

IELTS Assistant

February 3, 2020

Section 1

1 - Work and study- always regular-free

Dictionary IDIOMS ABOUT WORK:1. to be between jobs (to be unemployed)2. to work one's fingers to the bone (to work very hard)3. to go the extra mile (to go beyond what is necessary)4. to learn the ropes (to learn how to do a particular job or task)5. to be a change of pace (to be a variation in routine)IDIOMS THAT CAN BE USED TALKING ABOUT STUDIES:1. to miss the boat (to lose an opportunity to do something by being slow to act): I've missed the boat for the fall semester, so STUDIES:attendancecompulsory subjectsoptional subjectsan assignmentto sound nerdytutorialslecturespassing gradessubject optionsthe school curriculumWORK:a salary-boosting factorto excel atan enterpriseto downsizea lifelong learnera solid IT educational background

Question:

- Do you work or are you a student?
- What work do you do? What subjects are you studying?

Question:

- Why did you choose that job?
- Why did you choose to study that subject?

Question:

- Do you like your job? (new ideas added on 18 November 2019)
- Is there anything you dislike about your job?

Question:

- What was your dream job when you were young?
- Have you changed your mind on your dream job?

Question:

- What do you like about your studies?

Question:

- What do you dislike about your studies?

2 - Hometown- always regular-free

Dictionary in the heart of the citywithin commuting distancewithin walking distancewithin a short strollcity authoritiescitylifecity facilitiescity amenities

Question:

- Please describe your hometown a little.
- What is your town well-known for?
- Do you like your home town?

Question:

- Is that a big city or a small place?

Question:

- How long have you been living there?

Question:

- Do you think you will continue living there for a long time?

Question:

- How has your town changed over the last 20 years?

3 - Country- always regular-free

Dictionary economy of the countryGDP (Gross Domestic Product)per capita (definition: per person)per capita incomepurchasing powerthe economic sector

Question:

- Tell me a little about your country.

Question:

- Which part of your country do most people live in?

Question:

- Where is your country located?

Question:

- Tell me about the main industries in your country.

Question:

- What are some of the good things and some of the bad things about living in your country?

4 - Home- always regular

Dictionary to look homeyto start home improvementsto add homey touchesliving space

Question:

- Can you describe the place where you live?
- What kind of housing accommodation do you live in?
- What do you like about your flat?
- Which room does your family spend most of the time in?

Question:

- What can you see from the windows where you live?

Question:

- Do you prefer living in a house or a flat?

Question:

- What would you like to change in your flat?
- What do you dislike about your flat?

Animals

Dictionary animals petsto keep animalsto care for animalsa pet loveto be fond of animals

Question:

- Have you ever seen wild animals?

Question:

- What's your favourite wild animal?

Question:

- Do you like watching animals in the zoo?

Question:

- Is it important to let children know about animals?

Question:

- Is it important to protect wild animals?

Art

Dictionary Fine or Visual ArtsDecorative Artsdrawingspaintingssculpturesprintmakingphotographyperformanceinstallationsound artephemeral and conceptual artdigital and video artwoodworkingmetalworktextilesceramicspotterycutleryweavings

Question:

- Do you like art?

Question:

- Have you ever visited an art gallery?

Question:

- Is there any artwork on the wall in your room?

Question:

- Have you ever had art classes?

Break

Dictionary to take a breaklong breaksshort breaksto relaxto rechargeto have a rest

Question:

- Why do you need to take a break?

Question:

- What do you usually do during a break?

Question:

- Do you prefer a long break or several short breaks?

Question:

- How often do you take a break?

Cake

Dictionary yummydeliciousa tasty treatversatile dessertsa variety of flavour combinationsto satisfy somebody's sweet tooth

Question:

- Do you like cake?

Question:

- Do you eat cake after meals?

Coffee and tea - jan - aug 19

Dictionary tea drinkerscoffee drinkersnon-alcoholic beveragesloaded with nutrients and antioxidantsenergizingcaffeine

Question:

- Are tea and coffee popular in your country?
- Which is more popular in your country, coffee or tea?

Question:

- Do you prefer to drink tea or coffee?
- Do you like tea and coffee?
- Do you often drink coffee and tea?

Question:

- Do you usually offer tea or coffee when you have guests?
- Do you remember when you drank tea or coffee for the first time?

Concentrating

Dictionary to focus to concentrate to improve concentration to boost productivity

Question:

- When is it hard to concentrate?

Question:

- In what situations do you need to concentrate?

Question:

- What do you do to improve concentration?

Question:

- Is it easy for you to do two things simultaneously?

Countryside

Dictionary rural rustic to covet a rural life a remote rural destination village life winding country roads

Question:

- Would you like to live in the countryside in the future?
- Have you ever lived in the countryside?
- Do you ever spend time in the countryside?
- What is the difference between living in the countryside and the city?

Question:

- What do people living in the countryside like to do?
- What do you like to do in the countryside?

Friends

Dictionary to strike up a friendship to keep in touch to hit it off with somebody to rub shoulders with to buddy up with to mingle with to mix with to be in tune with to be on friendly terms with close friends a true friend inseparable friends **IDIOMS** about friends and family: blood is thicker than water (family is more important than anything else)

Question:

- Are friends important to you?
- What do you value about your friends?

Question:

- Do your friends think that you are a good friend?
- What kind of friend do you want to meet in the future?
- What kind of people do you like to have as friends?

Question:

- Do you prefer to spend time with friends or alone?
- Do you like to spend time with friends?

Question:

- What do you and your friends do together?

Question:

- Are friends more important than family?

Question:

- How do people in your country make friends?
- Do adults and children make friends in the same way?

Question:

- Do you have many friends?
- Do you prefer one friend or many friends?

Question:

- Do you like meeting new people?

Question:

- Do you have any close friends who live abroad?
- Are you still friends with your friends from childhood? (no answers yet)

Hair

Dictionary a haircut a hairdresser a barber to cut hair to trim hair strands of hair to have split ends to take care of your hair

Question:

- How often do you have a haircut?

Question:

- Do you like going to a hairdresser's (or barber's)?

Question:

- How long have you had this haircut?

Question:

- Have you had a haircut that you didn't like?

Question:

- Do you want to change your hair colour?

History

Dictionary historical events a sequence of events to distort facts minor factual errors to construct an accurate picture of the past historical account to depict the past to portray events to reconstruct the past

Question:

- Do you think history is important?
- Do you like to learn about history?

Question:

- Do you like to watch programs on TV about history?
- Do you think you can really learn history from films or TV programs?
- Do you like to watch historical films?

Question:

- Do you think the internet is a good place to learn about history?

Holidays

Dictionary a journey a vacation by train by ship by boat by bus by car destination a tourist a tripper an excursion attraction sightseeing to go sightseeing

Question:

- Can you describe your perfect holiday?

Question:

- Which do you prefer, to spend time on a beach or have excursions in a city?

Question:

- What was the best holiday in your life?

Jeans

Dictionary we are working on this topic

Question:

- Do you like wearing jeans?

Question:

- How often do you wear jeans?

Question:

- Why are jeans so popular?

Question:

- Did you wear jeans at school?
- Would you buy an expensive pair of jeans? (no answers yet)

Languages

Dictionary grammar vocabulary pronunciation word collocations to learn words to enrich vocabulary extensive vocabulary to learn set phrases to master a language

Question:

- What foreign languages have you studied?
- Would you like to learn any foreign languages?

Question:

- Why did you choose to study that language?

Question:

- How did you learn that language?

Question:

- How long have you been learning that language?

Question:

- Would you say it's a difficult language to learn?

Laughter

Dictionary to laugh to burst out laughing to crack up to giggle humorous funny amusing to make joke to joke with somebody a sense of humour

Question:

- Did you laugh recently?

Question:

- Do you often make people laugh?

Question:

- Do you like movies that make you laugh?

Music

Dictionary a setlist a giga music loversoundtracks live music recordings a melody a tune lyrics a beat-rhythm in tune out of tune an amplifier a CD headphones earphones an MP3 player speakers a band a choir an orchestra a composer a musician a performer an artist a conductor drums a guitar a piano music piece to listen to music to play musical instruments to sing songs an audience a concert an album to release a music album musical training

Question:

- What kinds of music do you like to listen to?
- What kinds of music are most popular in your country?

Question:

- When did you start listening to that type of music?

Question:

- Do you often listen to music?
- When do you listen to music?
- How much time do you spend listening to music every day?

Question:

- How do you feel when you listen to it?

Question:

- Do you like listening to songs?

Question:

- Have you ever been to a musical performance or concert?

Question:

- Have you ever learnt to play a musical instrument?
- Is music an important subject at school in your country?

Question:

- Did you often listen to music when you were a child?

Question:

- Do you like listening to music at work?

Question:

- Do people prefer to buy CDs or download music online?

Question:

- Do you prefer to listen to music when you are alone or when you are with other people? (no answers yet)

Numbers

Dictionary to add to subtract to multiply to divide to count to be good at math to be bad at math-
numbers single digits double digits

Question:

- What's your favourite number?

Question:

- Are you good at remembering phone numbers?

Question:

- Do you usually use numbers?

Question:

- What's your favourite number?

