# Something You Forgot

Describe a time when you forgot something important.

You should say:

* when it happened
* what you forgot
* what was the result of your forgetting

and explain why it was important.

**The Importance of Memory**

* In everyday life (e.g., at home, not in academia), what sorts of things do people generally need to remember? \*
* What sorts of things do people want to (or need to) recall?
* Do you think memory is important?
* Do you think memory is important for language learning?
* What kinds of jobs require having a good memory?
* Do you agree that, when people recall things from the past, they tend to only remember the good things?

**Forgetting**

* In everyday life (e.g., at home, not in academia), what sorts of things do people most often forget? \*
* Why do people forget these often small things? \*
* What sorts of people are most likely to forget things? \*
* Why do elderly people forget things easily? \*
* What can be the consequences of forgetting these things?
* What can be the result if someone forgets another person's name?
* Do you have any suggestions on how to avoid forgetting people's names?

**Avoiding Forgetfulness / Enhancing Memory**

* What do (or, can) people do to help them remember things? \*
* What methods do you use to help you avoid forgetting things? \*
* How can modern technology be used to help people not forget things (= to remind people of things)? \*
* Do you think being organized can help a person avoid forgetting (to do) things? \*
* Do you think people can improve their memory? (If yes, how?)
* What kinds of things can people do to avoid forgetting things?
* How does keeping a notebook help people to remember things?
* Do you think people will be forgetting more things in the future, or fewer things?
* Do you think people are (or, could become) overly dependent on these technologies?
* What would you suggest elderly people do if they want to avoid forgetfulness?

# An Environmental Law

Describe a law about the environment that you would like to see.

You should say:

* what the law would be about
* how the law would work
* why it is important to have this law

and explain what changes would result from this law.

**Laws (in society)**

* Do you think it's important to have laws in society?
* Is it important to (always) obey the law?

**Rules/Regulations (in general)**

* Can you suggest why some people say that "rules are made to be broken"?
* Do you think it's OK to break rules sometimes?

**Rules/Regulations (in schools)**

* What sorts of rules do most schools in your country usually have? \*
* Do you think it is necessary for school children to wear school uniforms? \*
* Do schools have any rules concerning cell phones at school?
* Do you think school students should take their cell phones to school?
* How do you think students can be prevented from forming romantic relationships with other students at school?
* Do you think the wearing of school uniforms helps to avoid having high school students form romantic relationships at school?
* Do different schools have different rules?
* Do you think it would be a good idea for school children to (help) decide what rules to have at their school?
* What sorts of punishment (or penalties) do schools (and universities) use when students break the rules?

**Rules/Regulations (at work)**

* Do you think people should wear a uniform at work? \*
* What are some typical rules that exist in most (or, some) workplaces?
* Do you think all jobs (or workplaces) have rules?
* Can you think of any jobs that have special rules (rules that might not exist in other jobs)?
* Would you like to wear a uniform at work?

**Children and Rules**

* How can parents and teachers help children learn to follow rules? \*
* Do you think it's important that children follow certain rules?
* In what ways do children benefit from following these rules?

**Environmental Problems**

* What do you think are the causes of environmental pollution?

# A Foreign Country You Would Like to Go To

Describea foreign country you would like to go to.

You should say:

* what country it is
* what this country is like
* what you would do in this country

and explain why you would like to go to this country.

**Going Abroad**

* What benefits can one get from travelling abroad? \*
* What are the main reasons why people from your country go abroad? \*
* What foreign countries are most popular for people from your country to visit, and why do people choose those countries? \*
* In what ways is working abroad different to travelling abroad (as a tourist)? \*
* In what ways is studying abroad different to travelling abroad (as a tourist)? \*
* Can you suggest some reasons why some people are not interested in (or, dislike) travelling abroad?
* Do people in your country prefer to visit (as tourists) places within your country, or visit places abroad?
* What do people from your country usually do when they travel abroad (as tourists or holiday makers)?
* In what ways is travelling abroad different to travelling within one's own country?

**The Tourism Industry**

* Concerning your country, in what ways do you think tourism today is different to tourism a few decades ago? \*
* Why do foreign tourists come to your country? \*
* Where do they go and what do they see? \*
* Why do you think more and more people are travelling abroad nowadays? \*
* What effects can (or does) long-distance travel have on the environment? \*
* What benefits does tourism bring to a country (or, to a particular location)? \*
* What do you think could be done to make touring your country more convenient for foreign tourists? \*
* What do you suggest could be done to attract more tourists to your country? \*
* How would you compare the tourist facilities in your country today with those (the tourist facilities) in the past? \*
* Why do you think the tourism industry is better developed in some places (or, some countries) than in other places (or countries)? \*
* Are there any major differences in facilities for tourists in big cities, compared to smaller places? \*
* Are more foreign tourists coming to your country today compared with previously, or are fewer foreign tourists coming?
* Why do (some) people today go abroad for shopping?
* Would you like to travel all around the world?
* What changes has tourism brought to your country?
* In what ways do you think foreign tourists coming to your country is influencing (or affecting) your country?
* Do you think tourism is having any negative impact on your country?

