

# TAP CHÍ IELTS

2



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**Ngọc Bách**

Some people think that good health is a basic human need, so the **medical service** should not be run by **profit-making companies**. Do you think the **disadvantages of private-health care outweigh the advantages?**

## INTRODUCTION

Private health care is popular. Despite some drawbacks, there are **more adv than disadv** of private health care

## PARAGRAPH

1

**disadvantages**

2

**advantages**

**high costs** if private health care is not regulated  
-examples: prescription charges, use of expensive equipment

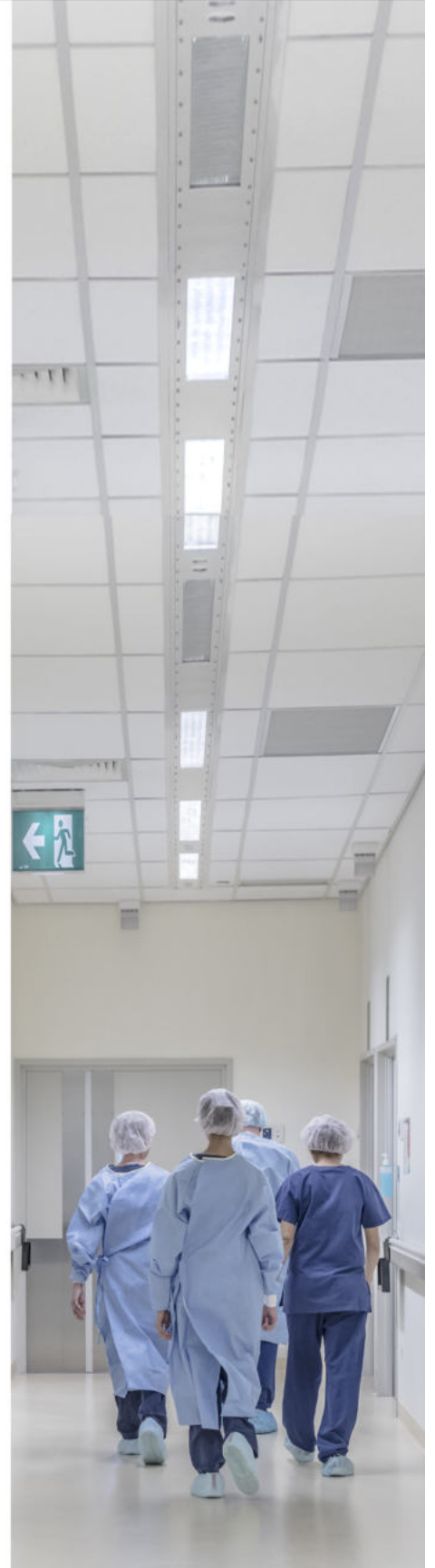
**quality of care** may suffer if profits determine care/treatment decisions

**speed** - no long waiting lists for treatment/-check-ups

may provide **health care services to remote areas** where health care is not accessible.

## CONCLUSION

the **advantages outweigh** the disadvantages.



## ANSWER:

Some people think that good health is a basic human need, so the medical service should not be run by profit-making companies. Do you think the disadvantages of private health care outweigh the advantages?

In recent years, privately-operated health services have been a popular alternative to public health care agencies. Personally, despite their drawbacks, I would argue that more private medical services should be provided on the basis of their evident merits.

On the one hand, private medical treatment has its own negative impacts. The biggest drawback to private-owned hospitals is the exorbitant cost patients have to pay. When governments do not **introduce restrictions on** such costs, many private institutions set high fees for services such as **prescriptions charges** or using high-tech machines in the **operating theatre**, which effectively **discriminates against** those on low or modest incomes who cannot afford the costs for care and treatment. Additionally, as the ultimate aim of these agencies is to gain profits, it is possible that they will focus more on quantity rather than quality. With seemingly less qualified and less experienced **medical practitioners**, private hospitals might not come up to patients' expectations.

On the other hand, there are justifiable reasons why privately-run health care institutions should be made available. Firstly, they provide faster services, unlike **public health services** where there is often a long waiting list. Therefore, it is less time-consuming for either patients with **life-threatening diseases** or those coming for **a regular check-up** to get the treatment they want. Secondly, private healthcare institutions could be a practical alternative to state-funded ones in remote areas. If more of these agencies were established in less accessible regions, more people would be able to enjoy improved health care, especially those from **minority groups** who barely receive any **primary health care** at present.

In conclusion, despite the drawbacks of medical services being provided by profit-making corporations, I believe the benefits outweigh the disadvantages and that people should take out **private health insurance** for better access to health care.

( 298 words )

Written by Minh Thắng (Học sinh lớp 15/2017 IELTS Ngọc Bach)



# VOCABULARY

## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ **SOCIETY** (sách collocations)

### 1. prescription charges

Meaning: the money paid by a patient to receive medicines authorised by a doctor.

**Example:** In Britain, the government has abolished prescription charges for elderly people, so that they no longer pay for the medicines they need.

Dịch đại ý

Prescription charges: tiền thuốc

Nghĩa: tiền trả để được nhận thuốc kê đơn bởi bác sĩ

Ví dụ: Tại Anh, chính phủ tài trợ tiền thuốc kê đơn cho người già, nên họ không phải trả tiền thuốc nữa.

### 2. operating theatre

Meaning: a room in a hospital where doctors carry out surgery on patients

**Example:** Safe hygiene standards are important throughout any hospital, but particularly in an operating theatre.

Dịch đại ý

Operating theatre: phòng mổ

Nghĩa: 1 phòng trong bệnh viện nơi bác sĩ tiến hành phẫu thuật cho bệnh nhân

Ví dụ: Các tiêu chuẩn vệ sinh an toàn là rất quan trọng trong bệnh viện của tôi, đặc biệt là trong phòng mổ.

### 3. medical practitioner

Meaning: a person who works as a doctor or surgeon

**Example:** It is essential to train more medical practitioners if public health is to be improved.

Dịch đại ý

Medical practitioner: người hành nghề y

Nghĩa: bác sĩ, bác sĩ phẫu thuật...

Ví dụ: Cần phải đào tạo nhiều những người hành nghề y để sức khỏe cộng đồng có thể được cải thiện.

### 4. public health services

Meaning: the agencies funded by the government to protect and promote the health of the population

**Example:** I would argue that funding for public health services should be the main priority of all governments.

Dịch đại ý

Public health services: Dịch vụ y tế công cộng

Nghĩa: Những tổ chức được chính phủ tài trợ để bảo vệ và chăm sóc sức khỏe cho cộng đồng.

Ví dụ: Tôi cho rằng tài trợ cho dịch vụ y tế công cộng nên là ưu tiên chính của mọi quốc gia.

### 5. life-threatening conditions

Meaning: illnesses which are likely to kill somebody

**Example:** Great advances have been made in the treatment of life-threatening conditions such as cancer and heart disease.

Dịch đại ý

Life-threatening conditions: đe dọa tính mạng

Nghĩa: bệnh đe dọa tới mạng sống

Ví dụ: Đã có những bước tiến lớn trong việc điều trị những căn bệnh đe dọa tính mạng con người như ung thư và bệnh tim.

### 6. to have a regular check-up

Meaning: to have a regular examination carried out by a doctor or dentist

**Example:** In order to identify health problems at an early stage, people should have a regular check-up so that preventive measures can be taken if necessary.

Dịch đại ý

To have a regular check-up: khám bệnh thường xuyên

Nghĩa: có cuộc kiểm tra định kỳ tiến hành bởi bác sĩ

Ví dụ: Để xác định các vấn đề sức khỏe ở giai đoạn đầu, mọi người nên đi khám bệnh thường xuyên để có thể có các biện pháp ngăn chặn nếu cần thiết.

# VOCABULARY

## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ **HEALTH** (sách collocations)

### **7. primary health care**

Meaning: the medical treatment that you receive first when you are sick or ill, for example from your doctor or local clinic.

**Example:** Developing countries must allocate resources to establish primary health care clinics in rural areas and overcrowded city districts.

Dịch đại ý:

Primary health care: chăm sóc sức khỏe cơ bản

Nghĩa: sự điều trị bạn nhận được đầu tiên nếu bị ốm hay bệnh tật, ví dụ như từ bác sĩ hay phòng khám tư của bạn. Ví dụ: Những quốc gia đang phát triển cần phân bổ nguồn lực để thành lập những phòng khám tư chăm sóc sức khỏe cơ bản tại khu đô thị và những thành phố quá đông dân cư.

### **8. to take out private health insurance**

Meaning: to make regular payments to an insurance company, who will pay for medical or hospital treatment when you need it

**Example:** In countries with poor public health services, many people have to take out private health insurance in order to receive adequate medical treatment.

Dịch đại ý:

To take out private health insurance: đăng ký bảo hiểm y tế tư nhân

Nghĩa: trả tiền bảo hiểm thường xuyên cho 1 công ty bảo hiểm, nơi sẽ trả tiền viện phí và thuốc thang cho bạn khi cần

Ví dụ: Ở những quốc gia có dịch vụ y tế công cộng kém phát triển, nhiều người phải đăng ký bảo hiểm y tế tư nhân để nhận được sự chăm sóc y tế thích hợp.

## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ **SOCIETY** (sách collocations)

### **1. to discriminate against**

Meaning: to treat one person or group worse than another in an unfair way

**Example:** It is illegal to discriminate against people because of their colour.

### **2. minority groups**

Meaning: small groups within a community that are different because of their origin, religion, language or traditions

**Example:** Children from minority groups are sometimes victims of bullying at school.

Dịch đại ý:

Minority groups: dân tộc thiểu số

Nghĩa: một nhóm người nhỏ trong cộng đồng có sự khác biệt về nguồn gốc, tôn giáo, ngôn ngữ và văn hóa

Ví dụ: Các trẻ em dân tộc thiểu số thỉnh thoảng là nạn nhân của việc bị bắt nạt ở trường.

## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ **GOVERNMENT** (sách collocations)

### **1. to introduce restrictions on**

Meaning: to limit what people can do or what can happen

**Example:** The government must introduce restrictions on drinking and driving.



# BOATS

## 1. In your country do people use boats?

Yes, there are numerous kinds of boats, for personal use and **commercial use**. They are very common on the coast. Because many provinces in my country **border on** the sea, their residents **earn a living**

through activities near the sea, which requires the use of a boat. The image of a boat in my country is usually associated with beaches and the underwater world.



## 2. What do they use boats for?

Well, as I have said, boats can be utilized to serve different purposes, but mainly for commercial ones. Lots of businesses use boats, or ships, to **transport** their goods to other countries and I have several friends whose

families possess small boats to **go on a vacation**. Frequently at weekends, they go fishing or diving or sometimes just sail around the coast and visit one of the rustic fishing villages nearby.



### 3. Would you like to own a boat?

Yes, maybe one day in the future. I think it is really enjoyable to immerse yourself in the fresh cool air coming from the sea. Besides, going on a boat trip for an afternoon at times benefits your health, which is an

ideal getaway from the hardships and burdens of life. However, at the moment, having a boat appears to be too extravagant for me.