Parks

Dictionary nature parkland fresh air big, large, huge small local green rundown, shabby, neglect-
ed traditional neat fun child-friendly ecologically-friendly green leafy relaxing romantic hill, a mound
a pond a lake a fence a gate a fountain a path a shed a greenhouse a sculpture a statue a trellis a squirrel
a pigeon a crow a swan a duck a turtle a fish a frog a tadpole a sparrow a nest to feed a gloom a mosquito-
infested messy damp overgrown rubbish dog's mess dust, dusty mud, muddy clean a bench a deck a chair
a sun lounger a patio table a park umbrella a park bin a lawn a zoo a flower bed facilities

Question:

- Do you like to go to parks?
- When was the last time you went to the park?

Question:

- Are there many parks where you live?

Question:

- Do you think parks are important for people?

Question:

- Do you think you will go to parks more often in the future?

Question:

- Do you think parks should be free or people should pay to use them?

Pens and pencils

Dictionary ballpoint pens fountain pens gel pens felt-tip pens rollerball pens graphite pencils charcoal pencils lead pencils carbon pencils mechanical pencils pencil crayons

Question:

- How often do you buy pens and pencils?

Question:

- What types of pens and pencils do you buy?

Question:

- When was the last time you bought a pen or a pencil?

Question:

- Do you usually use a pen or a pencil?

Patience

Dictionary patient impatient patience impatient to wait for to arm oneself with patience to run out of patience to lose patience to lose one's temper to lose one's cool to fume with anger to have a short fuse (idiom)

Question:

- Are you patient?

Question:

- Have you ever lost your patience?
- What do you become impatient about?

Question:

- Do you think patience is important?

Question:

- What is your attitude to waiting?

Question:

- Did you use to be more patient or less patient than you are now?

Question:

- Do you think being patient is an important part of being polite?

Question:

- What do you think patience is?

Question:

- What do you usually do while waiting for something (a bus, taxi, flight)? (no answers yet)

Running

Dictionary to run to jog to go for a run

Question:

- Do you like running?

Question:

- Where do you run?

Question:

- How often do you run?

Scenery

Dictionary scenic picturesque appealing calm serenity of nature green spaces natural scenery nature escapes views beyond compare

Question:

- Is there good scenery in cities?
- Is there good scenery in your hometown?

Question:

- Do you like to take pictures of good scenery with your smartphone?

Question:

- When you travel, do you like to live in hotels with scenic views?

Science

Dictionary science a discipline fields of study subject area scientific methods a branch of knowledge to do research to conduct an experiment by trial and mistake

Question:

- Do you like science?
- Did you like science classes when you were young?

Question:

- Do you think school children should have both science classes and art classes?

Question:

- Do you think science is important to our society?

Spending time alone

Dictionary to fill up time to keep myself busy to keep myself occupied to reboot my brain to unwind to restore energy to boost happiness

Question:

- Do you like spending time by yourself?
- Are you happy when you are alone?

Question:

- What do you do when you spend time by yourself?

Voice add 1 question

Dictionary the pitch of the voice a creamy voice a soft voice

Question:

- Are there any situations when your voice changes?

Question:

- Do you like listening to recordings of your voice?

Question:

- Is your voice the same now as it was when you were younger?

Walking

Dictionary to walk to go for a walk to take a stroll to saunter to amble to wander a brisk walk

Question:

- Do you like to walk?

Question:

- Do you like to walk on your own or with friends?

Question:

- Would you say your city is good for walking?

Question:

- Where do you usually walk?
- Did you walk more in the past?
- Will people walk more in the future?
- Do you spend enough time walking? (no answers yet)

Water sports

Dictionary swimmingdivingscuba-divingsurfingwindsurfingkitesurfingcanoeingkayakingwhite water raftingflyboardingjet skiingsailingparasailingwakeboardingpaddle boarding

Question:

- Are water sports popular in your country?
- Do you like water sports?

Question:

- What water sports would you like to try in the future?

Section 2

Advice you received about choosing a career

Dictionary to pursue a careerto train for a certain careera career path

Question: Describe some good advice about choosing a job or subject You should say:

Question:

- what the advice was
- who gave you this advice
- what you thought about this advice
- what you did after you received it
- part 3 for this cue card is 'Career', 'Retirement'

Animal (Interesting animal)

Dictionary a nightmarish surprisea beasta lot of wonder factsmindblowing facts

Question: Describe an interesting animal You should say:

Question:

- what it looks like
- when you saw it
- where you saw it
- explain why it is interesting
- part 3 is 'Animals and pets'

Article on health

Dictionary a spread featured on the front page a feature article the scope of the topic a glossy magazine

Question: Describe an article on health that you read online or in a magazine You should say:

Question:

- what the article was about
- where you read it
- why you read it
- how you felt about it
- part 3 - 'Health, keeping fit and Internet'

Borrowing something

Dictionary to lend to borrow to give something back a lender a borrower a return time return in good condition to offer a replacement to offer a compensation

Question: Describe a time you borrowed something that was useful to you You should say:

Question:

- what it was
- when you borrowed it
- who you borrowed it from
- why it was useful
- why you borrowed it
- part 3 for this cue card is 'Borrowing things'

Building (Public building you want to visit)

Dictionary a contemporary structure an edifice a structure a building to erect to construct to build

Question: Describe a new public building you know that you want to visit You should say:

Question:

- what building it is
- how you know about it
- what the building looks like
- why you want to visit it
- part 3 for this cue card is 'Buildings'

Business (Family small successful business) 26

Dictionary a family-owned company to be controlled by a family to found a company to run a business with somebody an entrepreneur an enterprise a market leader business activities to do business with competitor target audience target market a customer

Question: Describe a small successful business you know You should say:

Question:

- what business it is
- how you know about it
- what products it sells
- who the customers are
- whether you like it or not
- part 3 - 'Business, business people, and success'

Celebrating an achievement

Dictionary to have every reason to be proud of something to be enormously proud of somebody to be genuinely proud of something to be extremely proud of somebody to be fiercely proud of somebody to be immensely proud of somebody to be inordinately proud of somebody to be intensely proud of somebody to be particularly proud of somebody to be really proud of somebody to be terribly proud of somebody to be tremendously proud of somebody to be very proud of somebody to accomplish amazing things accomplishments achievements

Question: Describe a time when you celebrated an achievement You should say:

Question:

- what achievement it was
- who you celebrated it with
- how you celebrated it
- how you felt about this achievement
- part 3 for this cue card is 'Celebrations'

Challenge

Dictionary a big challengea considerable challengean enormous challengea formidable challengea great challengea major challengea serious challengea significant challengea strong challengea tough challengegeto face a challengegeto meet a challengegeto deal with a challengegeto cope with a challenge

Question: Describe a challenge that you met You should say:

Question:

- what it was
- when it was
- how you overcame it
- why it was a challenge
- Part 3 for this cue card is 'Challenges'

Converstation with a stranger

Dictionary to talk to somebody firstto engage in a conversation to strike up a conversation

Question: Describe an interesting conversation that you had with someone You should say:

Question:

- who this person was
- where you met this person
- what you talked about
- why this conversation was interesting
- Part 3 for this cue card - 'Communication', 'Speeches and presentations'

Da y that you remember well

Dictionary to invite gueststo celebrate a celebrationto congratulatecongrats to somebodya festive dinnerto throw a party

Question: Describe a day that you remember well because you had a special event You should say:

Question:

- what happened
- where you were
- how you felt
- why you remember this day
- part 3 for this cue card is 'Memories and memory'

Day that would make you happy

Dictionary to feel extremely happy to be on cloud nine

Question: Describe a day which you think would make you happy You should say:

Question:

- where you would spend it
- who you would spend it with
- what you would do
- why you would be happy
- part 3 for this cue card - 'Happiness', 'Happy events'

Event (Exciting event)

Dictionary mind blowingthrillingan adrenaline rush the thrill of a lifetime

Question: Describe an exciting event You should say:

Question:

- what it was
- when and where it was
- who you were with
- why you were excited
- Part 3 - 'Celebrations'

Family member

Dictionary more emotionally attached to my mother than to other family membersto feel a deep connection to someone to feel emotionally closedeep emotional intimacyto have a strong emotional bondemotional closenessan immediate family

Question: Describe a family member that you spend a lot of time with You should say:

Question:

- who this person is
- what this person looks like
- what you like to do with him or her
- explain why you like this person
- Part 3 for this cue card is 'Family'

Feeling bored

Dictionary to feel boredto be boredbored to tearsbored to death

Question: Describe a time when you were with other people and you were bored You should say:

Question:

- where it was
- who you were with
- what you did
- why you were bored
- part 3 for this cue card - 'Boredom', 'Interesting life'

Film you wanted to discuss

Dictionary a lead character cast a story line to star as a plot twist

Question: Describe a film that you saw and wanted to discuss with friends You should say:

Question:

- what the film was about
- when and where you watched it
- whether you liked or disliked it
- why you wanted to discuss it
- part 3 for this cue card is 'Films', 'Film industry'

Gift you gave - add why it took long time

Dictionary to give a gift or a present to receive a gift or a present to make a gift of something to give something to somebody a giver a receiver gift-giving

