

General Tips

1. Use **NATURAL** words and phrases

Many of my students say, “Teach me some words and phrases that will increase my score from 7 to 9.” This is the wrong kind of thinking. There are no magic words you can use in every question to increase your score. If you try to do that, it will probably sound unnatural and you will lose marks. It’s much better to use simple natural words than complex unnatural words. For example, one of my students said, “the benign man”. She was trying to say, “the friendly man”, and she thought the word “friendly” was too simple. She wanted to use a big word, but her answer was confusing. If your answers are confusing, you will get a bad score. **ONLY** use advanced vocabulary and phrases if it is natural in that situation.

2. Speak with a calm, cheerful tone of voice

The speaking test is the last part of the exam. You might feel exhausted after sitting in the chair for three hours, but try to stay positive! Don’t sound tired or bored. Listen to a recording of your voice. Does it sound good? Is it easy to understand?

3. **Say MORE**

Use the full amount of time for each answer. If the question gives you 90 seconds to speak, you should practice speaking for at least 80 seconds. But don't say the same thing over and over again! When people are nervous, they often repeat themselves. Your answer should have more **substance** and less **fluff**. "Fluff" means saying useless things to fill the time. Try to think of two or three points to talk about in each question and write down some simple notes to help you remember.

4. **Practice fast transitions between questions**

On the CELPIP test, you cannot stop and rest after each question. If you do poorly on a question, you need to forget about it and move to the next one. Practice fast transitions between questions.

5. **Learn English**

Honestly, the best way to prepare for the test is to learn more English. It's impossible to know what the questions will be, so you have to be ready for anything! I would recommend watching the videos on my YouTube channel (Mad English TV). You will learn new words, phrases, idioms, and more!



Test Format

<u>Question</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Time</u>
#1	Giving Advice	30s/90s
#2	Personal Experience	30s/60s
#3	Describe a Scene	30s/60s
#4	Make Predictions	30s/60s
#5	Comparing/Persuading	60s/60s
#6	Difficult Situation	60s/60s
#7	Opinion	30s/90s
#8	Unusual Situation	30s/60s

I would recommend memorizing this format.



My Answers

My answers are just examples for you to look at. There are no right or wrong answers on the CELPIP speaking test. When you read my answers, don't get discouraged if you don't understand some advanced words or phrases. I believe all my answers would receive a score of 12. So, don't compare your answer with my answer because I'm a native English speaker! Haha

My Tips

I have helped many people prepare for the CELPIP exam. My tips in each question will help you avoid common mistakes that people make.



Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Your friend is trying to get in shape for the summer. Give him some advice on how he can get in perfect shape.

Key Terms

Burn calories

Burn fat

Build muscle

Lose weight

Gain weight

Carbs

Sugar

Protein

Diet

Toned (low body fat / muscles are easily visible)

Ripped (muscular)

Six-pack (visible abs)

Beach body (good looking body)

Fit as a fiddle (idiom: very fit)

Routine

Consistency

Cardio

Lift weights

Results

Bulk up (get bigger muscles)

Trim down (get smaller)

Crucial (very important)

Two cents (input, advice)



My Answer

Hey Ryan,

It's great to hear that you want to get in shape! I've learned a lot about fitness over the past few years and I'd be happy to give you some tips. I think the best way to get in shape is to focus on three things: diet, exercising, and routine.

When I first started working out, the biggest mistake I made was not paying enough attention to my diet. Diet is so crucial! Fitness experts say that abs are made in the kitchen, not the gym. So if you want to have a beach body, you need to eat low-sugar, low-carb foods. Also, if you want a really toned body, you should focus a lot on cardio. Personally, I like running in the mornings and biking in the evenings. I know you like swimming, so that would be a great option as well. Lifting weights is also important if you want to look ripped. Some guys have no body fat, but they're really skinny. Ideally, you want low body fat AND big muscles. To build muscle, you need to consume a lot of protein. I would recommend eating chicken or beef at least once a day and drinking a protein shake after every workout. If you do the right things, you'll see significant results after two or three weeks. The most important thing is to stay consistent. Try to make a routine for yourself that you really enjoy. If you want to bulk up, focus on weightlifting. If you want to trim down, focus on cardio. Anyway, there's my two cents! Best of luck in your new goal! Maybe next time I see you, you'll have a six-pack!



Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Talk about your favourite class in high school. Why did you enjoy it?



Key Terms

Let's imagine that we chose biology as our favourite class. Here are some words we could use in our answer.

Aspect

Anatomy (parts of body)

Awkward (uncomfortable)

Reproductive system

Menstrual cycle (woman's monthly cycle)

Erection (penis becomes stiff)

Evoke (cause)

Giggle (playful laughter)

Dissect (to cut open and examine)

Freak out (react negatively)

Knowledgeable

Helpful

Approachable (easy to talk to)

Down to earth (friendly, relaxed)

Encouraging (supportive)

Engaging (interesting)

Make or break (make enjoyable or miserable)



My Answer

My favourite class in high school was biology. There were several aspects of the class I enjoyed. The first thing that comes to mind is the unit we did on the reproductive system. It was a bit awkward because we learned all about male and female anatomy. We talked openly about women's menstrual cycles and how a man gets an erection. That definitely evoked a few giggles from the class. Even though it was a bit awkward, I think everyone really enjoyed it. Another aspect of the class I really enjoyed was dissecting animals. I remember one day we dissected frogs and all the girls in the class freaked out. I felt a bit uncomfortable too, but I learned so much in the process! Probably the biggest reason that biology was my favourite class was that the teacher was so down to earth and friendly. Unlike a lot of my other teachers in high school, she was really approachable! I was never scared to ask a question. She was really knowledgeable about the subject and always helped us when we needed it. Her classes were super engaging, and I never got bored! When I think back about biology class, it makes me realize that a teacher can totally make or break the class!



Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



Key Terms

In this question there are lots of great words we can use!

Broken pipe

Water leak

Plumber (person who fixes pipes, toilets, sinks, etc.)

Overalls

Wrench

Perplexed (confused)

Sink

Mirror

Shower

Mud

Floor mat

Soap dispenser

Toilet

Cat

Picture

Crooked (not straight)

Spider

Web

Mouse

Drain



My Answer

This is a picture of a really messy bathroom. In the middle of the picture, there is a plumber staring at a broken pipe. He looks perplexed. He is holding a wrench in his hand and trying to figure out how to fix the water leak. He is wearing blue overalls, a red work shirt, brown boots, and a red hat. On the left side of the picture, there is a dirty sink and a broken mirror. In the lower left corner there is a muddy floor mat. In fact, there is mud all over the floor and walls. Next to the floor mat, there is a blue soap dispenser. In the upper right corner, there is a crooked picture on the wall and a spider hanging down from its web. Below the picture, there is a cat standing on the toilet. Behind the toilet, there is a hole in the wall with a mouse in it. To the right of the hole is a drain. Anyway, I hope I've provided a good description of the scene!



Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Make predictions



Key Terms

Repair

Replace

Install

Straighten

Plug (fill)

Sweep

Mop

Wash

Disinfect (kill germs)

Spick and span (very clean!)

Refill

Crawl down

Attack

Drink out of

Slip

Get soaked (get very wet)

Endeavours (efforts/tasks)

Put up feet (relax)

Reputation (name, position)



My Answer

There are lots of things I think will happen next in this scene. The first thing the plumber will do is try to fix the water leak. After he gets that under control, he's gonna replace the broken mirror. He might have to go buy a new one, then come back and install it. I think he has been hired by a family to fix their bathroom, so he's gonna try to do a really good job because his reputation depends on it. He's gonna straighten the crooked picture, refill the soap dispenser, plug the mouse hole, kill the spider, sweep and mop the floor, wash the walls, disinfect the toilet and sink, and leave the entire bathroom spick and span. I think the cat will start drinking water out of the toilet and end up slipping into the toilet and getting soaked! The spider is gonna crawl down its web and attack the mouse, but I think the mouse will escape. In the end, the plumber will be successful in his endeavours and put up his feet for a while.

Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your sister is trying to decide what to study in college. She has narrowed down her options and wants your advice. Choose the option you think would be best for her and convince her that your choice is the best for her.

Physiotherapy

Evening classes

Tuition cost: \$30,000

Duration: 2 years

Salary after graduation: \$60,000

Hairdressing

Morning classes

Tuition cost: \$20,000

Duration: 1 year

Salary after graduation: \$45,000



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

She has suddenly taken an interest in photography. Convince her that your choice is better.

Photography

Online study
Program cost: \$10,000
Duration: 9 months
Salary after graduation: \$30,000

Physiotherapy

Evening classes
Tuition cost: \$50,000
Duration: 4 years
Salary after graduation: \$60,000

Hairdressing

Morning classes
Tuition cost: \$20,000
Duration: 1 year
Salary after graduation: \$40,000



Key Terms

In line with (matches with)

Time commitment

Combing

Braiding

Grand (\$1000)

Long run (long term)

Set you back (cost)

Rewarding (fulfilling)

My Answer

Hey Angela,

I know you're considering your options about what to study in college. I really think you should go for hairdressing. I think that's much more in line with your personality. I remember when you were a kid, you would play with barbie dolls and spend hours combing and braiding their hair. So, I think you would enjoy hairdressing even more than photography. The nice thing about hairdressing is that you would make ten grand more a year. That would really help you out in the long run! Even though the tuition cost is double, you would easily make that back in a year, so I don't think that's a very important factor. Another thing to consider is that photography equipment is really expensive. If you bought your own gear right after graduation, that would probably set you back at least ten grand anyway! Even though the photography program is three months shorter, that's a minor factor when you consider the rest of your life! The most important thing is to find something you love to do. I think if you studied hairdressing, you would easily get a job afterwards and have a rewarding career!



Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your friends want you to go fishing with them tomorrow, but you have to work. You decide to skip work and go fishing. You have to call your boss and make up an excuse for your absence. What do you say?

Key Terms

Collarbone

X-rays

Late notice (short time to prepare)

Sharp (not late)

My Answer

Hi Mr. Brown, it's Jeff calling here.
I'm just calling to tell you that unfortunately I won't be able to come to work tomorrow. My best friend had a snowboarding accident and broke his collarbone. I need to drive him to the hospital for X-rays tomorrow. He doesn't have anyone else to drive him. I'll have to drive him back home as well, and since I don't know how long the appointment will take, I'll just have to wait there with him. I'm really sorry for the late notice, but my friend just had the accident this afternoon. I contacted Diane at work and she said she would be happy to take over my responsibilities for the day, so you won't have to find any replacement for me. I'd be happy to do some extra work on the weekend to make up for my absence. I really appreciate your understanding in this matter and I'll be back at work on Wednesday at 8 a.m. sharp!



Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Parents are the best teachers.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Key Terms

At the end of the day (ultimately)

When you read my answer, you'll see that I don't use any big words. It's more important to use simple, natural English than to use fancy vocabulary.

My Answer

I definitely agree that parents are the best teachers. There are several reasons why I believe this. First off, parents spend far more time with their children than any school teacher does. Most kids don't start going to school till they're 5 years old. I think it could be argued that a child learns more in those first five years than they do in the rest of their life. For example, they learn how to talk; they learn how to eat; they learn how to use the bathroom. Even when a kid is in school, they still spend more time with their parents than with any of their teachers. The second reason why I think parents are the best teachers is because they care the most about their kids. Usually, the people who care the most try the hardest. Sure, most school teachers care about their students, but at the end of the day, it's just a job. They have so many new students every year that they can't possibly develop a real relationship with any of them. Parenting, on the other hand, is much more than a job. It's a life of commitment and sacrifice. The third thing I would say about parenting is that it provides a different kind of education. Parents are the ones who teach their kids how to share their toys, how to eat healthy food, how to deal with conflict, how to express emotions. These aspects of life are far more important in the long run. That's why I think parents are the best teachers.



Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are at an art store and see a painting you think your friend will like. Call him up and describe the painting to him.



Key Terms

Abstract art (interesting/strange art)

Frame (the whole picture)

To scale (proportionate)

Pigeon

Raccoon

Tint (a colour that affects the whole scene)

Yellowish (close to yellow)

Mood (feeling in a picture)

Give you a shout (call)

My Answer

Hey Peter, it's Jess calling here.

I'm just in an art store right now, and I'm looking at an abstract painting that you might like. The store staff won't let me take a picture of it and send it to you, so I'll just try to describe it to you. There's a big bridge in the middle of the picture that looks like the Golden Gate Bridge. In the centre of the picture, there's a woman sitting on the bridge. Her body takes up the entire middle of the frame, so obviously, sizes are not to scale in the picture. Another strange thing about the woman is that she has four arms. On one of her right arms, she's holding a pigeon. A racoon is sitting on her left shoulder. She has brown hair and green eyes. She's wearing a mask that goes around her eyes. She's wearing a coral-coloured top with a black skirt. In the background of the picture, there are some tall buildings, a sunset, and some clouds. In the foreground, there are some green hills and trees. The whole picture has a yellowish tint to it which gives the painting an interesting mood.

Anyway, I know how much you love abstract art, so I figured I'd give you a shout and see if you want me to buy it for you.



Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Your brother recently got his driver's license and wants to buy his first car. Give him some advice on how to buy a car.

Key Terms

There are so many different ways you could answer this question, but here are some key terms I chose to use.

Budget (the amount of money you want to spend)

Second-hand (not new)

Kijiji (a popular Canadian website)

Craigslist (a popular website in Canada and the US)

Dealership (a place that sells cars)

Lemon (a car with serious problems)

Private sale (you buy from a person, not a business)

Haggle (bargain)

Low-ball offer (much less than the seller is asking)

Counter (reply to your offer)

Insurance

Registration

Auction (a place where people bid, the highest bidder gets the car)

My Answer

Hey Mike, I'm really excited for you that you got your driver's license and are looking for your first car! I've bought and sold several cars in my life, so I think I can give you some good advice. Since you just graduated from high school, you probably don't have a huge budget for a vehicle. The good news is that there are always lots of great second-hand vehicles for sale. I just bought a 2008 Toyota Corolla on Kijiji for \$2800. Have you browsed Kijiji yet? That's a great online community for second-hand things. Another website is Craigslist. I would start by taking a look on those sites and figure out what kind of car you want to buy. Some people prefer buying vehicles from a dealership because there's less risk of the car being a lemon. Personally, I prefer a private sale because you can haggle more over the price. Anyway, after you've found one you like, you send a message to the seller and ask if you can look at the vehicle and go for a test drive. If you like the vehicle, then you make an offer on it. Personally, I always start with a low-ball offer. For example, if the vehicle is \$3000, I would offer \$2100. They might counter with \$2700 and then you could meet somewhere around \$2500. After you buy the car, you have to get insurance and registration for it. It's a pretty easy process. Anyway, I hope you find a great vehicle! Just let me know if you need any more advice. There's a vehicle auction once a month that I usually go to. If you want to come along sometime, you'd be more than welcome!



Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Talk about your biggest accomplishment.



Key Terms

In this question, don't focus so much on using lots of big words. Instead, focus on your tone of voice. The listener should be able to hear that you're proud of yourself just by listening to your voice.

Achievement

Proud

Ceremony

Entrance exams

Brutal (extremely hard)

GPA

Scholarship

My Answer

Probably the biggest accomplishment I've had in life is graduating from university. It was a great achievement for me because my I was the first person in my family to get a university degree. My family was so proud of me. My grandma even cried at the graduation ceremony. I worked so hard during the four years of university, and it felt so good to be done. Actually, I worked hard even before starting the degree because I had to pass a number of entrance exams. Those were brutal! So, even getting into university was a big accomplishment for me. Another reason why it was a great accomplishment was because I maintained an excellent GPA throughout my studies. Because of that, I received two incredible scholarships — one for \$8000 and the other for \$5000. Those really helped me out a lot! Anyway, getting a university degree was my biggest accomplishment so far in life.



Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



Key Terms

Archway

Stone

Sign

Entrance

Monkey

Perched (sitting on something high or narrow)

Palm trees

Bushes

Path

Popsicle (or ice cream)

Steal

Cage

Holding hands

Smartphone (or cellphone)

Leash

Owner

Ostrich

Beach umbrella

Runs down (goes along)



My Answer

This picture shows the entrance of a zoo. There is a large stone archway in the centre of the picture with a sign on it that says “zoo”. There is a monkey perched on top of the sign. On each side of the archway, there are some palm trees and bushes. A wide stone path runs down the middle of the picture. There are several people and animals in this picture. On the left side of the picture, there is a monkey in a cage who is stealing a girl’s popsicle. Also, there is a mother holding her son’s hand. On the right side of the picture, there is an ostrich in a cage. A dog is trying to attack the ostrich, but its owner is holding it back on its leash. In the middle of the picture, a woman is walking and looking at her smartphone. In the background of the picture, there is a blue sky and some puffy white clouds and several beach umbrellas.

Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Make predictions



Key Terms

Escaped

Zoo keeper

Barking

Texting

Crying

Camera

Handbag

Incident (something that happened)

Snap a few shots (take a few pictures)

Yelling (shouting)

My Answer

It looks like several things are about to happen in this picture. I think the girl on the left will start crying because the monkey stole her popsicle. Fortunately, the woman in the bottom left corner will see the incident and buy the girl another one to make her happy. The woman holding her son's hand will take a camera out of her handbag and snap a few shots of her son beside the monkey cage. The woman in the centre of the picture will keep walking and texting her boyfriend. The dog will start barking at the ostrich, and the man will start yelling at his dog to be quiet. A zookeeper will come and catch the monkey that has escaped from its cage. Alright, those are some things that I think will happen next.

Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are going on a trip to Europe with your friend. You want to visit several countries and are debating whether to rent a car or buy a train pass. Choose the option you prefer.

Rent a car

Car rental: \$1300

Length of trip: 10 days

Accommodations: Camping (free)

Agenda: Exploring small towns
and scenic areas

Take the train

Rail pass: \$500

Length of trip: 12 days

Accommodations: Hostels (\$600)

Agenda: Visiting major cities and
tourist attractions.



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

**Your friend is recommending flying between cities.
Convince your friend that your choice is better.**

Flying

Cost: \$1500

Length of trip: 15 days

Accommodations: Hotels (\$1000)

**Agenda: Visiting all major parts of Europe
(East, West, North, South)**

Rent a car

Car rental: \$1300

Length of trip: 10 days

Accommodations: Camping (free)

**Agenda: Exploring small towns
and scenic areas**

Take the train

Rail pass: \$500

Length of trip: 12 days

Accommodations: Hostels (\$600)

**Agenda: Visiting major cities and
tourist attractions.**



Key Terms

Spontaneous (doing things without a plan)

Overwhelming (feeling of too much)

Crammed (tight, lots of people)

Blow (spend)

My Answer

Hey Jeremy,

I think it would be better if we rented a car because we'd have a lot more flexibility. We both really like being spontaneous. I know flying would allow us to see more parts of Europe, but I think that might actually be really overwhelming for us. My cousin did that. He went to Europe for 3 months and visited every part of the continent. After his trip, he said he wished he would have relaxed a bit more and enjoyed some places for a longer time. One of the purposes for our trip is to relax after a busy semester, so I think if we try to see every part of Europe, that will be too much for us. I know our trip would be longer if chose to fly, but I'd rather spend time driving through the Swiss Alps than sitting on a crowded plane. The other thing is that flying would be a lot more expensive for us. We worked really hard to save money for this trip, and I don't think we should blow it all on hotels and flights. Camping in the Alps would be so much fun and it would be free! Anyway, I'm really excited for our trip and can't wait to get there!



Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your best friend is graduating this weekend, and you promised to attend the graduation. Today, your uncle sent you a message and invited you to go on a cruise with him to the Caribbean — all expenses paid for! You need call one of them and explain why you can't make it.



Key Terms

Conflicts with (doesn't match with)

Torn over (unsure)

Worthwhile (good use of time)

Place (house)

Exotic (foreign, fancy)

My Answer

Hey Jill,

I just got a call from my uncle. He's inviting me to go on an all-expense-paid cruise with him! I was really excited about it until he told me the dates of the cruise. It conflicts with your graduation! I know I promised to attend your special day...that's why I'm so torn over this. The thing is that the cruise is for a whole week, and the graduation is just for one evening. That's why it seems more worthwhile to go on the cruise. I've never been on a cruise before and I think this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me! I'm so sorry that I'll miss your graduation, but I know you understand because we're best friends. I've already been thinking of some exotic gifts I can buy you as a graduation present! I was thinking that we could have another graduation party for you at my place after I get back. What do you think? Anyway, thanks for understanding!



Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Nowadays, food has become easier to prepare. Has this change improved the way people live? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Key Terms

Fast food

Microwavable dinners

On the go (while moving)

Replenish (restore)

Decent (good)

Mass-market (sell to everyone)

Preservatives (prevent the food from spoiling)

No-brainer (something obvious)

Bonding (building close relationships)

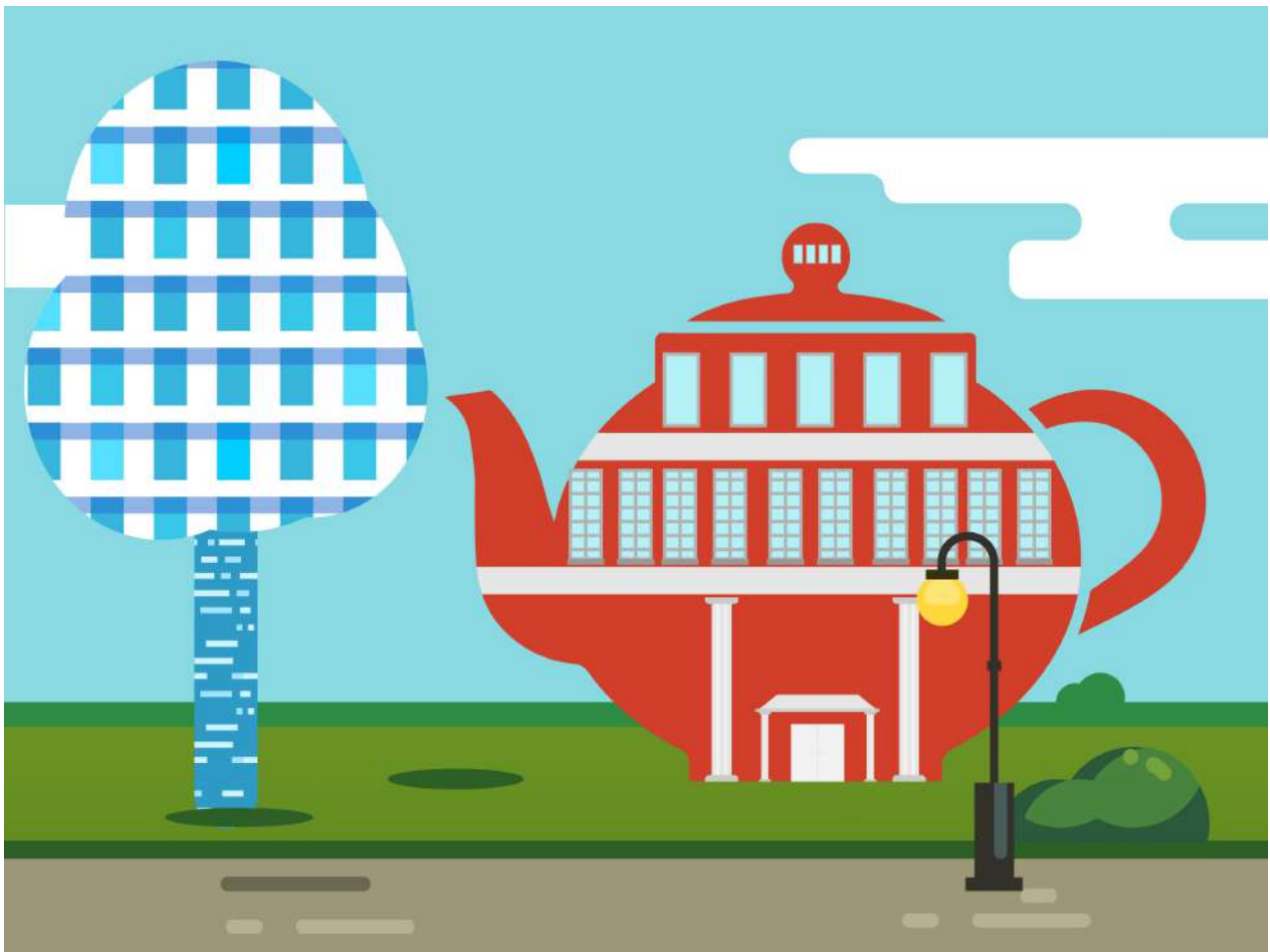
My Answer

It's true that food has become much easier to prepare these days, but I don't think that has improved the way people live. There are several reasons I believe this. First off, the idea of fast food and microwavable dinners has made it possible for people to become more busy. Many people don't even stop to eat. That's why drive-thrus are so popular. People just eat in their cars on their way to work. I don't think it's a good idea for people to eat on the go. Throughout history, mealtimes have been the time of day when people stop working. This allows the body to rest and replenish its energy. So many people these days are burned out. I think the main reason for that is because they don't stop and prepare decent food for themselves. Another reason I don't think it's a good idea is because the quality of the food decreases when you try to mass-market it to society. Foods these days have so many preservatives in them. I think this is the reason why so many people have cancer today. If the body does not receive quality food, it will get sick. That's just a no-brainer! The third reason I don't think it's a good idea is because preparing and eating food has a social aspect to it. Throughout history, food has brought people together. When people eat together, they build social bonds which is very important in life. Anyway, those are some reasons why I think it has not improved people's lives.

Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are going on a trip with your friend, and you are looking online for hotels. You see two interesting hotels. Call your friend and describe the hotels. Ask him which one you should book



Key Terms

Teapot

Tree

Handle

Spout

Lid

Trunk

Popsicle

Story (floor, level)

My Answer

Hey James,
It's Keith calling here. I'm just looking at two hotels online, and I'm wondering which one I should book. They both look pretty interesting. One of them is shaped like a teapot. It has a handle on one side and a spout on the other side. It looks like the hotel has four stories. The very top story is the lid of the teapot. It might be cool to book a room up there! The other hotel is shaped like a tree. It has a long trunk and the rooms are in the branches of the tree. Actually, it doesn't really have branches. It looks more like a big blue popsicle. It looks pretty cool! This hotel is a lot taller than the other one. It has about twice as many floors. We might have a good view if we stay on the top floor. Anyway, that's the best I can do to describe these hotels. Let me know which one you would prefer to stay in!



Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Your parents are thinking of buying a retirement property in another country. Which country would you recommend? Give specific reasons why you think that country would be a good option for them.

Key Terms

Overseas (in a different country)

Balmy (warm and pleasant)

Degrees

A high of (maximum temperature)

A low of (minimum temperature)

Thundershowers (heavy rain with thunder)

Roll through (arrive and stay for a short time)

Tin roof (metal roof)

Affordable

Professional

Well-trained

Surgery

Checkups

Beach-front property

Amenity (something that provides convenience)

Senior's discount (when senior citizens pay less)

Spot (place)



My Answer

Hey Mom and Dad,

It's great that you guys are considering buying a retirement property overseas! I would recommend buying a property in Panama. The weather is really awesome there! It's warm and balmy every day. They have a high of around 28 degrees every day and a low of like 20.

Sometimes thundershowers roll through in the afternoons, but they don't stay long. It's actually really nice because it keeps the air fresh. A friend of mine went there and stayed in a house with a tin roof. She loved the sound of the rain on the roof! Another reason I think Panama would be a great place to retire is because the healthcare is really good there. It's high quality and super affordable. The doctors and nurses are very professional and well-trained. You can get all kinds of surgeries there and go for as many checkups as you like. A third reason I would recommend Panama is because the cost of living is really cheap there. I heard that you can buy a small beach-front property there for under \$100,000. Food and other expenses are also really cheap, and there are lots of amenities nearby. If you want to go out to eat or go to the movies, you'll never have to travel very far! And the best thing about Panama is you get a great senior's discount there! Overall, I would say Panama would be a great spot for you guys.



Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Talk about a favourite trip you took. What made the trip memorable?