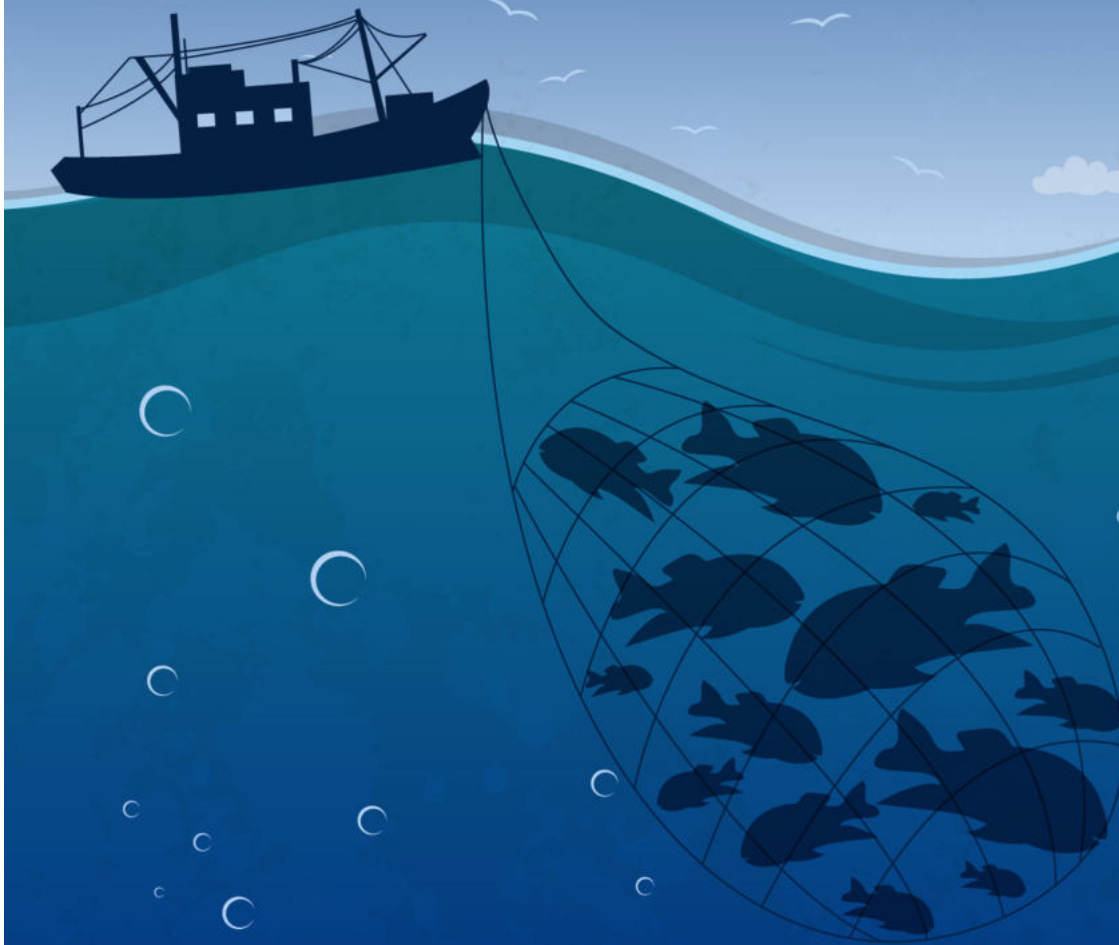


#### 4. What would you do with a boat?

I think I would do the same thing as most people, go fishing and diving, occasionally invite my friends to join in these activities with me. Maybe we would organize a picnic on a boat,

stocked with **refreshments** or sail round the coast to enjoy the **immeasurable** beauty of the sea.





## 5. Would you shop online or in a store for a boat?

I would probably do some research online first, you know, about different models and **specifications**, and then go to a dealer to see the boat that I was interested in. Obviously, I would want to take it for a test drive and make sure that I

was totally satisfied before buying it. If I found my favorite boat, I would try to bargain for the most **reasonable** price so maybe I'd buy it online or from a local boat dealer depending on the best price I could reach.

**1. commercial** (adj): connected with the buying and selling of goods and services: thuộc về thương mại, mua bán

Eg: The centre is the commercial heart of the city.

**2. (to) border on** (v): to be next to sth : kề, sát cái gì đó

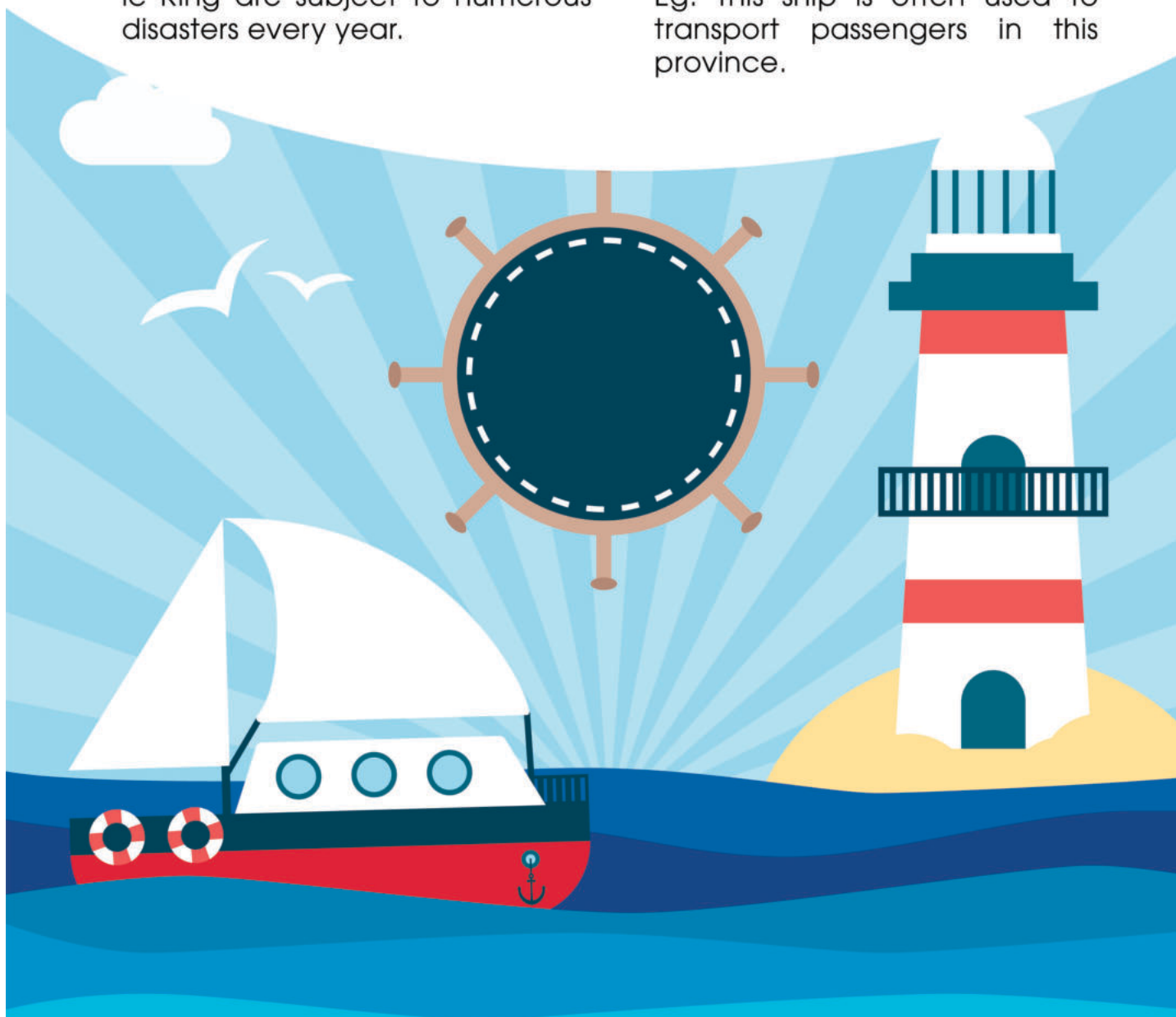
Eg: Areas bordering on the Pacific Ring are subject to numerous disasters every year.

**3. (to) earn a living (expression)**: earn money to live: kiếm tiền để sống

Eg: Jane earns a living as a freelance journalist.

**4. (to) transport** (v): to take sth/sb from one place to another in a vehicle: chuyên chở, vận chuyển

Eg: This ship is often used to transport passengers in this province.



**5. (to) go on a vacation (expression):** to spend time traveling or resting away from home : đi nghỉ mát

Eg: Tom went on a vacation last month with his girlfriend.

**6. (to) immerse oneself/sb in sth (v):** to become or make sb completely involved in sth: đắm chìm vào cái gì

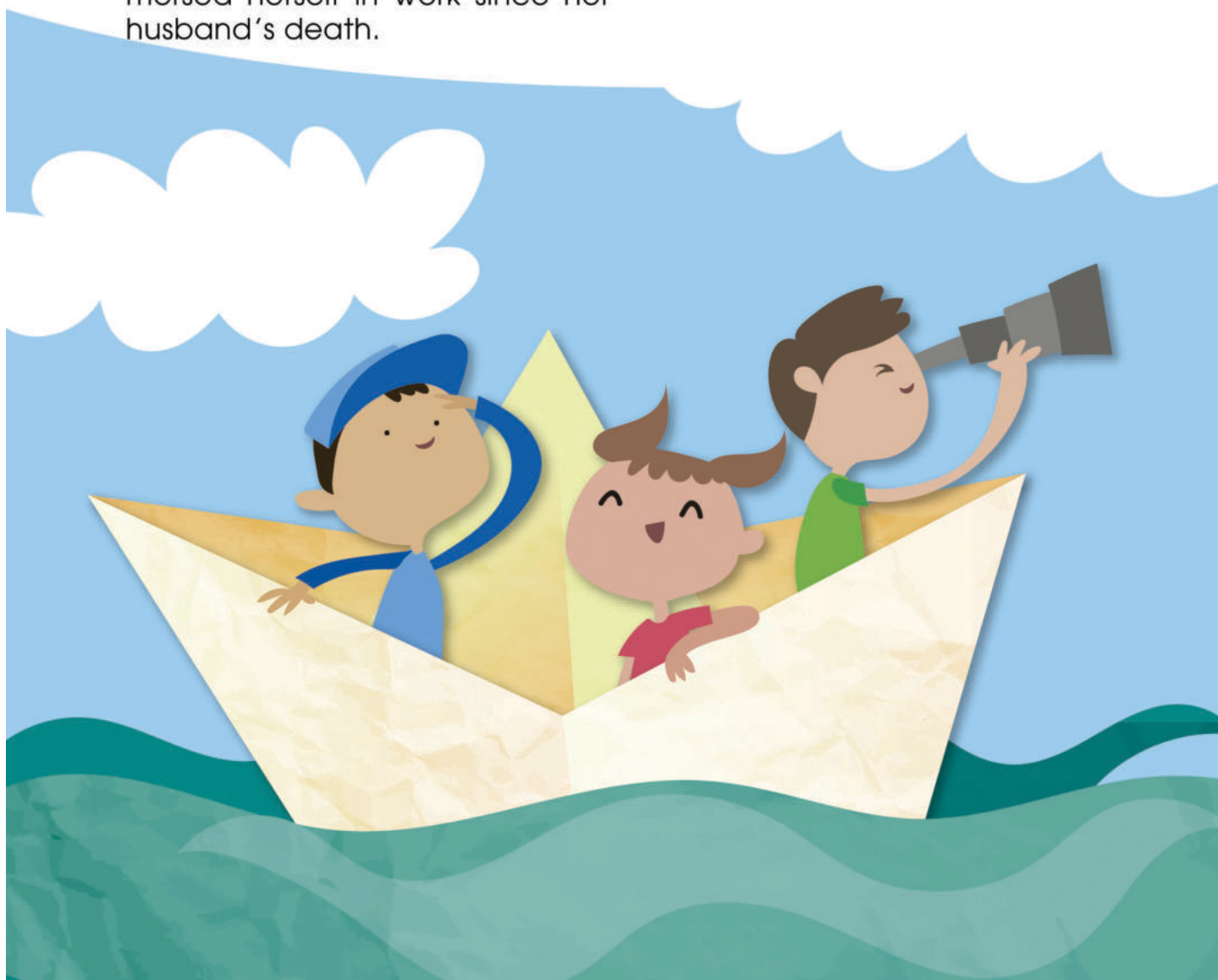
Eg: Judy has completely immersed herself in work since her husband's death.