Question: Describe a gift that took long time to choose You should say:

Question:

- what the gift was
- whom you gave it to
- why you gave it
- explain whether the person liked it or not
- Part 3 for this cue card is 'Gifts'

Goal you set and achieved

Dictionary to have every reason to be proud of something to be enormously proud of somebody TO BE GENUINELY PROUD OF SOMETHING to be extremely proud of somebody to be fiercely proud of somebody to be immensely proud of somebody to be inordinately proud of somebody to be intensely proud of somebody to be particularly proud of somebody to be really proud of somebody to be terribly proud of somebody to be tremendously proud of somebody to be very proud of somebody to accomplish amazing things accomplishments achievements

Question: Describe a goal you achieved You should say:

Question:

- what the achievement is
- how you did it
- how difficult it was
- how you feel about it
- Part 3 for this cue card is 'Goals'

Job you don not want to do

Dictionary a career plana career path to climb a career ladder career opportunities a career move a fulfilling career to do what you were born to do the work that calls out to you to learn the ropes

Question: Describe a job you don't want to do You should say:

Question:

- what it is
- whether you think it's easy or difficult
- explain why you don't want to do it
- Part 3 for this cue card is 'Jobs and robots'

Journey that was delayed

Dictionary adverse weather condition extreme weather condition to de-ice a windshield ice-build up foul weather wet weather a truly miserable day a deafening thunder an ear-splitting thunder loud thunderclaps a soft rumble of thunder ominous black clouds violent gusts of wind

Question: Describe an important journey that was delayed You should say:

Question:

- where you were going
- why it was delayed
- how it affected your plans
- how you felt
- Part 3 for this cue card is 'Transportation'

Helping someone

Dictionary to give somebody a helping hand to lend somebody a helping hand to rush over to help to help out to come to someone's aid help people with no expectation of anything in return acts of kindness a selfless act to have a heart for people

Question: Describe a situation when you helped someone You should say:

Question:

- what the situation was
- who the person was
- how you helped them
- how you felt after helping them
- Part 3 - 'Helping others and giving advice'

Home (Dream home)

Dictionary to live to dwell living space a facade a roof a wall the floor a ceiling a staircase

Question: Describe your dream home You should say:

Question:

- what kind of accommodation it will be
- where it will be
- if it will be big or small
- what it will look like
- part 3 - 'Accommodation and living in the city'

Indoor game once played

Dictionary to play cards, chess or checkers table games board games card game to win the game to act to guess whoever has the most points wins the game rules hints attempts a dealer (a person who distributes cards to players) a set of cards to deal cards face down ace, king, queen, jack spades, clubs, diamonds, hearts

Question: Describe a time when you played an indoor game You should say:

Question:

- what the game was
- who you played it with
- when and where you played it, how you played it
- why you liked it
- part 3 for this cue card - 'Games', 'International events'

Leisure activity with family

Dictionary a pastime activity spare time to spend quality time with somebody

Question: Describe a leisure activity you liked doing with your family You should say:

Question:

- what activity it was
- when and where you did it
- which family members you did it with
- why you liked doing it
- part 3 for this cue card - 'Leisure activities', 'Live performances', 'Entertainment industry'

Losing and finding

Dictionary to lose to mislay to misplace a loss

Question: Describe a time when you lost something and then got it back You should say:

Question:

- what it was
- where you lost it
- how you found it
- how you felt when you found it
- part 3 for this cue card - 'Finding things', 'Losing something'

Lying to your friend

Dictionary to tell a lie to lie about big things to resort to white lies to uncover the truth to spot a lie to seek the truth to get the truth out of someone to get somebody to tell the truth to see the signs of lying to withhold the truth to conceal the truth to blurt something out to confess

Question: Describe an occasion when you lied to your friend You should say:

Question:

- when and where this happened
- who this friend was
- why you lied
- how you felt about lying to your friend
- part 3 for this cue card - 'Lying', 'Truth'

Meeting someone

Dictionary to make friends to introduce somebody to someone a chance meeting

Question: Describe a time when you met someone for the first time You should say:

Question:

- where it was
- who this person was
- what you talked about
- why you remember meeting this person for the first time
- part 3 for this cue card is 'Making friends', 'Colleagues', 'Hospitality'

Message

Dictionary to receive a text message a text reminder a reminder text message a mobile text alert a text notification

Question: Describe an important text message that you received You should say:

Question:

- what sms it was
- when you received it
- how you felt
- why it was important
- Part 3 for this cue card is 'Phone calls, messages, communication'

Mobile phone could not use

Dictionary cell phone use is banned to interfere with equipment to use the phone in an airplane mode

Question: Describe an experience when you couldn't use a mobile phone You should say:

Question:

- what you did
- when it was
- where it was
- why you were not allowed to use a mobile phone
- Part 3 for this cue card is 'Phones and politeness'

Performance or show

Dictionary a (truly) stunning performance an impressive show a jaw-dropping performance a stunt performer a stuntman a performance group to perform coin tricks to perform card tricks to stare at somebody in silent amazement to stare at somebody open-mouthed to stare at somebody in wide-eyed amazement to stand in open-mouthed wonderment to be blown away

Question: Describe a performance or show you enjoyed watching You should say:

Question:

- what performance it was
- when and where it was
- who were the performers
- why you liked it
- Part 3 - 'Performances, dancing'

Person in the news

Dictionary to doff my cap to someone hit (the) headlines (to be featured on the headlines of news articles, as due to being particularly important, popular, fashionable, etc) the latest news headlines in the news top stories to become the focal point of attention to receive a lot of attention in news reports to live in the spotlight to be in the public eye

Question: Describe a person in the news you want to meet You should say:

Question:

- who this person is
- how you know this person
- what he or she is like
- why you want to meet him or her
- part 3 - 'Celebrities and news'

Person who taught you something important

Dictionary to teach someone skill to practise doing something

Question: Describe a person who taught you something important You should say:

Question:

- who this person is
- what this person taught you
- how they taught you
- why you think it was important
- part 3 - 'Teaching, learning'

Person who travels by plane

Dictionary to help the flight to pass quickly a passenger a flight attendant in-flight turbulence to fly in economy class to fly first class to fly on a private jet

Question: Describe a person you know about who often travels by plane You should say:

Question:

- who this person is and how you know them
- where this person travels to
- why this person often travels by plane
- whether this person likes to travel by plane so often
- part 3 for this cue card - 'Airports', 'Travelling by plane'

Person who apologised to you

Dictionary to apologize to somebody for somethingapologiesto send an apologetic messageto offer a sincere apologyto garner forgivenesssto be offendedthe apology falls on deaf earsto refuse to apologizebe in the dog house

Question: Describe a person who has apologized to you You should say:

Question:

- who this person is
- when this happened
- what this person said for apologizing
- explain how you felt about the apology
- Part 3 - 'Apologising'

Person who is good at his job

Dictionary an experta luminary

Question: Describe a person you know who is good at their job You should say:

Question:

- who this person is
- where this person works
- what job this person does
- why this person is good at their job
- part 3 for this cue card - 'Changes', 'Managers', 'Jobs'

Picture or photo in your family

Dictionary a photo frame a shota photographer

Question: Describe a picture or photo in your family that you like You should say:

Question:

- what is in the picture
- where this picture is in your home
- who took this picture
- why this picture is meaningful
- Part 3 for this cue card - 'Photos', 'Art'

Place (Crowded place)

Dictionary to be like a bee hive to be packed with people to be teeming with people (to contain large numbers of people) to squeeze through the crowd a bunch of people a crowd of people to be abuzz (filled with noise and activity) to swarm around something

Question: Describe a time you went to a crowded place You should say:

Question:

- what place it was
- when you went there
- who you went with
- what people do there
- why you liked or disliked it
- Part 3 - 'Crowded places, traffic jams, living in the city'

Place (Public place that needs to be improved)

Dictionary a regular visitor to frequent some place a frequent visitor to fix to repair to maintain abandoned

Question: Describe a change that can improve your local area You should say:

Question:

- what place needs to be improved
- how often you go there
- what you dislike about this public place
- what should be done
- Part 3 is 'Community'

Place full of colour

Dictionary brightly coloured (houses) richly coloured (flowers) colourful shades of (red) hues of (blue) a variety of colours an array of colours

Question: Describe a place that you went to that was full of colour You should say:

Question:

- what place it was
- why you went there
- what you did there
- why you remember this place
- part 3 for this cue card - 'Colours'

Place to read and write

Dictionary a spot a venue a location a study session

Question: Describe a place where it was easy for you to read and write (not your home) You should say:

Question:

- where it was
- when you went there
- what you studied there
- who you went with
- why you liked to read and write there
- part 3 for this cue card is 'Reading and writing'

Product - add info

Dictionary IDIOM: to go into detail about something (=to discuss or present every aspect of something) made by hand handmade arts and crafts artisanry (the work of a craftsman) crafted items - decorative pieces unique design ethnic items creations

Question: Describe a product from your area (such as a food or handicraft) You should say:

Question:

- what the product is
- when you tried it for the first time
- where you can buy it
- how it is produced
- why it is popular
- part 3 for this cue card is 'Products', 'Inventions'

