

Question 5

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

Your family is considering taking up a winter activity. Choose an option and persuade your family that your choice is better.

Hockey

Cost: \$1000

Distance to rink: 2kms

2 games per week

Season length: 4 months

Skiing

Cost: \$1500

Distance to ski hill: 100kms

Go every weekend

Season length: 6 months



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

Your family is recommending curling.

Curling

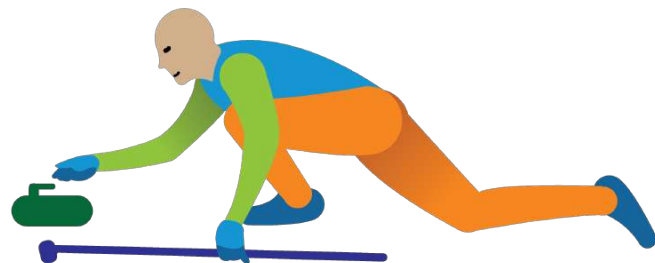
Cost: \$400
Distance to rink: 4kms
3 games per week
Season length: 5 months

Hockey

Cost: \$1000
Distance to rink: 2kms
2 games per week
Season length: 4 months

Skiing

Cost: \$1500
Distance to ski hill: 100kms
Go every weekend
Season length: 6 months



Key Terms

Blood pumping (increase heart rate)
Hit the slopes (go skiing)

My Answer

Hey guys,
I'm really excited about doing a family activity together this winter. I know you guys are suggesting curling, but I think skiing would be a lot better for us. One of the reasons we wanted to do an activity together is so that we would get fresh air and exercise. Curling is fun, but it won't really get our blood pumping. Think of the great exercise we would get if we hit the slopes every weekend! Even though curling is a lot cheaper, the cost doesn't really matter because grandma gave us enough money to cover any activity we choose. I know curling is a lot more frequent, but the thing is that we're pretty busy during the week and I don't think we could even go that often. I have band practice twice a week, and I'm not sure when I would find time to do my homework if we also went curling three times a week. I think one all-day activity would be better than three short activities during the week. Anyway, those are the reasons why I think we should definitely pick skiing!



Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You recently bought a new pair of shoes and realize that they are slightly too small. You want to exchange them for a larger pair but you can't find the receipt! Call the store and explain your problem. Ask if you can exchange your shoes.

Key Terms

Pick them out (select them)

Store clerk (store worker)

My Answer

Hi,

My name is Beth, and I recently bought a pair of shoes from your store. After arriving home, I tried them on and realized that they're a bit too small. I should have gotten half a size larger. I would like to come back and exchange them, but I can't find my receipt. I'm wondering if I can still exchange them without a receipt? If you need proof of purchase, I have my credit card statement which shows the name of your store and a purchase of \$89.95. Also, I remember the store clerk who helped me pick them out. His name was Brandon. I think he'll remember helping me if you ask him. Anyway, I'm just wondering if I can come in this afternoon to exchange them.



Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Some people are allergic to fragrances such as perfumes and colognes. Do you think fragrances should be banned in public places to make life easier for people with these allergies?

Key Terms

Perfume (fragrance for women)

Cologne (fragrance for men)

Barely (hardly)

Alternatives (other options)

My Answer

In my opinion, fragrances should be banned in public for several reasons. First, a lot of people these days are allergic to fragrances. If stores and shopping malls were fragrance free, it would improve the quality of life for so many people. Even for people who aren't allergic to fragrances, I think they would appreciate it too. For example, last week I was on a flight from Houston to Vancouver. The woman next to me was wearing such strong perfume! I could barely breathe. Then, when I was in a taxi going home from the airport, the driver was wearing really weird smelling cologne. Both those experiences are examples of how normal people can have negative experiences with fragrance too. I would say that I don't like about 90% of fragrances on the market today. And I'm not even allergic to them! Another reason I think fragrances should be banned is because fragrances are basically just chemicals that we breathe into our lungs. It's not healthy for the whole population to be breathing in those chemicals. There are natural alternatives that people can use instead of perfumes and colognes. Actually, I bought some natural soap a few months ago and it is the best soap I've ever used! My skin feels so soft. I realized that my dry skin problem was caused by using soap filled with chemicals! I think our society would be so much healthier if we got rid of chemicals completely. Anyway, those the reasons why I think fragrances should be banned in public.



Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are in a hat store and see a very interesting hat that you think your friend will like. Call your friend and describe it to him/her. Ask if you should buy it.