**7. hardship (v):** a situation that is difficult and unpleasant for you: sự khó khăn

Eg: People suffered many hardships during that long bitter winter.

**8. extravagant (adj):** very extreme or impressive but not reasonable or practical : xa xỉ

Eg: Winning the lottery is such an extravagant dream.



**9. refreshment (n):** food and drink : đồ ăn thức uống

Eg: In the middle of the journey, the team stopped for refreshments.

**10. immeasurable (adj):** too large, great to be measured : bao la, rộng lớn, không thể đo lường được

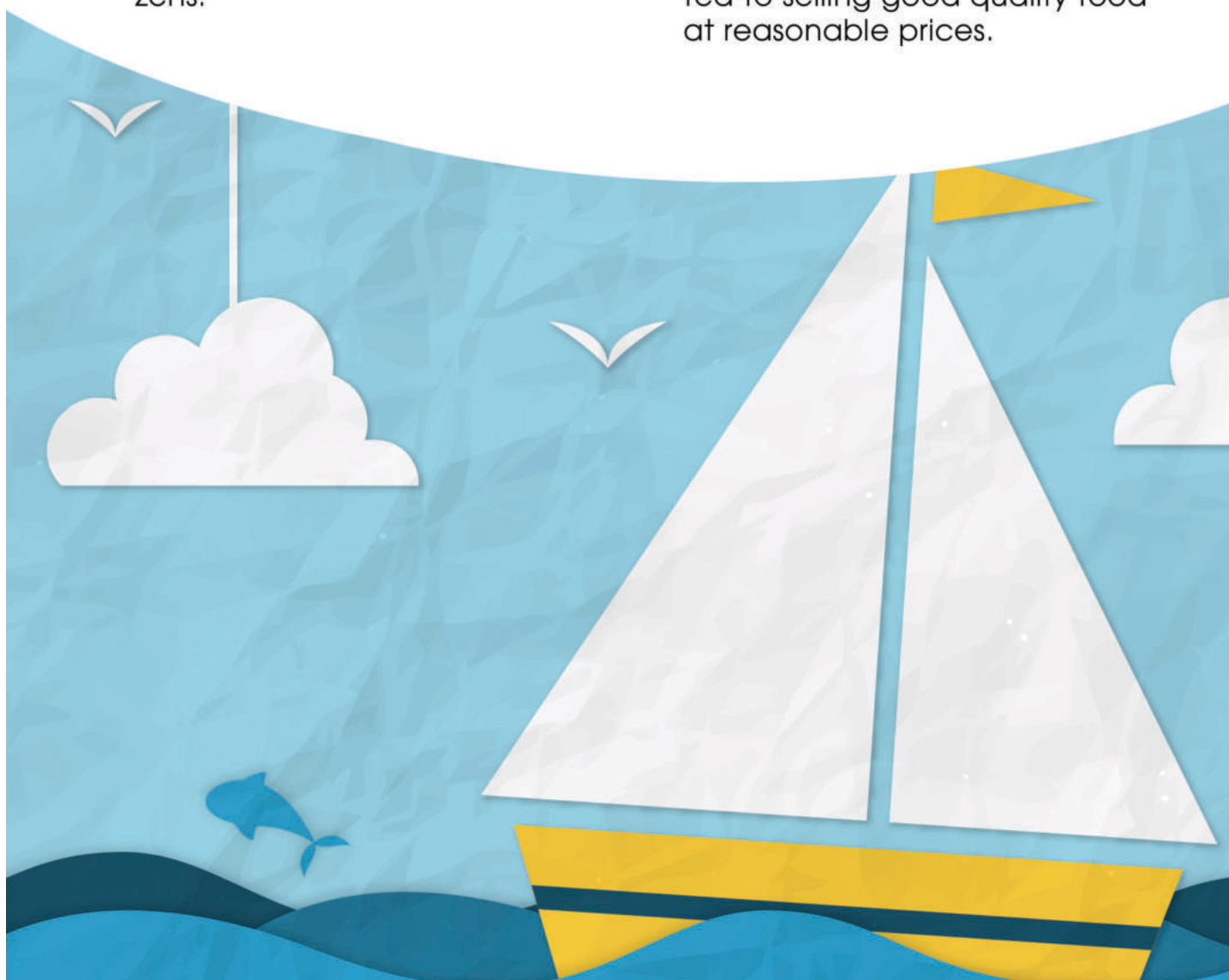
Eg: The earthquake caused immeasurable harm to the citizens.

**11. specification (n):** a detailed description of how sth is, or should be, designed or made : đặc điểm kỹ thuật

Eg: The manager tested the specifications of the new model with great caution.

**12. reasonable (adj):** (of prices) not too expensive : hợp lý, phải chăng

Eg: Our supermarket is committed to selling good quality food at reasonable prices.



“Describe **a sports person** that  
you admire”





## SPEAKING PART 2

### You should say:

Who he / she is  
What he / she did  
What you know about his /  
her life story  
And explain how much you  
know about sports.

### (Who he is)

Today I'm going to talk about a football player who has recently caught the attention of the entire nation of Vietnam – Bui Tien Dung. Dung is a professional football player competing in the Vietnam national team as a goalkeeper. Even though Dung is pretty young, he has managed to gain the respect of football fans for his skills, as well as **adulation** from females because of his handsome appearance.



## (What he did)

What makes Bui Tien Dung **stand out** is his remarkable goalkeeping skill which, together with the skill of his teammates who were competing with a **steely** determination, has enabled Vietnam to qualify for the final of the AFC U23 for the first time. Every TV channel and newspaper **carried the story**. Dung is praised by **sports commentators**, professionals and fans in general as bold and reliable. His **saves**, especially those in penalty rounds, contributed to the strengthening of Vietnam's **defence** and gave his teammates the confidence to **push forward** and attack the opposing team.

## (What you know about his life story + explain how much you know about sports)

Frankly, I'm not much of an **avid sports fan**, and I only watch sports matches occasionally. Therefore, I rarely **dig deep into** the personal life of sports stars. However, what I do know about Bui Tien Dung is that he came from a rather underprivileged family, and was not exposed to professional training right from the start. It was his passion for football that convinced his parents to allow Dung to pursue it professionally and his **perseverance** led to his recognition.





## Từ vựng chủ đề Media and advertising

### 1. to carry a story

Meaning: to include an item in a news report

Example: The media nowadays carries too many stories about celebrities and not enough serious news.

## Từ vựng chủ đề Sports and exercise

### 1. sports commentators

Meaning: people who are experts on sport and talk or write about it in the media

Example: Not only sports stars, but even some sports commentators have become well-known celebrities.

### 2. a sports fan

Meaning: a person who takes a keen interest in sport

Example: While I think that it is healthy to be a sports fan, people should remember that for most people, sport is just entertainment, not a matter of life and death.

# VOCABULARY

## Other vocabulary:

### 1. adulation (noun)

Meaning: admiration and praise, sometimes when this is exaggerated

Example: TV celebrities enjoy the adulation of their fans wherever they go.

### 2. to stand out (phrasal verb)

Meaning: to be much better or more important than

somebody/something

Example: Her ability at mathematics makes her stand out from the rest of the class.

### 3. steely (adjective)

Meaning: having a strong, hard character

Example: During the race, her expression had a look of steely determination to win.



**4. save** (noun)

Meaning: an action by a goalkeeper that stops a goal being scored

Example: During the match, there were great saves by the goalkeepers of both teams.

**5. defence** (noun)

Meaning: the players in a sports team whose main role is to prevent the opponents from scoring a goal

Example: The success of the team was based on their strong defence.

**6. to push forward** (phrasal verb)

Meaning: to advance, despite difficulties or opposition

Example: The soldiers pushed forward to attack the enemy.





### **7. avid (adjective)**

Meaning: very enthusiastic about something (often a hobby)

Example: She has taken an avid interest in Western music.

### **8. to dig deep into something (expression)**

Meaning: to search thoroughly for information

Example: You'll need to dig deep into the records to find the figures you want.

### **9. perseverance (noun)**

Meaning: the quality of continuing to try to achieve a particular aim despite difficulties

Example: They showed great perseverance in the face of the challenge of climbing the mountain.

# [ M A I L

## 1. Do you like to write a letter or email?

I really like writing letters to other people, especially on special occasions. I remember writing many letters, like birthday letters, or farewell ones to any of my friends or relatives who had to go somewhere far away from

me. My friends and relatives always feel happy when they receive a letter from me; they say that it makes them feel important and cherished.





## 2. Do you think emails are useful?

Emails are really useful and important to me. I can use emails to contact people who are staying far away from me, and this really comes in handy as I have lots of foreign friends. Moreover, I

can receive notifications of special deals or interesting information through emails by subscribing to any online channels that appeal to me.



## SPEAKING PART 1

### 3. What sorts of letters (or emails) do you think are the most difficult to write?

Formal emails, like the ones you send to recruiters, to your boss, to your professor and so on, are very difficult to write. You have to choose the right tone for the emails so that

they do not appear too casual or too serious, and you have to pay attention to the format of the emails too.



#### 4. Do you prefer to write letters or emails? Why?

It depends. For special occasions, like on someone's birthday, I prefer writing letters to congratulate them as handwritten letters can show my sincerity. However, if I need to write something formal, say

to a recruiter to apply for a certain position, email is my first choice. It's instant, easy to format and I can attach different files with it so it is very convenient too.



## SPEAKING PART 1

### 5. Do you think email might one day replace handwritten letters?

I don't think so. Handwritten letters still carry in themselves special meanings, one of which is that they can show a writer's sentiment. I always think that it feels different when you look at someone's

handwriting, like you can actually sense their feelings when they wrote the letter. So handwritten letters are irreplaceable, at least to me.



**1. Cherished** (adj) (bringing the pleasure of love or caring about someone or something that is important to you): cảm giác được yêu thương

E.g. Her most cherished possession is a 1926 letter from F. Scott Fitzgerald.

**2. Tone** (noun) (the general mood or main qualities of something): tông

E.g. I didn't like the jokey tone of the article - I thought it was inappropriate.

**3. Sincerity** (noun) (honesty): sự chân thành

E.g. So when I sat down to write my public letter of apology, it dripped with venomous sincerity.

**4. Sentiment** (noun) (tender feeling or emotion): tình cảm

E.g. That song is full of patriotic sentiment. It moved me deeply

**5. Come in handy** (expression) (to be useful): có ích

E.g. I'll keep these bottles - they might come in handy.



# Happiness



**1. What do you think of happiness?**

*(Answer)*

I think happiness plays a central role in people's life.

*(Give a reason for your answer)* I believe happiness is the ultimate goal of human actions, because everything people do - like making money or **tying the knot** with someone - is to achieve happiness.

**2. What do you like to do when you are happy?**

*(Answer)* When I am really happy, I write about the blissful experience that I have had in my diary.

*(Give a reason for your answer)* I am not very good at remembering things, so I think I can make the happy memory **stick in my mind** by writing down the story behind it.



**3. What kinds of things make you happy?**

*(Answer)*

Getting high grades at school may be the greatest source of happiness to me.

*(Give a reason for your answer)*

To be honest, I am a **high-flyer** in class, so **making the grades** makes me **feel on top of the world**.

**4. Is it easy to be happy for you?**

*(Answer)*

Yes, I find it very easy to feel happy.

*(Give a reason for your answer)*

I am a big fan of the arts, so any good **work of art** with **aesthetic qualities** will satisfy my soul.





**4. What things do Vietnamese people feel happy about?**

*(Answer)*

A family reunion is the most joyful event in Vietnamese people's life, in my opinion.

*(Give a reason for your answer)*

As a matter of fact, Vietnamese culture highly values family closeness; however, there are more and more **nuclear families** nowadays. Therefore, **family gatherings** will bring great happiness to members when the whole **extended family** can get together.



## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ: READING

**1. to stick in your mind (expression):** (of a memory, an image, etc.) to be remembered for a long time

*Nghĩa:* in đậm trong tâm trí

*Example:* When children learn a foreign language in primary school, words and phrases tend to stick in their minds, almost without the effort of learning them in a formal way.

## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ: EDUCATION

**1. to make the grade (expression):** to successfully reach the necessary standard

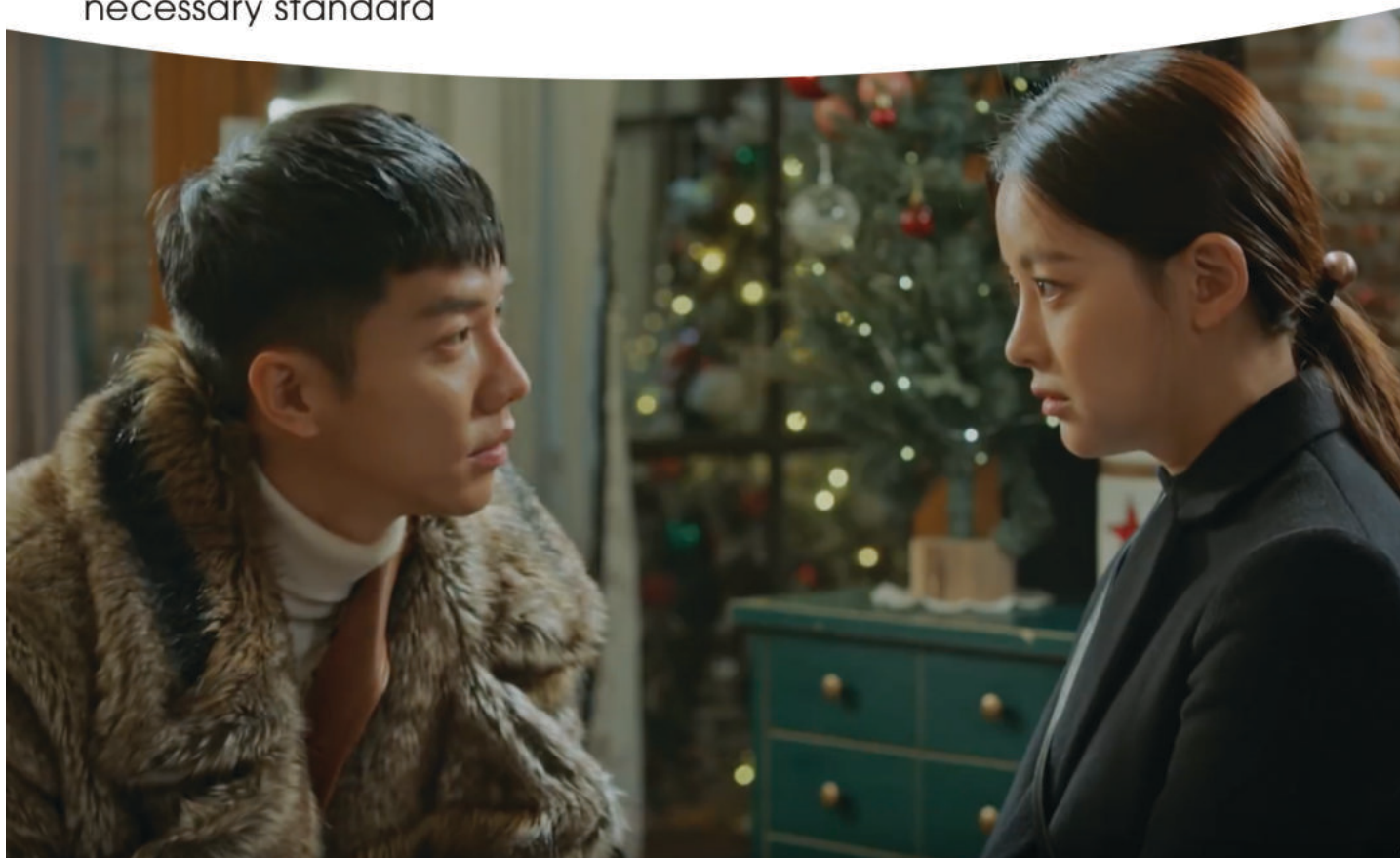
*Nghĩa:* đạt được những tiêu chuẩn cần thiết

*Example:* Nobody can succeed in their studies if they rely on luck rather than hard work to make the grade.

**2. a high-flyer (expression):** someone who has the desire and ability to be very successful in their studies

*Nghĩa:* người có khao khát và khả năng để trở nên thành công

*Example:* The problem with our teacher is that she explains things too quickly for most of the students, and she pays most attention only to the academic high-flyers in the class.



## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ: FAMILY

**1. a family gathering (expression):** a meeting of family members for a particular purpose

Nghĩa: 1 buổi gặp mặt của các thành viên trong gia đình vì 1 lý do cụ thể

Example: In traditional societies, family gatherings are common to celebrate special occasions.

**2. a nuclear family (expression):** a family consisting of a father, mother and their children

Nghĩa: Gia đình bao gồm 1 vợ 1 chồng và con cái

Example: The nuclear family has replaced the extended family as the most common form of family structure throughout the world.

**3. an extended family (expression):** a family consisting of all the relatives, including for example grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Example: In the past, the extended family was a form of support when any members were ill or suffered some misfortune.



## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ: ART

**1. a work of art/a work of music/a work of literature (expression):** a painting, sculpture, book, play, piece of music etc

*Nghĩa:* một bức họa, tác phẩm điêu khắc, cuốn sách, vở kịch, đoạn nhạc...

*Example:* Shakespeare's plays are considered as one of the greatest works of literature in the English language.

**2. the aesthetic qualities of something (expression):** The qualities related to beauty and understanding the beauty of something.

*Nghĩa:* Những đặc trưng liên quan đến vẻ đẹp và sự thấu hiểu vẻ đẹp của cái gì

*Example:* One advantage of studying the arts is that students learn to appreciate the aesthetic qualities of paintings, literature and music.

### Từ vựng khác:

**1. to tie the knot (expression):** to get married

*Nghĩa:* thành hôn, cưới

*Example:* After 2 years of dating, they feel like it's time to tie the knot.

**2. to be/to feel on top of the world (expression):** to feel extremely happy about something

*Example:* She felt on top of the world after she passed all her exams.



**SPEAKING**  
PART 2

Describe **a stage you enjoyed most**  
in your life



### You should say:

- What the age/stage was
- What did you like to do back then
- Who you enjoyed being with mostly back then

Undoubtedly, life is an eventful journey and, in different stages of our life, we have different **priorities**, activities, ambitions, responsibilities and interests. To me, the most enjoyable stage of my life was the time I was in high school.



At that time, it seemed that our sole mission was to study hard in preparation for university entrance. Sometimes, it was really **nerve-racking** to confront a series of different examinations and to be **up to our eyes in** assignments and revision. However, I feel that all of us still derived a lot of pleasure from our high-school journey, thanks to the **company** of numerous good friends. We tried to share happy moments with each other as much as possible, in parallel with finishing all of our tasks at school. Because we didn't have much spare time, we managed to capture our best moments during break time and **extra-curricular activities**. This helped to relieve our stress, **lift our spirits** and **recharge our energy**. The friends in high school were the ones in whom I could confide and trust, as they always treated me with sincerity and honesty.



Now that I have grown up, I sometimes feel overwhelmed by the **harshness** of life, which **weighs on** my mind. I find it is really hard to have true friendships. Despite being in different places, my old friends and I still try to meet each other whenever possible. Sometimes, we have **a whale of time** in our reunions just simply talking about those good old days, when we were so young, energetic and **carefree**, when the only thing to do was study. Those bygone days were simple, full of pleasure and **high hopes**. Recalling them is somehow an escape from the **hustle and bustle** of daily life, in which everybody **vies** with each other rather than cooperates, in order to **make a living**.





**CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ:  
EDUCATION****1. extra-curricular activities**

**Meaning:** not part of the usual course work or studies in school or college

*Example:* Most UK universities offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities such as sport, music and drama to help students enjoy university life to the full.

**CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ:  
TOURISM****1. To have a whale of a time**

**Meaning:** to have an exciting or fun time

*Example:* We had a whale of a time at Ninh Van Bay Resort.

*Dịch đại ý:* to have a whale of time: có một khoảng thời gian vui vẻ



## CÁC TỪ KHÁC

**1. priority (n):** sth that you think is more important than other things and should be dealt with first : sự ưu tiên  
Eg: Financial security was high on his list of priorities.

**2. nerve-racking (adj)** making you feel very nervous and worried : căng thẳng  
Eg: Ryan was devastated by the nerve-racking examination for top students in his school.

**3. (be) up to one's eyes in sth (expression):** to have a lot of sth to deal with: nuôi dưỡng  
Eg: My mother is always up to her eyes trying to combine her career and child care.

**4. (to) lift one's spirits (expression):** to become or make sb more cheerful  
Eg: The news that the war had ended lifted our spirits.



**5. (to) recharge one's energy (expression):** to recover your strength by resting for a time.

Eg: My holiday in Bali helped me to recharge my energy ready for the new semester.

**6. company (n):** the fact of being with sb else and not alone  
: sự đồng hành

Eg: During my high school years, I was always indebted to Chau's company as a close friend.

**7. sincerity (n):** the fact of showing what you really think or feel : sự chân thành

Eg: Somehow, his sincerity and determination changed her decision.

**8. harshness (n):** the fact of being cruel, severe and unkind : sự khắc nghiệt

Eg: He used to complain about the harshness of his parents, but I am sure that he was exaggerating.



**9. (to) weigh on (phrasal verb):** to make sb anxious or worried  
Eg. The fear of losing his job weighed on his mind all week.

**10. carefree (adj):** having no worries or responsibilities: vô tư, vô lo  
Eg: Tiffany's carefree attitude to life endears her to others.

**11. (to) have high hopes (expression):** to believe that

something will be successful.  
Eg. He has high hopes of winning a medal in the next Olympic Games.

**12. expectation (n):** a feeling or hope that something good will happen  
Eg: There is great expectation each New Year that the coming year will be happy for us.



**13. hustle and bustle (expression):** busy noisy activity of a lot of people in one place  
: sự xô bồ

Eg: What we really want is to escape from the hustle and bustle of the city for the weekend.

**14. (to) vie (v):** to compete strongly with sb in order to obtain or achieve sth: tranh giành, cạnh tranh gay gắt

Eg: Screaming fans vied to get closer to their idols.

**15. (to) make a living (expression):** to make money to buy the things that you need in life.

Eg. She makes a living by selling flowers in the street.



# Parks

## 1. Do you like going to parks and/or public gardens?

I have to say I have a really strong liking for public green spaces such as parks and gardens. I believe that, when it comes to stress relief, nothing can beat hanging around in the park. I am a great fan of the color green, so being able to wander among the various shades of tree leaves appears to be the optimal

way for me to wind down. What's more, looking at children having fun or people exercising and relaxing also cheers me up. That is the reason why I always treat myself to a visit to the park as a compensation for my heavy workload.



## 2. When was the last time you went to a park?

It is just about a week since I last paid a visit to the park. It was indeed a heart-warming experience for me as we had a family gathering there. We had a small picnic under the shade of an old tree, and the best thing about it was that everyone in the family was there. My father had never

found the time to play with me as he had always been busy, so I've got to make the most of the time we are now able to spend together. That morning was really memorable, and I wished it could have lasted forever. I had never had so much fun.



### 3. Do you think the parks and the gardens where you live could be improved in any way?

I love my local park, but it doesn't mean that there is no room for improvement. What bothers me most is the water pollution in the park's lake. The water is turning greenish black and floating dead fish appear every now and then. For me, parks are supposed to provide citizens with a clean atmosphere to

enjoy, so it is quite devastating to witness how environmental degradation has reached into the greenest place of the city. Personally, I hold the local park-goers accountable for throwing litter into the lake and contaminating the water. I believe that a policy of zero tolerance towards the act of littering the lake would be effective and alleviate the environmental problems facing the park authorities.





