

makkar IELTS

English for Exams

Sep - Dec 2020



makkarIELTS Speaking Guesswork

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English for Exams

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Sep- Dec 2020

First Version



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(MBBS, DGO - Makkar Hospital Phagwara)

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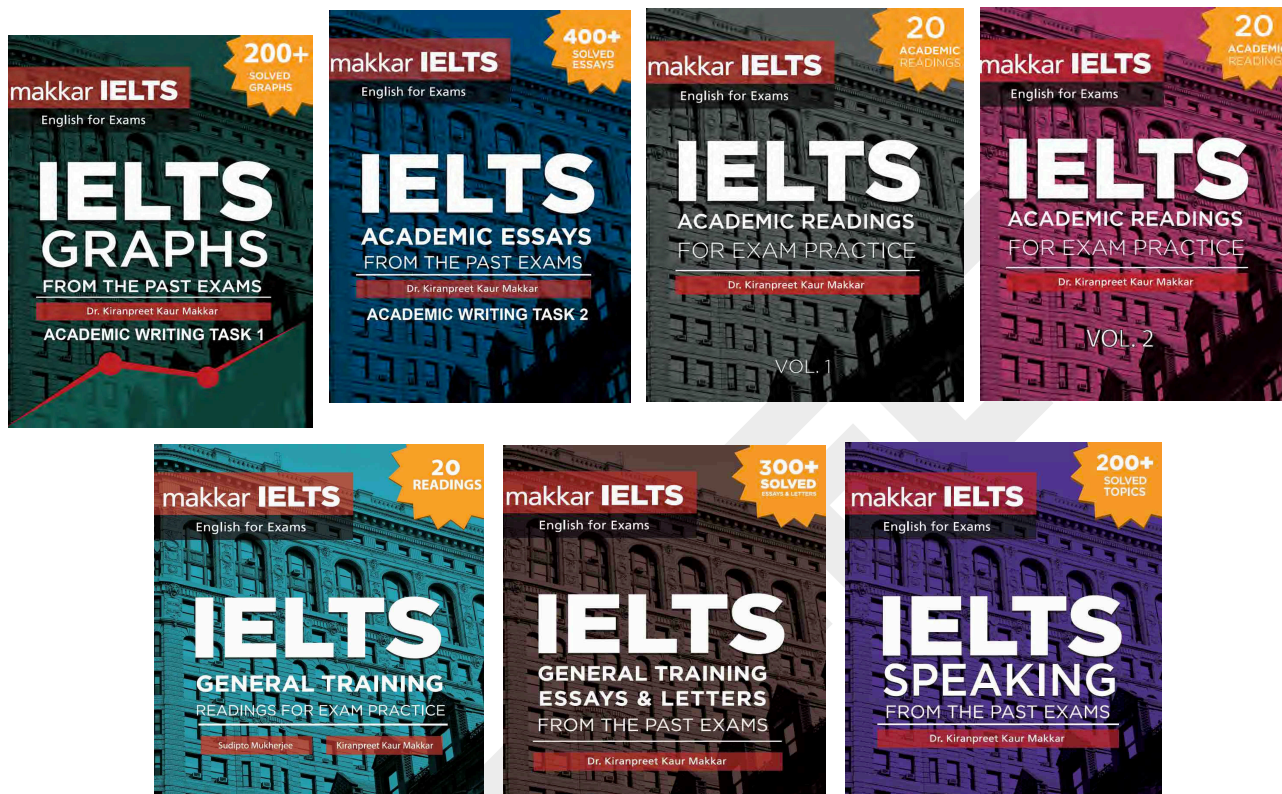
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1. Describe a line that you remember from a poem or song (makkariELTS)

You should say

- What it is
- What poem it is from
- How you know about it
- How you feel about it

