bạn biết.

Ngoài ra, bạn có thể sử dụng từ đồng nghĩa để tránh sự lặp lại trong văn nói cũng như văn viết.

Ví dụ, nếu bạn nói: *A nice job, a nice lunch, a nice car, a nice woman etc* - nghe rất chán và có phần "học dốt" đúng không nào? **Để có đạt điểm cao trong kỳ thi, bạn sẽ phải học cách PARAPHRASE (thể hiện cùng ý tưởng bằng các từ ngữ khác**

=====

nhau).

Một cách khác để tối đa hóa việc học tập của bạn là hãy lựa chọn các từ của riêng bạn mà bạn muốn ghi nhớ. Đã bao giờ bạn đã nhớ hết được một danh sách dài các từ cho một bài kiểm tra chưa, chỉ để quên đi tất cả chúng một khi kì kiểm tra đã kết thúc? Đó là bởi vì bạn không có sự lựa chọn, các từ bạn muốn tìm hiểu.

Để có thể học tốt, bạn phải có động lực – mục đích đằng sau của việc học đó. Vì vậy, **chọn những từ bạn muốn sử dụng trong tương lai và tập trung vào học chúng.** Không cần phải lãng phí thời gian và năng lượng với những list từ dài - vô nghĩa, hãy làm cho danh sách ngắn hơn, cần thiết, nhưng thú vị hơn cho bạn!

Cũng là một ý tưởng tốt nếu bạn nhóm các từ và cụm từ mà bạn muốn học vào các chủ đề. Nó sẽ giúp bạn tạo ra một BỐI CẢNH, nơi từ vựng trở nên có ý nghĩa hơn và đáng nhớ hơn cho bạn. Và đó là những gì chúng ta sẽ làm ngay bây giờ!!!

Dưới đây bạn có thể tìm thấy một **nhóm từ mà sẽ COME IN HANDY** (trở nên hữu ích) khi chuẩn bị cho kỳ thi IELTS và đặc biệt bài thi IELTS Speaking. Nếu bạn có thể, hãy cố gắng ghi nhớ toàn bộ câu - chúng sẽ nhảy vào tâm trí của bạn khi bạn cần dùng chúng.

Những từ bạn sẽ tìm thấy không phải là điển hình, những từ nhàm chán bạn thường nhìn thấy trong những bài soạn tương tự. Tôi đã chọn chúng để cho bạn cơ hội SPICE UP (làm cho thú vị hơn) từ vựng của bạn và gây ấn tượng với giám khảo.

KÉO DÀI THỜI GIAN NÓI

Sử dụng một vài cấu trúc đặc biệt dưới đây, nó sẽ cho bạn thời gian suy nghĩ trước khi nói. Qua đó, nó sẽ giúp cho bài nói của bạn trôi chảy hơn.

Er... let me think... (*Er ... hãy để tôi nghĩ*)

- =====
- What do you think are the most common causes of road accidents?
 - *Er... let me think... I would say there are two main causes...*

Hmm... that's a good question... (*Hmm ... đó là một câu hỏi hay*)

- Is listening to the radio more beneficial for children than watching TV?
- *Hmm... that's a good question. I guess it is, because...*

Actually... I've never really thought about it... (*Thật ra... Tôi chưa bao giờ nghĩ về nó...*)

- Why do teenagers love texting their friends?
- *Actually... I've never really thought about it... It might be, because they...*

Umm... (*nhắc lại câu hỏi*)

- Where do you see yourself in ten years' time?
- *Umm... Where do I see myself in ten years' time?... Maybe, I will...*

Well, you know... (*Vâng, bạn biết đấy...*)

- Would you give up your car and cycle to work?
- *Well, you know... I work quite far from home...*

Đó cũng là cách rất quan trọng để giúp bạn yêu cầu **LÀM RÕ** câu hỏi khi bạn không hiểu được những gì mà các giám khảo đã nói.

- *Excuse me, can you repeat the question, please? / I beg your pardon?*
- *Sorry, what do you mean by...?*
- *Could you say that again, please?*
- *I'm afraid I don't understand what you mean by....*
- *I'm not sure I can follow you. Could you be more specific, please?*
- *Sorry, I didn't get your point. Could you put it differently, please?*

Và để **LÀM RÕ VẤN ĐỀ** muốn trình bày:

- *What I mean is... (paraphrase what you've said - diễn giải những gì bạn đã nói)*
- *I just want to say that... (paraphrase what you've said - diễn giải những gì bạn đã nói)*
- *Sorry, let me explain.*
- *Sorry, let me put it differently.*

BỐI CẢNH XÃ HỘI

FAMILY

to raise = to bring up (nuôi nấng)

to care for children until they grow up (chăm sóc trẻ nhỏ cho đến khi chúng lớn lên)

- I was **raised** in a small town. I wasn't raised in the jungle.
- **Raising** children is a huge responsibility

childhood (thời thơ ấu)

the period of life when you are a child (giai đoạn trong cuộc sống khi bạn còn là một đứa trẻ)