# A Success You Have Had

Described a success you have had in your life.

You should say:

* what it was
* how you achieved it
* what others thought about your success

and explain how this success influenced your life.

**Success**

* How would you define "success", as applied to a person? \*
* Do you think the way we judge success (or, measure or define success) has changed, compared to the way success was measured in the past? \*
* What personal qualities do successful people tend to have? \*
* Do you think success is only a matter of luck?
* Would you say people's success comes from within themselves or from outside themselves?
* Would you say the way people gain (or achieve) success has changed, compared to several decades ago?
* Do you think being wealthy (rich) is the same as being "successful"?
* What rewards (or, benefits) does success bring to people?
* Do you think that people who are successful in one area could also be successful in other areas?
* Do you think all "successful" people feel happy about their lives?
* How would you describe (or define) a "successful parent"?
* What do you think parents should do in order to maximize the chances that their son or daughter is successful when they grow up?
* Do you think one's level of education is closely connected to one's "success"?
* In what ways do you think personal success and the success of a company are the same, or different?

**Failure**

* What's the most difficult thing that you have ever (tried to) do?
* How do you feel when you fail to achieve something?
* Do you think failure is necessary (or, useful) in people's lives?
* Can you suggest why people sometimes fail to achieve what they want to achieve?

**Success in the Workplace**

* How are people who are successful at work rewarded? \*
* How should people who are successful at work be rewarded? \*
* Why do you think many people do not enjoy doing their work? \*
* What do you think a person should do if they don't like their job? \*
* How do people assess someone as being "successful" in their work?
* How do (or, how can) people become successful in their work?
* Do you think people who like their work are more likely to be "successful" in that job?
* How important do you think it is for a working person to feel interested in their work?
* Do you think a person should quit their job if they don't like it?
* Do you think it's possible for all working people to feel successful in their work?
* How do (or, how can) employers (or managers) motivate their employees to feel successful at work?
* In addition to work, what other ways can a person be "successful"?

# An Artistic Activity You Did at School

Describe an art or craft activity that you did at school.

You should say:

* what activity it was
* how you did it
* who you did it with

and explain how you felt about this activity after you finished it.

**Traditional Arts & Handicrafts**

* What are some examples of traditional arts and handicrafts that you have in your country (or, culture)? \*
* Do you think these traditional arts and handicrafts will continue to be practiced in the future? \*
* How important do you think it is to preserve the knowledge of creating traditional arts and crafts? \*
* What could be done to help preserve this knowledge? \*
* Are young people today (e.g., teenagers) very interested in learning (or, doing) these traditional handicrafts? \*
* What could be done to encourage young people to be more interested in learning traditional arts and handicrafts? \*
* Do you think traditional theatrical (or, dramatic) techniques will continue to be practiced?
* How could a person learn traditional arts and handicraft skills?
* Do you think primary school children should learn how to create some of these traditional handicrafts?
* Are there any shops in your country that specialize in traditional arts and handicrafts?

**Handmade Gifts**

* Would you ever give a piece of traditional art or traditional handicraft to someone as a gift?
* Are handmade gifts very popular in your country?
* What kinds of things do some people make themselves as gifts to give to others?
* How do handmade gifts compare with machine-made gifts?
* Do you think handmade gifts give the receiver of the gift a feeling that is different to the feeling one gets from machine-made gifts?

**Art Education**

* Have you ever attended any art classes?
* What did you learn from those classes?
* Do you think it’s important to cultivate an appreciation of art in children?
* Do you think children should learn about art at school?
* How do you imagine art will be taught in the future?

# An Important Conversation

Describe an important conversation that you had with someone.

You should say:

* when you had this conversation
* who you had the conversation with
* what the conversation was about

and explain why this conversation was important.

**Spoken Communication**

* What are the differences between face-to-face communication and communication by telephone? \*
* What qualities (or skills) does a person need in order to communicate well with others? \*
* Do you think body language plays a role in communication?
* Are there any differences between the ways males and females communicate?
* Are there any differences between the ways old people and young people communicate?
* Do you think clear pronunciation is an important speaking skill?

**Conversations**

* In your country, what topics do people typically talk about when they have everyday conversations? \*
* What are the differences between having a conversation with a man, and having a conversation with a woman? \*
* When men chat with other men do they usually talk about the same things that women do when they chat with other women? \*
* When men and women are together (i.e., mixed company) what do they usually talk about? \*
* How do people usually begin a conversation? \*
* What different types of conversations do people have in different inter-personal relationships? \*
* Do school students generally speak in the same way to their friends as they speak to their teachers? \*
* In what situations do people in your country have a conversation with others?
* Are men and women equally interested in those topics?
* Do you think women like to chat more than men?
* Do you agree that women generally talk about trivial matters while men generally talk about serious matters, such as politics?
* What makes a good conversationalist?
* What (do you think) is the difference between chatting (having a casual conversation) and gossiping?
* Who do you prefer chatting with - your parents or your friends?