- Music makes everything better.
- I like to listen to music when I am cooking, cleaning, driving, exercising.
- It relaxes me in ways nothing else can.
- I listen to songs from different genres and one song that brings a smile to my face every time I hear it, is the timeless pop classic “What a wonderful world”.
- It talks about appreciating the beauty of your surroundings and it’s the line from the title “And I think to myself, it’s a wonderful world” that I remember so well.
- It was first recorded by Louis Armstrong in 1968 but there have been many more versions of it since then sung by various artists.
- It was the biggest selling single in UK and reached number 1 spot that year.
- I think the first time I heard it was on YouTube. I was looking for old hits and this song just came up in the suggestions.
- I was so mesmerized by the lyrics and the singer’s soothing voice
- They moved me and just made me realize that I need to find happiness in small things.
- This world may not be perfect but it’s so wonderful.
- Now whenever I am stressed, I take a break and go outside.
- Looking at the beautiful sky, listening to the birds chirping and the nature all around me makes me forget about my worries and brings me so much peace.
- I also feel grateful for all the people in my life - my family and friends who make this world so much more wonderful for me

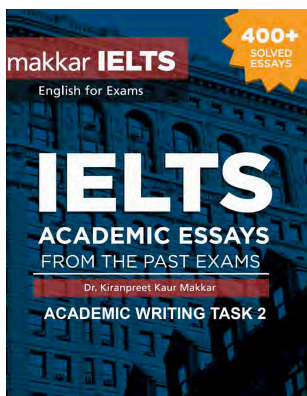
OR (Alternate answer)

- I listen to songs on my phone whenever I am travelling.
- In fact, my song choices have changed so much over the years.
- But there is one song and one particular line from that song that I can never forget.
- The line goes like this – ‘One day you will leave this world behind, so live a life that others will remember’
- It is from the song ‘The NIGHTS’ by Avicii.
- I love listening to the whole song, just for this one line.
- I don’t really remember how I first came across this song, but it was about two three years ago.
- I think I might have heard it in a café or a music channel in the TV.
- Whenever, I am feeling low or I don’t feel like studying, I listen to the song for motivation.
- The song just energizes me and makes me work even harder.

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- But the lyrics also have a darker meaning.
- The singer Avicii committed suicide at a very young age about two years ago.
- I remember the news came as a huge shock to me.
- When I searched online, I came to know, Avicii was going through depression.
- But one day, when I was listening to this song, I realized how Avicii's death really gave life to the lyrics.
- His body did leave this Earth, but people will never forget him.
- People will always remember him through his songs.
- He has immortalized his memory through his meaningful song lyrics.
- I also really want to do something for my family, my society and my country.
- So that people also remember me after I leave this world.

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Part 3 - Follow up Questions

1. Are you good at memorizing things?

I am neither very good nor am I bad at memorizing things. But, I do make a list on my phone for all the important things because I don't want to risk forgetting them.

2. Do you think children like the rhythm of songs or poems?

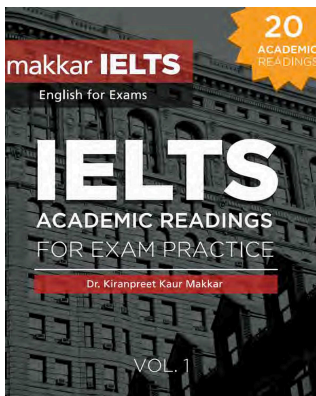
Yes, I think rhythms make it fun. I think rhymes reduce inhibition among children and make them more active. That is why teachers use rhymes while teaching.

3. Do you think it is easier for children to learn songs or poems than adults?

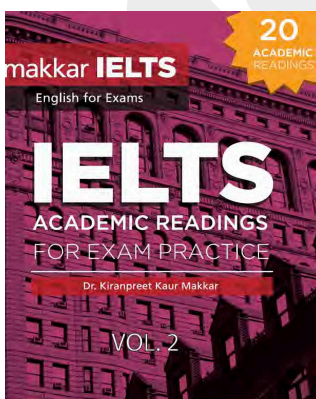
I think yes. I remember in my childhood, I used to memorize many poems and I did it very easily. I don't think I can do the same now. I think it is maybe because in childhood, our brains are more receptive.