**4. Would you like to see more parks and gardens in your home town?**

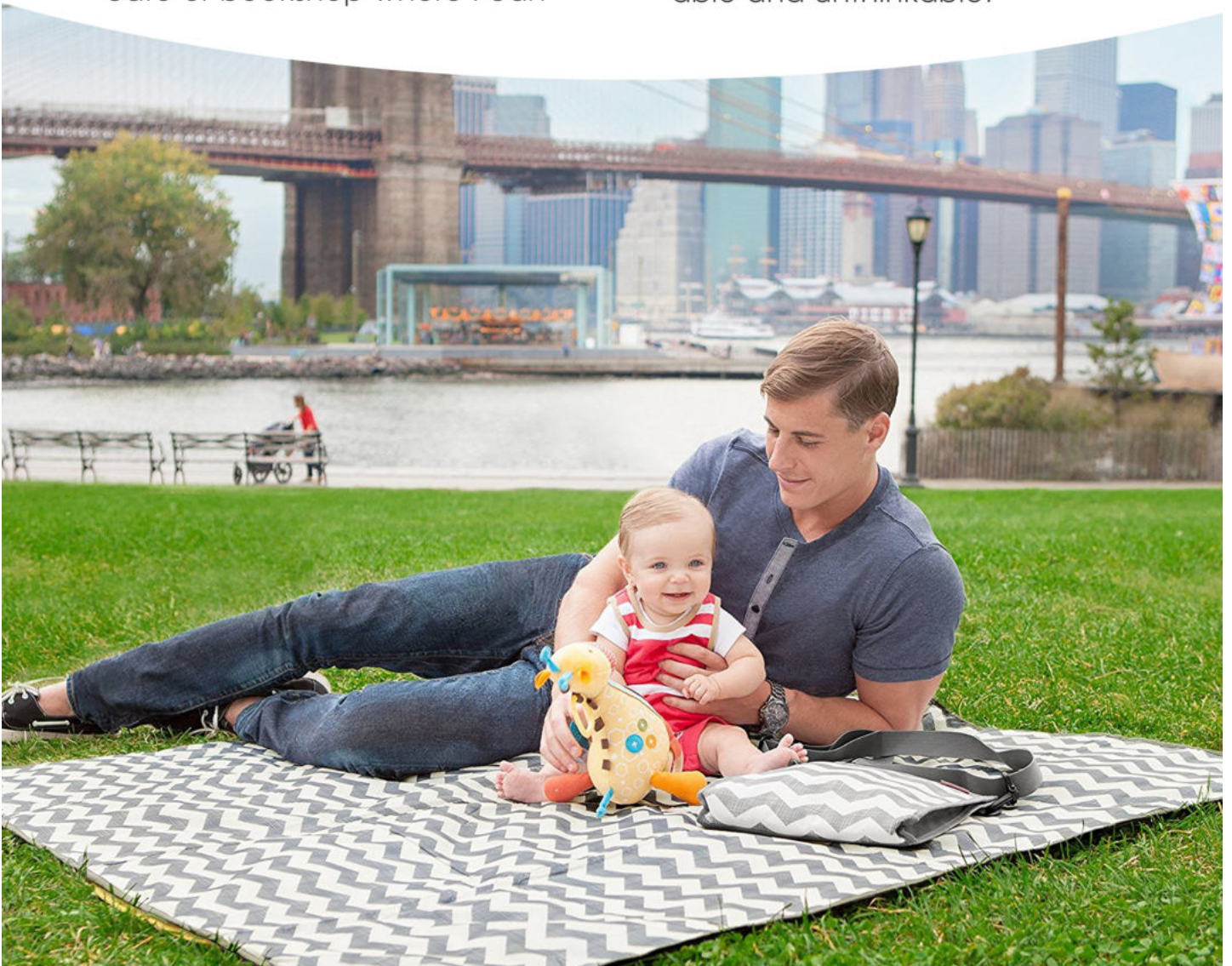
I would definitely treasure the chance to witness the establishment of more and more green spaces in my city. My hometown is a highly industrial area with factories and skyscrapers everywhere, so I value the increase in the number of parks and gardens as more available breathing space

away from the hustle and bustle of the concrete jungle that is my city. Air pollution from factories is another pressing issue, and the abundance of trees provided by parks contribute to enhancing the air quality. Parks and gardens also beautify the city's image, as they add colors to the view with trees and flowers. I dislike simplicity, so the monotonous picture of a dull, greyish city of buildings is definitely not my cup of tea.

**5. Do you prefer to relax with your friends in a park or an indoor space?**

Although I enjoy going to parks, my preference would be to gather with friends indoors. Parks are a lovely place to exercise or to picnic, but they are often too noisy and dynamic for an intimate talk with buddies. I would rather go to a café or bookshop where I can

enjoy peace and quiet while concentrating on my friends' stories and sharing our confidences. Another factor that puts me off gathering with friends in parks is the extremes of our weather. When the temperature hits rock bottom at 9 degrees or climbs to the top of the ladder at 38 degrees in the height of summer, meeting up in parks is uncomfortable and unthinkable.



## Từ vựng chủ đề: **Environment**

**1. to hold sbdy accountable for + noun/gerund (expression):** to consider someone responsible for something; to blame something on someone  
Nghĩa: coi ai đó có trách nhiệm cho cái gì/  
đổ lỗi cho ai về chuyện gì đó

Example: Companies which discharge chemical waste from their factories into the sea or into rivers must be held accountable for their actions and be fined heavily.

**2. to alleviate environmental problems (expression):** to make bad environmental problems less severe  
Nghĩa: Khiến các vấn đề về môi trường đỡ nghiêm trọng hơn

Example: Everyone can assist in the effort to alleviate environmental problems in the local community through simple actions such as recycling waste or planting a tree in their garden.



**Từ vựng chủ đề: Business and Finance**

**1. compensation (for something) (n):** a thing or things that make a bad situation better

Nghĩa: một hoặc nhiều thứ mà làm cho một tình huống xấu tốt hơn

Example: I wish I were young again, but getting older has its compensations.

**Từ vựng chủ đề: Crime and Punishment**

**1. a policy of zero tolerance (exp):** a policy of applying laws very strictly, so that every illegal action is punished, even if it is not very serious

Nghĩa: một chính sách áp dụng luật hà khắc, để tất cả các hành vi phạm tội đều phải bị trừng phạt, dù đó không phải tội nghiêm trọng

Example: I would argue that the most effective way to reduce crime is to implement a policy of zero tolerance.



## Từ vựng khác:

**1. to have a liking for something/ doing something (expression):** to like or enjoy something or doing something.  
Nghĩa: yêu thích một điều gì đó hoặc làm gì đó.  
Example: She has an unusual liking for abstract paintings.

**2. to wind down (phrasal verb):** to relax after a period of activity or excitement.  
Nghĩa: giải tỏa cảm xúc bị dồn nén lại  
Example: I usually watch a comedy programme on TV to wind down after work.

**3. to treat somebody to something (phrasal verb):** to give somebody/yourself something special as a gift or favour  
Nghĩa: làm ai đó vui vẻ bằng một thứ gì đó đặc biệt  
She treated herself to a pizza after the exam.

**4. heart-warming (adjective):** causing feelings of happiness and pleasure  
Nghĩa: làm cho người ta thấy vui vẻ, thỏa mãn  
Example: It's heart-warming to hear of the success you've had with the appeal.



**5. to make the most of something (expression):** to make something appear as good as possible; to exploit something; to get as much out of something as is possible.

Nghĩa: tận dụng một thứ gì đó  
 Example: Mary knows how to make the most of her talents.

**6. room for improvement (expression):** things that can be made better

Nghĩa: các điểm cần được cải thiện  
 Example: There's much room for improvement in her last report.

**7. every now and then (expression):** Occasionally, from time to time; also, periodically.

Nghĩa: thi thoảng, thỉnh thoảng  
 Example: Every now and then I long for a piece of chocolate.

**8. breathing space (noun):** a short rest during a period of physical or mental activity

Nghĩa:  
 Example: After finishing one exam, she needed a breathing space before starting the next one.



**9. hustle and bustle** (expression): busy and noisy activity of a lot of people in one place.  
Nghĩa: sự xô bồ và bận rộn  
Example: I can't stand the hustle and bustle of big cities.

**10. concrete jungle** (expression): An overcrowded, unsafe and/or crime-ridden urban environment or city, characterized by the congestion of large buildings and roads.

Nghĩa: một thành phố quá đông đúc và/hoặc nhiều tệ nạn, được đặc trưng bởi sự tắc nghẽn của các tòa nhà và đường lớn.

Example: After years living in that concrete jungle, I'm looking forward to being in a place with a bit of grass and friendly neighbors.

**11. not one's cup of tea (expression)**: something not preferred or desired.

Nghĩa: một thứ gì đó không được mong đợi hoặc thích  
Example: Driving children around all afternoon is not my cup of tea.

**12. peace and quiet (expression)**: tranquility and freedom from disturbance.

Nghĩa: sự bình yên, thoát khỏi sự làm phiền  
Example: All I want is a little peace and quiet away from the noise of the traffic.



**13. confidences (noun):** secrets that you tell somebody

Example: The girls exchanged confidences about their hopes for the future.

**14. to put sb off sth/doing sth (phrasal verb):** To discourage someone from doing something.

Nghĩa: làm ai đó không muốn làm gì

Example: The bad weather put us off from trying to climb the mountain.

**15. to hit rock bottom** (expression): to reach the lowest possible level or be in the worst possible situation

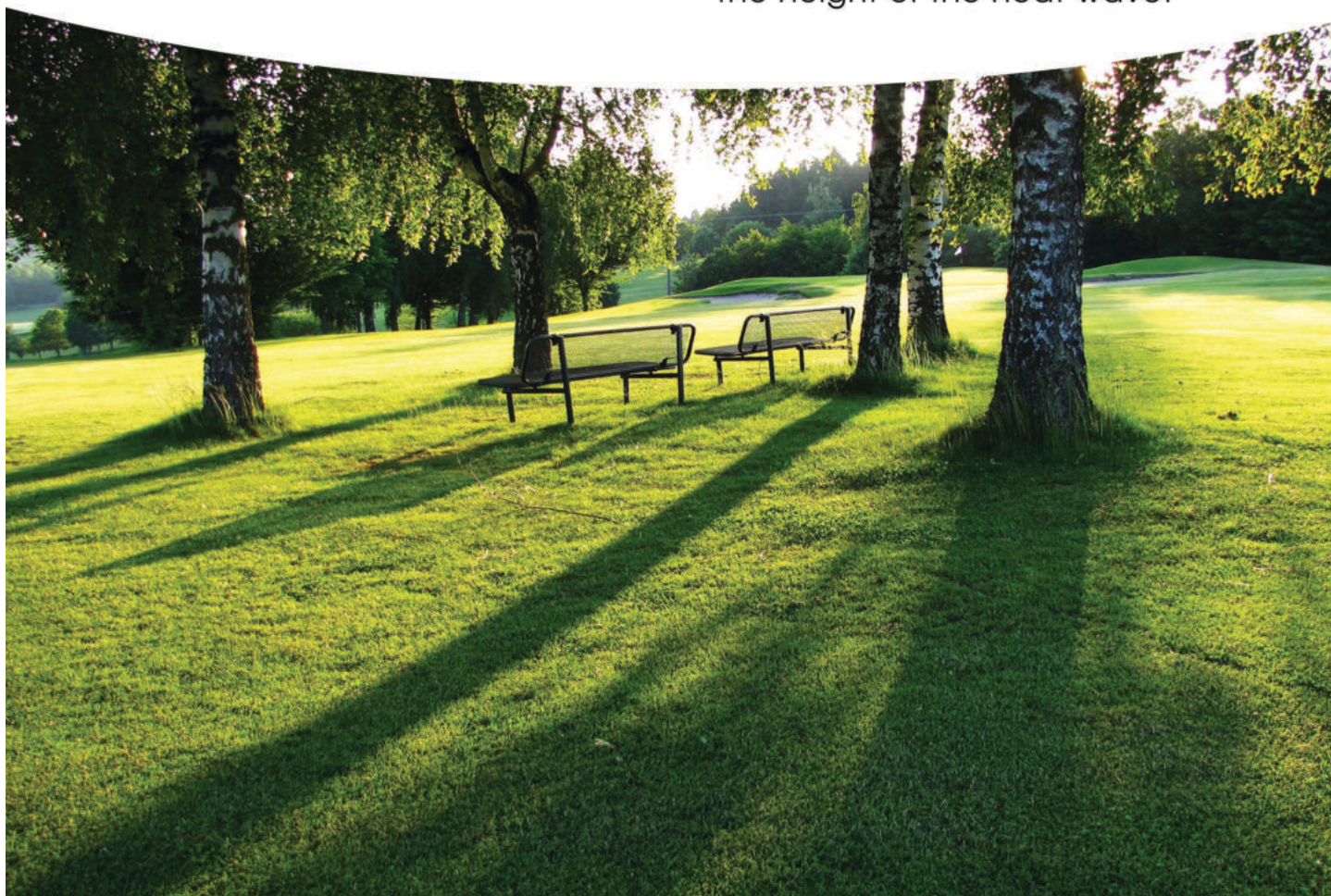
Nghĩa: đạt đến điểm thấp nhất ở tình huống xấu nhất