Key Terms

Baseball cap

Drink holders

Cans

Pop (Canadian word for soda)

Straw

Merge (become one)

Sporting event

Instantly

Break the bank (hurt financially)

My Answer

Hey Josh,
It's Tim here. I'm just in a hat store right now and I'm looking at a really weird hat. I'm just wondering if you'd want me to buy it for you. I'll describe it to you. It's a yellow baseball cap with two drink holders attached to the sides. Each holder is holding a can of pop or beer. There is a straw coming out of each can and then both straws merge into one straw and that straw goes into your mouth so that you can drink from both cans at the same time. I think you could use this hat at sporting events or at parties. I know you like weird stuff like this so I thought of you instantly when I saw it. It only costs 20 bucks, so it won't break the bank if I buy it, but I don't want to buy it for you if you won't use it. Let me know what you think.



Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Your cousin wants to start learning a musical instrument. Which instrument would you recommend for him?

Key Terms

Take up (start an activity)

Resources

Semi-pro (almost professional)

Half-decent (pretty good)

Pick up (buy)

Bucks (dollars)

Kijiji (a popular website for used things)

Poking around (looking / browsing)

Really (very)

Lug (carry)

My Answer

Hey Sam,

I think it's great that you want to take up an instrument! I would recommend guitar for several reasons. First, there are so many resources to help you learn. I have a friend who became semi-pro by just watching YouTube videos and teaching himself! So you don't even have to spend any money on lessons. The second reason why I would recommend guitar is because the instrument itself is really cheap. For under a hundred bucks, you can pick up a new beginner model or a half-decent used one. There are so many used guitars listed on Kijiji. I'd recommend poking around on there for a while. You need to be careful though. You don't want to buy one that has any problems. My brother knows a lot about guitars, so I could ask him to go with you when you find one you want to look at. Another reason why I'd recommend taking up guitar is because the instrument is really portable. If you want to join a band in the future, you can just take your guitar wherever you go. Imagine trying to lug a piano everywhere! You would need to buy a truck for that! My brother has a backpack style case for his guitar and he just skateboards to his friend's house every evening for band practice. Anyway, those are some reasons why I'd recommend taking up guitar. Have fun making your decision!



Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about a time you
overcame a challenge.**

Key Terms

Hit with (experienced)

Bout (case)

Drastically (in a big way)

Insomnia

Countless (many)

Turned the corner (started making progress)

Persevere (keep going despite hardship)

Trial (hard time)

My Answer

Four years ago, I got hit with a serious bout of depression. It drastically affected my life. I couldn't work for a whole year. It felt like a storm cloud of negative thoughts was always over my head and I couldn't get rid of it no matter how hard I tried. I developed insomnia over that time. I saw several doctors and counsellors, but they couldn't help me. I did a lot of my own research over that time. I watched countless YouTube videos of people who had depression. Their stories encouraged me and gave me the strength to keep trying. Finally after a long time, I turned the corner on my depression. Now I've made a full recovery and I can work again and live a normal life. Looking back on that challenge, I'm thankful for it now because I can help other people who are struggling with the illness. I'm really proud of myself for persevering through that trial, and I consider myself a better person because of it.

Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



Key Terms

Backyard

Fence

Gate

Tree house

Base (bottom)

Ladder

Inflatable pool

Helicopter

Skydiving

German shepherd (kind of dog)

Squirrel

My Answer

This is a picture of a backyard. There's a wooden fence that goes around the yard with a big wooden gate in it. There's green grass and colourful flowers all around the yard. On the left side of the picture, there's a big tree with a tree house in it. A boy is playing in it. Near the base of the tree, a baby is climbing the ladder to the tree house. His mother is running from the other side of the yard to take him off the ladder. On the right side of the picture, a girl is playing in an inflatable pool. Her brother is playing with a car beside the pool. In the background, there is a helicopter and a man is falling out. Maybe he's skydiving. There's also a blue sky, a sun, and some white clouds. Alright, that's what I can see in the picture.

Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Make predictions



Key Terms

Injure

Parachute

Bark

Grab (take)

Clinic (doctor's office)

My Answer

In this scene, there are several things that I think will happen next. The mother will run and grab her baby off the ladder. I think the boy playing in the tree house will fall and injure himself. His mom will take him to a clinic to make sure he's okay. The boy playing on the grass will get bored and join his sister in the swimming pool. The dog will start barking at the squirrel and try to catch it. The man who is falling will pull his parachute and land safely. I think more skydivers will jump out of the helicopter. Okay, those are some predictions I'll make about the picture.

Question 5

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

Your family inherited money from your grandpa. You are considering buying a new vehicle. Choose the option you prefer and persuade your family to agree with your choice.

Jeep

Cost: \$30,000

Purpose: driving in the mountains

Number of seats: 4

Good fuel economy

Camper van

Cost: \$40,000

Purpose: going on road trips

Number of seats: 7

Bad fuel economy



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

Your family is recommending a boat.