4. What can people learn from songs or poems?

I think the two main things we learn from songs and poems is our culture and language. In general, there is a lot of repetition in songs and rhymes stick in the learner's mind and the words and expressions used are memorized more easily. It also helps in phonetic development. Similarly, some songs and poems also connect us with our culture as their lyrics represent culture expressed in words.



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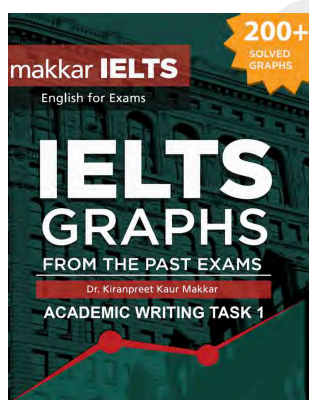
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2. Describe a tradition in your country (makkar|IELTS)

You should say

- What it is
 - Who takes part in it
 - What activities there are
 - And explain how you feel about it
-
- There are many traditions in India.
 - But today I would like to talk about a tradition which is quite popular especially in North India.
 - The tradition is called 'karvachauth'.
 - It is actually a tradition in which women keep a fast from sunrise to moonrise for the safety and longevity of their husbands.
 - It is celebrated on a special day based on the Hindu Lunar Calendar.
 - It is mainly a Hindu tradition but some women from Sikh religion also celebrate it.
 - Its origin is based on military campaigns of the past.
 - The men would go to wars, and women would keep a fast for their safe return.
 - In today's time, it is seen as a symbol of love and affection between a husband and wife.
 - In fact, nowadays even men keep a fast along with women to support them.
 - Women begin preparing for *Karva Chauth* a few days in advance, by buying adornments jewelry, and other prayer items.
 - On the day of Karva Chauth, women dress up and at night they do a small prayer along with husbands with the moon in the backdrop.
 - After this, they break their fast.
 - Earlier, I saw this tradition as a symbol of patriarchy in some sense, where only women are meant to keep a fast.
 - But now I see it more as a symbol of love and sacrifice
 - I think as long as there is no compulsion on women to do this and they do this on their own, there is nothing wrong with it.



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Part 3 - Follow up Questions

1. What is the importance of traditional festivals?

I think traditional festivals fulfil three functions. They connect us to our roots, our culture and our origins, giving us a sense of identity. Secondly, they bring families and friends together and lastly, they help us forget about our worries and stress.

2. What's the difference between festivals now and in the past?

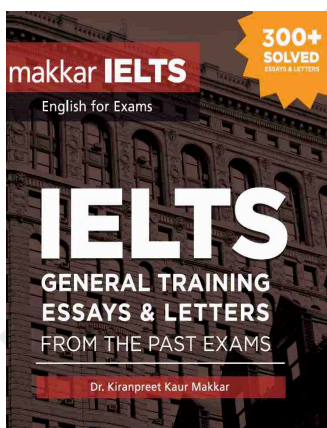
I think the main difference between festivals now and in the past is the purpose of celebration. Earlier people celebrated festivals for a purpose, but now people have forgotten the meaning behind the festivals. Festivals are only celebrated for joy and merriment.

3. Do you think western festivals like Christmas are replacing traditional festivals in your country?

Yes, one of the influences of western movies and Hollywood has been the coming of western festivals like Christmas and Halloween. From the past two-three years, even I decorate a tree and ask for gifts from my parents on Christmas. Similarly, in these past few years, I have seen children going for trick or treating on Halloween in my neighborhood.

4. Do you think it is wrong for children not to celebrate traditional festivals?

I wish children today are as passionate about celebrating traditional festivals as they are about celebrating western festivals. But I don't think it is wrong. I think festivals are about fun and merriment and it does not matter, which festivals they are celebrating as long as they are enjoying themselves.