**Talking to Strangers**

* Is it easy for people in your country to have conversations with strangers, such as on the street or in a shop? \*
* What are some differences between a conversation between friends and a conversation between strangers? \*
* In what circumstances do people typically talk to strangers?
* What types of questions, or topics, do people not ask strangers?
* What sorts of conversations do you think travellers typically have with strangers?

# A Long Car Trip

Describe a long car journey you went on.

You should say:

* where you went
* why you went there
* who you travelled with

and explain what you did on this trip.

**Long Car Trips**

* Are long car trips very popular in your country?
* What sorts of problems can a person have when they drive a car on a long trip?
* Can you suggest how to avoid those problems?

**Cars**

* Is owning a car a very important goal for you? \*
* Do you think males and females are different in the importance they place on owning a car? \*
* Would you say males and females tend to choose different kinds of cars when they buy a car? \*
* Do many people (or, families) own private cars in your country? \*
* Do you think it's good to have an increasing number of people driving their own car? \*
* Would it be a good thing if everyone had their own car? \*
* Do you think the government should limit the number of cars on the roads (or, in your country **/** your city)? \*
* What do you imagine cars will be like in the future? \*
* Why do people want to own a car?
* Why do some people in cities with good subway systems still choose to buy a car?
* What kinds of people buy their own cars in your country?
* Is owning a car a status symbol in your country?
* Do you think it's good for people to have their own cars?
* Do you think car ownership in your country will increase in the future?
* Do you think it's good for one person or one family to own more than one car?

**Buying a Car**

* If you bought a car, what type of car would it be? \*
* How do people buy a car in your country? \*
* Can you explain why different people choose different types of cars? \*
* What are some differences between men's and women’s preferences in cars (or, attitudes towards cars)? \*
* What types of car do people in your country buy?
* In general, how does one choose what car to buy?
* Which do you think is the more important factor when choosing a car, the speed capacity of the car or the safety that the car provides?
* Is the size of the car important?
* Why do some people buy big cars while others buy small cars?
* Why do some people choose to buy luxurious cars while other people choose to buy lower-priced cars?
* Why do some people buy an old car (a used car) instead of a new car?
* Is it good for the environment to have old cars on the road?

# Someone Who Likes Flying

Describe a person you know who enjoys flying (= likes traveling by plane).

You should say:

* who this person is
* how you know this person
* how often this person travels by plane

and explain why he or she likes flying.

**Air Travel**

* Why do you think some people dislike traveling by plane? \*
* When someone is buying a plane ticket, which do you think is usually the more important factor, price or comfort? \*
* What are the advantages and disadvantages of traveling by plane? \*
* What kinds of people are most likely to (choose to) travel by plane? \*
* Do you think traveling by plane has much effect on the environment? \*
* Do people in your country like flying?
* Why are more and more people choosing to travel by plane?
* Do people usually fly first class or economy class?
* Do you think flying first class is a waste of money?
* How does a person choose whether or not to travel by plane?
* In your country, what forms of transport do most people use to travel long distances?
* Do most people choose the cheapest form of transport, or do they choose the most comfortable form of transport?
* Can you suggest why some people choose to travel by train instead of flying?
* Which do you think is more convenient for most people, train travel or traveling by plane?
* What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of flying as compared to traveling by high-speed train?
* When a plane or a train crashes, do you think it is usually the fault of the pilot or the train driver, or the fault of the plane or train itself?
* Would you like to fly a fast aircraft (plane)?

**Airports**

* Do you think it would be good (or, convenient) to live near an airport? \*
* Would you like to work at an airport? \*
* Where do you think is the best place to build an airport to service a big city? \*
* What people are most likely to live near an airport?
* How are people who live near an airport affected by the airport?
* Do you think there should be more airports?

# A Street

Describe a street that you like to visit.

You should say:

* where is it
* what it looks like
* how often you go there

and explain why you like to go there.

**Streets**

* Would you say it's safe to walk along city streets (at night) in your country? \*
* Can you suggest how some streets (in your country) could be constructed in order to make them safer? \*
* Is air pollution a problem on the streets in your country? \*
* What kinds of streets are most popular for people to visit in your country?
* Why do many people choose to (prefer to) go shopping on some streets, and not other streets?
* Are there any famous streets in your country?
* Do you think that all streets in cities are pleasant places to walk along?
* What makes "a good street"?
* How do you think streets could be improved, to make them nicer places to visit (or, walk along)?
* In general, are the city streets in your country safe for pedestrians?
* Which pedestrians do you think are most in danger on the streets?
* Do you think it's important for pedestrians to follow the road rules?
* Are traffic jams (or, is congested traffic) common in your country?