- My **childhood** was happy and carefree. I used to chase butterflies all day.
- I'm quite sure Charles Manson didn't have a happy **childhood**. (he was a serial killer)

adolescence = teenage years (thời niên thiếu)

the period of life between childhood and adulthood (giai đoạn của cuộc sống mà ở giữa thời thơ ấu và tuổi trưởng thành)

- A large part of my **adolescence** was spent with partying and avoiding responsibilities.
- My grandmother guided me through the turbulent waters of **adolescence**.

to play truant = to skive off (trốn học)

to be absent from school without permission (nghỉ học mà không có sự cho phép)

- I used to **play truant** and spend the whole time with my friends in the arcades.
- I would give a prison sentence to parents who let their children **play truant**.

juvenile delinquency (phạm tội tuổi vị thành niên)

antisocial behaviour demonstrated by adolescents, usually involving breaking the law.
(hành vi chống đối xã hội được gây ra bởi thanh thiếu niên, thường liên quan đến vi phạm pháp luật)

- =====
- **Juvenile delinquency** was thriving in the area. The parents couldn't do anything to stop their children.
 - **Juvenile delinquency** rates are usually higher in urban areas.

neglected (adj.) (bị bỏ qua)

not looked after, not getting any attention (không được chăm sóc, không nhận được bất kỳ sự chú ý)

- **Neglected** teenagers seek attention and will do anything to get it.
- My wife feels **neglected**, so I've taken her out to a fast food restaurant.

nuclear family (gia đình nhỏ)

the smallest family unit: mother, father and children (các đơn vị gia đình nhỏ: mẹ, cha và con) >< (opposite: extended family – đại gia đình)

- Nowadays most people live in **nuclear families**.
- Living in **nuclear families** means we don't get to listen to our grandparents' stories.

to get on well with somebody

to have a good relationship with somebody (có một mối quan hệ tốt với ai đó)

- When we were children, my sister and I **didn't get on very well**. We used to pull each other's pony-tails.
- I wish I **could get on well with my mother-in-law**, but she's a real witch.

Relative (họ hàng)

a person who is related to you by blood or marriage (người có liên quan máu mủ hoặc có quan hệ hôn nhân với bạn)

- I think my **relatives** hate me. I never get any Christmas presents.
- You can choose your friends, but can't choose your **relatives**.

in-laws

members of your wife's or husband's family (các thành viên của gia đình nhà vợ hoặc nhà chồng của bạn)

- I hate the idea of spending the holidays with my **in-laws**.
- I never know what to buy for my **in-laws** for Christmas.

red-letter day

new wives or husbands of your biological parents (bất kỳ ngày nào đó có ý nghĩa và đáng nhớ với bạn)

- First, I hated the idea of moving in with my **stepfather**, but then it wasn't so bad.
- Cinderella used to live with a wicked **stepmother** and two **stepsisters**.

stepparent, stepmother, stepfather

new wives or husbands of your biological parents (vợ hoặc chồng mới của cha/mẹ của bạn: cha dượng – mẹ kế, gì ghê...)

- First, I hated the idea of moving in with my **stepfather**, but then it wasn't so bad.
- Cinderella used to live with a wicked **stepmother** and two **stepsisters**.

stepfamily = blended family

a family where either one or both parents have children from previous relationships (một gia đình mà một trong hai hoặc cả bố và mẹ có con từ mối quan hệ trước)

- Living in a **stepfamily** never really bothered me. I could visit my father as often as I wanted.
- Blending families to create **stepfamilies** is a difficult process.

siblings = brothers or sisters

individuals sharing the same father or mother (con một sống cùng cha hoặc mẹ)

- As an only-child, I've always wanted to have **siblings**.
- Children growing up with no **siblings** are often spoiled.

to allow = permit = let

to give your permission to someone to do something (cho phép một ai đó làm điều gì)

- My biological father always **allowed me** to eat ice-cream before dinner.

- =====
- Minors **shouldn't be allowed** to buy alcohol.

quality time

time when you dedicate yourself to only one person or activity (thời gian khi đó bạn cống hiến hết mình cho chỉ một người hoặc hoạt động)

- My mother and I didn't spend enough **quality time** together. She always had to work.
- Spending **quality time** with your children is more important than making a lot of money.

to take after somebody

to be/resemble someone in appearance or character (giống một người nào đó ở vẻ bề ngoài và tính cách)

- I **take after my mother**. I have the same green eyes.
- Children often **take after one of their grandparents**.

overprotective (adj.)

wanting to protect someone too much (muốn bảo vệ một người nào đó quá nhiều)

- My mum **used to be overprotective** when I was a child. She never let me go to the playground on my own (alone).
- Overprotective parents** should seek professional help to help them relax a little.