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3. Describe a person who you think is very open

You should say (m@kk@rIELTS)

- Who this person is
 - How you know this person
 - Why do you think this person is very open
 - And explain how you feel about this person
-
- I think very few people today are open and frank.
 - I myself am not very open and I don't find it easy to express my feelings.
 - But I really think that my mother is a very open person.
 - I have experienced her straightforward nature many times.
 - She doesn't hide her thoughts and feelings. She openly expresses them.
 - For example, I recently made a cake.
 - She found it too sweet and when I asked for her opinion, she clearly said she didn't like it.
 - And she isn't like that with us family members only, but others also.
 - She speaks her mind.
 - Sometimes people get offended due to this too.
 - But as people get to know her, they understand that she is just being straight forward and her intention is to help and not to insult.
 - Over the years, I have found that more and more people appreciate her for straightforwardness rather than take offense.
 - Her straightforward and direct nature is also a reason, many of our relatives and neighbours come and share their worries with her.
 - They know she will speak her mind.
 - I think it requires a lot of courage for a person to be open and direct.
 - I care too much about other people's feelings and as a result sometimes I lie or make promises I can't keep.
 - My mother never does that, and I think she is really brave deep-down.
 - She is very secure about herself and she is not afraid to show her true self to people.
 - I really wish I could be more open like that.

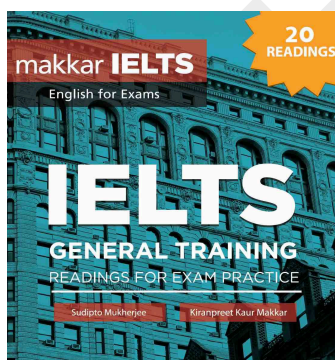
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Part 3 - Follow up Questions

1. Is it difficult for Indian people to express their feelings?
Yes, I think Indian people are very polite and considerate and because of that most people don't express their feelings easily in public. Also, I think a lot of us care about our image more than our mental peace and so we hide our feelings.
2. Who do you think talk more? Children or grown-ups?
Definitely children, and there are two reasons for it. First, they are curious because of their age and this curiosity only gets satisfied by asking questions. Second, they are not afraid to speak their mind because they don't care about appearing rude or hurting others by their words. Adults also ignore children's words because of their age.
3. What do you think is the difference between boys and girls in expressing their feelings?
I think girls are generally more open in expressing their feelings. Boys think they might appear weak, if they show their feelings and as a result, they try to hide them. This carries on to adult life too. That is why I think women complain about their husbands not opening up.
4. Do you think people are more open than in the past?
On the contrary, I think people are less open. I think people today are more worried about their image and thus they try to present themselves as a perfect person. But this in turn means they hide their true feelings. Also, I think people today lay more emphasis on politeness and thus they don't speak up if they feel something is wrong.
5. Why do you think people are less open?
Answered in the last question.



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4. Describe an old friend you got in contact with again

You should say (m a k k a r I E L T S)

- Who he or she is
 - What he or she is like
 - How you got in contact
 - And explain how you felt about it
-
- Due to fast-paced life of today, it is very easy to lose contact with friends.
 - I have also lost contact with many of school time friends.
 - It happened inadvertently.
 - Some of my friends got busy with jobs, some shifted to another city and some just got busy with family life.
 - However, during this Corona pandemic, life slowed down.
 - I was home all the time and this also meant that I spent more time on social media especially Facebook.
 - So, two or three months ago, I got a friend request from one of my school-time friends, Navneet.
 - He had shifted to Canada when we were in 8th standard.
 - For the first two three months, we tried to keep contact but eventually we all got busy with studies.
 - So, it was a pleasant surprise to receive his friend request.
 - Navneet was one of my best friends in school.
 - I don't use these words for anyone, but he was in real sense 'a jack of all trades'.
 - He was good in academics and sports as well.
 - When we were in school, he was the captain of the football team.
 - In studies, he was always among the top four five students.
 - Despite all this, he was very modest and still he is very modest.
 - He never tried to show that he was superior to others.
 - It was so fun talking to him.
 - It felt like I had travelled back in time.
 - We reminisced about our school days and both of us became a bit nostalgic.
 - I think it was a bittersweet feeling getting in touch with him after so long.
 - On the one hand, we both felt a bit guilty about losing touch.
 - On the other hand, we were also very happy to talk to each other after so long.