Key Terms

So much fun

At one point (one time)

I'll never forget that

Unforgettable moment

Enormous (huge)

Down the coast (traveled near the ocean)

Spontaneous (unplanned)

Make up everything (be spontaneous)

My Answer

Three years ago I went to Italy to visit my sister who was studying there. We went on a 10 day road trip down the coast. We had such an amazing time! We decided to be completely spontaneous and not plan anything. We just started driving and made up everything as we went along! Every day we drove for about 5 hours and spent the rest of the time exploring the town or city we were in. At one point, we drove through a small town and stopped for ice cream. We couldn't believe how big the ice cream cones were! They were enormous! We loved the ice cream so much that we decided to stay in that town for the night. The next day, we went for ice cream again and my sister ordered two cones for herself. As soon as we started driving, the ice cream fell off one of the cones onto her lap. We laughed so hard. Those simple moments were unforgettable. We took lots of pictures and made a lot of memories on that trip. I'll never forget that trip.



Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



Key Terms

Pub

Poker

Cards

Poker chips

Wine

Pool

Pool table

Rug

Guitar

Mic (microphone)

Bar (counter)

Bartender

Bar stool

Bottles

Shelf

Paintings

Exit sign

Wooden floorboards



My Answer

This scene is the inside of a pub. On the left side of the picture, there are three men sitting around a table playing poker. There are poker chips and a bottle of wine on the table. Each man is holding cards. Behind the table is a bar with three bar stools. A man and a woman are sitting at the bar enjoying a few drinks. There is a bartender behind the bar serving the drinks. Behind the bartender, there are several shelves full of bottles. On the right side of the picture, there are two men playing pool. Behind the pool table, there is a guy playing guitar and singing into a mic. On the wall behind him, there are several paintings. In the back corner of the room, there is a door with an exit sign above it. In the centre of the floor, there is a large pink rug. The entire floor of the pub is made of long wooden floorboards.

Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Make predictions



Key Terms

Hitting on (flirting with)

Thirsty

Bored

Order

Beard

Goatee (beard on chin only)

Pool cue (stick)

Sink balls (shoot balls into the pockets)

Guy (man)

Cold (heartless)

Reject (not receive)

Hammered (drunk)

Cope (deal with a situation)

Bar fight

Break out (start unpredictably)



My Answer

I think several things are going to happen in the next few minutes. One of the guys playing poker is going to lose all his chips. He'll get bored sitting at the table and start playing pool with the other guys. The guy with the beard is going to sink a few balls and win the game. The guy with the goatee is going to get really mad and hit the other guy with his cue. The guy playing guitar is going to get thirsty and order a beer from the bar. The guy sitting at the bar is going to start hitting on the girl, but she's going to coldly reject him. He's going to cope with his depression by getting hammered. In the end, I think a huge bar fight will break out and the bartender will call the police. Anyway, those are some of my predictions in this scene.



Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your best friend is moving to another country. You are in charge of planning a farewell party. You are considering several options.

A nice restaurant

Cost: \$50/person
Location: Close to home
Unlimited food and drinks
Live music

A picnic near a lake

Cost: \$20/person
Location: 2 hour drive away
Everyone brings food to share
Free canoeing at the lake



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

**Your friends are suggesting going to a theme park.
Convince them that your option is better.**

Theme Park

**Cost: \$60/person
Location: 30 min. drive away
Unlimited access to rides
Go to a pub afterwards for some drinks**

A nice restaurant

**Cost: \$50/person
Location: Close to home
Unlimited food and drinks
Live music**

A picnic near a lake

**Cost: \$20/person
Location: 2 hour drive away
Everyone brings food to share
Free canoeing at the lake**



Key Terms

Outdoors (nature)

Have a blast (great time)

Socialize (talk with each other)

Potluck (everyone brings food to share)

Unemployed (no job)

My Answer

Hey guys,

I know you're suggesting going to a theme park, but I think it would be better if we had a picnic by the lake. John really loves the outdoors. The nice thing about going to the lake is that there's free canoeing there. I think everyone would have a blast. We need to remember that this party is for John, so we should pick the option he would enjoy the most. Even though the theme park has unlimited rides, we wouldn't really have a good chance to socialize. I know the lake is a lot farther away, but I think everyone would really enjoy the drive through the mountains. The other thing is that the picnic would be a lot cheaper. Some of John's friends are unemployed at the moment, so it's not fair if we ask them to pay \$60 for the farewell party. Also, having a potluck by the lake would be so much fun! I love trying all the different foods that people bring to potlucks. Anyway, I think it would definitely be better to go to the lake than to go to the theme park.



Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your aunt is moving this weekend and you offered to help her. You receive a message from your friends inviting you to go camping with them this weekend. You need to call your friends or your aunt and explain why you can't make it. What do you say?

Key Terms

Remember, speaking naturally is more important than using impressive words and phrases. Just try to relax and speak in a calm tone of voice. In this question, your tone of voice should be apologetic because you're backing out of a commitment.

My Answer

Hi Aunt Mary,

It's Mark calling here. I just got a text from my friends inviting me to go camping with them. I know I promised to help you move this weekend, but this will be my last chance to go camping this year. I know you need help and I wouldn't just leave you without any help! That's why I've asked Jake to take my place. He is free all day and would be happy to help you! Actually, he'll probably be even more helpful than me because he is a lot stronger. I know you have some old-fashioned furniture that is really heavy. I think Jake will be able to handle that no problem! Anyway, I just wanted to let you know that, and I hope you understand. I look forward to seeing you sometime soon!



Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

These days, many people are moving from towns to cities. Do you think this move will increase their quality of life? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Key Terms

Big picture (all the outcomes)

Drawbacks (disadvantages)

Rush hour (heavy traffic)

Nightmare (huge inconvenience)

Commute (the drive to work)

Insane (crazy)

Hassle (inconvenience)

Laidback (relaxed)

Vibe (feeling)

Downside (disadvantage)

Respiratory (breathing)

Appealing (attractive)

Make it out to be (think it is)

My Answer

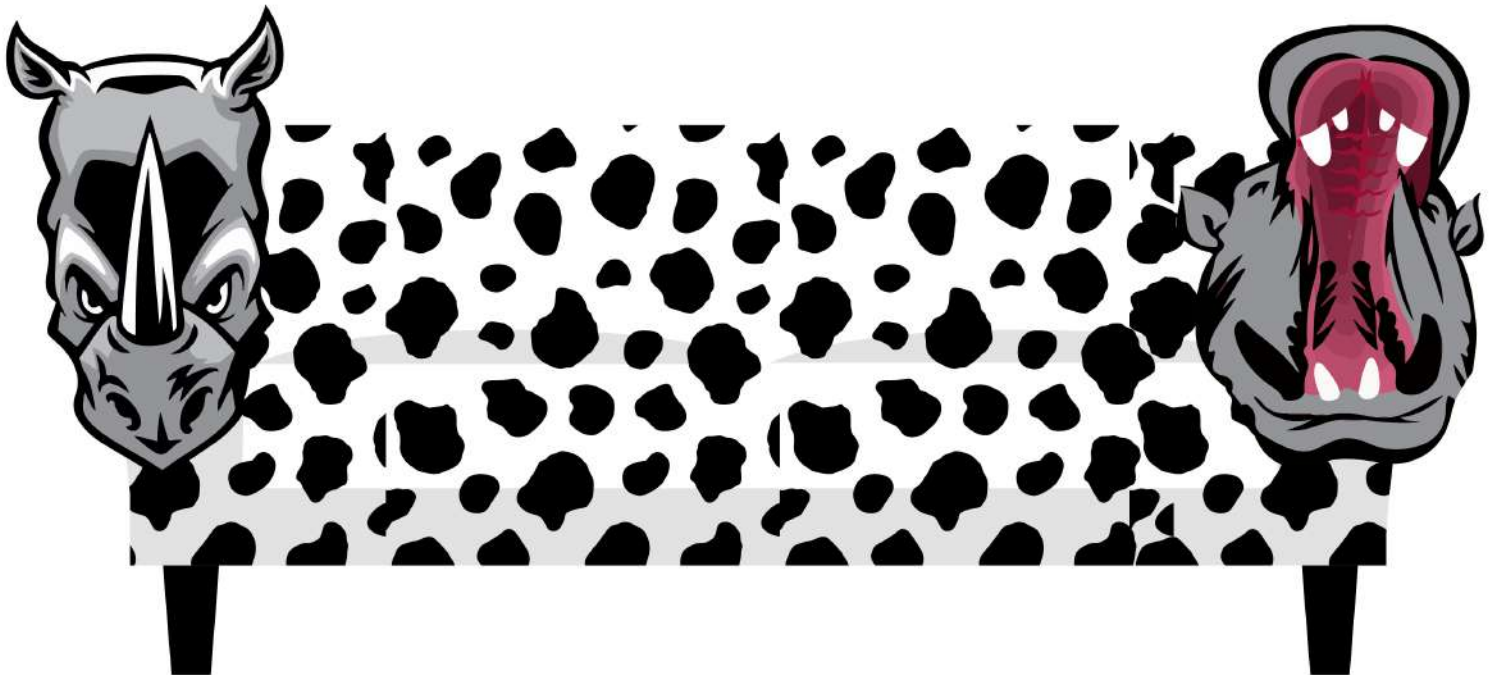
In my opinion, I think a lot of people move to cities because they think their lives will improve. They might get a higher paying job, be closer to shopping centres, and things like that, but I don't think most people really consider the big picture. Living in a city actually has a lot of drawbacks. Rush hour, for example, is a nightmare. I used to live in Toronto and getting to work every morning took over an hour. The commute home wasn't much better. That's two hours of my day sitting in a car. That's insane! In a small town, you don't have to worry about traffic at all! Sure, the pay might not be as good, but is it worth the extra hassle? Not in my opinion! The other nice thing about a small town is that you can build more genuine relationships. People trust each other more in small towns. It's very common for people to leave their doors unlocked in small towns. I like that kind of laidback vibe. Another downside of being in a city is that the air quality is a lot worse. Most people don't realize it right away, but it can have a big impact on your long term health. Five years ago I lived in Beijing. I could hardly breathe in that city. I developed some pretty bad respiratory problems while I was there. People living in small towns don't have to worry about pollution at all! Anyway, those are some reasons why I'm convinced that city life is not as appealing as people make it out to be.



Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are in a furniture store and see a very interesting couch. You think your mom might like it. Call her and describe it to her. Ask if you should buy it.



Key Terms

Armrest

Rhino

Hippo

Horn

Nostrils (nose holes)

Seat

Backrest

Spots

Legs

My Answer

Hey Mom,
I'm just in a furniture store right now, and I see a strange looking couch. I think you might like it. The seat and backrest of the couch are white with black spots — sort of like a cow. The armrests are really interesting. One of the armrests is the head of a rhino. It has a big horn, two ears, two eyes, and two nostrils. It actually looks pretty scary. The other armrest is the head of a hippo. The hippo's mouth is wide open. You can see it's huge teeth and the inside of its mouth. The couch has small black legs which look pretty normal. Anyway, I'm just wondering if you want me to buy it for you.



Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Your parents are traveling abroad for the first time. Give them advice on what to do in an airport.

Key Terms

Intimidating (scary)

Levels (floors)

Arrivals

Departures

Check in

Agent (person working at check in)

Passport

Boarding pass

Checked baggage

Carry on baggage

Security

Metal detector

Scanner

Liquids and gels

Confiscate (take away)

Gate

Lounge



My Answer

Hey Mom and Dad,

It's great that you guys are going on a trip! I know airports can seem really intimidating, but don't worry, I'll give you some advice. It's important to arrive at the airport three hours before departure when you're taking an international flight. When you get to the airport, you want to look for a sign that says "check in". Most airports have two levels. The bottom level is arrivals and the top level is departures. When you find the check in counter, give the agent your passports and he/she will check you in. At this point, you need to say goodbye to your checked baggage. Make sure you have all your important documents in your carry on! After checking in, you need to go through security. Just follow the signs that say "security check point". Here, you will need to go through a metal detector and put your carry on bags through a scanner. They might ask you if you have any liquids or gels. If you're unlucky, they'll confiscate your toothpaste. After going through security, you need to find your gate. Check your boarding pass for the gate number. When you find the gate, just wait in the lounge until boarding the flight. Anyway, that's my advice for you! Don't forget your passports!



Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Talk about a time you made a change in your lifestyle. What was the change and how did it affect your life?

Key Terms

Night owl (someone who stays up late)

Early bird (someone who wakes up early)

Impact (influence)

Crisp (cool)

Chirping (the sound birds make)

Refreshing

Remember, you don't need to use lots of big words in your answer. Just try to use natural words. These are some words that a native speaker would use in this situation.

My Answer

When I was in college, I had to take early morning classes. The classes started at 7am which meant that I had to wake up at 5:30. That was a big change for me because I had to start going to bed earlier. It was hard to make this change because I've always been a night owl. I like staying up late watching movies and chatting online, but this change really had a positive impact on my life. After a few months of early mornings, I really fell in love with the new schedule! I felt less tired than I used to. It was so refreshing breathing the crisp morning air as I walked to school. I loved hearing the birds chirping and seeing the sunrise. Even though I don't have to wake up early anymore, I still do it because I have grown to love it. Nowadays, I'm an early bird!



Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



Key Terms

Birthday party

Birthday cake

Lighting

Party hats

Banner

Balloons

Decorations

Living room

Shelf

Cactus

Vase

Couch

Presents

Cloud 9 (extremely happy)

Coffee table

My Answer

This is a picture of a birthday party. In the centre of the picture, a mother is lighting the candles on the birthday cake. There are four kids in this picture, and they are all on cloud 9! They are wearing party hats. The party is being held in the living room. On the right side of the picture, there is a coffee table with presents on it. Behind the kids, there are three couches. Above the couches there is a shelf with books on the right side and plants on the left. The plants look like cactuses. There is also a vase to the right of the plants. There is a birthday banner on the wall with other decorations around it. There are lots of balloons in the upper half of the picture.

Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Make predictions



Key Terms

Birthday boy

Candles

Cake

Piece

Blow out

Sing Happy Birthday

Freezer

Seconds (get more food)

Presents (gifts)

Thrilled (overjoyed)

Have a blast (have a great time!)

My Answer

There are a few things that will definitely happen next in this scene. When the mother finishes lighting the candles, everyone will sing Happy Birthday to the birthday boy. After that, the boy will blow out the candles. Then, the mother will cut the cake, and all the kids will get a piece. The mother might go get some ice cream from the freezer as well. The kids are going to love the cake and ask for seconds. After eating cake, the birthday boy will open his presents. I think he's going to be thrilled with everything he gets. He's going to thank all his friends for the nice presents. After opening the presents, the kids are going to play some games and maybe watch a movie. I think everyone will have a blast!

Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are camping with your friends and you are discussing your plans for tomorrow. Choose the option you prefer and convince your friends that your idea is best.

Hike up a mountain

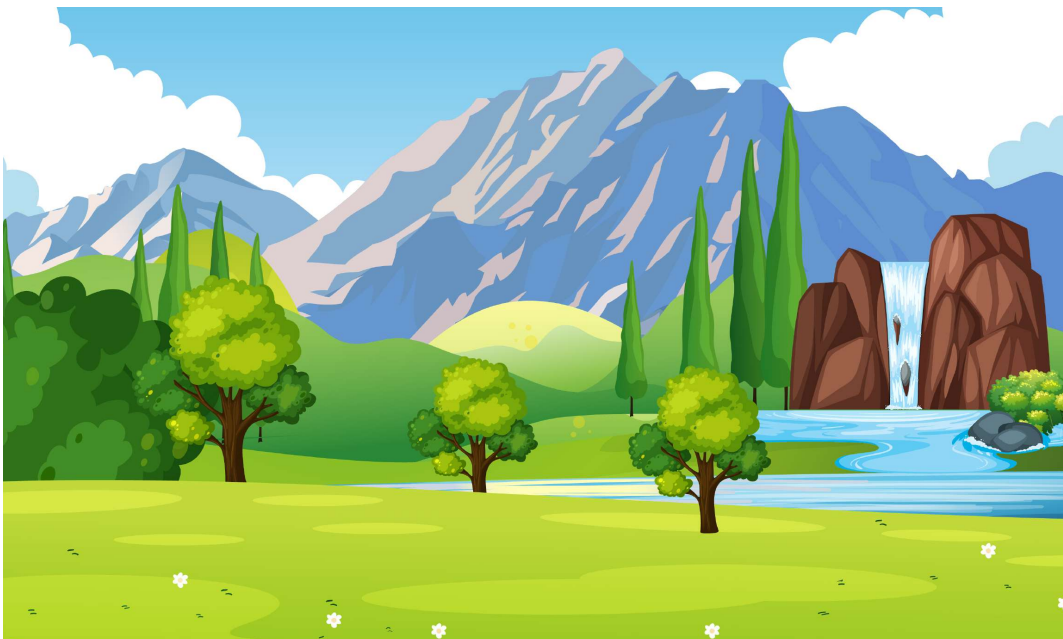
10 hour hike

Amazing view from the summit
Natural hot springs on the way
Chance to see bighorn sheep

Walk along the river

4 hour walk

Easy path to follow
Nice spot for a picnic lunch
Lots of birds and deer nearby



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your friends are recommending something else.

Swimming in the lake

All afternoon
Relaxing in the sun
Chance to catch some fish
BBQ beside the lake

Hike up a mountain

10 hour hike
Amazing view from the summit
Natural hot springs on the way
Chance to see bighorn sheep

Walk along the river

4 hour walk
Easy path to follow
Nice spot for a picnic lunch
Lots of birds and deer nearby



Key Terms

Panorama

Strenuous (difficult)

Breathtaking (amazing)

Get in gear (get in the mood for)

My Answer

Hey guys,

I know you want to relax all afternoon by the lake tomorrow, but one of the reasons we came on this trip is because we wanted an adventure. I think climbing the mountain would be a real adventure for us! I know it will be a strenuous hike, but we're here for a few more days, so we can relax for the rest of our time here. Even though it would be fun to do some fishing tomorrow, I think it would be way cooler to see some bighorn sheep! I've always wanted to see those animals in the wild. I know swimming all afternoon in the lake would be fun, but wouldn't you rather soak in the hot springs on our way back from the mountain? Those hot springs are supposed to provide a lot of health benefits for the body! Seeing the view from the top of the mountain would be breathtaking. One of the reasons I brought my camera is so that I could get some good panorama shots! Anyway, I hope I can persuade you guys to get in gear for a real adventure tomorrow!



Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your cousin recently borrowed your iPad when his family went on a road trip. After he returned it, you noticed a crack in the glass on the corner of the device. Call him up and explain the discovery. Ask him to pay for the repair.

Key Terms

Chip (small crack)

Usability (functionality)

Gets in the way (interferes with)

My Answer

Hey Judd,

It's Sam calling here. I'm just calling to talk about my iPad that you took on your road trip last week. I took a look at it today and noticed a chip in the top right corner of the display. I know it wasn't there before I lent it to you because I cleaned it right before giving it to you. The chip doesn't affect the usability of the phone, but it really gets in the way when I want to play certain games. For example, when I play Fortnite, I can't see the map in the top right corner. I called the Apple store to see how much a replacement screen would cost and they said \$200. I can't afford to fix the screen myself, so I'm wondering if you can pay for the damage. Anyway, I'm glad you could use the iPad on your trip, and I'd be happy to lend it to you again sometime.



Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

It is becoming common these days for children to have their own smartphones. Do you think this trend is good or bad? Explain your reasons.

Key Terms

Outdoors (out of the house)

Questionable (inappropriate)

Safeguard (protection)

My Answer

I think it's great to see more children with smartphones these days. It's definitely a growing trend and I think it has some really positive effects on the kids. One of the biggest benefits is that kids can stay in contact with their friends. If they are having problems understanding their homework, they can just send their friends a message asking for help. A lot of people think that smartphones prevent kids from spending time outdoors. In my experience, the opposite is true. Very often my son will get a text from his classmates inviting him to play soccer with them or go on a bike ride. I think if he didn't have his phone, he wouldn't go out as much. Another reason I think smartphones are great is because there is so much information online these days. Having a phone can make the learning process much easier for a kid. It teaches them how to do research and improves their problem solving skills. Very often my son will tell me a random fact about another country and I ask him where he learned that. He always says, "I asked Google!" A lot of people are concerned about the questionable content online these days. I think that's a valid concern, but there are things parents can do to safeguard against these things. For example, there are programs parents can install on the phone which prevent access to pornography and other inappropriate material. I don't think most parents know about these safeguards. The last reason I would give for why kids should have phones is that they are safer in an emergency. If they are ever in danger, they can call 911 or call me at home. I feel much better knowing that my son has a phone with him all the time. Anyway, those are some reasons why I think it's good for kids to have cellphones.

Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are on a safari in Africa and see a very strange animal. Unfortunately, your camera battery died and you couldn't take a picture! Call your friend at the end of the day and describe the animal you saw.



Key Terms

Shot (photo)

Cross (the baby of two different animals)

Giraffe

Elephant

Spots

Tiger

Ears

Trunk

Tusks

Cheeks

Visualize (picture it)

My Answer

Hey Julie,
It's Shannon calling here. I'm really loving my time in Africa! Today I saw the craziest animal! Unfortunately my camera battery died right before I could take a good shot of it! It was a pretty big, friendly-looking animal. It looked like a cross between a giraffe and an elephant. It had long legs and a long neck. It also had black spots like a giraffe. The difference though is that it was orange like a tiger. The whole head of the animal looked like an elephant, except it didn't have tusks. It had a long trunk and big ears. The whole head was grey, but its cheeks and the inside of its ears were pink. It also had a big smile on its face. I hope you can visualize it!



Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Your friend is trying to decide what to study in college. He just wants to make lots of money in life and doesn't care which industry he works in. Which field of study would you recommend for him?

Key Terms

Industry (a category of jobs)

Female-dominated (mostly female)

Virtually (practically)

Decent money (a good amount of money)

Layoffs (when people lose their job)

Downturn (get worse)

All the best (best wishes)

My Answer

Hey Scott,

I think I can give you some good advice in this area because I've been in the same situation you're in right now. I would recommend studying massage therapy. I know it sounds crazy because it's a female-dominated industry, but that's exactly why it's such a good opportunity for you. You might be tempted to study business or some other money related field because you want to get rich. Speaking from personal experience, it's really hard to get a rich this way because you're competing with so many other people for a limited number of jobs. If you study massage therapy, you will be in much higher demand because there are virtually no men in the industry. People don't usually think of massage therapy as high paying, but you can make some decent money and have flexible hours. The nice thing about massage therapy is that you can easily set up a home business. You won't have to worry about layoffs when the economy goes through a downturn. The other nice thing about massage therapy is that it's usually only a one or two year program, as opposed to a traditional 4-year degree. You'll start making money a lot faster! Anyway, I hope you find that advice helpful. All the best as you consider your options!



Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Talk about a purchase you regret making. Why do you regret it?

Key Terms

Bother (dissatisfied)

Frustrated

Import (bring into)

Convolutd (confusing)

Loathe (hate)

Annoy (bother)

Nightmare (very frustrating)

Device (electronic product)

My Answer

Three years ago I bought an iPhone. I was really excited when I bought it, but within a few days I started regretting my purchase. The first thing that bothered me was that I couldn't figure out how to transfer pictures from the phone to my computer. With my previous android phone, it was so easy to just copy them over. The second thing that really frustrated me was that I couldn't figure out how to get music from my computer onto the phone. I had to download iTunes, import my music into iTunes, then sync it with iTunes on my phone. What a convoluted process! I have loathed iTunes ever since that day. Another thing that annoyed me about the phone was that the battery life wasn't as good as I thought it would be. My friend had a Xiaomi phone and it got better battery life at half the cost! What the heck? I loved the design of the iPhone but it was a nightmare to use. I regret making that purchase and in the future I'm going to switch to an android device.



Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



Key Terms

On fire (burning)

Firemen

Fire truck

Roof

Ladder

Fire hydrant

Hose

Slide

Hula hoop (ring used for exercising)

Pigtails (hairstyle)

Desperately (urgently)

My Answer

In this picture, there's a house on fire. A man is standing on the roof of the house. A firetruck has arrived at the scene and two firemen are desperately trying to save the man. One fireman is connecting a hose to the fire hydrant and the other one is climbing a ladder to the roof. In the background, there are several kids playing. One kid is sliding down the slide. Another kid is riding his bike. A girl is playing with her hula hoop. A dog is sitting in front of the slide. To the left of the girl, there is a large tree. There's also a blue sky with white puffy clouds in the background.

Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Make predictions



Key Terms

Spray

Put out (extinguish)

Two-story (two floors)

Siren (flashing red light and sound)

Cab (inside front part of truck)

Unfold (develop)

Safe and sound (safe and unharmed)

My Answer

There are a few things that will definitely happen next in this scene. The fireman on the ground will finish connecting the hose to the fire hydrant and then start spraying water on the fire. It might take him a while, but I think in the end he'll put it out. Then he might run into the house and see if there are any people inside. The fireman on the ladder will climb to the roof of the house and save the guy who's in danger. The guy can't jump down because it's a two-story house and he'll break his legs if he does. After saving the guy, the fireman will climb into the cab of the fire truck and turn off the siren. The kids will probably come closer to the house and watch the scene unfold. In the end, everyone will be safe and sound.

Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your family wants to buy a new computer. You are trying to decide between a desktop or a laptop. Choose the option you prefer and persuade your family that your choice is better.

<u>Desktop</u>	<u>Laptop</u>
Cost: \$1500	Cost: \$1000
Warranty: 2 years	Warranty: 1 year
Large screen size	Medium screen size
Good for watching movies	Good for doing schoolwork



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

**Your brother is recommending a tablet.
Convince him that your choice is better.**

Tablet

Cost: \$700
Warranty: 6 months
Small screen size
Excellent battery life

Desktop

Cost: \$1500
Warranty: 2 years
Large screen size
Good for watching movies

Laptop

Cost: \$1000
Warranty: 1 year
Medium screen size
Good for doing schoolwork



Key Terms

Tendency (likelihood, habit)

Surfing the web (browsing the internet)

Worth it (valuable enough)

My Answer

Hey Ryan,

I know you're recommending the tablet, but I think the laptop would be a better choice for several reasons. First, it has a longer warranty. That's really important for our family because we have the tendency to break stuff! Second, it has a bigger screen which would be better for watching movies and surfing the web. Third, it would be better for doing schoolwork on. Typing on a tablet is so frustrating. I mean, I know you can buy external keyboards for tablets, but that would cost extra and it would be a hassle to carry around. I know the tablet has better battery life, but I think the laptop battery will be more than enough for us. We never leave the house for more than six or seven hours anyway, so we can just charge it whenever we're at home. Even though the tablet is \$300 cheaper, I think the extra price is worth it because we can do more things with the laptop and it has a longer warranty. Anyway, those are some reasons why I think we should definitely get the laptop instead of the tablet.



Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You recently booked flight tickets for your vacation to Mexico next month. Your colleague has suddenly announced his surprise wedding which takes place over the dates of your vacation. Either call the airline company and ask for a refund, or call your colleague and explain to him why you can't attend his wedding.

Key Terms

Switch (move)

In spirit (in thought)

My Answer

Hey Ron,
It's Greg calling here. I just found out that you're getting married! Congratulations! It came as a real surprise to me. I had no idea you were even thinking of getting married anytime soon. I wish I had known about this earlier because I booked my vacation to Mexico yesterday! I called the airline this morning asking if I could switch the dates, but unfortunately they said I couldn't. If I cancel the flight, I'll only be refunded 50% of the cost. So unfortunately I won't be able to attend the wedding, but I'll be with you in spirit! And I'll be sure to bring you back an exotic present from Mexico! I hope you have a great wedding!



Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

The gap between the rich and the poor is greater than ever before in history. The richest eight people control as much wealth as the poorest half of the world's population. Do you think governments should increase taxes on the rich?

Key Terms

Accountant

Tax loopholes (way to escape taxes)

Corner (trap)

Yacht (luxury boat)

Renovated (fixed, improved)

Reputation

Step in (intervene, get involved)

Adequately (enough)

My Answer

I believe the government should increase taxes on the rich for several reasons. First off, rich people actually don't pay their fair share in taxes. They just hire accountants to find all the tax loopholes for them. So, the government not only needs to increase the taxes, but they also need to close the tax loopholes. Someone might respond by saying, "Well, if you close the tax loopholes, rich people will just move their money overseas." That's a very good point, and I would say governments should prevent that from happening. The recent discovery of the Panama Papers showed that rich people will go to any extreme to avoid taxes. That's why the government needs to corner these people and force them to pay their fair share in taxes. Another reason I think governments should increase taxes on the rich is because many services in the country are paid for by taxes. For example, schools, highways, and hospitals are all paid for by taxes. Rich people can afford to contribute more to the country. I mean, which is more important, that a rich person buys a new yacht, or that a school is renovated? I would say the school is much more important. That brings me to my third reason, rich people simply don't need the amount of luxury they currently have. If a rich person like Paris Hilton buys a handbag for \$100,000 instead of helping poor people, that proves that she's greedy and the government should tax her more. Rich people have a bad reputation when it comes to helping poor people. Not only that, but poor people are often exploited by the rich. That's why I think the government needs to step in and make sure poor people are adequately taken care of.



Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are on a road trip in Western Canada and suddenly see a dangerous situation about to happen. Call emergency services and describe what you see. Ask them to send help.



Key Terms

Bullet train (high speed train)

About to happen (will happen soon)

Remote (isolated, inaccessible)

My Answer

Hi,

My name is Sheila, and I'm driving on a highway toward Calgary at the moment. I'm about 140kms away from Calgary, and I see a really dangerous thing about to happen. I see a bullet train crossing a tall bridge, and part of the bridge is broken. I'm sure the train is going to fall into the river! Please send emergency services to the scene! I think a lot of people are going to get injured so you'll need to send as many ambulances as you can. Also, I think you'll need to send a helicopter ambulance because the bridge is in a pretty remote area. I hope you can send help as soon as possible.

Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Your friend is moving to a new country. She doesn't know anything about the culture. Give her advice on how to make friends when she gets there.

Key Terms

Personable (easy to make friends with)

Perceived (seen as)

Laid back (relaxed)

Reciprocate (respond in the same way)

Be yourself (act normal)

My Answer

Hey Linda,

I'm so happy to hear that you're going to India! I can give you some good advice because I've been there a few times. The first thing you need to know is that Indian people are very friendly and personable, so you won't have any trouble making friends! There are a few things you should know though. Indian culture is more formal than Western culture. For example, if someone comes to your house for a visit, you should greet them at the door and invite them in. After the greetings, you should offer them some tea. If you don't do these things, you will be perceived as rude. Even though the culture is more formal, it's also more laid back. For example, I made friends with a local shopkeeper there and sat in his store with him for hours and practiced my Hindi. Can you imagine something like that happening in Canada? Not a chance! The nice thing about Indian culture is that if you make one friend, it'll easily lead to other friendships. For example, the shopkeeper invited me to his cousin's wedding. I had a great time and made so many new friends! If you're friendly to Indian people, they'll reciprocate that! Just be yourself and always remember to thank people for their hospitality!



Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Talk about your favourite childhood memory. What happened and why was it memorable?



Key Terms

Remember it like it was yesterday

(remember it very well)

Gaming console (Xbox, Playstation)

Family friends (a friend of our family)

Lend (give temporarily)

Bunch (several)

Brand (company)

Addicted

Day and night (all the time)

Distraught (very sad)

Reluctant (hesitating, not willing to)

Twisted his arm (convinced)

Get my hands on (touch, use, feel)

Controller (the thing you hold for games)

Ecstatic (overjoyed)

My Answer

So, when I was about 10 years old, one of our family friends lent us their gaming console. I can't even remember what brand it was, but it had a bunch of games on it. My brothers and I got so addicted to it. We played played games on that thing day and night for about a month. When we had to give it back to our friend, we were so distraught. The next day we asked our dad if we could buy one. He was reluctant at first, but after a few weeks we twisted his arm. I remember going to the shop and looking at all the games and consoles. I was in heaven. I couldn't wait to get my hands on a controller! We found a good console and my dad bought it for us. We were ecstatic! I remember that moment like it was yesterday.

Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



Key Terms

Swimming pool

Desert

Sand dune (sand hills)

Beach

Diving board

Lifeguard

Waterslide

Pool chair (beach chair)

Sunbathing

Beach umbrella

Palm trees

Bushes

Puffy (fluffy)

Keeping watch (ensuring safety)

My Answer

This is a picture of a swimming pool in the middle of the desert. There are sand dunes around the pool with several palm trees and bushes. In the background, there is a blue sky with several white puffy clouds. There are two waterslides with some kids going down one of the slides. Below the waterslides, two boys are playing with a ball. On the left side of the picture, there are two diving boards. A big guy is on the high diving board and a boy is on the lower one. Between the diving boards and the waterslides, there's a lifeguarding keeping watch over the kids. In the lower right corner, there are two women sunbathing on light blue pool chairs. Alright, that's what I can see in the picture.

Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Make predictions



Key Terms

Husky (nice way to say “fat”)

Splash

Bored

Sunscreen (sun protection lotion)

Sunburned

Margarita (cold fruity drink)

Drown

Dive

Safe

Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation
(an emergency procedure)

Hit (start doing)

Inhale (breathe in)

My Answer

In this scene, there are several things that will happen next. First, the husky guy on the high diving board will jump into the pool and make a huge splash. Then, the kid on the lower diving board will dive into the water and swim toward the waterslides. The two boys playing with the ball will get bored and hit the diving boards. One of them will inhale water and start to drown. The lifeguard will dive into the pool and pull him out. Then he'll start doing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on him. The two women in the bottom right corner will put on some sunscreen to prevent getting sunburned. Then they'll order some margaritas from a nearby restaurant. Alright, those are some things that I think will happen in this picture.



Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You have received two job offers. Choose the one you prefer and persuade your family to support your preference.

Bank teller

Working hours: 9am-5pm

Wage: \$17/hr

Vacation time: 2 weeks

Benefits: dental and vision

Construction worker

Working hours: 2pm-10pm

Wage: \$23/hr

Vacation time: 1 week

Benefits: massage therapy



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You suddenly receive another job offer to work as an ice cream truck driver. Your family wants you to take this job.

Ice cream truck driver

Working hours: weekends only 10am-10pm

Wage: \$30/hr

No vacation time

Benefits: free ice cream for family

Bank teller

Working hours: 9am-5pm

Wage: \$17/hr

Vacation time: 2 weeks

Benefits: dental and vision

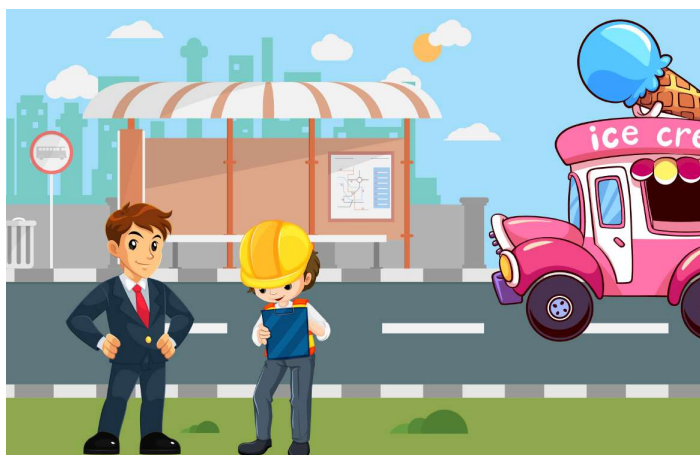
Construction worker

Working hours: 2pm-10pm

Wage: \$23/hr

Vacation time: 1 week

Benefits: massage therapy



Key Terms

24/7 (all day, every day)

Stability

Hourly wage

Epic (Awesome)

My Answer

Hey guys,

I know you're really excited about the possibility of eating free ice cream 24/7, but I want to explain why I think it would be better if I take the bank position. I want our family to have stability in the future. I think the bank job will provide our family with the most stability. I'll have a good schedule with a decent salary. I also want to be a good parent. I want to spend time with you guys in the evenings and on weekends. The nice thing about the bank job is that I'll get two weeks of holidays. We can go on a fun road trip across Canada! One of the problems with the ice cream job is that there's no vacation time. Even though the hourly wage is higher with that job, the total hours would be a lot less since I would only be working Saturday and Sunday. Another big consideration is that the bank job provides benefits for our whole family. I want to make sure you guys have good vision and dental care. Overall, the best way to provide for you guys is if I take the bank job. Just wait till we go on an epic family trip this summer. You'll know I made the right decision!



Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You recently bought a three month membership at the swimming pool near your house. One week after buying the pass, the hot tub and sauna were shut down for renovations which will last two months. Call the swimming pool and voice your complaint. Demand a full or partial refund.



Key Terms

Facilities (pool, gym, hot tub, etc.)

Undergoing (going through)

Informed (made aware of)

My Answer

Hello,

My name is Wendy, and I recently bought a three month membership at your pool.

Yesterday, when I came to use your facilities, I found that the sauna and hot tub were closed. I asked one of the other members about it and they said the sauna and hot tub are undergoing renovations which will last for two months. I couldn't believe it because nobody informed me about that when I bought the membership! The sauna was the main reason why I bought the membership to begin with! I will still use the swimming pool a few times a week, but I am really disappointed that I won't get to use the sauna and hot tub. I would like a 70% refund of my membership cost to make up for this inconvenience.



Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Frequent flyers often complain about crying babies on their flights. Should airlines consider banning children under 5 years old from their flights?

