Things

* **Describe an important plant in your country. (What, Where, Look like, Why)**

I’d like to talk about Ginkgo, a large tree with fan-shaped leaves. In the autumn, the leaves of the ginkgo tree would turn into gorgeous yellow. Every year I look forward to the days when the golden Gingko leaves fall on to the ground, you seem to be walking in a yellow sea.

And as it is a Chinese native plant, you can find it in most cities in China, including Shanghai, Hangzhou,etc.

Ginkgo is very important in China or maybe even the world because it has various uses in traditional medicine and as a source of food. It can help improve memory and prevent some cognitive problems including Alzheimer's disease, so it is beneficial to our health, especially for the older people. Besides, Ginkgo seems to improve blood circulation, which might help the brain, eyes, ears, and legs function better.

However, we need take it properly as there are also side effects if you take to much.

* **Describe something you made that you gave to others. (What, Look like, Who, How you feel about it)**

Let me talk about the photo album I made for my university counselor, Wang Peng. It was a DIY photo album, I stuck the photos I collected and printed which record some meaningful moments in university life into the album. Actually, not only me, but also many students involved in this gift. We gathered together at a café on campus, spending the whole afternoon preparing this surprising gift for him. From the outside, it just looked normal, but our words and paintings inside made it special.

We all enjoyed our college time and we would like to express our appreciate for our dear counselor, who always care about us and provided a lot of practical advices when we were confused about the future. When our counselor received this gift, he appeared quite moved and a bit shaken. I believed whenever he looks at the photos that hold our favorite memories he will relive those moments and have a big simile.

* **Describe a time you borrowed something from your friends or family. (What, When, Who, What you did with that, Why)**
* **Something given to you that you really need. (What, Who, Why, How)**

I’d like to talk about a time I borrowed an A-line skirt from my friends. It happened when I was a senior, seeking for employment. It was an afternoon, I needed to go for a job interview. However, I found that the only formal cloth I had was washed last night, and thus I had no formal cloth. So I borrowed one from my friend, Cici, whose figure was similar to me.

The skirt did make me look more professional and I did pretty well in the interview, confident and positive. Many people think that it is not important to dress formally in an interview, especially in my major, software engineering. Sometime, many students went for an interview wearing a skirt and shorts. I totally disagreed on this, I thought a good first impression is important as well as ability, dressing formally showed that I took the interview seriously. And I thought it did help me, because I finally got the offer.

* **Describe a time that a piece of equipment was broken. (What, When, What, How)**

I’d like to talk about a time my laptop was broken. It happened when I was a senior, preparing for my graduation project. My major is software engineering, so I needed to finish a project and write a thesis on this. I was writing code seriously and suddenly I had a blue screen of death. Although I was a software engineer, I was really not good at cope with this situation. I tried to reboot the laptop, it didn’t seem to work. I rushed to the computer repair shop on campus for help. The staff in the repair store told me that my laptop was attacked by malware and needed to reinstall the operating system. Fortunately, he would help back up my data on the computer, although there may be some lost. After 2 hours of reinstallation, my computer worked again. This incident taught me one thing, electronic equipment brings convenience to our lives, but it can be easily broken. Backup is very important.

* **Describe the time when you received your first cell phone. (When, Where, What it was like, How you felt)**

I received my first cell phone when I was studying in primary school. My parents gave it to me as a reward for my good grades in the final exam. Actually, at that time, they were busy with work, and sometimes I had to stay alone at home. They gave me this cell phone for two reasons, the first was to get in touch with me more conveniently, the other was once I met some danger I could use the phone to call the police. It was an ordinary cell phone, nothing special, not as advanced as today’s smartphones. There was no big screens, no many games, all I can do with this was send messages and make phone calls. However, I felt excited when I received this gift, very few children had cell phones at this age. This gift showed my parents’ concern and trust in me. Although they couldn’t stay with me all the time, whenever I needed help I could call them.

Events

* **Describe an occasion when you were scared. (When, Where, Who with, Why, How you felt)**

I’d like to talk about the time I was waiting for the interview results. It happened when I was a senior, and I was busy seeking jobs at that time. I was in the university dormitory, far away from my family, I could only talk to them about my troubles by phone. Luckily, I had my kindly roommate, who struggled to seek a job as well. At that time, we often ate meal together, studied together and encouraged each other to be positive and patient.