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Part 3 - Follow up Questions

1. What is the influence of social media on friendships?
I think social media has definitely enabled us to maintain friendships better. We all know our friends are just a click away. At the same time it has all reduced face to face contact, and I think that has weakened the bonds of friendships.
2. Why do people lose contact with each other after graduation?
I think the main reason is that we get busy with jobs. Moreover, sometimes people move to another city for a job. We don't see our friends daily and we come in contact with new people. Building new friendships consumes time and thus inadvertently people lose touch with friends.
3. Do people in your country like to make new friends?
Definitely, I think Indians in essence are very social. We love conversation, meeting new people. Every time, I travel, I come back with new contact in my phone.
4. Do you think old friends are more important to the old generation or the young generation?
I think old friends are important to both new and old generation. I think talking with childhood friends takes people back to childhood days in some sense and most people miss that time – a time free of tensions and worries.

5. Describe a family which you like and are happy to know

You should say (MAKKARIELTS)

- Who they are
 - Where they live
 - How you know them
 - And explain why you like them.
-
- I know many families that live in our neighbourhood.
 - But there is one family, that I really enjoy spending time with.
 - They are our next-door neighbor's, Sharmas.
 - There are four members in the family, Mr. Sharma, his wife and their two children, Navneet and Priya.
 - I think they shifted to Phagwara and our neighbourhood about five years ago.
 - Before that they lived in Jalandhar.
 - Mr. Sharma works in a bank and he was transferred to Phagwara branch five years ago.
 - That's how they came to live in Phagwara and our neighbourhood.
 - I remember immediately after moving to our neighbourhood, they invited everyone for a dinner.
 - Their son is the same age as me and he and I have become very close friends.
 - There are many things I like about them, but the first is that they don't do any formalities.
 - I don't get the feeling that I am at somebody else's house when I am at their home.
 - For example, they offer me things to eat when I go there, but they don't force it.
 - They just tell me not to hesitate if I want to eat something.
 - It's another matter that Mrs Sharma is a very good cook and I actually look forward to tasting all the delicacies she makes.
 - I also like the relationship between Mr and Mrs Sharma and the children.
 - They are strict but friendly and they encourage their children to share whatever problems they are facing.
 - I have never seen Mr and Mrs Sharma raise their voice.
 - I have noticed that my friend Navneet, shares nearly every detail of his life with his parents.
 - If he does something bad, they don't scold but tell him why it was wrong.
 - I think very few people have this special dynamic relation with their parents.
 - In all, I get very positive vibes from all the members of the family.
 - I feel very comfortable at their home and that's why I like them a lot.

Part 3 - Follow up Questions

1. Who is usually the leader in an Indian family?
India is a patriarchal society, and, in most families, the eldest male member is the leader. If it's a joint family, it's generally the grandfather and in nuclear families it's the father.
2. How do grandparents take care of their children?
I think today grandparents fill the void left behind by working parents. Both the parents work today and as such are not able to devote enough time to the children. So, grandparents raise children just like parents. They also teach them about moral values. In some ways, they are also responsible for spoiling children as they give in to their demands much more easily than parents do.
3. What's the most important quality of a good parent?
I think the best quality in a good parent is flexibility. Flexible parents tend to be open-minded and easy-going. They resolve disagreements smoothly. Children are naturally defiant and thus inflexible parents increase defiance and rebelliousness in their children and this always escalates conflicts.
4. How can new parents learn about parenting?
I think there are many ways to learn about good parenting. They can read books on parenting. They can join parenting classes, they can watch videos on you-tube about parenting and last but not least they can take guidance from their own parents.