strict (adj.) opposite = lenient, forgiving

wanting order and discipline all the time, opposite = lenient, forgiving (luôn muốn trật tự và kỷ luật, ngược lại: khoan dung, tha thứ)

- My mother was very **strict**. If I was just ten minutes late, she grounded me for a week.

grounded = not allowed to leave the house

- Strict teachers** are often more popular than lenient ones, because they don't let misbehaved children interfere with their teaching.

foster family

children living with guardians who are neither their natural nor their adoptive parents

(đứa trẻ phải sống với người giám hộ là người mà không phải bố mẹ đẻ cũng không phải bố mẹ nuôi của họ)

- *My friend, Jack, lived with at least five different **foster families** as a child. He was quite troublesome.*
- ***Foster families** can change a child's life for the better.*

THỜI GIAN RẼNH RỐI, THỂ THAO, SỞ THÍCH, DU LỊCH

amusement park = funfair

a large park where you can play games, go on fantastic rides and have fun with friends

(một công viên rộng lớn, nơi bạn có thể chơi trò chơi và vui chơi với bạn bè)

- *I went on so many rides in the **amusement park** that I got dizzy and had to lie down on the ground.*
- *You can always buy pink cotton candy in **an amusement park**.*

slot machine

a coin operated machine to play gambling games (một máy đồng xu hoạt động để chơi trò chơi cờ bạc)

- *I got change for twenty dollars and played the **slot machines** for hours.*
- *The only way to win on **slot machines** is not to play them.*

roller coaster (tàu lượn)

an elevated railway with small, open passenger cars that goes up and down at a high

speed (tuyến đường sắt trên cao với, xe chở khách nhỏ, mở mà đi lên đi xuống với tốc độ cao)

- *We had a great laugh when we looked at the photos my friend took on the **roller coaster**.*
- ***Roller coasters** make me sick to my stomach.*

to take up

to start doing a new sport, hobby or start learning something new (để bắt đầu làm một môn thể thao mới, sở thích hay bắt đầu học một cái gì đó mới)

- My mother thought my father was getting too fat, so he **took up** golf when he retired.
- I'd like to **take up** a new language, but I'm not sure which one to chose: Dutch or Japanese.

DIY /di:- ai- wai/

to start doing a new sport, hobby or start learning something new (xây dựng hoặc sửa chữa những thứ xung quanh ngôi nhà không mà có sự giúp đỡ của những người chuyên nghiệp)

- My mother thought my father was getting too fat, so he **took up** golf when he retired.
- I'd like to **take up** a new language, but I'm not sure which one to chose: Dutch or Japanese.

pottery

building or repairing things around the house with no professional help (bình hoa, chậu, đĩa, vv làm bằng đất sét / nghề làm đồ gốm)

- **Making pottery** is such a creative activity. I've made vases for everyone in the family.
- I've tried to take my husband to some **pottery** classes with me, but he always went to the pub instead.

knitting

making sweaters, gloves, scarves etc using two long needles and yarn (làm áo len, găng tay, khăn quàng cổ vv sử dụng hai cây kim dài và sợi)

- My grandma loves **knitting**, so everyone in the family has matching knitted sweaters and hats.
- **Knitting** is the new yoga. Its repetitive movements help you relax and meditate.

to mow the lawn

to cut the grass in the garden with a lawn mower (cắt cỏ trong vườn với một máy cắt cỏ)

- My neighbours always **mow the lawn** on Sunday evenings.

- =====
- In most countries, you can only **mow the lawn** on certain days, at certain times.

hedge

a line of shrubs or low-growing trees forming a fence between two houses or in front of a house (một hàng bụi cây hoặc cây trồng thấp, chúng tạo thành một hàng rào giữa hai nhà hoặc ở phía trước của một ngôi nhà)

- Trimming the **hedge** is hard work. My hands are always sore afterwards.
- I have the most beautifully trimmed **hedge** in the whole neighbourhood.

sitcom = situation comedy

humorous television series based on every day life situations (series phim truyền hình hài hước dựa trên tất cả các tình huống cuộc sống hàng ngày)

- My niece loves having **sitcom** marathons with her friends at weekends.
- 'Friends' must be the most popular **sitcom** of all times.

review

a report that gives the writer's opinion about a book, film, theatre production etc. (một báo cáo cho biết ý kiến của người viết về một cuốn sách, phim, sản xuất nhà hát, vv...)