I was really scared because I was confused about my future. I was not sure whether it was right to choose to start work instead of further education. I was not sure whether I can find a satisfactory job. I was a little stressed out when I waiting for the offers, because the offers didn’t come at the same time. If you chose to wait for next one, you may lose the last opportunity, while the offer you wanted most may not appear in the end.

* **Describe a time when you received money as a present.**

You should say:

Who gave it

When you received it

What you did with it

How you felt about it

Let me talk about once I received money as a present in my elementary school. It was because my father set up a reward system in our family that if I get 100 points (full grades) in the final exam, I can receive 100 Yuan as a reward. So I received money as the result of good grades at my age of 10(I can’t remember, but at around 10). It was a great amount of money for a child at that age, I used the money to buy some novels in the book sore. There was still much after buying books, I decide to choose a gift for my parents. So I chose two pairs of gloves as presents because it was a cold winter. My parents appeared surprised but really happy to receive this gift, as it was the first time I had my own pocket money, but I choose to buy presents to appreciate them. I felt very pleasant as my behaviors has brought happiness to my family.

* **Describe a time when you had some medicine**

You should say:

When it happened

Who gave it to you

Why you had it

And how you felt about it

I’d like to talk about the time I went to Chengdu for vacation. I was 18 years old and this was my first time travelling with my friends instead of my parents. You know, Chengdu is a big city famous for its food, spicy Si Chuan cuisine. My friends and I were not good at spicy food, but we both thought hot pot was really delicious, so we ate hot pot twice for three consecutive days, which lead to acute diarrhea. My stomach couldn’t stand such spicy food that was much more spicy than I ate ever before. In my hometown, people don’t eat spicy food a lot, and my father can’t eat even a little. My friend came to the nearest pharmacy to buy some medicine for me. I felt much better after taking medicine. I thought I got a lesson on this trip. It is a step by step process for everything, even for your stomach. You should give time for your stomach to adapt to spicy food. It is not wise to eat too much at a time, although it is delicious.

* Describe an activity you would do when you are alone in your free time

You should say:

What the activity is

How often you do it

Where you do it

And explain why you would like to do this activity

It depends on how much free time I have. If I have a little time, I would choose to write my diary. I think everyday is deserved to be remembered, and if I don’t write it down, I would forget this day in the future. I write a diary almost everyday. Normally, it is the first thing I do when I come home. Besides, when I was alone at home, I like watching TV. Because life is very busy on weekdays, I like to do some relaxing activities like this to relieve stress. Usually, after work, I will go to the gym to do some exercise to stay healthy, so It’s not early when I go back home. I watch TV three or four times a week, whenever I have free time, especially on weekends, Usually I lie in bed and turn on the TV, choose a TV channel or a movie or some interesting TV series. I really enjoy this time, because all the work, all the troubles away from me, I can take a break. If I have a long free time, I can enjoy a wonderful

Movie.

* **Describe a family business you know:**

You should say:

What the business it is

How you know it

What products it sells

Who the customers are

And how you like it

I want to talk about the story of one of my father’s friends, Allen. He ran a café with his wife. I went to this café when I was in junior high school, and it was the opening day so my father took me there to congratulate Allen. I thought he is not only a business man, he is an artist. He manage all the things with the help from his wife in the café, from the interior design of the cafe, to the making of coffee, the cooking of desserts, to the operation. The products in the café no big difference from other cafes, but the

Part 1:

(**general Q's about your life**)

Do you live in a house or a flat? Which is your favorite room in your house  /  flat?  If you could choose, would you prefer to live in a city or in the countryside?

How often do you take public transport? Do you like the public transport system in your city? Which do you prefer, public transport or a private car?

What's your favourite form of long-distance travel, by car, by train or by air? Would you like to travel to outer space someday?

How often do you drink water? Do you drink water only when you are thirsty? Do you prefer tap water or bottled water? Is bottled water expensive in your country?

Do you have plants at home? Are you good at taking care of plants? Did you grow plants as a child? Is it common to give plants as gifts in your country?