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6. Describe an energetic person that you know

You should say

- Who this person is
 - How you know this person
 - Why you think this person is energetic
 - And explain how you feel about this person
-
- When I started thinking about an energetic person, one person came to mind especially.
 - His name is Mr. Vikas Chaudhary and he works as a personal fitness trainer at a gym in my hometown.
 - I came to know him, when I joined the gym last year.
 - When I joined, I was very clueless about which machines to use, how much weights to use and what exercises to do as a beginner.
 - Mr. Vikas was the one who guided me even though I hadn't paid for personal training services.
 - He took special notice that I was a beginner and whenever I did any exercise, he told me about the correct posture and corrected me if I was wrong.
 - A few weeks later, I sent him a friend request on Facebook.
 - That's how I came to know that he is a very active and energetic person.
 - Firstly, he works a personal trainer 6 days from 8 AM to 8 PM, which involves a lot of physical activity.
 - Before that, he goes for 1-hour jogging session daily.
 - Every Sunday, he plays football for two three hours with his friends.
 - So, he does some form of physical activity every day of the week besides his job, which is also physical.
 - Because of all this, he has a very impressive, lean and muscular physique.
 - Another thing I like about him is that he doesn't take any supplements and he doesn't encourage others to take supplements either.
 - He believes in protein-rich diet but without any supplements.
 - Recently, there was a fitness competition in Phagwara, and he got second prize in the competition.
 - He is a big motivation for me.
 - I want to have an active lifestyle and have a physique like him.
 - I feel it takes a lot of effort to maintain a physique like him and it shows the hard work that he puts into his body.

Part 3 - Follow up Questions

1. What kind of jobs need a lot of physical activity?
I think with the coming of computers and technology, a lot of jobs don't require as much physical activity as in the past. Still, there are a few jobs which involve manual labour like masonry, plumbing, painting etc. which involve a lot of physical activity.
2. What's the difference between payment for physical work and payment for mental work?
It's a fact that today as a society we give more importance to mental work as compared to physical work. So, jobs which require mental work entail a much higher salary than jobs with physical work. In India especially, jobs with physical work like farming, plumbing, painting, working in factories are some of the least paid jobs.
3. Can physical workers have higher salaries in the future?
On the contrary, I think physical workers would have even lower salaries in the future relatively. This is because machines are gradually replacing manual work and I think the need for manual labour is coming down tremendously.
4. Do you think machines could replace manual labor in the future?
I don't think machines will replace manual labor completely but there would definitely be an impact. I think with a coming of new technologies, new types of jobs will be created, which will require different skill sets. This in fact is already visible for example with the coming of driverless cars – there has been a fall in the jobs for drivers.

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7. Describe a time you saw children behave badly in public

You should say

- Where it was
 - What the children were doing
 - How others reacted to it
 - And explain how you felt about it
-
- I go for a walk every day at a park near my home.
 - Usually, I also see a few children playing at the park during that time.
 - And they are always accompanied by an adult.
 - Last week when I went to the park, I saw that the children instead of playing were actually uprooting the flowers and plants.
 - I tried to see if there was an adult nearby who knew the children.
 - There were a few others who were here for a walk like me, but I didn't think anyone knew the children.
 - Some of them had also stopped and were thinking about what to do.
 - However, an old uncle couldn't watch this any longer.
 - He went up to the kids and told them to stop doing that immediately.
 - However, instead of scolding, he started telling them that how plants are living beings like us and uprooting them is like killing them.
 - He then tried to make the best of situation and asked the children to help him replant the trees.
 - Seeing this, some of other people and I also joined in and helped him.
 - At first, I was very angry, but I also knew that the children didn't understand the consequences of their action.
 - After listening to the uncle, they stopped and actually helped in replanting the plants.
 - Still, some of plants had broken roots and we knew nothing could be done to save them.
 - But we didn't say anything to the children because we didn't want to make them feel even more guilty. (makkariELTS)
 - When a person came to pick them up, we did explain the situation.
 - He apologized on behalf of the children and told us that he was sorry for leaving them unattended.
 - I learned one thing from that old man rather than scolding children for their mistakes, it is our responsibility as a society to guide them and enable them to become better human beings.