Boat

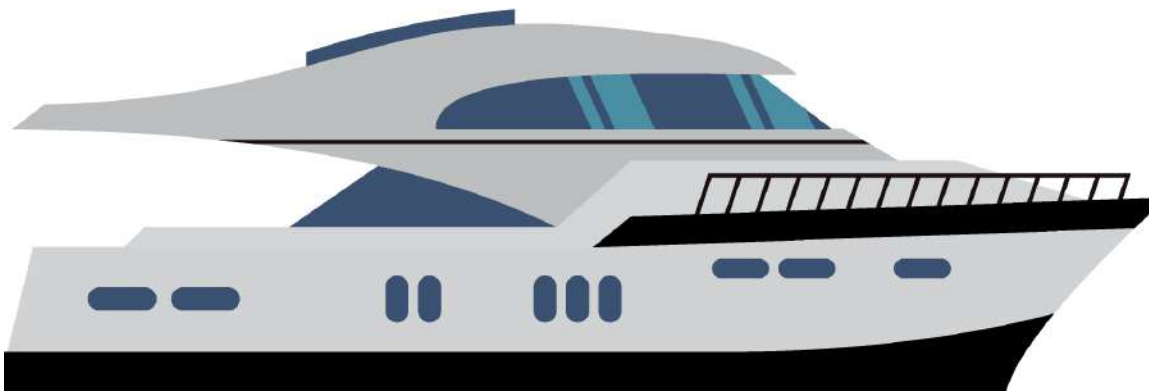
Cost: \$70,000
Purpose: fishing
Capacity: 10 people
Fuel economy: extremely bad

Jeep

Cost: \$30,000
Purpose: driving in the mountains
Number of seats: 4
Good fuel economy

Camper van

Cost: \$40,000
Purpose: going on road trips
Number of seats: 7
Bad fuel economy



Key Terms

Off-roading (driving on unpaved roads)

4 x 4 (pronounced four by four)

Sea-doo (jet ski)

Dock (wooden platform beside water)

My Answer

Hey guys,
I'm so happy we can buy a new vehicle this summer! I know you're suggesting getting a boat, but I think it would be better if we bought the jeep. Our family has always loved off-roading. If we had a 4x4, think of all the cool places we could go! We could go on so many awesome trips in the mountains. I know the boat can carry more people, but it doesn't really matter because our family only has four people anyway. So the jeep is perfect for us! Another reason why I think we should get the jeep over the boat is because it's a fraction of the cost. We could spend that extra \$40,000 on a sea-doo! I know you guys really like fishing, but we can just fish from the dock. I think going on adventures in the jeep would be way cooler than just sitting in a boat. Anyway, that's my two cents. I hope you guys agree!



Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your grandparents are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this Saturday. Your classmate, Anna, needs urgent help with a school project on Saturday. She might fail her class if you don't help her. Talk to either your grandparents or Anna and explain your situation.

Key Terms

Stay up (stay awake)

Festivities (celebrations)

Family gathering (extended family gets together)

My Answer

Hey Anna,
It's Cynthia calling here. I'm just calling to talk about this weekend. I know you asked me to help you with your big project on Saturday. I just remembered that my grandparents are having their 50th wedding anniversary that day! I feel so bad that I won't be able to help you! My entire extended family will be there, and we're going to take family pictures. It will be the biggest family gathering we've had in over 10 years. I was thinking of several options to solve this situation. One option would be staying up really late on Saturday night. I could help you after all the festivities are over. Another option is that Amanda from our class is really smart with this stuff and we could ask her to help you with the project. Anyway, those are two options we could think about. I'm really sorry again!



Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Many parents are choosing to homeschool their children because they have lost faith in the education system. Should the government make it mandatory for children to attend a normal school?

Key Terms

Jaded (tired, bored)

Junior high (grade 7,8,9)

Retain (keep)

Bullying

Squashed (killed)

Peer pressure (pressure to conform)

My Answer

In my opinion, governments should not make it mandatory for children to attend normal school. There are several reasons why I believe this. Firstly, kids often get jaded with the school system by the time they reach junior high. If they are homeschooled, they retain their love for learning. Often kids face bullying in junior high and high school if they are different in some way. This doesn't happen in homeschooling because the kids just learn at home! I think it's good if children's uniqueness can be encouraged instead of squashed by peer pressure. A lot of people say that kids who are homeschooled end up lacking good social skills. In my experience, this isn't true at all. My nephews and nieces are homeschooled, and they have lots of friends! Actually, they seem to participate in society even more than normal students do. I think the biggest reason why parents choose to homeschool their kids is so that they can teach their kids certain values. I've met many homeschooling parents who didn't want their kids learning about sex education in school. A lot of homeschooling families are religious, so it makes sense that they might want their children to grow up with similar values as they had. I think that right should be respected. People should have the freedom to raise their family however they like. Anyway, those are just a few reasons why I think governments should keep allowing homeschooling.

Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are in a shopping mall and see a very strange man standing outside a store. Call your friend and describe what you see.