**City Living**

* Do you like big cities?
* What do you think are the advantages of living in a city?
* Do you think cities are more suitable for young people, or for old people? (Or are they equally suitable for both?)
* For old people, what do you think are the pros and cons of living in a city?
* In many countries, some people move out of the city when they retire, to live in the countryside. Why do you think they choose to do that?
* Do you think it's important (or, necessary) to have universities in big cities rather than in smaller cities?

**Shops**

* Do you think the location of shops is important? \*
* What would you say is a good location for a shop?
* Do you think the location of a shop is a factor in the success of that business?
* Are there any shops whose location is particularly important to you?
* Would you say there are some changes taking place today in the development of shopping?
* Can you suggest some reasons why some shops have closed in recent years?
* Is online shopping having much of an impact on the way people buy things?
* Which do you think is better, online shopping or buying things in real shops?
* What parts of a city do you think are most suitable for having big shopping centres (or, shopping malls)?

# An Article You Read about Health

Describe an article you read in a magazine or on the internet about health.

You should say:

* when you read it
* what the article was about
* where you read it

and explain what you learned from the article.

**A Healthy Lifestyle**

* What do people in your country do in order to maintain their health? \*
* Do you think it's easier to maintain good health today than it was in the past? \*
* Are people in your country very concerned about health?
* Do people in your country like to exercise?
* What do you think are the features of a healthy lifestyle?
* Do you think that young people and old people have the same concerns about their health?
* Do young people and old people look after their health in the same way?
* Do you think that what people do today to stay healthy is the same as what people did in the past?
* Would you agree that modern people don't have enough time to focus on health?
* What sorts of products do some people buy in an effort to maintain (or, improve) their health?
* How important do you think it is to eat a healthy diet?
* In your country, have people's diets changed much, compared to what they were eating many decades ago?
* What sorts of foods would you say are not very healthy for people to eat?
* Do you think playing sport can help people maintain their health?
* Would you say that most young people in your country have a healthy lifestyle?
* In the future, do you think people will be paying more attention to their health than they do now, or less attention?
* Are there many people with mental health problems in your country?

**Information about Health**

* Do people in your country get much information about health? \*
* Would you say it's one of the responsibilities of government to teach people about healthy living? \*
* Do you think people can (or do) benefit from health-related articles in magazines and on the internet?
* Do you think it's necessary to have a health education program in order to teach people about healthy living?
* Can you suggest why magazines often have articles about health?

**Children and Good Health**

* Do you think it's important for children to learn about healthy living?
* Do you think that school students should learn about health-related topics at school?
* Should children be educated about correct eating habits at school?
* What do you think parents should pay attention to, in order to ensure that their children stay healthy?

# A Person Whose Job is Important

Describe a person you know whose work benefits society (the community).

You should say:

* who this person is
* how you know this person
* what job he or she does

and explain why you think their job is important.

**Salaries / Wages** (Income)

* What jobs are the most well-paid in your country? \*
* What jobs are the most poorly paid? \*
* Why do you think some jobs are well-paid while other jobs are poorly paid? \*
* Do you think employees who have just graduated should receive the same pay as older employees? \*
* Why are young people's salaries usually lower than older people's salaries in the same profession? \*
* Are these the same as most well-paid jobs several decades ago?
* What jobs do you think should be the most well-paid?
* Are the highly paid jobs the same jobs that are the most respected jobs in your country?
* What university courses (or degrees) generally lead to the highest-paid jobs?
* Would you like to work in a poorly-paid job?
* Why do some people (choose to) work in poorly paid jobs?
* Is it easy to find a well-paid job in your country at the moment?
* Are (high school) teachers well-paid in your country?

**Work Skills**

* What useful work skills should all high school students learn? \*
* Do you think education today (in schools and universities) is suitable for the real-world work environment that people face, or will face in the future? \*
* Would you say that young people who have just graduated from university are really ready to start working in their chosen careers? \*
* Do you think universities should prepare their students for work? How? \*
* Do you think it's important for people to get (or, have) an education before they start working?
* What kinds of work skills are most valuable in your country at the moment?
* Do you think schools should give information to their students about useful work skills?

**Job Satisfaction / Working Conditions**

* What do you think employers or supervisors can do to help motivate their employees to perform better at work, besides giving them a pay raise? \*
* Why do people sometimes change their job?
* Can you suggest why some people become bored with their job?
* What effect do long working hours have on people?
* How do you think one can become successful in his or her job?
* How do you think good employees should be rewarded?
* If someone is bored with their job, is it easy for them to change to a different job?
* Do you think it’s good to change jobs frequently?
* Why do some young people frequently change jobs?
* Do you think people will be changing their jobs more often in the future?
* When (at what age) do most people in your country start working?

