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. During the final year of my graduation, it was a Monday 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

**media**

* **describe the last book you read**

You should say:

What type /kind of book it was

What it was about

Where you read it

How you felt about the book

The book I just completed was a technical book. Actually, I’m a software engineer, and worked as an intern in a company. Two months ago, I just rotated to a new team and my new leader wished me to do some font-end development. I used to be responsible for back-end developing. It was really a big challenge to me, so I chose to read the book introduced some basic information about Angular(a website develop language). I read it when I have free time at workplace and also at home at weekends. Since I was a member of team, I wanted to make some contribution to team as soon as possible. So I tried to make full use of spare time to grasp this skill. I thought it was a great book for beginners in web development just like me, it introduced some basic grammar and definition about Angular.

* **Describe a good law in your country**

You should say:

What it is

How you knew it

Who it affects

Why you think it is good

I’d like to talk about two-child policy. I got to know it by news, as it is a great change in laws and related to everyone. I think this law may affect the young couples who just got married and planed to have a baby or those who already had on child wanted a second. The old one-child policy has made the population aging problem worse. This policy is a key factor that will affect population growth, the proportion of elderly people, the workforce and economic development, etc. You know, I’m the only child in my family. I need to support for my two parents and four grandparents in the future. It is a great burden, and if my future husband is also the only child in his family, the burden would become even heavier. This is the tragic fate of our generation. The two-child policy aimed at solving these problems, if it works well, it can help increase the birth rate and ease the population aging problem.

* **Describe a time that you looked for information from the internet**

You should say:

When it happened

What you were looking for

Where you were searching on the internet and how you felt about the information

Nowadays, the Internet has become an essential part of our lives. Not only young people, some middle-aged people spend a lot of time surfing the Internet. The Internet brings much convenience, you can purchase goods online, watch movies online, watch news online, etc. I’d like to talk about the time when I searched for information about Cambodia three months ago. Because I planed to travel to Cambodia in December, I’d like to gather some information about the historical sites and local customs there. I searched the information in the tourist website, and I read several travel notes, which introduced the background of Angkor Wat and the local customs in detail. After reading these articles and watching some documentaries talked about Cambodia, I was very eager to travel to Cambodia, visiting the fabulous heritage and experiencing the civilization the once flourished but declining now.

* **Describe a party you went to.**
* **Describe an occasion when you wore special clothing.**

I want to talk about my college graduation party. The party was held in a big restaurant which can accommodate more than 170 people. It was June 23rd ,2017, I remembered the date clearly as it was an unforgettable day. I put on our graduation commemorative suit which was designed by me that day. It was special for me, because it was my first time to design a clothes.

This party gathered all the class 2017 students. Everyone faced this moment of separation with a sad and happy mood. On the one side, We were not willing to say goodbye to our best friends, but we all promised to keep in touch. On the other side, we were full of expectation and yearning for our future. We expressed our thanks to our kindly counselor who gave us a lot of advices on our study and career. We expressed our thanks to those who ever helped me when I met troubles. We

* **Describe something important that you lost.**
* **Describe an occasion when someone took a good photo of you.**
* **Describe a competition that you’d like to take part in.**
* **Describe a time when you went shopping in a street market.**
* **Describe something you bought made you very happy.**
* **Describe something that happened recently and made you happy.**
* **Describe something you have but you want to replace.**
* **Describe your favorite website.**

My favorite website is a webs

* **Describe a magazine that you like.**

I’d like to talk about my favorite magazine Southern People Weekly. It’s a magazine takes the characters as the entry point and use the character story to reflect the changes of the times, which provide a new perspective on the world. What distinguishes Southern People Weekly from other news weeklies is its focus on personalities as opposed to the events themselves. Each issue profiles individuals in politics, media, entertainment, and other areas, giving a snapshot of the week; it also looks back at major figures in history.

Even though I do like this magazine, but I don’t purchase every issues, it depends on the topic this week. Actually, I often read magazine online. I purchase the magazine on it’s application and I can read it whenever I have spare time, it’s more convenient and cheaper. I like this magazine not only because of the high quality articles but also I appreciate the concept of the magazine “equality, tolerance and humanity”. It cares about humanity, from their stories, we are aware of the changes of the times and the charm of human nature, moved by their stories, feeling for their destiny, and lamenting their success.

* **Describe a subject you were interested in.**
* **Describe an interesting speech or a lecture.**

I’d like to talk about economics. After I started working as a Software Engineer in a multinational bank company, I worked on various projects related to some business knowledge background. The biggest challenge for me is that I lack of economics knowledge. So I need to read many economics books to understand the requirements from users. Besides, I also attended few training sessions organised by the company, or by team related to accounting and banking concepts. Once I understood the basic and interesting part of this subject, I actually started enjoying it a lot. Because you would find everything in the society includes some economics principles. For example, you can guess some impact of trade wars between China and US on the economy. Once I got to know more about economics, this subject became one of my favourite subjects.

* **Describe a time when you helped others.**
* **Describe a job that you’d like to have.**
* **Describe a film that made you laugh.**
* **Describe a song that has special meaning to you.**
* **Describe a childhood game**
* **Describe your favorite season.**
* **Describe an interesting animal.**
* **Describe a job that you’d like to have.**

I’d like to become software engineer.

Most of the time, I need to work in a group, we together to design new business applications or new features.

Developing a project by yourself or your team can give you a sense of success. Although most of time you are struggling with the bugs.

And the reason why I like this job is it’s challenging. You need to keep study to follow the most popular technology, or you will be out of date. And sometimes, when some big issues occurs, you need to find the reason and provide the solution as fast as possible. I always feel very nervous in this condition, but after finishing it, I would be very excited.

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

I want to learn Archery. I watched many archery competitions in Olympic Games on TV, and every time I held my breath wait for the player shot the arrows. In some competitions, the players have a specific number of arrows, and they are required to shoot one arrow in a round. Every arrow plays an important role in the results, many professional athletes lost their champion just because one mistake. As archery requires skills of precision, control, focus, repetition and determination, when the athlete in competitions, they are under great psychological stress, so may be too nervous to play in the normal level.

I want to try archery because it’s very exciting and cool. And the archery posture is particularly handsome, containing firmness and determination. Besides, it can help me improve my psychological quality and develop my ability to concentrate on one thing, which is beneficial to my career in the future.

* **Describe a building that you like.**

I’d like to talk about the Palace Museum I visited several years ago when I travelled to our capital Beijing. Although it had been a long time, I still remember my appreciation and shock at that time. The Palace Museum is almost the most famous historical site in China. It is the home of the Ming and Qing emperors and their household as well as the ceremonial and political center of Chinese government for almost 500 years. It is the largest collection of preserved ancient wooden structures in the world. The Forbidden City is is surrounded by nearly 8 meters high city walls which served as both defensive walls and retaining walls for the palace. Each side of the palace has one gate. It consists of 980 surviving buildings with 8,886 bays of rooms.

I liked this building showed the the wise of ancient people. It is a rectangle, all the building there are designed to be symmetrical. I think it is a masterpiece of ancient architectural style.

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.