Key Terms

Long-haul (long-distance)

Revenue (income)

Cutoff age (age limit)

Raucous (disturbance)

Diapers (baby underwear)

Get on somebody's nerves (annoy)

My Answer

I believe airlines should ban children under the age of five from traveling on their planes. The first reason I think this is because children under the age of five cause the most problems for the rest of the passengers. Very often a baby will be screaming for hours on a long-haul flight. This is extremely frustrating for business passengers who need to get some rest on the flight. If airlines banned babies from their flights, more business travellers would want to fly with their company. This would boost their customer satisfaction. Also, it would boost a company's revenue because more people would want to travel on their planes. I read an article recently that said 75% of travellers are single people travelling for business. These people would definitely enjoy a quiet flight without screaming babies! I think five years old is a good cutoff age because kids older than five rarely cause a ruckus. Also, kids this age don't need to have their diapers changed, so they won't take up as much bathroom time. It's frustrating when there is a line for the bathroom and someone is taking a long time changing their baby. One time I was on a flight from Karachi to Istanbul and a mother spent about 35 minutes in the bathroom with her baby. All the passengers were getting really impatient. Then, after she got out of the bathroom, her baby was screaming for like an hour. It was definitely getting on everyone's nerves! Anyway, those are some reasons why I think airlines should ban kids under the age of five.



Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are hiking in the mountains and come across a strange scene. It looks like two people are climbing a cliff to steal some eggs from a bird's nest. Call a park ranger and tell him about your concerns. Describe your location to him.



Key Terms

Report (notify about something)

Disturbing (harmful)

Endangered (facing extinction)

Binoculars (device used to see far away)

Surroundings (things nearby)

Log cabin (small wooden house)

Lumberjack (wood cutter)

ASAP (As Soon As Possible)

My Answer

Hi,

My name is Jack, and I'm hiking in Redstone National Park. I would just like to report a disturbing scene. I see two people climbing a cliff toward a bird's nest. They don't look like typical climbers at all. I think they might be trying to steal the eggs in the nest. Or they might be trying to kill or capture the bird. It looks like a rare species. It might be endangered. It has a purple body with blue wings and a pink breast. I think both climbers are women, but it's hard to tell cause I'm far away. I'm using my binoculars. One of the climbers seems to be wearing a business outfit with high heels. The other climber is wearing a green suit with a green helmet. I'm not exactly sure of my location, but I'll describe my surroundings to you. There are mountains in the distance and a big valley between me and the mountains. There's a log cabin in the valley with a lumberjack cutting down a tree. Anyway, I hope you can come to the scene ASAP.



Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Your friend is thinking of joining a sports team this summer, but she doesn't know anything about sports. Which sport would you recommend for her?

Key Terms

Take up (start an activity)

Rec league (recreation league - casual/fun)

Net (goal)

A ton (a lot of)

Pop (Coke, Sprite, Root Beer, etc)

Cleats (soccer shoes)

Have a blast (have a good time)

My Answer

Hey Zoe,

I think it's great that you want to take up a sport for the summer! I would recommend joining a soccer team. There are lots of rec leagues that you could join for the summer. These are just casual leagues for people who want to have fun and get some exercise. It's okay if you don't have any experience playing soccer! The nice thing about soccer is that it's not a hard sport to understand. Basically, you just try to get the ball into the other team's net. Just remember that in soccer you can't use your hands or arms! The nice thing about a team sport is that there will be others on the team who can give you some coaching if you don't know what to do. You'll probably make a lot of friends if you join a soccer team. Last summer I joined a soccer team and I made a ton of friends! After most games, we would either go to a pub or go to someone's house for a BBQ. That was actually the best part! I was hoping to lose some weight by playing soccer, but I actually gained weight because of all the hamburgers and pop I had after the games! The other nice thing about soccer is that it's really cheap to play. It costs about \$50 to join the league, and if you don't have cleats, you can just use running shoes. Anyway, I'd really recommend playing soccer and I think you'll have a blast!



Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Talk about how you met your best friend.

Key Terms

Just so happened (by chance)

Hit it off (instant connection)

Gym (place for indoor sports)

My Answer

When I was in my first year of college, I met my best friend Rubina. We were in the same marketing class and sat next to each other. The college was in Toronto, but we just so happened to be from the same city in India! When we discovered that fact about each other, we immediately hit it off. We spent the rest of that semester studying together every day. We had other things in common too. For example, her and I used to play badminton in India, so we would go to the college gym every weekend and play badminton with each other. She also loved cooking, so I would invite her to my house for cooking nights. One time we tried cooking spaghetti for the first time and we overcooked it and the noodles turned to mush. We gave it to my cat instead of eating it ourselves. Our friendship grew a lot in college, and after college we each got married and had our own families. We live in different cities now, but we still talk every week on Skype.



Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



Key Terms

Desert island (tropical island)

Lion

Clear water

Shark

Octopus

Tropical Fish

Coral

Parrot

Rowboat

Signpost

Tuft (small clump)

Shore (place where land meets water)

Jagged (sharp and pointy)

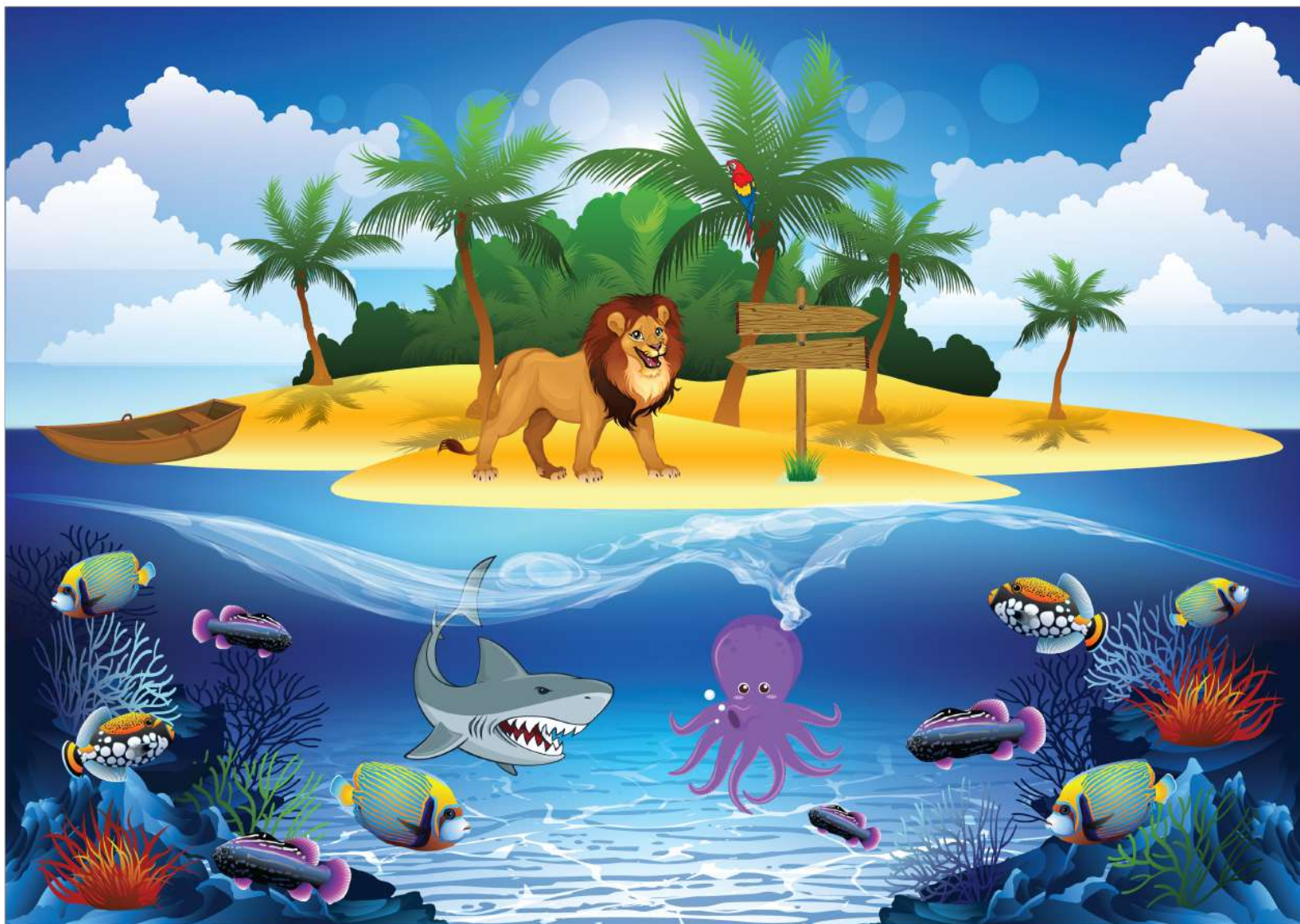
My Answer

This is a picture of a desert island in the middle of the ocean. The island has palm trees and golden sand on it. In the middle of the picture, there is a lion. To the right of the lion, there is a signpost with a tuft of grass under it. In the trees above the signpost, there is a red parrot. On the left shore of the island, there is a small rowboat. The foreground of the picture shows an underwater scene. In the centre, there is a shark with jagged teeth and a purple octopus. On the bottom corners of the picture there are colourful tropical fish and a variety of sea plants including coral. In the background, there is a blue sky with white puffy clouds. Those are a few things I can see in the picture.

Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Make predictions



Key Terms

Repel (resist)

Distract (take attention away from)

Nap

Warn

Treasure

Pirate

My Answer

In this scene, there are several things that I think will happen next. First, the shark will attack the octopus, but the octopus will repel the attack. The fish will try to help the octopus by distracting the shark. In the end the shark will give up the fight and swim away. On the island, the lion will start looking for some lunch because it is hungry. I think there is a pirate on the island who came searching for treasure. The lion will try to find him and eat him. The parrot will fly to the pirate and try to warn him that the lion is coming. Then the pirate will climb a tree to stay safe. The lion will give up his search and take a nap under a tree. In the end, the pirate will row back to his ship and continue his hunt for treasure.