# A House or Apartment

Describe a house or apartment you would like to live in.

You should say:

* where this house or apartment would be
* what it would look like
* when you would like to live there

and explain why you would like to live in such a place.

**Housing in Your Country**

* What type of home do most people in your country live in? \*
* What do you think are the differences between living in a house, compared to living in an apartment? \*
* Do you think there are any differences between young people and elderly people in their choice of what type of (or style of) home to live in? \*
* Do people in your country prefer to rent their homes, or buy them? \*
* What are the major differences (or, advantages & disadvantages) between renting and buying a home? \*
* Should the government take responsibility for providing homes for disadvantaged (poor) people? \*
* Do people prefer to live in modern homes or the older style homes (for example built 50 or more years ago)? \*
* Are there any differences between the homes of rich people and those of poor people in your country?
* Do young people in your country prefer to live with their parents, or by themselves?
* Do young people prefer to have old neighbours or young neighbours?
* What's your opinion of people who buy and then resell a home in order to make a profit?
* What do you think governments could (or, should) do to solve the problem of the high cost of buying a home?
* What can (or should) young people do about the high cost of buying a home?
* Do you think parents should help their children to pay the cost of buying a home?
* How is modern home design in your country different to that of the past?
* Can you suggest why homes are different (designed differently) in different countries **/** different parts of your country?
* How do you think the temperature (or the climate) of a place influences the design of housing in that place?
* What do you think are the advantages and the disadvantages of living in a home that has a yard (or garden)?
* What do you imagine people’s houses will be like in the future?

**Living in Cities, Towns or Villages**

* What parts of your country do most of the people live in?
* Have there been any changes in the past few decades to where people live?
* Do people in your country (prefer to) live in cities, or in rural environments? \*
* Where do you think most young people prefer to live, in a city or in the countryside?

**Moving**

* Why do people sometimes move to live in a different home?
* Do you think moving to a new (= different) home can ever create (or cause) problems for people?
* Would you like to live in a foreign country in the future?

# A Time You Borrowed Something

Describe a time when you borrowed something.

You should say:

* what you borrowed
* who you borrowed it from
* what you used it for

and explain why you borrowed it.

**Lending and Borrowing**

* What are some examples of the things that people in your country typically borrow from others? \*
* Why do people borrow things? \*
* Are there some things that people borrow from family members but don't usually borrow from other people? \*
* Do you think there are any differences between borrowing money from family members and borrowing it from friends? \*
* Before you borrow something (such as a pen), do you think it's always necessary to ask permission? \*
* How long do you think is a reasonable length of time for a borrower to keep the borrowed item? \*
* Which do you think is better, to borrow books from a library or to buy good-quality second-hand books? \*
* Many people are reluctant to lend money or valuable things. Can you suggest why? \*
* Which do you think is better, to buy something or to borrow it?
* What are the differences between buying something and borrowing something?
* In what situations do you think it is more suitable to borrow something rather than buy one?
* Do you think people feel comfortable borrowing (or lending) things?
* Do you think there are some loans that are acceptable while others are not acceptable?
* Do people often lend things to (or borrow from) strangers?
* How do you feel about borrowing money?
* How do people borrow a large sum of money?
* What kind of friend will lend you things?
* If someone habitually borrowed from you, would you continue to lend to that person?
* Do you think there's much difference between borrowing small (inexpensive) things and big (expensive or important) things?
* What choices do people have if they do not want to borrow?
* What would you do if a friend didn't give back something that they had borrowed from you?
* Do you think a person can damage their relationship with another person if they borrow something for a long time?
* What are the benefits of borrowing books from a library?
* Can you think of examples of things that some people pay to borrow?
* What are the advantages of paying to borrow something rather than buying it?

# Someone in the News

Describe someone in the news who you would like to meet.

You should say:

* who this person is
* why they are in the news
* what you would say to this person

and explain why you would like to meet this person.

**People in the News**

* What sorts of people are most likely to be in the news?  (not necessarily only on the TV news) \*
* Do you feel that news about entertainers (or the entertainment industry) is really newsworthy? \*
* Why are people so interested in hearing news about entertainment celebrities? \*
* Do you agree that there are too many news reports about celebrities (especially entertainment celebrities)? \*
* Instead of news about the lives of celebrities, do you think there should be more news about average people? \*
* Do you think television viewers benefit by watching (and **/**or listening to) the people in the news?
* Do you think TV news programs have changed in the past one or two decades?