Example: She used illegal drugs for eight years and quit before she hit rock bottom.

**16. in the height of sth** (expression): the point when something is at its best or strongest.

Nghĩa: ở thời điểm mà cái gì đó mạnh mẽ nhất

Example: I would not go out in the height of the heat wave.





sky



**1. Do you like to watch the sky?**

*(Answer)*

Yes, I have to say I am a fan of watching the sky.

*(Give a reason for your answer)*

To me, the sky is a magnificent **work of art** and I really appreciate the **aesthetic qualities** of it. The color, the clouds... are just so beautiful.

**2. What is the sky like at night in your hometown?**

*(Answer)*

The night sky where I live is simply a **breathtaking view**.

*(Give a reason for your answer)*

As I live in the countryside, the sky is not affected by light pollution, so there are numerous shining stars in a broad blackish background. Therefore, the view is perfect for anyone who has a **thirst for freedom**.



**3. Do you like to watch stars?**

*(Answer)*

I find star-watching extremely interesting.

*(Give a reason for your answer)*

I believe that every star in the **cosmos** has its own function and holds a unique mystery to be discovered. This is **a great inspiration to me.**

**4. Have you ever taken a course about stars?**

*(Answer)*

I haven't ever enrolled in such courses, but I would love to in the future.

*(Give a reason for your answer)*

I have always wanted to know how constellations retain their shape in **zero gravity** without **floating throughspace.**



### **5. What's your favorite star?**

*(Answer)*

The Sun is my favorite star, I would say.

*(Give a reason for your answer)*

This is because of its power and importance to life. If we could find a star similar to the Sun out there in space, we would be able to discover **alien life forms** and complete our **quest for a newhomeland.**

## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ: ART

**1. a work of art/a work of music/a work of literature (expression):** a painting, sculpture, book, play, piece of music etc

*Nghĩa:* một bức họa, tác phẩm điêu khắc, cuốn sách, vở kịch, đoạn nhạc...

*Example:* Shakespeare's plays are considered as one of the greatest works of literature in the English language.

**2. the aesthetic qualities of something (expression):** The qualities related to beauty and understanding the beauty of something.

*Nghĩa:* Những đặc trưng liên quan đến vẻ đẹp và sự thấu hiểu vẻ đẹp của cái gì

*Example:* One advantage of studying the arts is that students learn to appreciate the aesthetic qualities of paintings, literature and music.



## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ: TOURISM

**1. a breathtaking view (expression):** an extremely beautiful view

*Example:* From the top of the mountain, there is a breathtaking view of the coast.

*Nghĩa:* cảnh đẹp vô cùng

**2. to have a thirst for something (expression):** to have a strong desire for something

*Example:* He has been all over the world, but he still has a thirst for seeing new places and enjoying new experiences.

*Nghĩa:* khao khát mãnh liệt được làm gì



## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ: Space Exploration

**1. The cosmos** (noun): the universe, especially when it is thought of as an ordered system

Example: Although the challenge of exploring and understanding the cosmos is exciting, it is also very expensive

Nghĩa: Vũ trụ, đặc biệt khi chỉ vũ trụ là một hệ thống có trật tự

**2. To be an inspiration to** (expression): to make somebody excited about something, especially thinking of the future

Example: The images of the first men on the moon were an inspiration to people, and made them more hopeful about the future.

Nghĩa: khiến ai đó hưng phấn vì điều gì, đặc biệt là khi nghĩ về tương lai



**3. Zero gravity (expression):**

having no force to pull objects to the ground, so that they float.

Example: Living in conditions of zero gravity in space must be extremely tiring and uncomfortable.

Nghĩa: không có lực tác động kéo vật xuống mặt đất nên chúng trôi nổi

**4. To float through space (expression):**

to move slowly in the air

Example: Space tourism would be really boring, simply floating through space and looking out of the window of the spacecraft.

Nghĩa: di chuyển chậm rãi trong không khí





**5. Alien life forms (expression):** creatures from another world

*Example:* One of the most exciting possibilities of the space program is finding alien life forms on other planets.

*Nghĩa:* những sinh vật ở ngoài hành tinh

**6. The quest for a new homeland (expression):** the search for a new place to inhabit

*Example:* As humans are destroying their own planet, the quest for a new homeland in the universe is essential.

*Nghĩa:* cuộc tìm kiếm địa điểm khác để định cư



## SPEAKING PART 1



# Snack

## 1. What kind of snack do you like to eat?

Everything to be honest! I'm such **a snack junkie** that I can eat snacks instead of having proper meals for an entire day. However, my **all-time favourites** are definitely potato chips and beef jerky. For the first one, it is the **crunchiness** and addictive **seasoning powders** that appeal to me, and I can eat 3

packs of chips straight when I'm **starving**. For the second one, it is the combination of so many different flavours – spicy, salty, sweet and sour that **makes my mouth water**. It can either be eaten by itself or with a cold drink when having a chat.



## 2. Is it healthy to eat snacks?

Certainly, it is not beneficial for your health to consume a significant number of snacks on a regular basis. Firstly, the seasonings and flavours added to snacks can be excessive and thus, increase the level of salt and sugar intake, which would eventually lead to

weight gain. Secondly, as appetizing as junk food is, it doesn't provide essential nutrients to the human body. Hence, even though we put on weight and feel full when we eat snacks, we aren't active and healthy.



### 3. Do your parents allow you to eat snack?

Well, they do, but only moderately. It's natural for children to crave for snacks, especially cookies and candies when they are small. When I was younger, my mom approved my eating junk food only under her supervision. That

meant I could only eat snacks which she allowed me to maybe 1 or 2 times a week since she was worried that I might get fat and unhealthy.

#### 4. What are the most popular snacks that you like?

Honestly, I can't think of a specific name right now as there are so many. Oh, I really dig Oishi's potato chips. They come in many different flavours and the chips themselves come in different shapes and sizes. If

you talk about Oishi, you can't leave out its classic hot and spicy shrimp chips that are enjoyed by practically every child and teenager, even adults, in Vietnam.



**1. A snack junkie** (n, informal) (người thích ăn vặt): someone who loves to eat junk food  
A (noun) junkie: A person with a compulsive habit or obsessive dependency on something

Eg: I love my computer; I think it's quite safe to say that I am a complete computer junkie.

**2. All-time favourite** (n phr) (dùng để chỉ cái gì luôn luôn được yêu thích nhất, được yêu thích nhất mọi thời đại): something that your passion for which cannot be surpassed

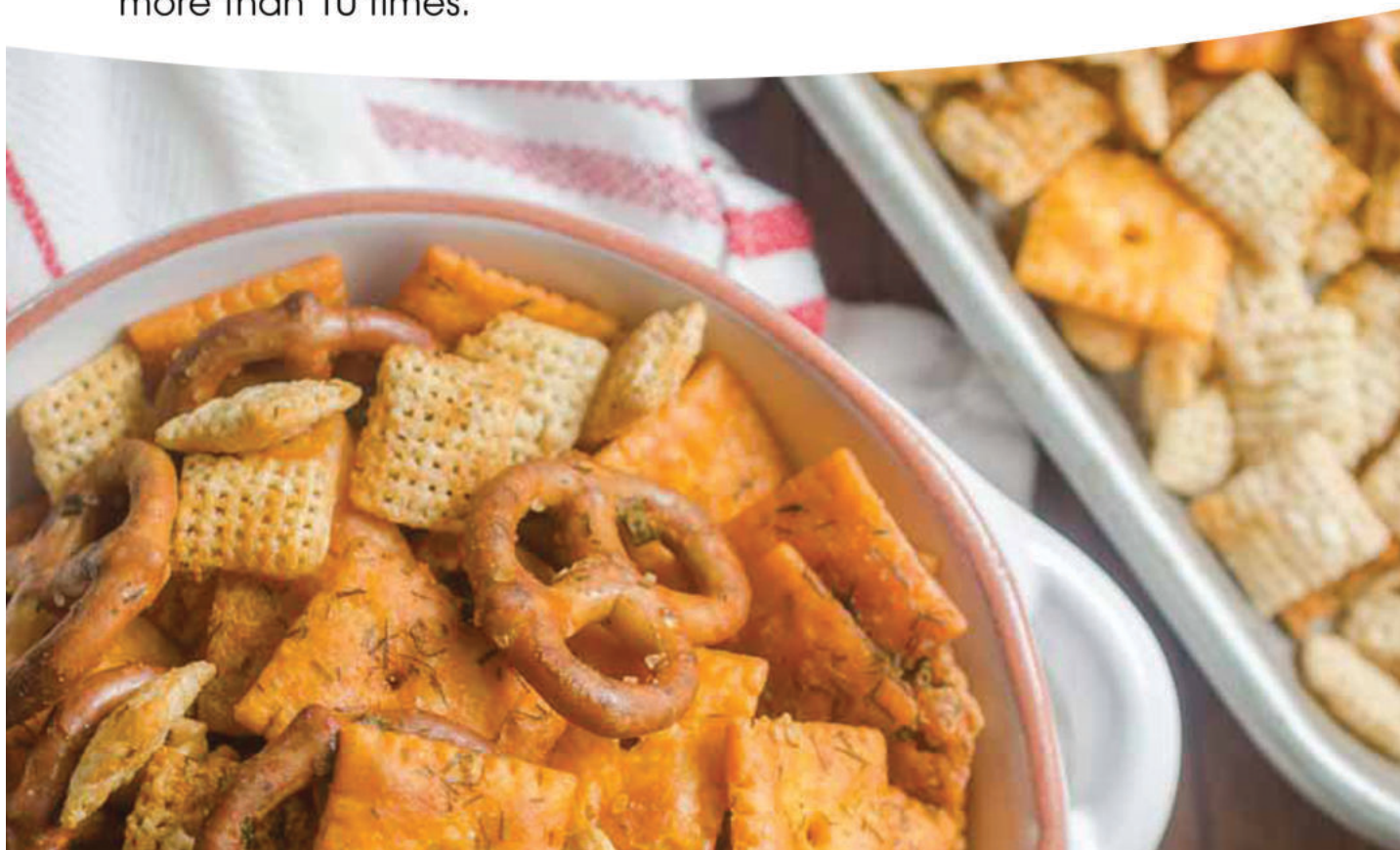
Eg: Titanic is my all-time favourite movie, I have watched it more than 10 times.