Key Terms

Costume

Promotion

Easter

Broken through

Cracked

Sleeves

Pants

Bowling shoes (shoes for bowling)

Turquoise (blue green)

My Answer

Hey Bill,

It's Bob here. I'm just in Willowbrook Mall right now and I see a really funny thing. There's a guy wearing an egg costume standing outside a store. I'm not sure why he's standing there. It might be for some sort of promotion. Maybe the store sells eggs. Or maybe it has something to do with Easter. I'll just describe what the guy looks like so you can picture it. The main part of the costume is the shell of the egg. It almost covers the guy's whole body. His arms and legs have broken through the shell, and the shell is cracked in those areas. The top of the shell is brown, but most of the egg is white. There is a yellow yolk in the middle of the egg. It looks like it's sliding down the front of the shell. The man has brown sleeves and brown pants. His shoes are orange and turquoise. They sort of look like bowling shoes. He's also wearing glasses and a red bow tie. Anyway, I hope that gives you a good idea of what he looks like.



Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Your brother wants to buy his girlfriend a nice present for Valentine's Day. Give him some advice on what he should buy her.



Key Terms

Obsessed with (crazy about)

Poster

Display (glass counter showing products)

Chain

Embedded (fixed into)

Elegant (classy)

My Answer

Hey Greg,

It's great that you want to get Britney a nice present for Valentine's Day. I would recommend a pair of diamond earrings. I think she would love them so much because you know she's obsessed with jewelry. She's always wearing new earrings or a new necklace. And girls always love diamonds! The nice thing about diamonds is that they match with anything. If you got her something pink or red, it would only match with certain clothing. Last week when I was at Sunridge Mall, I walked past a jewelry store and there was a poster in the window that said "50% off everything. No payments for 6 months!" I also noticed a pair of diamond earrings in one of the displays for \$399. If you got 50% off that price, that means you'd only have to pay \$200 after 6 months. I know you just started your new job and probably can't afford \$200 now, but after 6 months, you should easily be able to afford \$200. The earrings were basically a thin silver chain with the diamonds embedded in a silver ring on the end of the chain. They looked really simple yet elegant. I think they would match her style perfectly! And if she doesn't like them, I saw that the store has a 3 month return policy. Anyway, that's what I would recommend! Good luck in your search!



Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about the most fun party
you ever attended.**

Key Terms

Brand new (very new)

Cultural Vocabulary

Eid (Muslim festival)

Shalwar Kameez (Pakistani clothing)

Halwa (kind of dessert)

*** Remember to explain foreign words.**

My Answer

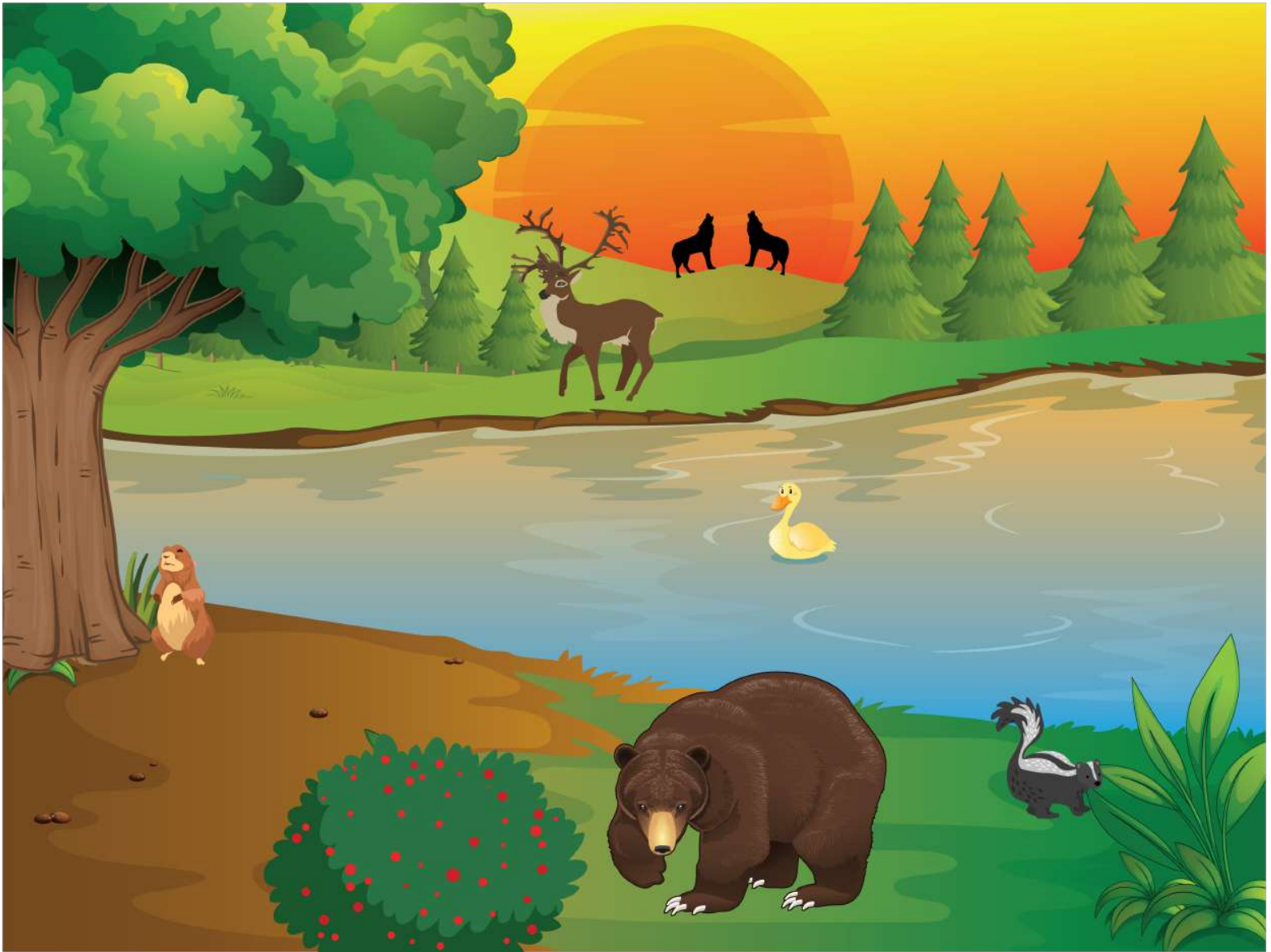
The most fun party I ever attended was an Eid party at my uncle's house in Lahore, Pakistan. Eid is the most important festival in Muslim countries like Pakistan. My family was living in Multan at the time, and we traveled by train to Lahore to celebrate Eid with my uncle. In Pakistan, parties are never just one day. They usually last several days. My family spent a week at my uncle's house. On the first day of Eid me and my brothers got brand new clothes. I got a new light blue shalwar kameez which is the local style of dress in Pakistan. It was fun to see my cousins again. We flew kites and played so many games all day and night! We also ate so much good food. That was probably the best part of the trip! My family had brought lots of halwa from Multan to celebrate the festival. Halwa is a special kind of dessert. Multan is known for making the best halwa. I ate so much of it! Anyway, I had such a great time at that party and I'll never forget it!



Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



Key Terms

Grizzly (kind of bear)

Bush

Berries

Skunk

Beaver

Oak tree

Base (bottom)

Patch (area)

Dirt

Lake (or river)

Duck

Pine trees

Wolves

Howling

Sunrise (or sunset)

Deer

Bank (shore)



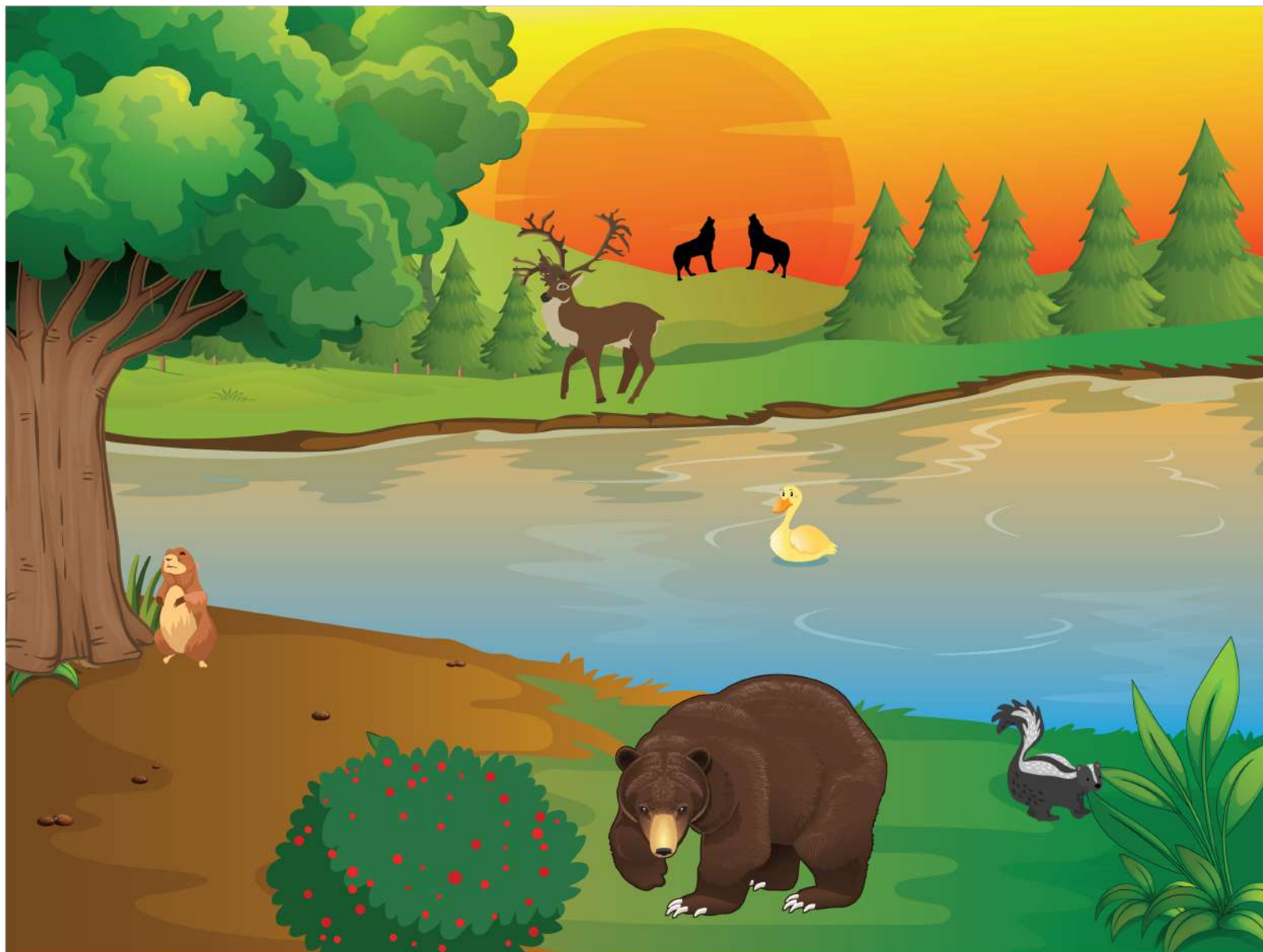
My Answer

This is a picture of a typical forest scene. There is a lake in the middle of the picture with a duck swimming on it. In the bottom of the picture, there's a grizzly bear eating berries from a bush. Behind the grizzly, there's a skunk. On the left side of the picture, there's a big oak tree with a beaver under it. Around the base of the oak tree, there's a big patch of dirt with no grass. On the opposite bank, there's a deer close to the water and two wolves howling in the background. There are also a few pine trees and a beautiful orange sunset!

Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Make predictions



Key Terms

Spray

Gnaw (chew)

Cut down

Dam (beaver's house)

Munch (eat)

Retaliate (get revenge)

Out of sight (can't see it anymore)

Nightfall (when darkness comes)

My Answer

In this scene, there are several things I think will happen next. The bear will keep munching on the berries, but the skunk will get scared and spray the bear. The bear will retaliate and kill the skunk. The beaver will start gnawing on the tree trunk and try to cut the tree down because it wants to build a dam. The duck will keep swimming toward the left side of the picture until it is out of sight. The deer will get scared by the wolves and run away. The wolves will probably keep howling until nightfall and then go hunting. Alright, those are some things I think will happen next in this scene.

Question 5

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