**The News**

* What do you think are the differences between the news on TV and the news in newspapers? \*
* Which is more important to you, news about (or from) your country or news about (or from) foreign countries? \*
* In your country, what are the differences between domestic news and foreign news? \*
* Do you think the news is always true (or, believable)? \*
* In your opinion, why is there more "bad news" (such as news about disasters and wars) than "good news" on the TV news, or in newspapers? \*
* What do you think are the main differences between the ways people got their news several decades ago, and the ways they get it today? \*
* Which do you think is better, to read the news or to watch it on TV? \*
* How often do you watch the news on TV?
* Where do you think there is more news, on TV, or in newspapers?
* What types of people are most likely to read newspapers?
* What are the typical topics that are in the news in your country?
* Do you ever discuss the news with your friends or family?
* Which topics in the news are most interesting to you?
* Do you think there is freedom of the press in your country and in other countries?
* What effects do you think so much bad news might have on people? (the people who receive this news)
* Do you think more good news should be broadcast?
* Why do you think some people just think the news is a form of entertainment?
* How do you think the news media will change (or develop) in the future?
* Do you think newspapers will disappear in the future (to be replaced by electronic news media)?

# Waiting for Something

Describe a time when you waited for something.

You should say:

* what you waited for
* how long you waited
* what you did while you were waiting

and explain how you felt while waiting

**Waiting**

* In what situations do people in your country (have to) wait for something, or someone? \*

**Patience**

* How important do you think it is for people to have patience? \*
* For what people (in what jobs or roles or doing what activities) is being patient important? \*
* Can you suggest why young children are not very patient (or, find it hard to be patient)? \*
* Do you think people are born with different levels of patience, or is it something that is learned? \*
* Do you think that people tend to enjoy things more if they had waited a while before getting those things? \*
* Would you become angry if you had to wait for a long time?
* What sorts of people do not think being patient is important?
* What are some differences between what children wait for and what adults wait for?
* Do you think children are (naturally) impatient or are some children who are patient?
* How should one treat a child who, for example, does not wait his or her turn when it's an adult whose turn it is to do something?
* Would you say patience is a skill?
* Do you think it can be developed further?
* How can parents and teachers help young children to learn to have patience?
* In what ways does it benefit a child to teach them the virtue of patience?
* In what ways will having patience help these children to become successful in life?

**Punctuality / The Pace of Modern Life**

* Have you ever been late for meeting someone?
* Do you think the pace of modern life is faster than it was in the past?
* Do you think the pace of life will become even faster in the future?
* Do you think modern technology tends to make people less patient?

# A Long Walk

Describe a long walk that you went on.

You should say:

* where you walked
* who you walked with
* what you saw (and did) during this walk

and explain why you went on this long walk.

**Walking**

* What do you think are the benefits of walking? \*
* Would you say your hometown is a suitable place for walking?
* Can you suggest why some people dislike walking?
* Did you like walking when you were a child?
* In the future, do you think you’ll continue to enjoy walking or will you choose some other form of transportation, or exercise?
* What kinds of people are most suited to walking as a form of exercise?

**Outdoor Leisure Activities**

* What are the most popular outdoor leisure activities in your country? \*
* How do children benefit from outdoor activities? \*
* In what ways do you think outdoor activities today are different to outdoor activities several decades ago? \*
* Would you say that people in your country today spend more time on outdoor activities than they did a few decades ago, or do they spend less time? \*
* Do you think people today have enough time for outdoor activities? \*
* Do people in your country prefer indoor leisure activities, or do they prefer outdoor leisure activities?
* Do you think people with different incomes (choose to) do different outdoor activities?
* What are the differences between the outdoor activities that old people engage in, and those of young people?
* Do men and women (or, males and females) generally choose the same outdoor leisure activities?
* Which outdoor activities do you think are most suitable for children?
* Do you think modern technology is changing how much time people spend outdoors and what they do outdoors (= changing people's lifestyles)?
* How do you think people who dislike sport or exercise could be made to change their minds?

# Noise

Describe an occasion when something (or someone) made a lot of noise.

You should say:

* where you heard this noise
* when this happened
* who or what made the noise

and explain what you did when you heard this noise.

**Noise**

* What are the main sources of noise in modern life? \*
* What effects does noise have on people? \*
* Do you think cities will become noisier in the future, or quieter? \*
* Is noise pollution a problem where you live (or, in your country)? \*
* What do you think could be (should be) done to reduce this noise? \*
* Do you think this noise can be avoided?
* Why do you think noise makes some people nervous?
* Do you think people really feel comfortable in absolutely silent places?
* Do people in your country consider noise pollution to be equal in importance to other forms of pollution, such as air pollution?
* Would you like to live in a noisy place?
* Do you ever like to go to places that have a lot of noise?
* Why do you think friends often meet at loud places such as pubs?
* What place would you choose to meet someone if you wanted to have a good conversation?
* What would you do if your neighbours were noisy all the time?
* Are there any sounds (noises) that are not a problem?
* Do you think it's good to have background music playing in places such as department stores?