School you went to

Dictionary to attend school to go to school a subject a learning process

Question: Describe a school you went to when you were a child You should say:

Question:

- what type of school it was
- what you remember about your teachers
- what useful things you learnt
- what you think about it now
- part 3 for this cue card - 'Education', 'Schools'

Skill you learned

Dictionary to acquire (definition: to learn) to master to polish to hone (definition: to improve) highly-desired skill to pick up skill to learn at my own pace a bunch of free lessons tips and tricks to make a learning process easier basic skills an invaluable skill an indispensable skill for someone

Question: Describe an important skill you learned You should say:

Question:

- what this skill was
- when you learned it
- how you learned it
- why it was important
- Part 3 for this cue card is 'Skills and success'

Sky

Dictionary storm clouds fleecy clouds fluffy dreamy clouds a mackerel sky (a sky dappled with rows of small white fleecy clouds, similar in appearance to fish scales) dappled with rows of clouds a cloudy sky a dark moonless night lit with countless stars a starry sky a meteor shower shooting stars overcast to look up at the sky a colorful sunset sky

Question: Describe a time when you were looking at a beautiful sky You should say:

Question:

- where you were and what you did
- who you were with
- what you saw
- how you felt
- part 3 for this cue card is 'Stars, planets and space'

Staying awake

Dictionary my eyes were heavy a 7-hour red-eye to stay up late to be alert to fall asleep

Question: Describe a time when you were tired but had to stay awake You should say:

Question:

- why you were tired
- why you had to stay awake
- what you did not to fall asleep
- what did you think about having to stay awake
- part 3 for this cue card - 'Staying awake', 'Modern life'

Team work

Dictionary to collaborate to co-operate to work on a team (more common) to work in a team

Question: Describe a project or some work that you did with others as a member of a team You should say:

Question:

- what the team was like
- why you joined it
- what you did
- how you felt about it
- Part 3 for this cue card is 'Teamwork'

Thing you bought hard to use

Dictionary to buy to purchase

Question: Describe something you bought that was hard to use at first You should say:

Question:

- what it was and where you bought it
- why it was hard to use
- how you started using it successfully
- how you felt about it
- Part 3 - 'Shopping'

Trip by public transport

Dictionary to commute a commuter to get to work or school

Question: Describe a trip that you went on by public transport You should say:

Question:

- where you went
- what means of transport you took
- who you were with
- how you felt about the trip
- part 3 for this cue card is 'Transportation'

Toy

Dictionary cuddly (something you could hug forever) soft cute fluffy a talking toy in the imaginary world huggable squeezable with beady eyes the toy I remember fondly the toy that will always have a place in my heart a symbol of my childhood my all-time favourite of all the toys that I received I liked it the most much more than a toy

Question: Describe a toy that you liked when you were a child You should say:

Question:

- what the toy was
- who gave it to you
- how you used this toy
- explain how you felt when you got this toy
- Part 3 for this cue card is 'Toys and gifts', 'Playing', 'Children and ads'

Uniform

Dictionary workwearapparel breathable material disposableflame resistantchemical resistantprotectivehigh visibilitylightweightheavyweightwith a zipper frontwith elastic wrists

Question: Describe a uniform you wear You should say:

Question:

- what it is like
- when you wear it
- who bought it for you
- how you feel about it
- Part 3 - 'Uniforms and clothes'

Weather that broke your plans

Dictionary to de-ice a windshield ice-build up foul weather wet weather a truly miserable day an insanely cold place a deafening thunder an ear-splitting thunder loud thunderclaps a soft rumble of thunder ominous black clouds violent gusts of wind

Question: Describe one time when the weather broke your plans You should say:

Question:

- what you planned
- when and where you were
- what kind of weather it was
- explain why you couldn't finish what you did
- part 3 is 'Weather'

Section 3

Accommodation and living in the city

Dictionary to share living space with smb to stay with smb living space

Question:

- What is the difference between living in the countryside and the city? (added on 3 February 2020)

Question:

- How do people choose a city to live in? (added on 3 February 2020)

Question:

- Do most people in your country live in a flat or a house?
- What are the benefits of living in a house?

Question:

- Do people in your country mostly buy their own home or do they rent their home?

Question:

- What types of accommodation are popular in your country? (no answers yet)
- What is good and bad about living in an old house and in a new one? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Is it good that now people have an opportunity to live and work abroad? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Do environmental concerns have an impact on people's lifestyles? (no answers yet)
- Have people's lifestyles changed for the better? (no answers yet)

Question:

- is it good for elderly people to live in cities (no answers yet)?

Question:

- Where do people like to live, in the city centre or in the suburbs? (no answers yet)

Art, photos

Dictionary Fine or Visual Arts Decorative Arts drawings painting sculpture printmaking photography a performance an installation sound art ephemeral and conceptual art digital and video art wood-working metalwork textiles ceramics pottery weaving to take a picture to take a photo to take a selfie to snap selfie selfie-ing a selfie stick a fisheye lens a selfie a self-portrait photograph excessive photo sharing duck faces fish gape pursed lips to make goofy faces to upload selfies to Facebook selfie-snapper to crop an image to hold the phone at eye level a shot from a high angle a device

Question:

- How do artists nowadays attract public attention to their works of art?

Question:

- What is good about learning to draw as an adult?

Question:

- Do you think everyone can learn to draw or paint?

Question:

- Do you think private individuals should be allowed to buy works of art by most famous artists in a country?

Question:

- What types of art do people in your country like?

Question:

- What kinds of art are the most valuable in terms of monetary value?
- Why do some paintings have higher value than others?

Question:

- Are art classes important in schools?
- Should all children learn to draw?

Question:

- Would you say art is important?

Question:

- What kinds of devices do people like to use for taking photos these days?
- Has the way people take photos changed?
- What is good and bad about taking photos with a smartphone?

Question:

- Do you think it's necessary for schools to open photography classes?

Question:

- Would you take photography classes in the future?

Question:

- Do people in your country like to take photos of themselves?

Question:

- Why do some people like to keep photos?

Question:

- Why do some people like to delete photos?

Question:

- Why do some people think that old photos are more valuable than new ones?

Question:

- What's the most interesting photo you've ever taken?

Question:

- Why do some people think that photography is not art? (no answers yet)
- Do you think being a photographer is a good job? (no answers yet)

Animals and pets

Dictionary petsto keep petsstray animalsendangered animalsendangered speciesthreatened speciesto raise animalsanimal extinctionto go extinct

Question:

- Why do more and more people become vegetarians?

Question:

- Do you agree that animals shouldn't be used in experiments?

Question:

- Do you think animals are important?

Question:

- What should we do to protect endangered animals?

Question:

- Why do you think wild animals should be protected?

Question:

- What animals are common in your country? (no answers yet)
- Is there any difference between the way animals were used for work in the past and nowadays? (no answers yet)
- Do animals cause more problems in the countryside than in cities? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Is it safe for animals to live in cities? (no answers yet)
- What problems will keeping pets bring? (no answers yet)
- How are pets now different from those in the past? (no answers yet)
- Why has human activity affected some kinds of animals more than others?

Apologising

Dictionary to apologize to somebody for something
apologize to send an apologetic message
to offer a sincere apology
to garner forgiveness
to accept apology
to be offended
to refuse to apologize
to be in the dog house
to offend
to wrong somebody

Question:

- Do you think our modern society makes us selfish?
- Why are some people more selfish than others? (added on 28 January 2020)

Question:

- In what situations do people say sorry?

Question:

- Why do some people hate or find it hard to say sorry?

Question:

- In what situations should we apologize immediately?

Question:

- When was the last time you found it hard to accept an apology?

Question:

- Will society benefit if people put their own interests first? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Why is it important for people to know how their behaviour affects people around them? (no answers yet)
- Do you think that people should show that they care about someone by actions, not words? (no answers yet)
- Is it possible for people to learn to be more considerate to others? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Do you think people often say 'sorry' when they don't really mean it? (no answers yet)

Boredom, interesting life

Dictionary yawn-inducing tedious dull as dishwater to do the same mundane work repetitively to do the same mind-numbing task to entertain entertainment entertaining engaging to share fun

Question:

- Are there any jobs that you find boring?

Question:

- Do you think all the boring jobs will be done by robots in the future?

Question:

- Why do some people get bored faster than others?

Question:

- Why do people agree to do boring jobs?

Question:

- Some people say that it's good to feel bored sometimes. What do you think?

Question:

- Do you agree that it is impossible to feel bored in our today's world?

Question:

- Do you think our life has become more or less interesting due to technology?

Question:

- Do you think the most interesting thing in life is relationships with other people?

Question:

- Do you think people should take responsibility for making their lives more interesting?

Borrowing things

Dictionary to lendto borrowto give something backa lendera borrowera return time

Question:

- Do you agree that great scientific discoveries cannot be made by one person? (added on 16th October 2019)

Question:

- In what situations does borrowing something cause arguments?

Question:

- Is it important to ask a permission before borrowing some item?

Question:

- Do you agree that musicians should try to fight piracy and protect their content?

Question:

- What do people in your country usually borrow?

Question:

- Do you think it is better to buy things than borrow them?
- Why do people like to borrow things?