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Part 3 - Follow up Questions

1. What bad behaviour do children usually have?

Normally, the bad behavior I associate with children is creating noise, breaking things, disrespecting elders, scribbling on the walls and stealing small things like pencils, erasers. I think I am guilty of each one of them when I was young.

2. How should parents stop their children from behaving badly at public?

I think parents should stop their children from doing bad things at home. There should be no double standards. Moreover, I think parents should not just stop children from doing something bad but also tell them why it is bad to do it.

3. Are parents these days stricter than in the past?

On the contrary, I think parents are more lenient these days. I think it is mainly due to two reasons, first being the strict laws against physical punishment and the second reason is the influence of western culture.

4. Whose influence on children is more? Parents or their Friends?

I think in the early years, the parents influence is second to none as children spend majority of their time with the parents. But as children grow older, they spend considerably more time with their friends and I think during these years it is their friends that influence their behavior and thinking the most.

8. Describe a conversation topic you were not interested in

- Who you talked with
 - When you had the conversation
 - What the topic was
 - And explain why you were not interested
-
- Last week, we went to my Uncle's house as it was my cousin's engagement.
 - There, some of my other cousins started a conversation about the recent Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case.
 - For the past few weeks, the main news coverage has been all about Sushant Singh Rajput.
 - And it was a controversial issue from the start.
 - There are some people who believe it was suicide, while there are others who believe it was murder.
 - However, I was actually tired of the hearing about the issue for the past two- three months.
 - I was hoping that at the wedding, we would talk about something else.
 - I was actually more interested in talking about the opening of schools, Indo-China border conflict and state of the economy and more than anything else our personal lives.
 - I felt that discussing the topic of Sushant Singh Rajput was depressing in some ways.
 - I know mental health is an issue which needs more discussion among people, and I felt that the engagement was a joyous occasion and it was not the right place for the discussion.
 - During the conversation, each of my cousins, came up with weird theory what actually happened.
 - It was like – they were there, they knew Sushant Singh Rajput personally.
 - I actually wanted to say if we could discuss something else, as none of us could really know what actually happened and we should just wait for the investigative agencies to conclude their proceedings.
 - But, the rest of my cousins were really interested in the discussion.
 - So, I didn't say anything.
 - After about fifteen minutes, I just pretended that I received a phone call and went to another room.
 - But that was no respite as there my uncles were discussing the same topic.
 - For the rest of the time, I just played games on my phone call.

Part 3 - Follow up Questions

1. What topics do young people in India talk about?
The youth in India talk about nearly everything from politics to sports to fashion to technological gadgets. Personally, I love to talk about mobile phones and computers with my friends.
2. What is the difference between topics that are popular now and topics that were popular in the past?
I think earlier people didn't care so much about technology, but it is a major part of the conversation now. I also love talking about that. In addition, I think rest of the topics like sports, fashion and politics were actively discussed in the past too.
3. How do you know if others are not interested in the conversation?
I think I mostly see people's facial reactions to see if they are interested. If they are laughing at my jokes or their facial reactions are changing as the tone of the conversation changes, they are interested. Otherwise they are not. Sometimes people are direct too. They try to cut me off and steer the conversation towards another topic.
4. What's the influence of modern technology such as internet, emails on our communication?
I think they have increased the overall communication but at the same time they have also decreased face to face communication. Moreover, they have reduced the importance of language and grammar in communication. People care more about being concise rather than being grammatically correct.