- I never read the **reviews** before watching a film. I don't want to be biased.
- Writing **reviews** must be such a fun job. You can criticize other people's work and nobody slaps you in the face.

cinemagoer = moviegoer

a person who often goes to the cinema (một người thường xuyên đi xem phim)

- My uncle is a devoted **cinemagoer**. He goes to see every new release.
- They opened a new multiplex in our town, but the high prices and uncomfortable seats were certainly a shock to the unsuspecting **cinemagoer**.

city dweller

someone who lives in a city (một người sống trong một thành phố)

- =====
- I'm a **city dweller**. I have no idea how to milk a cow.
 - **City dwellers** should make sure they spend enough time outdoors.

hiking

the activity of going for long, hard walks in the mountains (*hoạt động đi bộ trong thời gian dài, đi bộ cực khổ vào núi*)

- The last time I went **hiking**, I sprained my ankle. I don't think I'll ever do it again.
- I always feel much more energetic and relaxed after I've **been hiking**.

scenery = landscape

the view of natural features e.g. mountains, hills or rivers/ *scenery may also mean accessories on a theatre stage (*quang cảnh của vẻ đẹp tự nhiên ví dụ núi, đồi, sông / cảnh quan cũng nó giống như là phụ kiện trên một sân khấu nhà hát*)

- The **scenery** was so breathtaking, I had to stop every two minutes to take a photo.
- The **scenery** was really weird in my dream. There were pink mountains and yellow lakes around me.

atmosphere = ambiance

the dominant mood of a place (*tâm trạng chi phối ở một nơi*)

- I love going to our local pub, because of its **familiar atmosphere**.
- The festival was a great success; the weather was good and the **atmosphere** was fantastic.

do aerobics/ karate/ judo/ yoga

- I've never done judo, but I've tried karate.
- I'm not sure what my dog thinks of me when I **do yoga**, but he sure looks puzzled.

play basketball/ tennis/ computer games/ rugby (play + ball games)

- My nephew **plays rugby**, so you can ask him about the rules.
- If I was taller, I could **play basketball**. Right now, I can only **play golf**.

=====

go skiing/ skating/ fishing/ trekking (go + ... ing)

- My husband and I **go skiing** to the French Alps every winter.
- My friend broke her leg while she was learning how to skate.

rowing machine

a fitness device that simulates rowing as in a boat (một thiết bị tập thể dục mà mô phỏng chèo một chiếc thuyền)

- When I go to the gym, I usually use the **rowing machine** to work the muscles in my arms and legs.
- My husband would like to buy a **rowing machine**, but I don't think he will use it.

exercise bike

a fitness device that simulates cycling as on a bicycle (một thiết bị tập thể dục mà mô phỏng đua xe đạp trên một chiếc xe đạp)

- I've bought an **exercise bike**, but I only use it to keep my clothes on it.
- I love watching my favourite soap opera while riding my **exercise bike**.

crash helmet

protective headwear worn by cyclists and motorcyclists (mũ nón bảo vệ của người đi xe đạp và xe máy)

- You can't give me a lift on your motorbike. I haven't got my **crash helmet** with me.
- **Wearing a crash helmet** might save your life if you have an accident.

knee pads

protective garment worn by cyclists, football players or skaters on their knees (cái bọc ngoài bảo vệ của người đi xe đạp, cầu thủ bóng đá hay trượt ván trên đầu gối của họ)

- My son's taken up football. I must go and buy a pair of football boots and **knee pads** for him.
- I'm so glad I was wearing my **knee pads** when I fell on asphalt.

=====

extreme sports = adventure sports

paragliding/ hang gliding/ white water rafting/ snowboarding/ skydiving/ cave diving

(Paragliding / tàu lượn / đi bè nước trắng / trượt tuyết / nhảy dù / lặn vào hang động)

- I'd love to go **white water rafting** with you, but I'm afraid I'm having my hair cut that day.
- **Cave diving** was a really creepy experience for me. I didn't think we would get out alive.

adrenaline rush

a very intense feeling that you feel all over your body when doing something dangerous

(một cảm giác rất mãnh liệt mà bạn cảm thấy trên cơ thể của bạn khi làm một cái gì đó nguy hiểm)

- Most people do extreme sports, because they want to get an **adrenaline rush**.
- If you want to get **an adrenaline rush**, try to take away my pitbull's toy.

mass tourism

we talk about mass tourism when a lot of people visit one place (khi có rất nhiều người đến thăm thú một nơi)

- **Mass tourism** is destroying our churches. I don't think we should let so many people visit them.
- **Mass tourism** creates jobs for local people and it also makes our town a more exciting place to live.

culture shock

a strong and upsetting feeling we get when suddenly faced with an unfamiliar culture

(một cảm giác mạnh mẽ và khó chịu, chúng ta nhận được khi đột nhiên phải đối mặt với một nền văn hóa xa lạ)

- When I first arrived in London, nobody helped me **to get over the culture shock**. It took me months to get used to their way of life.
- I was suffering from **culture shock**, when fortunately, I made some new friends and began to enjoy my stay.

currency

money/ medium of exchange (tiền / phương tiện trao đổi)

- Lira used to be the **currency** of Italy, before they introduced the euro.