Question:

- What is the acceptable duration of borrowing and return time of an article?

Question:

- Why do people dislike borrowing valuable items?

Question:

- How do you feel about others borrowing ideas for business?

Question:

- Why do most people feel embarrassed to ask someone for money?

Question:

- What do you do if you don't want to lend something to others?

Question:

- What would you do if friends didn't give back what they borrowed from you?

Buildings public 2

Dictionary architectura landscape architectarchitectural stylessolar panelsenvironmentally-friendly
to design to buildto constructhigh-rise buildingsskyscrapers

Question:

- Do you think that people's lifestyles will have an impact on the way buildings are designed? (added on 23 October 2019)

Question:

- Do you think urban sprawl should be limited and controlled? (added on 22 October 2019)

Question:

- Why are taller and taller building being constructed nowadays?

Question:

- Are there any interesting public buildings in your country?

Question:

- Do you think people should always be able to use public buildings free of charge?

Question:

- What are the most important things when designing a public building?

Question:

- Are buildings important for a country's tourist industry?

Question:

- Which is better, to repair old public buildings or build new ones?

Question:

- Do buildings reflect culture?

Business

Dictionary an entrepreneuran enterprisea market leaderbusiness activitiesto set up a businessto run a businessto do business withcompetitors rivals

Question:

- What makes some companies more successful than others? (added on 27 January 2020)

Question:

- What qualities does one need to run a successful business?

Question:

- Is it better to have your own business or work for a company?
- Why do some people prefer to have their own business than work for a company?

Question:

- Do you agree that nowadays it is easier to set up a business than in the past? (being edited)

Question:

- Has IT made any impact on business? (no answers yet)
- How can environmental problems influence business in the future? (no answers yet)

Question:

- What kinds of small business are most popular in your country?

Question:

- What are the main types of company in your country? (no answers yet)
- Are there any new types of business in your country? (no answers yet)
- What are the drawbacks of working in a family-owned company? (no answers yet)

Careers

Dictionary to make a career change to start a new career path to make a switch to a career that's completely different to change a career field
IDIOMS ABOUT WORK: 1. to be between jobs (to be unemployed) 2. to work one's fingers to the bone (to work very hard) 3. to go the extra mile (to go beyond what is necessary) 4. to learn the ropes (to learn how to do a particular job or task) 5. to be a change of pace (to be a variation in routine)
IDIOMS THAT CAN BE USED TALKING ABOUT STUDIES: 1. to miss the boat (to lose an opportunity to do something by being slow to act): I've missed the boat for the fall semester, so
STUDIES: attendance compulsory subjects optional subjects an assignment to sound nerdy tutorials lectures passing grades subject options the school curriculum
WORK: a salary-boosting factor to excel at an enterprise to downsize a lifelong learner a solid IT educational background to keep working after retirement to work during one's retirement years a retiree to reach retirement age work in retirement

Question:

- What are the benefits and disadvantages of continuing to work after retirement?

Question:

- Do you think the retirement age should be raised?

Question:

- How can people contribute to society after they retire?

Question:

- Do you think colleagues' support plays a role in developing a person's career?

Question:

- Do you think long-term planning is a must if a person wants to have a successful career?

Question:

- Why do some people change a profession?

Question:

- What professions are most popular with young people in your country now?

Question:

- What factors do young people consider when they choose a profession?

Question:

- Why is it difficult for young people to choose a profession?

Celebrations add 4 more questions

Dictionary to take pride into be proud of to feel satisfied with to identify with

Question:

- Why is it that for some people achievements of their favourite team are important?

Question:

- Do you think people feel proud when some representatives from their country achieve success in international sporting events?

Question:

- Are sports people more satisfied when they win in a team sport or in an individual one?

Celebrating and organizing events

Dictionary to hold a party to throw a party to have a party to attend a party to party

Question:

- What do adults do at parties?
- How do people celebrate their personal events?

Question:

- What do children do at a birthday party?

Question:

- Is it worth spending money on celebrations?

Question:

- Do you think there were more family celebrations in the past than now?

Question:

- Why do people organise family parties in your country?

Question:

- Do people in your country like to hold parties?

Question:

- What factors should people consider organising events?

Question:

- How much time do people need to prepare for celebrations? (no answers yet)

Question:

- What personal events do people usually celebrate? (no answers yet)

Celebrities and news

Dictionary fame famous celebrities to win fame to gain fame to distinguish oneself by

Question:

- Do you think famous people ever have a negative influence on ordinary people?

Question:

- What sorts of people are famous in your country?
- How do people become famous?

Question:

- Are there any differences between the people who were famous a few years ago (e.g., 10-50 years ago) and the people who are famous today?

Question:

- What qualities do famous people have in common?

Question:

- Through what kind of media can they be famous?

Question:

- Are stories about celebrities in the news always true? (no answers yet)
- Why do people like news about celebrities? (no answers yet)

Challenges

Dictionary challenge to take a challenge to overcome obstacles to develop coping strategies

Question:

- Why do people like trying extreme sports? (added on 3 February 2020)

Question:

- Who should take responsibility for protecting the environment? (added on 3 February 2020)

Question:

- Do you think that scientists will always find solutions to any global problems?
- Can science solve all the problems that the world has today? (added on 3 February 2020)

Question:

- Do you think parents should give kids challenges?
- Do children benefit from facing challenges?

Question:

- What challenges do you think children might have to face up to?
- What is the most challenging thing for kids?

Question:

- Should parents reduce the challenges that kids have?

Question:

- What challenges do people face when they learn a new sport? (no answers yet)
- Which is more challenging, to play team sports or individual sports? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Do you think that nowadays parents don't give children enough challenges? (no answers yet)
- What challenges does the world face today? (no answers yet)

Colours

Dictionary a hueperception of coloursa colour schemea combination of colours

Question:

- Is colour important in advertising? (added on 14 November 2019)

Question:

- Why do business people seldom wear bright colours?

Question:

- Can you think of some situations when colours are important for things that people buy?

Question:

- What colour would you choose to decorate your home?
- Do you think colours in a room can have an impact on people's mood?

Question:

- Do you think bright ads improve the appearance of cities?

Question:

- Do you think coursebooks should contain pictures and photos?

Question:

- Do you think nowadays people attach too much importance to the appearance of things they possess?

Communication, speeches, presentations

Dictionary communication interaction networking to communicate to socialise to chat to talk to give a speech to prepare a speech a speaker the audience adequate speaking skills public speaking skills

Question:

- What is the difference between speaking with people on the phone and face-to-face?

Question:

- Do you think that it is polite to agree with another person during a conversation if you have another opinion?

Question:

- Do men and women talk about the same things?

Question:

- Do you prefer chatting face to face or texting?

Question:

- Do you think women chat more than men?

Question:

- Why do some people prefer to tell secrets to strangers?

Question:

- Why are social networking websites so popular nowadays?

Question:

- Do you think that many children nowadays don't want to communicate with children of the same age?

Question:

- Do you agree that shy parents will have shy children?

Question:

- Why do you think it is important to communicate with others?
- What communication skills are important?

Question:

- Are you talkative?
- Are people in your country talkative?

Question:

- What jobs need employees to be talkative?

Question:

- Should children be encouraged to talk more?

Question:

- Why do people feel nervous when they are giving a speech to others?

Question:

- How can people improve their public speaking skills?

Question:

- Can you suggest any methods that would help reduce nervousness?

Question:

- Why do you think it's hard to talk to school children?

Question:

- Is it good for people to visit schools and give a talk to children about different things?
- Do you think such talks are necessary?

Question:

- What type of person is best suited to give a talk to a group of students?

Question:

- How can one become a good speaker?

Question:

- Are visual aids important in delivering speeches or presentations?
- Is it good to tell jokes and use humour in presentations and speeches?
- In what situations can public speaking be useful in our life?
- Does media have any influence on public speaking? (no answers yet)

Community

Dictionary a sense of community a community spirit a we-feeling a sense of national pride to be proud of to take pride in

Question:

- Do you think that people who live in large cities don't have a sense of community?

Question:

- Which is more important: a sense of community or a sense of national pride?

Question:

- Can online communities be considered real communities?

Question:

- Are people living in one community friendly with others? (no answers yet)
- What activities are popular in your community? (no answers yet)
- Do people like living in community? (no answers yet)
- Where do people in your community usually have social gatherings? (no answers yet)

Crowded places, traffic jams, living in the city

Dictionary busy places crowded places to blend in with the crowd to crowd together

Question:

- Do people like to go to crowded places?

Question:

- What are the negative aspects of crowded places?

Question:

- In what ways can we fix traffic problems?

Question:

- Why do people still like living in cities despite there are traffic jams?
- What facilities does your city have?

Question:

- How can governments improve living standards in densely-populated cities?