**3. Crunchiness** (n) (sự/cảm giác giòn tan): the quality of being able to make a sharp noise when bitten or crunched

Eg: I love the crunchiness of these chips.

**4. Seasoning powder** (n phr) (bột gia vị): Salt, herbs, or spice powder added to food to enhance the flavour

Eg: What really makes chips good is its seasoning powder, not the chips themselves.



**5. Starve (v)** (đói cồn cào/ bỏ đói ai): to feel very hungry; to suffer or die or cause to suffer or die from hunger.

Eg: Anything can satisfy me when I'm starving.

**6. To make one's mouth water** (idiom) (làm ai chảy nước miếng) = to whet one's appetite: to make somebody want to eat something so bad

Eg: My mom's cooking is so excellent that it makes my mouth water everytime.

**7. Excessive** (adj) (thái quá, quá nhiều): too much, over the board

Eg: Excessive seasoning can ruin a dish

**8. Weight gain** (n phr) (sự tăng cân): the act of gaining weight

To gain weight = to put on weight (v phr) (tăng cân)

Eg: One thing every woman dreads is weight gain.





**9. Level of salt/sugar intake**  
(lượng muối/đường được hấp thụ):

Eg: Too high a level of sugar intake can lead to diabetes.

**10. Appetizing** (adj) (kích thích vị giác): Stimulating one's appetite.

Eg: The appetizing aroma of sizzling bacon caught my attention.

**11. To crave for sth (phrase)**  
(thèm ăn gì/ thèm muốn có cái gì): Feel a powerful desire for (something)

Eg: Women may crave for weird food during their pregnancy.

**12. To come in different flavours/ shapes/ sizes**  
(phrase): to be available in different flavours/shapes/sizes

Eg: The clothes sold in this shop come in many different sizes and colors so that everyone has their fit.



## Describe a time you talked to a stranger

Last month, on the flight to Ho Chi Minh city, I had a chance to talk to an American environmentalist, and I have to say that it was a very **memorable** conversation. In the course of the conversation, she enlightened me as to the seriousness of our environmental problems. Practically, she said that the relentless exploitation of human beings **has depleted a lot of natural resources**, such as forests, water, plants and, of course, **fossil fuels**. Moreover, problems like global warming also **stem from** various kinds of pollution, the most **severe** of which is air pollution. Undoubtedly, these environmental problems would be extremely **detrimental to our health**, and affect overall standards of living and quality of life.



When I asked her about how to **alleviate such environmental problems**, she said the decisive factor is our awareness. People should **bear in mind** that every action they take will directly affect the overall environment, in either positive or negative ways. She advised me to reduce my personal **carbon footprint**, by **cutting down on car emissions**, if I **have access to public transport**. She also gave me tips on saving energy as an **essential** way to put a stop to **environmental degradation**. Although we had just met, she was really helpful and friendly towards me, and I think that my talk with her was really informative.



## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ: THE ENVIRONMENT

### 1. to deplete natural resources

Meaning: To reduce the amount of natural resources.

Example: Timber companies must not be allowed to deplete natural resources by cutting down trees without planting new trees to replace them.

#### Dịch đại ý

**To deplete natural resources:** làm suy giảm nguồn tài nguyên thiên nhiên

Nghĩa: làm giảm trữ lượng tài nguyên thiên nhiên

Ví dụ: Công ty Timber không được phép làm suy giảm nguồn tài nguyên thiên nhiên khi chặt cây mà không trồng mới.

### 2. Global warming

Meaning: the process by which the Earth is getting hotter, as a result of the greenhouse effect – in particular the increase in carbon dioxide in the air.

Example: Perhaps the major environmental challenge which faces humanity today is global warming, because it threatens our survival.

#### Dịch đại ý

**Global warming:** Trái đất nóng lên/ sự nóng lên toàn cầu

Nghĩa: Quá trình Trái đất đang trở nên dần nóng hơn, là kết quả của hiệu ứng nhà kính, cụ thể là sự tăng lượng CO2 trong không khí.

Ví dụ: Có lẽ thách thức môi trường lớn nhất hiện nay loài người phải đối mặt là sự nóng lên toàn cầu, bởi nó đe dọa tới sự sống của chúng ta.



### 3. to stem from

Meaning: to be caused by

Example: Scientists say that global warming partly stems from the increase in car exhaust emissions.

#### Dịch đại ý

**To stem from:** bắt nguồn từ

Nghĩa: được tạo ra bởi cái gì

Ví dụ: Các nhà khoa học cho rằng sự nóng lên toàn cầu 1 phần bắt nguồn từ lượng khí thải của xe ô tô tăng lên.

### 4. to alleviate environmental problems

Meaning: to make bad environmental problems less severe

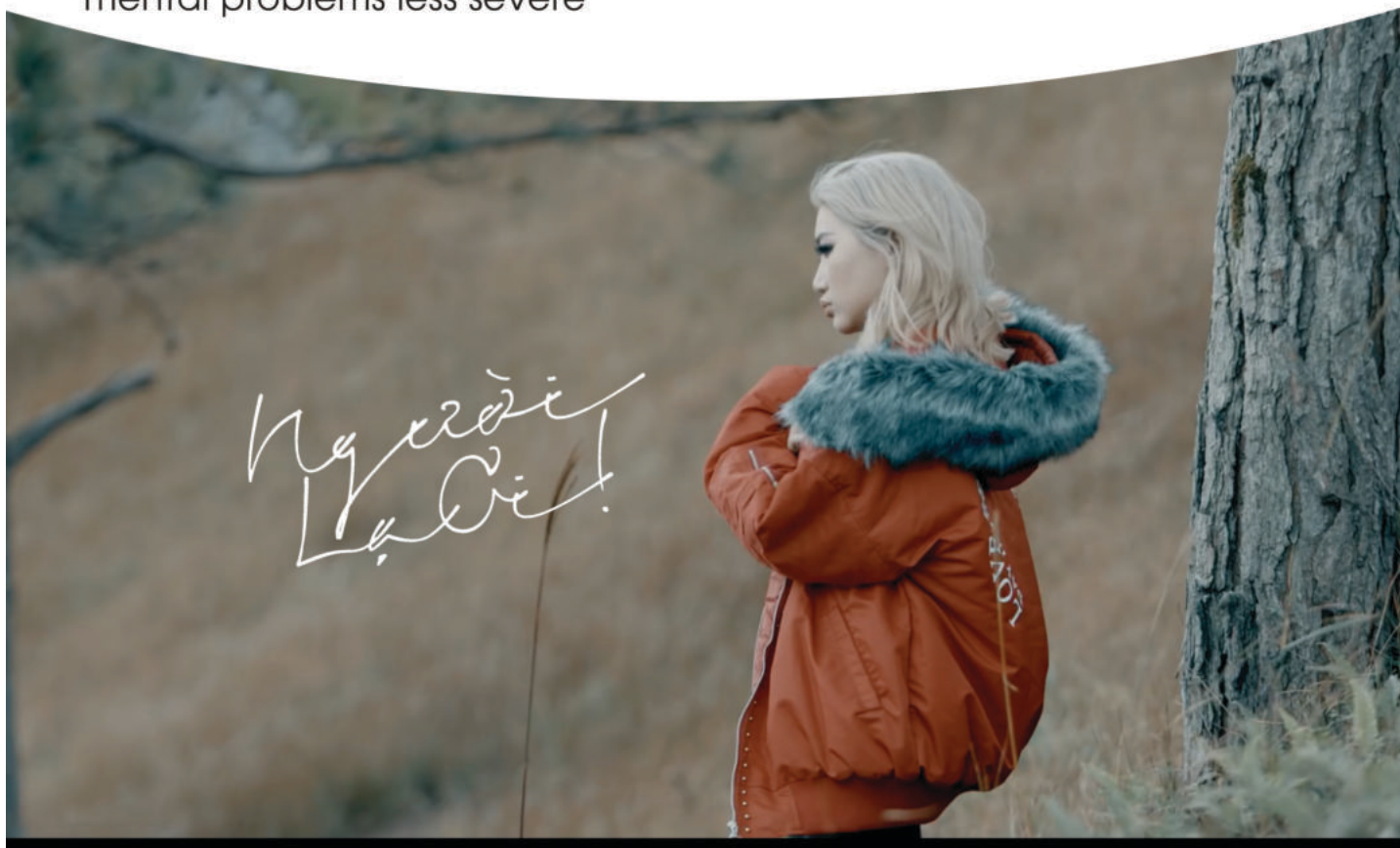
Example: Everyone can assist in the effort to alleviate environmental problems in the local community through simple actions such as recycling waste or planting a tree in their garden.

#### Dịch đại ý

**To alleviate environmental problems:** giảm nhẹ các vấn đề môi trường

Nghĩa: Khiến các vấn đề về môi trường đỡ nghiêm trọng hơn

Ví dụ: Mọi người đều có thể góp phần làm giảm nhẹ các vấn đề môi trường tại địa phương qua những hành động nhỏ như tái chế rác và trồng cây trong vườn.



## 5. carbon footprint

Meaning: a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide that is produced by the daily activities of a company or person

Example: Companies should reduce their carbon footprint through greater energy efficiency.

## 6. to cut down on emissions

Meaning: to reduce the amount of gases sent out into the air

Example: People must be made aware of the need to cut down on emissions from their cars if we are to reduce air pollution.

### **Dịch đại ý**

**To cut down on emissions:**  
giảm lượng khí thải

Nghĩa: giảm lượng khí gas thải vào môi trường

Ví dụ: Mọi người cần có ý thức về sự cần thiết của việc giảm lượng khí thải từ xe ô tô nếu chúng ta muốn giảm ô nhiễm không khí.



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## 7. environmental degradation

Meaning: the process or fact of the environment becoming worse

Example: Africa is a continent in which environmental degradation is evident in the spread of deserts and the extinction of animal species.

### Dịch đại ý

Environmental degradation: suy thoái môi trường

Nghĩa: quá trình chất lượng môi trường đi xuống

Ví dụ: Châu Phi là một lục địa mà việc suy thoái môi trường được thể hiện rõ ở sự sa mạc hóa và tuyệt chủng ở một số loài động vật.

## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ: HEALTH

### 1. to be detrimental to health

Meaning: to be harmful to health

Example: Lying in the sun for too long can be detrimental to health and result in skin cancers.

### Dịch đại ý

To be detrimental to health: có hại cho sức khỏe

Nghĩa: có hại cho sức khỏe

Ví dụ: Nằm dưới ánh mặt trời quá lâu có thể có hại cho sức khỏe và dẫn tới ung thư da.



## CÁC TỪ THUỘC CHỦ ĐỀ: TRANSPORT

### 1. to have access to public transport

Meaning: the right or opportunity to use buses, trains or other forms of public transport

Example: Many people in rural areas have to use their cars because they have no access to public transport.

### CÁC TỪ KHÁC:

**1. memorable (adj):** special, worth remembering or easy to remember: đáng nhớ  
 Eg: Graduation is a truly a memorable occasion.

**2. severe (adj):** extremely bad or serious : nghiêm trọng  
 Eg: Unfortunately, his injuries are severe.

**3. (to) bear in mind sth (expression):** to remember sth: ghi nhớ cái gì

Eg: You should bear in mind that this examination is really important.

**4. essential (adj):** completely necessary, extremely important in a particular situation : khẩn thiết, quan trọng

Eg: The museum is closed while essential repairs are being carried out.

**5. informative (adj):** giving useful information : bổ ích, nhiều thông tin

Eg: The talk was both amusing and informative.