- =====
- We use kisses as **currency** at home. When my daughter wants something, she can always pay with a kiss.

in advance

before something, ahead of time (trước khi một cái gì đó, trước thời hạn)

- If you want to buy cheap airline tickets, it's best to book **in advance**.
- We never plan our holidays **in advance**. We just pack our suitcases and take the first flight available at the airport.

make a complaint

to tell the staff or manager that you're not happy with the service you received (nói với các nhân viên hay quản lý rằng bạn không hài lòng với các dịch vụ mà bạn nhận được)

- Somebody used our bathroom while we were out, so **we had to make a complaint** at the reception.
- It's so embarrassing to go out with my father-in-law. Whenever we're in a restaurant he demands to see the manager and **make a complaint**.

to embark on

to set out on a journey, to begin a journey (đặt ra một cuộc hành trình, bắt đầu một cuộc hành trình)

- Make sure you have made all the necessary arrangements before you **embark on** your world tour.
- When my son was born, **I embarked on** the most beautiful journey of my life.

B&B = Bed and Breakfast

a private house that provides accommodation and breakfast to guests (một ngôi nhà tư nhân cung cấp chỗ ở và bữa ăn sáng cho khách)

- I love staying in **B&Bs** when travelling in the country. The atmosphere is familiar and the food is usually delicious.
- My husband and I would like to run a **B&B**, but we don't have enough spare rooms.

MEDIA

tabloid

a small size newspaper with lots of photographs, gossip and sensational material (một tờ báo nhỏ với rất nhiều hình ảnh, tin đồn và mẩu tin giật gân)

- I only read **tabloids** when I go to the hairdresser's. There are always some on the table in the waiting area.
- They say every time you read a **tabloid**, a book dies. I much prefer reading books.

libel

untrue information that is published and damages someone's reputation (thông tin sai sự thật được công bố và thiệt hại danh tiếng của một ai đó)

- **Internet libel** should be taken more seriously. People are allowed to say whatever they want about anyone these days.
- Editors should make sure that the material they publish doesn't contain **libel**.

broadsheet

a newspaper that's bigger than a tabloid with fewer photographs and more factual articles (một tờ báo lớn hơn so với một tờ báo lá cải với hình ảnh ít hơn và nhiều điều thực tế hơn)

- I used to read **broadsheets**, but nowadays I just get the news from the TV or the Internet.
- It's quite annoying when someone's reading a **broadsheet** next to you on the tube (underground). They keep turning the pages in your face.

censorship

the act of deleting or editing press and media information to control what is being published (các hành động xóa hoặc chỉnh sửa thông tin báo chí truyền thông để kiểm soát những gì được công bố)

- =====
- In my country, **media censorship** laws have remained the same in the past ten years. I think it's time for a change.
 - In my opinion there shouldn't be **political censorship** at all. I believe in freedom of speech.

broadcast

transmission of a radio or television program (truyền dẫn của một đài phát thanh hoặc truyền hình chương trình)

- Films should be **broadcast** in their original language. It would help language learners tremendously.
- If you missed yesterday's **broadcast** of 'Who Wants To Be a Millionaire', you can watch it at 3 o'clock this afternoon on channel 5.

forecast

calculation or prediction of what is going to happen regarding, for example, changes in the weather or the economy (tính toán hoặc dự đoán về những gì sẽ xảy ra liên quan, ví dụ, thay đổi thời tiết hoặc nền kinh tế)

- A **20-day weather forecast** is available on the website. I usually check it before planning an outdoor event.
- **The economic forecast** for next year anticipates growth.

coverage

the reporting or broadcasting of events. (các báo cáo hoặc bản tin phát sóng các sự kiện)

- Nowadays, you can see **live coverage** of just about everything: births, deaths, wars, natural disasters, celebrations.
- The **coverage** of the last Olympic Games was fantastic. I was glued to the screen for days.

be on (the) air

be transmitted live, at the present moment. (được truyền trực tiếp, tại thời điểm hiện tại)

- The suspect admitted to **the murder on air**. It was really shocking.
- The presenter thought they had started playing music, but **he was still on air**. It was really embarrassing.

remote control = clicker

a device you can use to control a television, DVD player from a distance. (một thiết bị mà bạn có thể sử dụng để điều khiển TV, DVD player từ một khoảng cách xa)

- My sons always fight over the **remote control**. Joey is interested in sports, but Rick only wants to see cartoons.
- I wonder how people used to change channels on the TV before the **remote control** was invented. Did they actually have to stand up and walk to the television?

prime time

the evening hours when most films and popular programs are on air. (vào buổi tối khi hầu hết các bộ phim và các chương trình phổ biến được trình chiếu)

- There's too much violence and nudity **on prime time television**.
- Parental Guidance (PG) is advised after **prime time**.

HEALTH

to give something a boost

to increase or raise something, to make something bigger and better (tăng một cái gì đó, làm một cái gì đó lớn hơn và tốt hơn)

- **It takes more than an apple a day to boost** your immune system.