Question:

- What makes a well-designed city? (no answers yet)
- How can a badly-designed city influence its dwellers? (no answers yet)
- Do you think that the only possible way to make an ideal city is to build a new one? (no answers yet)

Question:

- What can be done to make cities less crowded? (no answers yet)
- Do you agree that in the future cities will become so crowded that they will have no green spots? (no answers yet)

Question:

- What places are often crowded in your country? (no answers yet)
- Do people change their behaviour when they get to a crowded place? (no answers yet)
- Why have many cities become so densely-populated? (no answers yet)

Education, schools

Dictionary to sign up for an online course a comprehensive course a self-paced course to acquire (definition: to learn) to master to polish to hone (definition: to improve) highly-desired skill to pick up skill to learn at my own pace a bunch of free lessons tips and tricks to make a learning process easier basic skills an invaluable skill an indispensable skill for someone to enroll in a course to study a learning environment a student a teacher a tutor

Question:

- What types of schools are there in your country?

Question:

- Do you think there is pressure on students to study too hard?

Question:

- Do you think that nowadays teachers are more strict than in the past?

Question:

- Who should be responsible for education, parents or the government?

Question:

- How can technology be used in the classroom?

Question:

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of studying online?

Question:

- Do you think school lessons and teachers are necessary for successful learning?
- Do you think teachers will be replaced by computers?

Question:

- Do you agree or disagree that schools and universities should only have courses that prepare the students for jobs?
- Do you think the purpose of education has changed?

Question:

- Why do some students dislike studying at school?

Question:

- What are the most popular courses that people study today at universities or other educational institutions?

Family

Dictionary a mother a father parents children kids young kids a son a daughter a sister a brother a grandmother a grandfather grandparents a grandson a granddaughter a grandchild grandchildren an aunt an uncle a niece a nephew a cousin a husband a wife a sister-in-law a brother-in-law a mother-in-law a father-in-law young adults the young older generations elderly the elderly the old old people the rising generation age groups multiple generations a generation gap relations deep relations family traditions family activities a family picnic to bring up to respect to support to handle problematic relationships

Question:

- Do you prefer support from your family or your friends?

Question:

- In your country, what kinds of family members usually live together?

Question:

- In a typical family in your country, who plays the leading role?

Question:

- These days people from different generations live together, do you think this is a problem?

Question:

- Do young and middle-aged people live with old people?

Question:

- Is it important to visit relatives?

Question:

- How do you get along with your parents?

Question:

- Do young adults in your country like to communicate with old people?

Question:

- How do grandparents educate their grandchildren in your country?

Question:

- Who should take care of old people, the government or their families? (no answers yet)
- What responsibilities should people have towards society? (no answers yet)
- Do you think now people are more encouraged to be individualistic than before? (no answers yet)

Question:

- What is good and what is bad about having strong family relationships? (no answers yet)
- Do you think both parents should take equal responsibility for taking care of their children? (no answers yet)
- What responsibilities should children have towards their parents? (no answers yet)

Films, film industry

Dictionary genres action movieshorror moviescomedies dramas sci-fi movieshistorical filmsdocumentaries a character a plot a scenethe castcinematographythe film industrya film directoran actoran actress

Question:

- Do you think having a film industry has an impact on a country's reputation?

Question:

- Do you think the government should fund a country's film industry?

Question:

- Do you think people rely too much on the film industry instead of making their pastime more interesting themselves?

Question:

- Do you think watching films is a good way to have a rest?

Question:

- Do you think that people in the film industry are paid too much?

Question:

- Why are people so interested in lives of movie stars?

Question:

- What makes an actor a famous movie star?

Question:

- What kinds of movies are popular in your country?

Question:

- Do people in your country still like to go to a cinema?

Question:

- Why do people spend so much money on producing films?

Question:

- Do you prefer computer or real movies?

Question:

- Do you think people in your country enjoy violent movies?

Question:

- Do you think in the future stars will be replaced by robots?

Question:

- Why don't old people like cartoons?

Finding things, losing something

Dictionary to find to lose to notice detail to catch sight of something Lost and found attentive to detail eagle-eyed to lose to mislay to misplace a loss

Question:

- Is it ok to keep an item that you found?

Question:

- Why do many cultures have tales about finding treasure?

Question:

- What should people do to find what they lost?

Question:

- What things do people usually find?

Question:

- What should people do if they find something?

Question:

- Why is it that some people find things more easily than others?

Question:

- Why do some people worry more than others when they lose things?

Question:

- How can we avoid losing things?

Question:

- What things do people often lose?

Question:

- Is it easy to lose something?
- Why do some people lose things easily?

Question:

- How can parents teach children to be organized?

Question:

- Is it important for children to be organized?

Question:

- If you lost a phone, how can you find it?

Question:

- Can you give me some examples of traditions that are lost or forgotten when a society develops and modernises? (no answers yet)
- Do the advantages of modernisation outweigh the disadvantages? (no answers yet)

Games, international events

Dictionary pencil-and-paper gamesvideo gamescard gamesboard gamespuzzleschesscheckersbackgammondominohopes of an entire nationrivalrycompetitionto competeuniversal valuesto be worth an effort

Question:

- What makes team members want to play at their best?

Question:

- What makes a good team captain?

Question:

- Why are mobile games so popular nowadays?

Question:

- Do you play any indoor games?

Question:

- Do you like playing indoor games?

Question:

- Do you think playing computer games is a waste of time?

Question:

- How can children benefit from playing team games?

Question:

- Is organising an international event worth the money spent on it?
- What is the value in organising international events?

Question:

- Are international sporting competitions important for the world?

Question:

- Can you suggest how a person might feel representing their country in international competitions?

Question:

- Some people believe that competing in international sports events divides nations. Do you agree?

Question:

- Do you think technology helps to guarantee 'fair play' during competitions? (no answers yet)
- Which is more important, to win or take part in competitions? (no answers yet)

Gifts

Dictionary to give a gift or a present to receive a gift or a present to make a gift of something to give something to somebody a giver a receiver gift-giving

Question:

- Do you think parents are made to give too many gifts nowadays? (added on 24 December 2019)

Question:

- Why is it sometimes difficult to buy a gift for someone?

Question:

- What gifts are popular in your country?

Question:

- Is it better to give practical gifts?

Question:

- Do men and women have the same attitude to giving gifts?

Question:

- Is gift-giving important for economy of a country?

Question:

- Is the price of a gift important?

Question:

- Do you like giving gifts?
- Why do people give gifts?

Question:

- What gifts would parents give to children?

Question:

- What factors do parents consider when choosing a gift for children?

Question:

- Why do companies give free gifts to people?

Question:

- Have you ever received anything that was made by the giver?
- When receiving a gift, do you prefer something that was self-made or something bought in stores?

Goals

Dictionary to set goalsto establish goalsto pursue goalsto achieveto achieve goalsto accomplish goalsto hit the markadriving forceleadershipa commitmentdisciplinepatiencepersistenceshard workde-terminationmotivationmotivatedto motivateto keep focusedunrealistic goals

Question:

- Why do people set goals?
- Why is it important for teenagers to set goals?

Question:

- What would you feel if you couldn't achieve your goals?

Question:

- What kinds of goals are not realistic?

Question:

- What will encourage children to learn more?

Question:

- Do parents and teachers punish children physically nowadays?

Question:

- Who has the greater influence on goal-setting of children, parents or teachers?

Question:

- Should parents set goals for children?

Question:

- When do young children start setting goals for themselves?

Jobs and robots

Dictionary popularunpopulardead-endmenialhigh-risklow-payingseasonalhigher-paid positionsa low salaryfriendly coworkersunfriendly coworkersa friendly bossan unfriendly bossa current jobwork environmenta careera career advancement to job hopjob changesto find a better joba perfect joba career patha career growthvocational trainingworkplace knowledge necessary office skillsteamwork-experiencejob satisfactionworking stylesprofessional skillsa CVto gain qualificationto work abroadto earn moneyto make moneyto pay well

Question:

- Which is more important for young people, an interesting or well-paid job? (added on 29 January 2020)

Question:

- What motivates people to work harder? (added on 29 January 2020)

Question:

- What jobs do young people prefer?

Question:

- How have robots and computers changed the way people work?

Question:

- Do you think that nowadays all jobs could be done by robots?

Question:

- Why do many young adults keep changing their jobs?

Question:

- Which is more important for young people, an interesting or well-paid job? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Do you think people will work more or less in the future? (no answers yet)
- Do you agree that some people are naturally more hard-working? (no answers yet)
- Do you think that work has psychological importance for people ? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Do people nowadays like to leave their hometowns to work in other cities? (no answers yet)
- Which do you prefer, physical work or mental work? (no answers yet)
- Do you think that jobs in the past involved more physical work? (no answers yet)

Happiness, happy events

Dictionary moments of pleasurejoycontentmentto feel satisfied with somethinga once-in-a-lifetime celebrationto create truly memorable moments

Question:

- Is it important to have goals in life in order to feel happy?

Question:

- Do you think failures help people feel happiness?

Question:

- Why are some people more positive than others?

Question:

- Do you think money can make people happy?

Question:

- Are people in your country happier now than they were 30 years ago?

Question:

- How would you define happiness?

Question:

- What kinds of things make people in your country happy?

Question:

- Why do some people say happiness never lasts long?

Question:

- What do you do when you feel unhappy?

Question:

- Do you agree that real happiness comes from making other people happy? (no answers yet)

Question:

- How do people celebrate special occasions in your country?

Question:

- Do you think that people spend way too much money on celebrating special occasions such as weddings or birthdays?

Question:

- Are there any public events in your country that make people feel happy?