**Earphone / Headphone Usage**

* What do you think of people who listen to music while they are walking or cycling? \*
* What do you think are the advantages, and the disadvantages of listening to music while you are walking?
* What do you think of people who turn the volume up very loud on their headphones when they listen to music? \*
* What kind of people do that?
* Why do they make the volume so loud?
* Do you think these people are damaging their hearing by doing that?
* Do you think schools should teach the dangers of excessively loud noise?

**Loud Sound / Harmful Noise**

* What effects do you think loud noise at work has on the workers? \*
* Can you think of any jobs that sometimes have excessive noise at the workplace?
* What noises can we hear in the centre of cities?
* Do you think it's good for people to listen to music while they are driving? \*
* Why do some young people like to go to discos and night clubs that play loud music?
* What can a person do to protect their hearing (e.g., at a loud rock music concert, or at a workplace that has loud noise)?
* Why do some people (sometimes, or usually) speak very loudly?

# A Song

Describe a song that has special meaning for you.

You should say:

* what this song is about
* when and where you first heard this song
* how often you listen to this song

and explain why it has special meaning for you.

**Singing in Your Country**

* When (or, in what situations) do people in your country sing together? \*
* Are there any special occasions when people sing together? \*
* Can you explain why young people like listening to pop music? \*
* Do people in your country like to sing?
* Do people sing traditional songs on special occasions?
* Where do they sing?
* Are there any special places where people sing?
* What kinds of songs do they sing?
* What kinds of music do people like to sing to?
* What effects do you think singing has on people?
* What types of songs do very young children (e.g., 3-4 yrs old) like to sing?
* Do children and young people such as teenagers like the same kinds of songs?
* Do you think everybody can sing?
* Can you suggest how a person could improve their singing ability?
* What do you think are the differences between those who have taken music or singing lessons and those who haven't?

**The Music Industry**

* Why do you think some musicians are more successful than others?
* Can you suggest why some singers are popular throughout the world?
* Do people in your country often listen to foreign singers (or, foreign songs)?
* Do you think the internet is good for the music industry?

**Music and Traditional Culture**

* Can you suggest how music influences different cultures?
* Do you have a traditional type of music in your country?
* Is it an important part of your culture?
* When is this music usually played?
* How do you feel when you hear it?
* When you are old, do you think you will be listening to traditional songs?

**Children Singing / Children's Songs**

* Do you think children like to sing? \*
* Do children and adults like to listen to the same (types of) songs? \*
* Do you still like listening to/singing the songs that you liked when you were a child? \*
* How do you think children benefit from singing? \*
* What types of songs do very young children (e.g., 3-4 yrs old) like to sing?
* Do boys and girls usually prefer to sing (or, listen to) the same kinds of songs?
* Is music an important subject in schools in your country?

# An Important Celebration

Describe an important festival or holiday that is celebrated in your country.

You should say:

* when this celebration takes place
* what people do during this celebration
* what you especially like and dislike about this celebration

and explain why it is important.

**Traditional Festivals (Traditional Celebrations)**

* What do you (or, people) do during traditional festivals? \*
* Do people celebrate them more with their friends or with their family? \*
* Why do people celebrate these traditional festivals? \*
* Do you think it is important to celebrate (or, observe) these traditional festivals? \*
* Are traditional Western festivals also celebrated in your country? \*
* What are some traditional celebrations that you have in your culture (country)?
* Are there any special places where these holidays are celebrated?
* Do you think that the money that is spent celebrating these festivals is a waste of money?
* Do you think that most people know the original reasons why these traditional holidays are celebrated?
* Can you suggest why these celebrations have lasted so long in your culture?
* Why do you think it is that traditional holidays don't change much over the years?
* Do you think business affects (or, influences) traditional festivals more than traditional festivals affecting business?
* What's your opinion about celebrating Western holidays (or, festivals) in your country?
* How do you think celebrating traditional festivals and holidays is different to celebrating other events such as the Olympic Games, a concert, etc?

**Holidays / Vacations from Work or School**

* How do people in your country generally spend their holidays (vacations) if they don't travel?
* What do you think are the benefits of having a holiday from work or school **/**university?
* Which do you think is better, several short holidays throughout the year or just a few longer holidays?

**Travel, Tourism and Traditional Festivals**

* Do people travel much during the traditional festivals?
* Do you think many people visit some foreign countries when traditional festivals are being celebrated in those countries?

**Personal Celebrations**

* Why do most people commemorate their wedding anniversary? \*
* Are there any celebrations in your country that are more personal in nature?
* What are the differences between public celebrations and private ones?
* Is every birthday important to you (or, to people in your country)?

# A Day Off

Describe what you like to do when you have a day off, free from work or study.

You should say:

* where you go
* what you do there
* who you do it with

and explain how you feel at the end of this day.