- =====
- *You can boost your vitamin C intake by drinking some freshly squeezed orange juice every morning.*

vulnerable

easily hurt physically or emotionally (dễ bị tổn thương về thể chất hoặc cảm xúc)

- *The elderly are particularly **vulnerable** in winter to the effects of cold, wet weather.*
- *Adolescents are a typically **vulnerable** group when it comes to drug abuse.*

to be prone to

to have a tendency/ when you're prone to something, the chances are high that it will happen to you (có một xu hướng / khi bạn dễ bị cái gì đó, có thể là nó sẽ xảy ra với bạn)

- *Overweight **people are more prone to** diabetes than thin ones.*
- *Since I started my new job, I'm **prone to panic**. I don't know what I should do to de-stress.*

sedentary lifestyle

lifestyle with no physical activity (lối sống không có hoạt động thể chất)

- *People who live a **sedentary lifestyle** are called couch potatoes.*
- ***Sedentary lifestyle** may lead to depression and a weakened immune system.*

cut down on

to reduce the amount of intake (làm giảm lượng tiêu thụ)

- *If you want to lose weight, you'll have **to cut down on** fatty food.*
- *I think we need **to cut down on** Facebook time and meet our friends in person.*

nervous breakdown

a serious mental illness stopping people from living normally, often in the form of depression, insomnia and anxiety (bệnh tâm thần nghiêm trọng ngăn cản mọi người sống bình thường, thường ở dạng trầm cảm, mất ngủ và lo lắng)

- *If you don't find a way to de-stress, you'll end up having a **nervous breakdown**.*
- *I had a near **nervous breakdown** when I found out that my husband was cheating on me with my best friend..*

alternative medicine

healthcare practice that doesn't use traditional drugs and treatments (chăm sóc sức khỏe mà không sử dụng các loại thuốc truyền thống và phương pháp điều trị)

- I don't believe in **alternative medicine**. I once went to a chiropractor and he nearly broke my neck.
- Acupuncture is one of the most popular types of **alternative medicine** nowadays. I don't know about you, but I wouldn't like to have needles stuck on my face.

plastic surgery

operation to reshape, remodel or resize body parts (định hình lại, sửa sang lại hoặc thay đổi kích thước bộ phận trên cơ thể)

- Britney Spears must have had **a couple of plastic surgeries**. She looks younger now than ten years ago.
- I'm against **plastic surgery**. I think we are beautiful the way we were born.

sick leave

paid absence from work (nghỉ ốm)

- My bosses weren't very happy when I had to go on **sick leave**.
- My colleague's been on **sick leave** for weeks now. I don't think I can do everything by myself any longer.

common cold

a mild infection with symptoms like sneezing, coughing, runny nose and temperature (bệnh nhẹ với các triệu chứng như hắt hơi, ho, chảy nước mũi và nhiệt độ)

- Adults have the **common cold** two or three times a year on average.
- You should drink plenty of liquids and stay in bed for a few days **to get over the common cold** fast.

flu = influenza

viral infection with severe symptoms like high temperature, muscle pain and fatigue (nhiễm virus với các triệu chứng nghiêm trọng như nhiệt độ cao, đau cơ và mệt mỏi)

- You shouldn't go to work if you have the **flu**. It's contagious and others will catch it too.
- I didn't mind having a **flu** as a child; everyone was really nice to me and kept giving me presents to cheer me up.

pneumonia

severe inflammation of the lungs resulting in the air sacks being filled with liquid. (viêm nhiễm nặng ở phổi dẫn đến các túi khí bị lấp đầy với chất lỏng)

- *I spent two weeks in hospital when I had **pneumonia**. My back hurt so much, I will never forget those two weeks.*
- *I don't know if you can catch **pneumonia** from another person. Ask your doctor.*

cancer

an extremely serious disease typically with tumors in different parts of the body. (một căn bệnh vô cùng nghiêm trọng thường có khối u ở các bộ phận khác nhau của cơ thể)

- *Smoking might cause lung **cancer**.*
- *Chemotherapy is one of the most common ways to treat **cancer** patients.*

childhood diseases

illnesses typically caught in childhood, e.g. Mumps, Chicken pox, Measles. (Bệnh thường bắt gặp ở trẻ em, ví dụ Bệnh quai bị, thủy đậu, sởi)

- *Every child should be vaccinated against **childhood diseases**.*
- *I can't visit your daughter in hospital, I'm afraid. I didn't have any of the **childhood diseases**, and you know they're really dangerous when caught in adulthood.*

SOCIAL AND GLOBAL PROBLEMS

discrimination

treating people as inferior because of their race, gender, religion, age etc. (phân biệt đối xử những người thấp kém hơn vì chủng tộc, giới tính, tôn giáo, tuổi tác của họ vv...)