Health and keeping fit

Dictionary aerobic activity strength training water exercises outdoor activities to work out a work-out to do exercises to jog to cycle to do yoga to eat healthy food

Question:

- How can you tell whether a website is reliable or not?

Question:

- Can people trust information online?

Question:

- Do you think people are healthier now than in the past?

Question:

- What activities can schools organize for children to keep fit?

Question:

- What can governments do to improve people's health?

Question:

- What do old people in your country do to keep fit?

Question:

- What else can people do to keep fit apart from sports?

Question:

- How can media improve or influence people's knowledge about health?

Question:

- Why is that many people today don't do enough healthy activities?

Question:

- Should employers be responsible for improving health of their employees?

Helping others, advice

Dictionary to bear a hand to to lend a hand to to lend a helping hand to somebody to do good to donate to a good cause to donate to offer help to assist to give charitable assistance to provide charitable assistance to give financial aid to volunteer volunteering a volunteer to aid to accept help to receive help to get free help to need help no one is immune to problems humanitarian aid military aid economic aid emergency assistance official development assistance foreign aid international aid emergency international aid charitable work an act of kindness

Question:

- Do you like helping others?

Question:

- In your view, should children be taught to help others?

Question:

- How can we encourage children to help others?

Question:

- What advice should parents give to children?

Question:

- Should parents give advice to help you decide what friends you make?

Question:

- Do you think people are less willing to help others these days compared to the past?

Question:

- Should parents help their kids do homework? (no answers yet)
- Should children help their parents? (no answers yet)

Leisure, live performances, entertainment

Dictionary to go out for a meal to go out for a walk to spend smb's free time out to spend time around people to enjoy doing something a live performance a live concert a live show a performer an artista musician a singer an actor an actress to entertain entertainment an entertainer

Question:

- What leisure activities do old and young people prefer?

Question:

- Do you think that leisure activities should not only entertain people, but educate as well?

Question:

- Why do people like live performances (concerts or theatre)?

Question:

- How do performers benefit from giving live performances?

Question:

- What is the difference between watching live performances indoors and outdoors?

Question:

- What makes it difficult for people from the entertainment industry to make a living?

Question:

- Does a country's entertainment industry have any impact on a country's international reputation?

Question:

- Do you think the entertainment industry is important for a country's economy?

Performances and dancing

Dictionary a live performance a live concert a live show a performer an artista musician a singer an actor an actress

Question:

- What's the difference between watching a performance live and watching it on TV?

Question:

- Which do you prefer, a traditional performance or concert?

Question:

- Should governments provide financial support to promote traditional performances?

Question:

- Is learning drama or dancing helpful for children?

Lying, truth

Dictionary to lie to tell lies a white lie a liar honesty honest radical honesty brutal honesty to be brutally honest with someone to handle brutal honesty to hear brutal honesty to be truthful to open up to a stranger to confide in a stranger

Question:

- Are there any situations when it isn't polite to tell the truth?

Question:

- Why is it sometimes easier to be honest to strangers than to close friends?

Question:

- Can we trust news on the Internet?

Question:

- Is it necessary to always tell the truth to achieve success in life? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Do you think people don't care about truth if they are entertained? (no answers yet)
- Do you agree that many people exaggerate how good their lives are because of social media? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Can you suggest why people tell lies (children and adults)?

Question:

- Should friends be honest with each other all the time?

Question:

- Do you think there are times when it is suitable to tell a small lie, a lie with good intentions (a white lie)?

Question:

- What can parents do if children tell lies? (no answers yet)

Making friends, colleagues, hospitality

Dictionary to strike up a friendship to keep in touch to hit it off with somebody to rub shoulders with to buddy up with to mingle with to mix with close friends a true friend inseparable friend to be in tune with to be on friendly terms with colleagues workmates friendly relations willing to contribute to offer practical help hospitality hospitable inhospitable values belief tolerance tolerant

Question:

- Do you think people are hospitable because of their personal qualities or cultural norms?
(difficult question)

Question:

- What are the ways to show hospitality to other people?

Question:

- As travelling all over the world becomes more popular, is being tolerant to other traditions and customs more important now than in the past?

Question:

- What difficulties can people face if they decide to do business with people from other cultures?

Question:

- What can a company do to welcome new workers?

Question:

- Is it possible for a boss or manager to be friends with their workers?

Question:

- What do you think makes someone a good colleague?

Question:

- Do you think that having good colleagues is the most important thing at work?

Question:

- How and where do people in your country make friends these days?

Question:

- Do you trust friends that you meet on the Internet?
- Does the internet help build relationships?

Question:

- Why is it hard to maintain friendships for some people?

Question:

- Would you only make friends with people who are similar to you?

Question:

- Do you like to have many friends?

Question:

- Is it necessary for kids to have some close friends?

Question:

- Does making friends have educational value?

Question:

- How do you get along with people you don't like?

Question:

- Which is more important, to maintain old friendships or make new friends? (no answers yet)

Managers, changes, jobs

Dictionary to embrace change to resist change to undergo change positive change significant change major change sweeping changes

Question:

- Do you think employees must want to constantly learn new things?

Question:

- Are there any dangers to a country's economy if it relies on just a few industries?

Question:

- Do you think change is good?

Question:

- Why do companies nowadays need to be good at adapting to changes?

Question:

- Is it possible for managers to be friends with their workers?

Question:

- What are the qualities of a good manager?

Question:

- When should managers be strict with their staff? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Does university education help students to find a good job in your country?

Question:

- How do university students make their career plans in your country?

Question:

- How can people learn to do a new job? (no answers yet)
- What difficulties do people usually face when they start a new job? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Is your country changing rapidly?

Question:

- What are some of the major changes that occur to people throughout their lives?

Question:

- In what ways have changes in technology changed people's lives?

Memories and me mory

Dictionary memoriesflashbacksto memorizeto rememberto recallto keep in memoryto bear in memory

Question:

- Do you think technology helps people remember past events?

Question:

- What memories are most important for people?

Question:

- Is it possible that technology will replace human memory?

Question:

- What childhood memories do people usually have? (no answers yet)
- Why do people remember very little about things that happened to them in early childhood? (no answers yet)
- Why is it difficult for some people to remember things? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Do you think keeping a diary can lead to creating false memories? (no answers yet)
- Can people rely on their memory when recalling events from the past? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Which is better for keeping childhood memories, photos or videos? (no answers yet)
- What can people do to help themselves remember information for their every day needs? (no answers yet)
- In what situations is it important to remember information very well? (no answers yet)

Phones and politeness

Dictionary mobile phonescell phonesmartphonetext messagesa handseta SIM cardmobile Internet

Question:

- Many people think mobile phones can be annoying at times. Can you give any examples of that?
- Do you think there should be laws on the use of mobile phones?

Question:

- Do young and old people use phones in the same way?

Question:

- Do young and old people have the same attitude towards politeness?
- Are people today as polite as people were in the past?

Question:

- What is the best age to give a mobile phone to a child? (no answers yet)
- How do you like children having phones? (no answers yet)

Phone calls, messages, communication

Dictionary to maintain correspondence withto sendto receivean attachmenta subjectcontenta subject lineintroductiona recipientan email addressa senderan opening salutationa closing salutationa signature

Question:

- Does technological development have a negative impact on communication among people?

Question:

- On what particular occasion do you prefer to write letters?
- Do you think traditional letters are a good way to send messages?

Question:

- Why do people write letters?
- Nowadays, do people prefer to write letters or emails?

Question:

- Why do letters contain more emotions?

Question:

- Why do people make phone calls instead of sending text messages when there is something important? (no answers yet)
- Is it more polite to make phone calls than send text messages? (no answers yet)

Products, inventions

Dictionary to buy brand name productsto create brand loyaltyto raise brand awarenessan inventionan inventorto inventa brainchild

Question:

- What makes famous international companies so successful?

Question:

- Is it important for each region of your country to have some special food products?

Question:

- What are some popular food products produced in different parts of your country?

Question:

- Why do different regions in your country often produce different food products?

Question:

- What are some popular goods that are imported into your country?

Question:

- Is it good that nowadays the same goods are sold everywhere all over the world?

Question:

- What do you think have been some of the most important inventions in the past 100 years or so?

Question:

- Why do you think some inventions have not been successful in the marketplace?

Question:

- Do you think it's good that new inventions are appearing so often?

Question:

- Do you think there will be any negative effects resulting from future technology?

Question:

- Do you think there will be new inventions that will help to resolve global issues? (no answers yet)

Reading and writing skills

Dictionary writing skillsreading skillsto learn to writeto learn to read

Question:

- Is it important for work to be a good writer?

Question:

- Which helps to understand news better, visual aids or written texts?

Question:

- When do children start learning to read and write in your country?

Question:

- Who should teach children to read and write, parents or teachers at school? (no answers yet)
- Do you think it is more difficult to learn to read and write when you are a child or when you are an adult? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Is it better to read and write at home or in a public place? (no answers yet)
- Where can people read and write? (no answers yet)
- Is it important to read and write in a quiet place? (no answers yet)
- Nowadays, which is more important, to be a good reader or writer? (no answers yet)

Shopping, using things, making things

Dictionary modern gadgetsinnovative productsexisting productsto produceto satisfy the changing needs of consumers

Question:

- What kinds of products do young people think are useful but old people may not?