# Teenagers

## 1. Do you spend much time with teenagers?

- Well, yes of course, especially because I'm one of them. My circle of friends consists of mostly adolescents as they are the age group that I interact most with, either at school or outside of school. Moreover, I'm a social butterfly and enjoy people's company, so I spend most of my freetime socialising with my teenage friends.

- No, not really. I've already passed the phase, so my circle of friends consists of mostly people of my age and older. Even though I'm a social butterfly, it is rare to even have the chance to meet a teenager, not to mention socializing with them as I'm so occupied with my working life.



## 2. What do teenagers usually do in your country?

It really varies, but I can name some popular activities that most Vietnamese teenagers indulge in. The first one is quite obvious, hanging out with people of the same age rather than their parents. This is because they are seeking a sense of independence when entering adult life and thus, don't want too much

parental involvement in their making of decisions. Another popular pastime of teenagers is surfing the Internet – which might be undesirable as this can distract them from their studies or lead to a breakdown in communications between juveniles and their parents.



### **3. What is the best part of being a teenager?**

The best thing about being a teenager is having the guts and the freedom to do whatever they want. Teenagers can be rebellious and disobedient, but people will only regard this as a normal phase that teen

agers go through, whereas adults will constantly be told to 'act their age' if they ever want to do something that seems a little childish.



#### 4. What is teenagers' fashion like?

I can't say for sure, as fashion trends are only temporary. However, I must say that although teenage fashion is diverse, it seems like adolescents usually dress to reflect their personalities and to express in

dividuality. While adults have to follow certain dresscodes according to their occupations, teenagers are at liberty to dress however they want, even if this means choosing to wear the most outrageous outfits.



Từ vựng chủ đề: **Family**

**1. To enter adult life**

Meaning: the stage when adolescents are almost old enough to be legally independent of their parents

Example: Parents who have devoted time and thought to raising and educating their children have given them a good preparation to enter adult life.

**2. Parental involvement**

Meaning: the act or process of parents when taking part in their children's activities

Example: Parental involvement allows parents to monitor school and classroom activities, and to coordinate their efforts with teachers to encourage acceptable classroom behavior and ensure that the child completes schoolwork.



Từ vựng chủ đề: **Communication and Personality**

**1. a social butterfly**

Meaning: refers to an extrovert person who loves to socialize

Example: A social butterfly is a person who is socially dynamic, networking, charismatic, and personally gregarious.

**2. a breakdown in communications**

Meaning: a misunderstanding which results from people failing to discuss and resolve something

Example: The dispute between the workers and the employer was the result of a breakdown in communications over wages.



Từ vựng chủ đề:  
**Communication and Personality**

**3. to act one's age**

Meaning: to behave in a way suitable for someone as old as you are

Example: During the most recent years of her career, Madonna has faced criticism for her revealing outfits, her outrageous performances and



## Các từ khác:

### 1. circle of friends (expression)

Meaning: A number of close friends who usually do things together as a group

Example: Extroverts usually have a big circle of friends.

### 2. to socialize (verb)

Meaning: to meet and spend time with people in a friendly way, especially in order to enjoy yourself

Example: I enjoy socializing with my fellow students after class, in a coffee shop or playing football.

### 3. to be occupied with something (expression)

Meaning: to be busy with something

Example: Can you please do the laundry? I'm occupied with the baby.

### 4. to indulge in (phrasal verb)

Meaning: to allow yourself or another person to have something enjoyable, especially more than is good for you

Example: We took a deliberate decision to indulge in a little nostalgia.





**5. juvenile (noun) (người vị thành niên)**

Meaning: a young person  
 Example: If you are under 18, you are a juvenile.

**6. to have the guts to do sth (expression) (có can đảm làm gì)**

Meaning: To have enough courage, conviction, or resolve (to do something).  
 Example: You're always talking about quitting your job, but I don't think you have the guts.

**7. individuality (noun)**

Meaning: the qualities that make a person or thing different from others  
 Example: It's a competent essay, but it lacks individuality and contains no new ideas.

**8. to be at liberty to do sth (expression)**

Meaning: to have the freedom to do something  
 Example: You are an adult now, you are at liberty to make your own decisions.



# TRANSPORTATION

## **1. What's the most popular means of transportation in your hometown?**

The most common vehicle in my hometown is the motorbike. As I've read in a current newspaper, most

Vietnamese adults have their own motorbikes. Moreover, I can easily catch sight of motorbikes whenever I go outside.



**2. How often do you take buses?**

I take buses to go to school at least twice a day as I haven't got my own vehicle yet. I also usually use buses to visit my relatives or friends' homes.

**3. Is driving to work popular in your country?**

Yes. I'm pretty sure that private cars and motorbikes are the two most popular vehicles in my country. Therefore, it is obvious that there are a large number of people who tend to drive to work.



**4. Do you think people will drive more in the future?**

Yes, I think so. There will be more drivers on the roads in the future due to the convenience of motoring and the affordable prices of cars.

**5. Would you ride bikes to work in the future?**

Yes. As I'm a young person, I like to do energetic activities to help me keep fit, so I will give priority to a job that is within cycling distance of my home.



**6. Can you compare the advantages of planes and trains?**

Obviously, airplanes and trains have their own particular benefits for passengers. Regarding planes, they have been the fastest means of passenger transport invented so far. They

enable people to travel all around the world in the shortest possible time.

The biggest advantage of trains is their impressive safety record. Accidents are rare, and so people can feel relaxed and just sit back and admire the views from their comfortable seats.



**7. What will become the most popular means of transportation in Vietnam?**

Personally, I think the prevalence of motorbikes will continue to dominate in Vietnam due to their advantages, namely they are great for getting around quickly, they are easy to park and economical to run.

**8. Do you prefer public transportation or private transportation?**

Although owning a private vehicle has various advantages, I prefer using public transportation in order to economize as well as to help protect the environment.



1. **Catch sight of** (expression): to see something only for a moment

Ex: I caught sight of someone with red hair, so I knew that it was you.

2. **Safety record** (noun): details of how many accidents a company has had

Ex: With no accidents in the last 5 years, this airline has a good safety record.

3. **Admire** (verb): to look at something and think that it is attractive/impressive

Ex: We stood for a few moments, admiring the beautiful view.

4. **Motoring** (noun): the activity of driving a car

Ex: She's planning a motoring holiday in France next year.



**5. Affordable** (adjective): cheap enough for people to be able to buy

Ex: This type of car is affordable for people who have a low income.

**6. Give priority to** (expression): deal with something first, because you think it is more important than other things

Ex: This month I must give priority to revision for the exam, so I have taken some time off work

**7. Prevalence** (noun): the fact of being very common at a particular time or in a particular place

Ex: There is a worrying increase in the prevalence of smoking among young people.

**8. Dominate** (verb): to be the largest, highest or most obvious thing in a place

Ex: The skyline is dominated by smoking factory chimneys.





**9. Get around** (phrasal verb):  
to move from place to place

Ex: Getting around in this city is hard, because there is too much traffic.

**10. Park (verb):** to leave a vehicle that you are driving in a particular place for a period of time

Ex: I parked my car in front of the supermarket while I did my shopping.

**11. Economical** (adjective):  
providing good value in relation to the amount of money spent

Ex: Buy a small car it will be more economical to run.

**12. Run** (verb): to own and use a car or other vehicle

Ex: On my low salary, I can't afford to run a car.



# Trees

## 1. Do you like trees?

I really like trees. An ideal day for me would be when I could lie under the beautiful, cool shade of a big oak tree, enjoying the breeze, listening to the the amazing sound of birds chirping, and not having to worry about anything at all.

## 2. (Similar to above) Do you like (to go to) the forest (or, a forest)?

I have never been to a forest before, so I would love it if I could go to one. I have always enjoyed watching TV programmes about the wilderness ever since I was a kid. Being able to go to a forest, and I mean a primeval, um, an ancient one, would be paradise for me.

## SPEAKING PART 1



### **3. Is there a forest near your hometown?**

Unfortunately no. My hometown is a city that doesn't have a beach, let alone a real forest.

### **4. (Possibly) Would you like to live in a place that has lots of trees?**

I would love it. I'm not kidding. I would adore it! In fact, currently I'm living on the outskirts of Toronto, surrounded by lots and lots of trees and it feels good every day to wake up early, get out of the house and go for a walk while breathing in the fresh air and taking in the amazing scenery.



**5. Where can one find trees (or forests) in your country?**

Trees are planted almost everywhere, but for forests I guess you need to do some research. There's a place that is called Cuc Phuong National Park in Northern Vietnam, and there are some other protected forests in different parts across Vietnam as well.

**6. Do you think places with trees attract more visitors than places with few trees?**

I don't know about other people, but I would definitely choose a place full of trees over one which has none. Or maybe other people would make the same choice as me: isn't it nice to feel at one with nature and to be able to immerse yourself in greenery and the fresh open air?



**SPEAKING  
PART 1**

**7. Did you ever (like to) climb trees when you were a child?**

As a matter of fact, I did. There was a lychee tree at my grandparents' house in the countryside - it was cut down several years ago - and I used to climb it every time I visited them.

**8. Have you ever planted a tree?**

Let's say I have, although it's not technically a tree. When I was in grade 4, I had an assignment in which I needed to plant something and bring it to class. I chose to plant some beans, although, sadly, it fell through - the rats just waited until the right moment and gobbled them all.

**1. wilderness (noun):** an area of land that has not been used to grow crops or had towns and roads built on it, especially because it is difficult to live in as a result of its extremely cold or hot weather or bad earth: vùng hoang vu

e.g. Alaska is the last great wilderness.

**2. primeval forest = ancient forest (noun):** a forest that has attained great age without significant disturbance and thereby

exhibits unique ecological features and might be classified as a climax community: rừng nguyên sinh

e.g. Ancient forests are often biologically diverse, and home to many rare species, threatened species, and endangered species of plants and animals.

**3. to adore (verb):** to love or like very much: quý mến, yêu mến

e.g. He adores his children.



**4. to take in (phrasal verb):**

to take notice of something with your eyes

e.g. When I travel by air, I love to take in the sights as the plane prepares to land.

**5. to feel/be at one with sth (expression):** to feel a strong connection to something

e.g. Whenever I go for a walk in the countryside, I feel at one with nature.

**6. fall through (phrasal verb)**

to fail or come to nothing: thất bại, không đi đến kết quả nào

e.g. Despite our effort, the plan fell through.

**7. gobble (v)** to swallow food etc. quickly: ngấu nghiến, nuốt lấy nuốt để

e.g. You'll be sick if you keep gobbling your meals like that.



“ Talk about a **recent sports event** that you have participated in or watched and enjoyed very much ”





**You should say:**

- What kind of sports event it was
- Give details of this event
- How often it takes place
- Explain why you consider this event to be interesting

Today I would like to tell you about the first semi-final of the AFC U23 Cup, which was contested by Vietnam and Qatar on January 23rd, 2018. Because my favorite team, Vietnam, was playing, I was very interested and emotionally invested in the result.



The AFC U23 Cup is one of the most popular soccer tournaments in Asia. It was established in 2012 with the aim of increasing cooperation between all Asian nations. This tournament is held biennially; 16 Asian nations compete with teams of players aged 23 and under. This year, China hosted the third tournament.

Right now, I feel like I'm on cloud nine as my favorite team, Vietnam, has just defeated Qatar, one of the strongest teams in this year's tournament. Vietnamese people have been waiting for a long time to witness their team participating in the final of a continent-level tournament.



To be honest, I burst into tears when Quang Hai, my favorite player, scored the game-changing goal to draw level at the end of the match and take the game to extra time. I really appreciate the team's competitive spirit and perseverance until the very end even though Qatar were a strong opponent. I'm still amazed at all the breathtaking moments and Vietnam's sterling performance in this match. I really hope that my team will make history by winning this prestigious championship and reward the Vietnamese fans for their support.





Chúc  
các bạn  
ôn thi  
thật tốt!

*Ngọc Bách*