- ***Sexual discrimination** in the workplace is illegal, however, it's always the women who are asked to make coffee for meetings.*
- ***Racial discrimination** is unacceptable. I will hire the best candidate for this job, regardless of their race.*

protest = riot

people gathering in a public place to show that they disagree with something the government has done (người tụ tập ở một nơi công cộng để cho thấy rằng họ không đồng ý với điều mà chính phủ đã thực hiện)

- There will be an **anti-capitalist protest** in the city centre tomorrow. It's better to avoid the area.
- The students are organizing a **protest** against the increasing school fees. I don't think I will attend. I don't like crowds.

poverty-stricken (adj.)

to describe places or people that are extremely poor (mô tả những nơi hoặc những người rất nghèo)

- The Prime Minister visited the **poverty-stricken** areas of the country.
- One day I'd like to travel to **poverty-stricken** countries to help the poor.

crime-infested (adj.)

to describe a place where crime rates are very high (mô tả một nơi có nhiều tội phạm)

- I grew up in a **crime-infested ghetto**, but I managed to stay out of trouble.
- I'm thinking of buying that house, but I don't know if the area is **crime-infested** or not.

beggar

a person who asks people in the street to give him/ her some money (một người yêu cầu mọi người trên đường phố để cho anh ta / cô ấy một số tiền = ăn xin)

- They say you shouldn't give change to **beggars**. They will never get a job if they can make enough money begging.
- I feel so sorry for the **beggars** in our street. I buy them some food once a week and give them some warm clothes before winter.

famine

when a lot of people starve/ don't have enough food to eat, we call it a famine (khi rất nhiều người dân chết đói / không có đủ thực phẩm để ăn, chúng ta gọi nó là một nạn đói)

- =====
- The **famine** in Ethiopia shocked the whole world and a lot of charities raised money to send food to the country.
 - The Irish **famine** of 1845 forced thousands of families to leave the country.

epidemic

when a serious disease spreads very quickly and a lot of people catch it, we call it an epidemic (khi một căn bệnh nghiêm trọng lan truyền rất nhanh chóng và rất nhiều người bắt nó, chúng tôi gọi nó là một dịch)

- There's usually a seasonal **flu epidemic** every winter in my country.
- Diabetes is considered the latest **epidemic** in the Western world.

flood

water overflowing land that is usually dry. (nước tràn đầy trên đất)

- I wouldn't build a house on the river bank. There are **floods** there every spring.
- Disaster tourists took photos of the **flood** instead of helping the locals.

drought

a long period of dry weather with no rain at all. (một thời gian dài khi mà thời tiết khô và không có mưa)

- Plants need to store water to survive summer **droughts**.
- There was a three-month **drought** last year. Farmers lost a lot of money.

global warming

a gradual increase in the temperature on our planet. (sự tăng dần nhiệt độ trên hành tinh của chúng ta)

- **Global warming** is caused by the greenhouse effect. It is causing natural disasters, for example floods, tidal waves and hurricanes.
- If **global warming** gets worse, I might have to move to Alaska. I can't stand hot weather.

WORK

perk = fringe benefit

extra benefits given to employees besides their salary, for example, use of company car or mobile phone. (những lợi ích khác cho người lao động ngoài tiền lương của họ, ví dụ, sử dụng xe công ty hoặc điện thoại di động)

- The only **perk** I have is free parking in our basement. I wish I had a better job with a multinational company.
- I love my new job; the **perks** are great. They've given me a brand new car, a mobile phone and a laptop. I also get free tickets to the local swimming pool and I can use the company fitness centre anytime I want to.

promotion

getting a higher ranking position at a workplace. (nhận được một vị trí xếp hạng cao hơn tại nơi làm việc)

- **I've just got a promotion:** I've been promoted to Key Account Manager. Let's go out and celebrate! I'll buy everyone a drink.
- I hope I'll get a **promotion** soon. I don't think I can work in this position for much longer. My colleagues drive me crazy.

job satisfaction

it means how happy you are with the way things are at your workplace. (nó có nghĩa là bạn hạnh phúc như thế nào với công việc hiện tại của bạn)

- I've been asked to fill out a **job satisfaction** survey. I'm not sure what to write. I don't want to offend my bosses.

- =====
- Employee **job satisfaction** may give a real boost to productivity. Employers must realize that.

rewarding (adj.)

something that makes you feel satisfied and happy. (một cái gì đó mà làm cho bạn cảm thấy hài lòng và hạnh phúc)

- Teaching is such a **rewarding** job. I love the look on my students' face when they get good grades.
- I'm not sure what job I'd like to do after I graduate, but has to be challenging and **rewarding** at the same time.

health insurance contribution

money that you or your employers pay to the state every month to cover your public health care costs. (tiền mà bạn hoặc ông chủ của bạn sử dụng trả cho nhà nước hàng tháng để trang trải chi phí chăm sóc sức khỏe cho công cộng)

- Your **health insurance contribution** is automatically deducted from your salary if you are employed full time.
- I'm self-employed, so I have to pay my **health insurance contribution** directly to the NHS.

be made redundant

be dismissed from work, because you're no longer needed. (bị sa thải khỏi công việc, bởi vì bạn không được cần nữa)