**Being Busy / Leisure Time**

* Do you think it’s important for people to have leisure time (time to relax)? \*
* Would you say people today are busier today than they were several decades ago? \*
* What are the benefits of people having a day off from work or study? \*
* Do you think students should have more free time (time off study) than they have now? \*
* Do you think men and women generally do the same things in their leisure time (or, on weekends)? \*
* Which do you think is better, to have one day off (several times) or to have several days off together? \*
* Why do some people like to (or, choose to) be busy?
* In your opinion, are people today happier than they were in the past?
* What do people in your country like to do when they are not busy?
* Do men and women do the same things in their leisure time?
* Do you think that men and women are equally free to participate in leisure activities outside the home?
* Do you think modern lifestyles give people enough time for leisure?
* Do old people and young people spend their leisure time or relax in the same way?
* Do you think teenagers generally do the same things in their leisure time (or, on weekends) as adults who are working?
* Do you think working women today spend their after-work time in the same way that working women did in the past?

**Work**

* Would you say people today spend more time working than they did several decades ago? \*
* How does working long hours (= working for a long time) affect a person? \*
* Do many people work overtime in your country?
* In what ways does working long hours affect one's family?
* What effects does the development of technology have on the work that people do today?

**Retirement**

* What is the normal retirement age in your country?
* Do you think that's the best (or, most suitable) age to retire?
* Do you think it's suitable for the government to have a law about what age people have to retire?
* Do you think the government should change the current retirement age?

# A Film You Watched at Home or in a Cinema

Describe a film you watched at home or in a cinema.

You should say:

* what film it was
* what it was about
* why you chose to watch that film

and explain if you learned anything important from the film.

**Films in Your Country**

* What are the most popular types of films in your country? \*
* Are there any differences between your film watching habits now and your film watching habits when you were a child? \*
* Do you think the films that children today watch are different to the films that children watched when you were a child? \*
* Do you think films can teach children (and young people) anything? (= have educational value) \*
* Do you think films are (or, could be) useful in education (esp. the education of children)? \*
* What are the major differences between Hollywood films and those made in your country? \*
* Do these foreign films usually have subtitles in your language? \*
* Do you prefer to watch foreign films that have subtitles in your language, or foreign films without subtitles? \*
* Do you think there is much difference between the films that people watch today and those of the past?
* Would you say that middle-aged people like to watch the same kinds of films that young people watch?
* Do you think people's tastes (preferences) in films change as they grow older?
* Do children in your country watch many films?
* In what ways are children's films different to films for adults?
* How would you suggest children be prevented from watching films that are only suitable for adults?
* Do you think that (popular films) should try to educate people?

**The Quality of Films**

* How would you define (or, describe) "a good film"?
* Do you think modern technology helps to produce better movies?
* Do you think it's necessary to have famous actors in a film in order for the film to be "successful"?

**Where People Watch Films**

* What are the advantages and disadvantages of watching a film at home, as opposed to watching it in a cinema? \*
* In what ways are cinemas today different to cinemas when you were a child? \*
* Where do you usually watch films?
* Can you suggest why fewer and fewer people are going to cinemas nowadays?
* Do you think that's a positive trend?
* Do you think cinemas might one day disappear?

# The Family Member You Spend the Most Time With

Describe the member of your family who you spend the most time with.

You should say:

* who it is
* when you are usually together
* what you do together

and explain why you spend the most time with this member of your family.

**Family Relations in Your Country**

* Do you think having good relations with one's family is important? \*
* Who are more important to you, friends or family? \*
* What are the differences between a relationship with one's parents and a relationship with a good friend? \*
* Do you think that the concern that friends have for each other is the same as the concern that family members have for each other? \*
* What do you think are the differences between the help that family members give each other, and the help that friends give each other? \*
* What responsibilities do family members usually have (towards other family members)?
* To what extent do you think government has responsibilities towards families? (What responsibilities?) \*
* What would you say are the advantages of having strong relations with members of one's family? \*
* Why do some family members not live with the other family members? \*
* Would you say that parents in your country have different attitudes towards the sons and towards their daughters?

**The Structure of Families in Your Country**

* In your country, how many generations of one family usually live together? \*
* What are some of the pros and cons of three generations living together? \*
* Whose responsibility do you think it should be to look after old people – the government's responsibility or the family’s? \*
* How many children does the typical family in your country have?
* Do families in the cities generally have the same number of children as families in the countryside?
* What do you think are some of the advantages and disadvantages of big families as opposed to smaller families?
* Do you think it's important for the young generation to have contact with their grandparents (or, with elderly people)?

**Family Roles**

* In your country, what different roles do the two parents play in the home / in the family? \*
* In your country, what different roles do the two parents play when the family has babies (or young children)?
* Do you think these differences will stay the same in the future?
* Do you think that the traditional roles of the father and mother stay the same if both parents are working?
* Do you think there should be an equal sharing of the housework between a married couple?