Question:

- Do you think product instructions are useful for users to use products better?

Question:

- What do you usually do if you don't know how to use the things you have bought?

Question:

- Do you think it is necessary to produce many new products nowadays?

Skills

Dictionary communication skillspactical skillsinterpersonal skillsto practise skills

Question:

- What skills are important for success in business? (added on 2 February 2020)

Question:

- Do you think playing computer games can help people develop skills? (added on 2 February 2020)

Question:

- What skills can be learned from playing team sports? (added on 2 February 2020)

Question:

- Do you think communication skills are important at work?

Question:

- Do you think teamwork is important?

Question:

- Where can we learn practical skills?

Question:

- What age will make it difficult for people to master new skills?

Question:

- Who would you learn a skill from, friends, teachers or parents?

Question:

- What's the difference between children learning and adults learning what they have to learn?

Question:

- What is the difference between required skills in the past and those at present? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Can people develop skills necessary for work without having formal qualifications? (no answers yet)
- Do you agree that watching TV doesn't develop any useful skills? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Is it important for people to learn new skills all life long? (no answers yet)
- Do you think that people will need fewer skills in the future due to the advancements in technology? (no answers yet)

Staying awake, modern life

Dictionary to fall asleepsleepydozyto stay awakeinsomniato take the edge off sleepinessfatigue-tirednessalertnessto be under pressureto put pressure onpersonal fulfilmentself-fulfilment

Question:

- Do you think nowadays people get enough sleep?

Question:

- Are there any situations when people are tired but have to stay awake?

Question:

- What can a person do not to fall asleep?

Question:

- Do you agree that social media increases pressures of modern life?

Question:

- Do you agree that nowadays people work (or study) too much?

Question:

- Do you think that pressures of modern life will be even stronger in the future?

Question:

- Does technology help to improve a life-work balance?

Question:

- Do you think that nowadays the only way for people to get personal fulfilment is at work?

Question:

- Do you agree that people cannot be successful both in their career and personal life?

Stars, planets and space

Dictionary exploratory investigations of outer spacespace research space explorationterrestrial-celestial objectsthe universethe cosmosblack holesconstellations

Question:

- Do you think money spent on space exploration is a complete waste?
- How can humans benefit from space research in the future?

Question:

- Should children learn about stars and space at school?
- Why are some people so interested in astronomy?

Teamwork

Dictionary cooperation commitment contributiondedication workloada teammate a team membera team playerteam building activities

Question:

- What qualities do you think a good team member should have?

Question:

- Do you think teamwork is important?

Question:

- How do you think a team should be organized?

Question:

- Do you think it's important for children to have experiences doing things in a team?

Teaching and learning

Dictionary a teacherteaching aidsto teachto trainto instruct

Question:

- Is it better to study in a group or individually?

Question:

- What kind of people are good at teaching?

Question:

- Do we really need teachers to learn something?

Question:

- What can young people teach old people?

Question:

- Who can learn better, old people or youngsters? (no answers yet)
- What is the best age for children to go to school? (no answers yet)

Toys and gifts, playing, children and ads

Dictionary robots action figures toy carsbuilding and construction sets blockspuzzlesride-ons radio-controlled toys tech toys board games arts and crafts kits collectibles dolls plush toys role play toysindoor gamesoutdoor gamesvideo gameteam sportsindividual sportsto be prone to conformto be vulnerable to conformity

Question:

- Do you feel there is pressure on children to conform with their friends?

Question:

- Do you think advertising that targets children should be banned?

Question:

- Do you agree that the fact that children are targeted by many companies as potential consumers spoils their childhood?

Question:

- How can children benefit from playing?

Question:

- How can children benefit from playing team sports?

Question:

- How can children benefit from playing online games?

Question:

- What toys are popular with boys and girls in your country now?

Question:

- What factors do parents consider when they choose a gift for children?

Question:

- What is the value of giving presents?
- Why do people give presents?

Question:

- What factors do people consider when buying a gift for friends?

Question:

- Do children nowadays like the same toys as children in the past did? (no answers yet)
- Is it good that some parents buy many toys for their kids instead of spending quality time with them? (no answers yet)

Transportation

Dictionary public transit mass transit lane a cycle track a roundabout an intersection traffic lights means of transport modes of transport to shorten travel time transport links the daily commute to get around

Question:

- In what ways can we fix traffic problems?

Question:

- Will there be fewer cars if public transport is free?

Question:

- What needs to be improved in public transport?

Question:

- Is it fair to limit the use of private cars?

Question:

- Should governments encourage people to use public transportation?
- What's the most popular means of transportation in your country?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of private transport?

Question:

- How can transport be developed in rural areas?

Travelling

Dictionary a journey a vacation baggage luggage a suitcase a flight to fly by train by ship by boat by bus by coach by car insurance a destination a tourist a holiday maker a route to travel a trip an adventure an excursion a package holiday a self-catering holiday attractions sightseeing to go sightseeing a tourist-tourism memories fascinating vibrant exciting crowded modern historic picturesque features souvenirs gift off the beaten path places

Question:

- Do you agree that it was more comfortable to travel in the past than it is today? (added on 2 February 2020)

Question:

- Do you think modern means of transportation cause harm to the environment? (added on 2 February 2020)

Question:

- With the increase in long distance travel, do you think countries will be able to preserve their culture? (added on 2 February 2020)

Question:

- How can transport be improved in your country? (added on 28 January 2020)

Question:

- How will people travel in the future? (added on 27 January 2020)

Question:

- More and more people travel all over the world. Do you think it will help people from different countries understand each other better? (added on 23 January 2020)

Question:

- Nowadays more and more people choose to travel to remote places. Is it good or bad for those places? (added on 23 January 2020)

Question:

- What means of transport do people use when travelling in your country? (added on 23 January 2020)

Question:

- What kind of problems do people face when travelling in your country?

Question:

- How can people benefit from travelling in your country?

Question:

- Do you like to travel on your own or with your family?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of travelling alone and travelling with friends?

Question:

- Do you like to visit popular places or less-known places?

Travelling by plane, airports

Dictionary to fly a flight air travel by plane airport capacity airport expansion in the vicinity of

Question:

- What is good and bad about living near the airport?

Question:

- Do you think it is good to work at an airport?

Question:

- Do you think expansion of airports should be controlled or not?

Question:

- What is good and bad about travelling by plane?

Question:

- Do many people in your country travel by plane inside the country?

Question:

- Is air travel important for expanding commerce nowadays? (no answers yet)

Question:

- Which is more important for people travelling by plane, comfort or price? (no answers yet)
- How does air travel influence the environment? (no answers yet)
- Do you think air travel for leisure should be restricted by the government? (no answers yet)

Uniforms and clothes

Dictionary classystylish fashionable chicklatesttrendydressy clothesmust-haveapparelattirecomfortableneathand-madetailoredold-fashionedto suit to fitto matchto glam it up witha dress codesmart clothes smartly put-together outfitsoutfits of choicecasual clothesa garmentan article of clothinga piece of clothesto have onto wearto put onto dresssto wear day in and day outcoloura patterngrayscale looksaccessories workwearoffice wearspick and span clothes for everyday wear restricted to a certain lookstriped-checkedred suede leather cottonfaux furlow waisthigh waistto slip into clothes to throw on a coata peppy red-and-blue ensemblewith fur trimV-necksround necks

Question:

- Do you think students need to wear school uniforms?

Question:

- Does personality affect how people choose what to wear?

Question:

- What kinds of clothes should people wear at work?

Question:

- What kinds of clothes do people wear after work?
- What clothes do you like?

Question:

- When should people wear formal clothes?
- Do people wear formal clothes more often than before?

Question:

- On what occasions should people wear uniforms? (no answers yet)
- Should companies ask for employees' opinions about the design of uniforms? (no answers yet)

Weather

Dictionary rainrainya drizzleshowersa downpourtorrential rainpouring raina floodcloudygloomy-foggyovercastclearcoldbelow freezinghailsleetsnowsnowflakesa blizzardwindwindya breezeblusterya gale (a very strong wind)a hurricanetemperaturehotsearing heatwarmsunsunnycoldcoldfreezingweather forecasta droughta lightninga thundera rainbowmisthazea puddlesmogsunshinerainfallsnow avalanch-esdust stormsfool weatherwet weather

Question:

- Does weather affect your mood?

Question:

- Does weather have any impact on people's daily activities?

Question:

- Where can people get weather reports?

Question:

- How do weather reports affect people's life?
- Why are people interested in the weather?

Question:

- What do people do on rainy days and sunny days?

Question:

- Has climate change affected your country?

Question:

- What do you wear when it's cold outside?

Question:

- Why do people need to wear thick clothes when it's cold outside?

Question:

- When it's rainy outside, how can people go to work?

Question:

- Why do people wear hats on sunny days?

Question:

- What's the weather usually like in your hometown?

Question:

- Why do people do different kinds of sport in different weather? (no answers yet)
- What weather do people like in your country? (no answers yet)
- Do people in your country talk about weather when they meet for the first time? (no answers yet)