- My company downsized last year and I **was made redundant**.
- **Being made redundant** is better than being fired- you get redundancy payment.

workaholic

a person who has a strong desire to work and doesn't like doing other things. (người mà có một mong muốn mạnh mẽ chỉ sống để làm việc và không thích làm những việc khác)

- My friends think I'm a **workaholic**, just because I often work late hours.
- My boss is a **workaholic** and he obviously thinks nobody in the office minds working unsocial hours.

to be in charge of...

supervising/ controlling/ commanding. (giám sát / kiểm soát / chỉ huy)

- I'm **in charge of a group** of ten people in my department.
- Who was **in charge of** decorating this place? The walls are green and the pictures are pink. No customer will ever enter.

to deal with...

to handle/ to have to do with. (xử lý / phải làm việc với ...)

- I have good communication skills. **I deal with** customers on a daily basis.
- As a housing manager **I have to deal with** repairs and conflicts between neighbours.

to involve

to contain/ to include (chứa / bao gồm)

- My job **involves** travel. I love it, because I get to see new places and to meet new people.
- Does your current job **involve** dealing with customers?

EDUCATION

ongoing assessment

evaluation of a student's progress based on his/ her performance throughout the whole course- not based on one single test or exam. (đánh giá sự tiến bộ của học sinh dựa trên sự thể hiện của họ trong suốt toàn bộ khóa học- không chỉ dựa trên một kì thi duy nhất)

- *Ongoing assessment has become quite popular lately. Learners like the idea of getting constant feedback.*
- *I would have been more relaxed at secondary school if we'd had **ongoing assessment** instead of those horrible end-of-unit tests.*

to be poor at something

not to be good at something. (làm không tốt một cái gì đó)

- *I was so poor at **Mathematics** at school, I always had to take extra lessons with a private tutor.*
- *If I weren't poor at **Physics**, I would love to become a doctor.*

certificate

a document that shows that an educational program has been completed. (tài liệu cho thấy một chương trình giáo dục đã được hoàn thành)

- *To get an IELTS language **certificate**, you have to take the test.*
- *I have a hairdressing **certificate** on the wall in my salon to make my customers more relaxed.*

diploma

the document received at the end of secondary school or graduate/ professional school or an academic award. (tài liệu nhận được khi kết thúc việc học ở trường trung học hoặc đại học / trung học chuyên nghiệp hoặc một giải thưởng mang tính học thuật)

- *When we received our **diplomas** at the high school graduation ceremony, everybody threw their hats in the air.*

- =====
- *The best students, including me, were awarded honorary **diplomas**.*

degree

a rank given to someone after completing his/her university or college studies. (một thứ hạng dành cho một người nào đó sau khi hoàn thành việc học đại học hoặc cao đẳng của mình)

- *I hold a bachelor's **degree** (BA) in Philosophy. I'm studying for my master's (MA) degree at the moment.*
- *Candidates with a **business degree** are more likely to get this job.*

correspondence course

distance learning- you don't have to go to the school in person, materials and assignments are sent by post or via e-mail. (học từ xa- bạn không cần phải đi đến các trường học trực tiếp, và bài tập được gửi qua đường bưu điện hoặc qua e-mail)

- *I followed a **correspondence course** in Child Psychology when I was living in Paris.*
- *When applying for a job, they don't usually take **correspondence courses** into consideration.*

grant = scholarship

money given to students by the government to finance their further or higher education. (tiền trao cho sinh viên bởi chính phủ để tài trợ cho sự tiến xa hơn trong giáo dục của họ)

- *I've applied for the **grant**. All I can do now is cross my fingers and wait for the results.*
- *If I don't get the **grant**, I'll have to find a part-time job, possibly in a restaurant. I wouldn't like that.*

fee

payment given for professional services, for example medical treatment or teaching. (phí thanh toán cho các dịch vụ chuyên nghiệp như trả cho các dịch vụ y tế hoặc giảng dạy)

- =====
- *I dropped out of school, because my parents couldn't pay the **fees**.*
 - *The **registration fee** will be added to the tuition fees.*

tuition

instruction, teaching. (sự hướng dẫn, giảng dạy)

- *If **tuition** fees keep rising, I'll have to give up studying.*

with flying colours

with great success. (với những thành công lớn)

- *I'm sure you'll pass the exam **with flying colours**. You've studied a lot.*
- *If I keep passing my tests **with flying colours**, my parents must buy me a car, or at least a new computer.*

to resit an exam

to sit an exam again. (tham dự một kỳ thi lại lần nữa)

- *I've failed my exam twice already, but **I'll keep resitting** until I pass.*
- *If you want to get a better IELTS score, you can **resit the test** anytime.*

IELTS FIGHTER TỔNG HỢP

Chúc các bạn học IELTS thật tốt và đạt điểm cao như mong muốn nhé! See you again ^^