Do you like going to parks? What're your favourite kinds of parks?

Do you think it's important to be punctual? What do you usually do while you are waiting for someone?

What's your morning routine? What was your morning routine as a child?

What do you usually do at weekends?

How do you plan for holidays? Who do you usually spend holidays with?

What's your favourite food? Do you prefer home-cooked food or food from restaurants? Have you ever tried any foreign food? Is foreign food popular in your country?

Do you have a favourite teacher? What qualities do you think a good teacher should have? Do you want to be a teacher? Do you think parents are more important than teachers in a child's education?

Do you often get bored? What do you usually do when you feel bored?

Do you like painting? Do you like visiting art galleries? Are there any paintings on your bedroom walls?

Do you like photography? Where do you keep your photos?

What's your favourite colour? What color would you paint your bedroom walls?

Which would you choose, shoes that look good or shoes that are comfortable? Do you buy shoes online? Do you know people who have lots of shoes?

Do you have sunglasses? Do you think expensive sunglasses are worth the money?

How often do you use maps? Who taught you to use maps? Which do you prefer to use, electronic maps or paper maps?

Do you think dictionaries are useful for learning a language? Which do you prefer to use, electronic dictionaries or paper dictionaries?

How often do you use email? How often do you write letters? Who do you write letters to? Do you think email will replace letter writing in the future?

Do you like rainy days? What will you do if you forget to bring a raincoat or an umbrella?

What's your favourite season? Would you prefer four distinct seasons or the same kind of weather all year round?

Do you like outdoor activities? Do you think children should do more outdoor activities?

What's your favourite sport? Do you prefer individual sports or team sports? What are the most popular sports in your country?

What's your favourite kind of music? Do you play any musical instruments?

Do you think advertisements play important roles in our lives? Do you like advertisements with celebrities?

Do you prefer watching films at the cinema or at home?

Do you have a favourite celebrity? How do people become celebrities in your country?

Did you save money as a child? Do you think parents should teach their children to save money?

Part 2:

(**Don't forget you can reuse the same ideas for MANY different topic cards.**)

建筑与自然

Describe a building that you like.

Describe a quiet place.

Describe a beautiful city.

Describe a trip to a place far away from your home.

Describe an interesting place in your country.

Describe a trip by public transport.

Describe your favourite season.

Describe an interesting animal.

Describe an important plant in your country.

个人与组织

Describe a popular comic actor / actress in your country.

Describe an interesting person you’d like to meet.

Describe a talkative person.

Describe a teenager.

Describe a childhood friend of yours.

Describe a person who helps to protect the environment.

Describe a job that you'd like to have.

Describe a good law.

Describe a family business you know.

休闲娱乐

Describe a sport you watched on TV and would like to try.

Describe a childhood game.

Describe a song that has special meaning to you.

Describe an interesting speech or lecture.

Describe a book that you read recently.

Describe a film that made you laugh.

Describe your favourite website.

Describe an activity you like to do when you are alone.

Describe a magazine that you like.

事件

Describe a subject you were interested in.

Describe a skill that you'd like to learn.

Describe another foreign language you'd like to learn (NOT English).

Describe a time when you helped others.

Describe a time when you borrowed something.

Describe something that was given to you when you really needed it.

Describe a time when you looked for information.

Describe something that happened recently and made you happy.

Describe something interesting that a friend of yours has done but you haven't done yet.

Describe a competition that you'd like to take part in.

Describe a time when you went shopping in a street market.

Describe a complaint that you made when you felt unsatisfied with something.

Describe a time when you changed your mind.

Describe a time when you were scared.

Describe a time when you took medicine.

Describe a decision you made with the help from other people.

Describe a party you went to.

Describe an occasion when someone took a good photo of you.

Describe an occasion when you wore special clothing.

物品

Describe something important that you lost.

Describe the time when you got your first mobile phone.

Describe something you have but you want to replace.

Describe a piece of equipment that was broken.

Describe something that can help you concentrate when you work / study.

Describe something you bought which made you very happy.

Describe a time when you saved money for something.

Describe a time when you received money as a gift.

Describe a gift you made by hand for a friend.