You and your spouse have decided to renovate one room of the house this summer. Which room do you think it should be? Persuade your spouse that your choice is better.

Bedroom

Cost: \$4000

New paint and carpets

Length of project: 1 month

Do it yourself

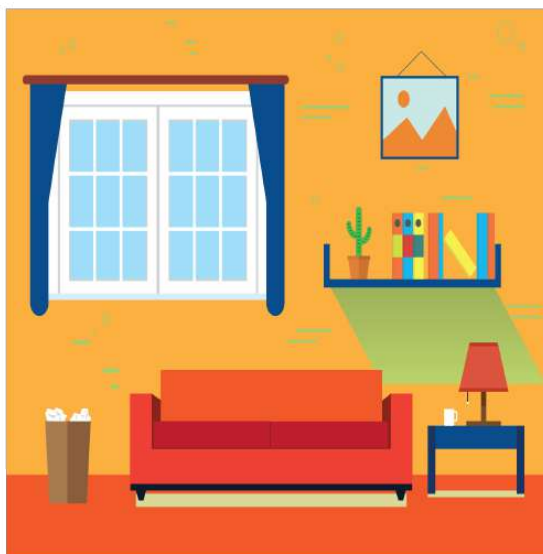
Living room

Cost: \$7000

New windows and floor

Length of project: 2 weeks

Hire professionals



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

Your spouse is recommending the kitchen.

Kitchen

Cost: \$10,000
New cupboards and counters
Length of project: 1 week
Your uncles will help

Bedroom

Cost: \$4000
New paint and carpets
Length of project: 1 month
Do it yourself

Living room

Cost: \$7000
New windows and floor
Length of project: 2 weeks
Hire professionals



Key Terms

Renovate (fix, improve)

Housesit (take care of house)

Chunk (piece)

Tackle (take on a project)

My Answer

Hey Gina,

I know you're recommending that we renovate the kitchen, but I think it would be better to renovate the living room instead. The thing is that our summers always go by so fast, and I don't want to waste time on a project like this. If we hire professionals to renovate the living room for us, we'll have time to go camping together. We can just ask your cousin Mandy to housesit for us while we're gone. She can let the workers in and out of the house every day. I know the kitchen project would go faster with the help of Uncle Tom and Uncle Jerry, but if we go camping for two weeks, it won't really matter how long the project took. The other thing is that we're trying to save up for a new vehicle next year. I know the kitchen would only be \$3000 more than the living room, but that money could pay for a big chunk of the new car. Anyway, those are the reasons why I think we should renovate the living room. Maybe we can tackle the kitchen next summer!



Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your daughter's birthday is next week. She has wanted a new smartphone for a long time. Yesterday, you found a good deal on the latest iPhone and bought it. Today, she calls you from a store asking for your permission to buy the same one you bought for her. If you tell her that you already bought it for her, it will ruin the surprise. Tell her she can't buy it and make up some reasons why she should wait.



Key Terms

Press event (media event)

Specs (specifications, features)

Pricey (expensive)

Outdated (old model)

My Answer

Hey Chrystal,

I know you want to buy the new iPhone today, but I think you should wait a few days. Apple might announce a newer one at their upcoming press event. I know you've had your old phone for like 5 years, and you've taken such good care of it. That's why I want your next phone to be one you really love. If you buy a new one now, it might be outdated in a few months. I would recommend waiting to see the specs of the new iPhone. If it's too pricey or if you don't like it, then you can get the one you're looking at now. Hey, I'll make you an offer. If Apple announces a new one at their upcoming event and if you like it, I'll pay for the difference in cost between the two phones. How does that sound? I love you, and I always want the best for you.



Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Children these days often watch movies with violence, bad language, and sexual content. Do you think parents should place restrictions on what their kids can watch?

Key Terms

Long run (long term)

Capacity (ability)

Comprehend (understand)

Profound (deep)

Desensitized (become unaffected by)

Profane (bad)

Immediate (short term)

Wellbeing (health)

Nightmares (bad dreams)

Monitor (watch)

Exposed to (experience)

My Answer

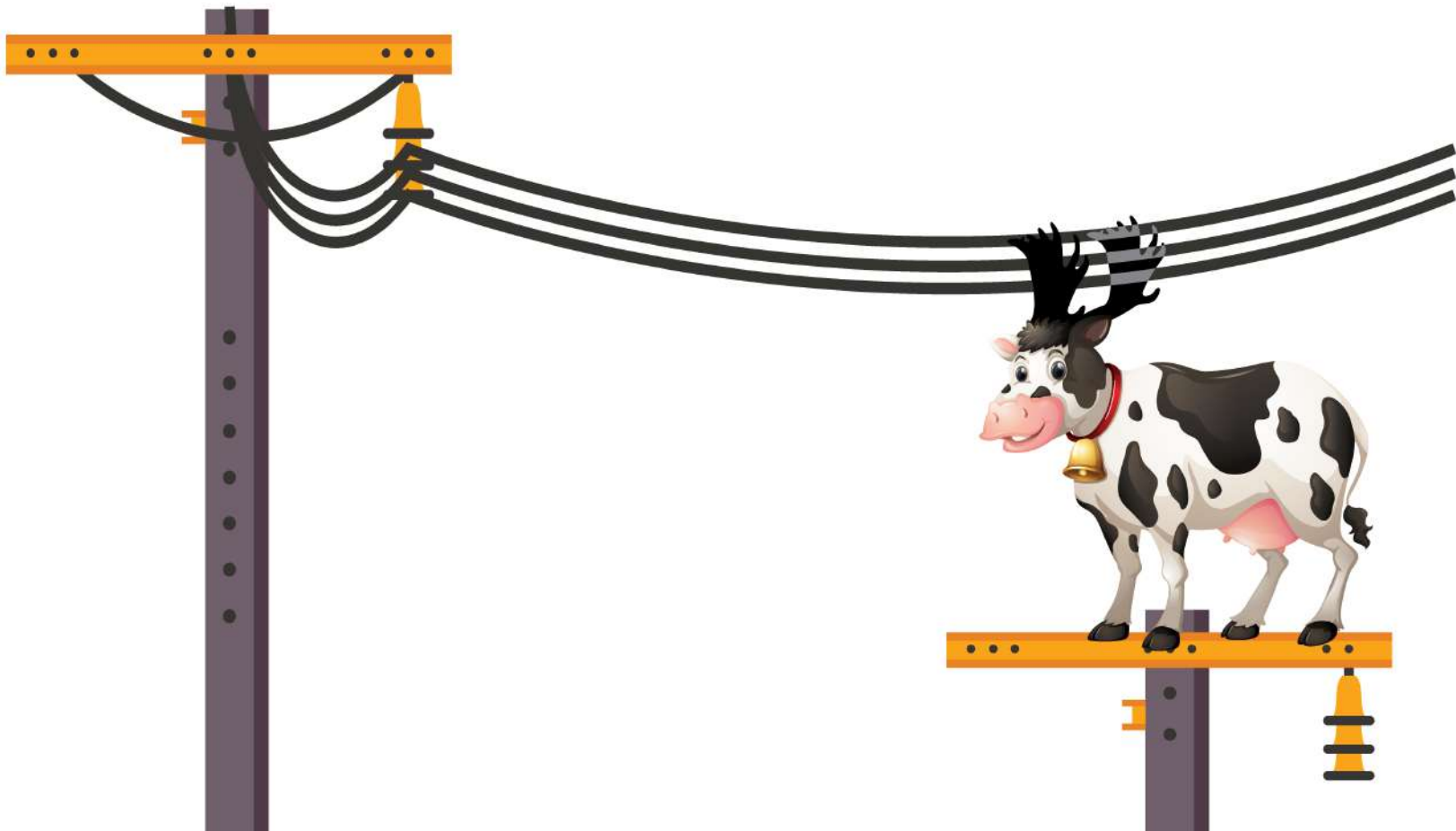
In my opinion, parents should place restrictions on the movies their kids can watch. I have two reasons for this opinion. First, it will protect the kids in the long run. Kids don't have the capacity to comprehend certain things that are adult themed. For example, if they see violence, it could affect them in profound ways. They might grow up believing that's how the world is supposed to be. I don't think it's good if kids become desensitized to that kind of stuff. When I was a kid, my parents didn't allow me to watch movies with violence, sexual content, or profane language. I didn't really understand their decision at the time, but now I'm really thankful I filled my mind with other things that are more positive. The second reason I think parents shouldn't allow their kids to watch bad movies is because it will affect their kids' immediate wellbeing. Kids often get nightmares after watching movies. I remember, as a kid, even watching cartoons with scary content would give me nightmares. I'm thankful that my parents protected me from these things. I mean, sure there were times where I broke the rules and watched bad movies, but I'm sure I would have watched a lot more bad movies if my parents had not put any restrictions in place. Those are some reasons why I think parents should monitor the content that their kids are being exposed to.



Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are walking down the road and see a very strange sight. Call your dad and ask if he's ever seen anything like this before.



Key Terms

Statue (sculpture)

Telephone pole (electricity pole)

Power lines

Horns

Horizontal (opposite of vertical)

Crossbeam (horizontal beam)

Antlers

Snout (mouth and nose)

Udder (where milk comes from)

Spots

Hooves (feet)

My Answer

Hey Dad,
I'm just walking along Greenwood Avenue, and I see a really strange sight. There's a statue of a cow on top of a telephone pole. Its horns are supporting the power lines, and it's standing on the horizontal crossbeam on top of the pole. Actually, it's horns look more like antlers. It has a pink snout, pink ears, and a pink udder. It also has a bell on its neck. The body of the cow is white with black spots. It's hooves are also black. Anyway, just wondering if you've ever seen anything like this before.

Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Your grandma wants to learn how to use the internet so that she can communicate with her grandchildren. She doesn't know what kind of electronic device to buy. Give her some advice on what to buy.

Key Terms

Questions like this don't require advanced vocabulary, but they require a knowledge of how people in our culture communicate. In China, many social media outlets are blocked by the government. This means Chinese people might need to learn about Skype, Facebook, Instagram, etc. In Korea, everyone uses Kakaotalk. In India and other countries, apps such as Viber are popular. You need to learn about the apps that are popular in Canada. Most Canadians have probably never heard of Wechat, Viber, or any other app that might be popular in your country.



My Answer

Hey Grandma,

It's great that you want to keep in contact with all your grandkids! I would recommend getting an iPad. They are very easy to use, and you won't have to waste time learning a lot of new things like you would if you bought a computer. I could help you set up a Skype account and add all your grandkids as contacts. Basically, when want to call someone, you would just press one button to turn on the iPad, then you touch the Skype logo on the screen, then you choose a contact and call them! Another reason I would recommend an iPad is because you could take it with you wherever you go and always keep in touch with people. You would only need to charge it every two or three days. You could get in the habit of plugging it in every night before bed and then you would never have to worry about it running out of battery life! I'll help you get another app called Instagram. It's super easy to use as well. On that app, you can see all the cool pictures that your grandkids post. Just today, for example, I saw some really cool pics that Tina posted from her trip to Venezuela! The nice thing about an iPad is that you can use it as a camera too! That way you can send your grandkids pics of you too. They would love that. Anyway, I'd definitely recommend getting an iPad!



Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Talk about a frustrating experience you had in the workplace.

Key Terms

Prep work (preparation)

Coworker

Boss

Tolerate (put up with)

Tardiness (being late)

Fed up (no more patience)

Vent (to express frustration)

Ultimatum (demand, time limit)

Walked off the job (quit)

My Answer

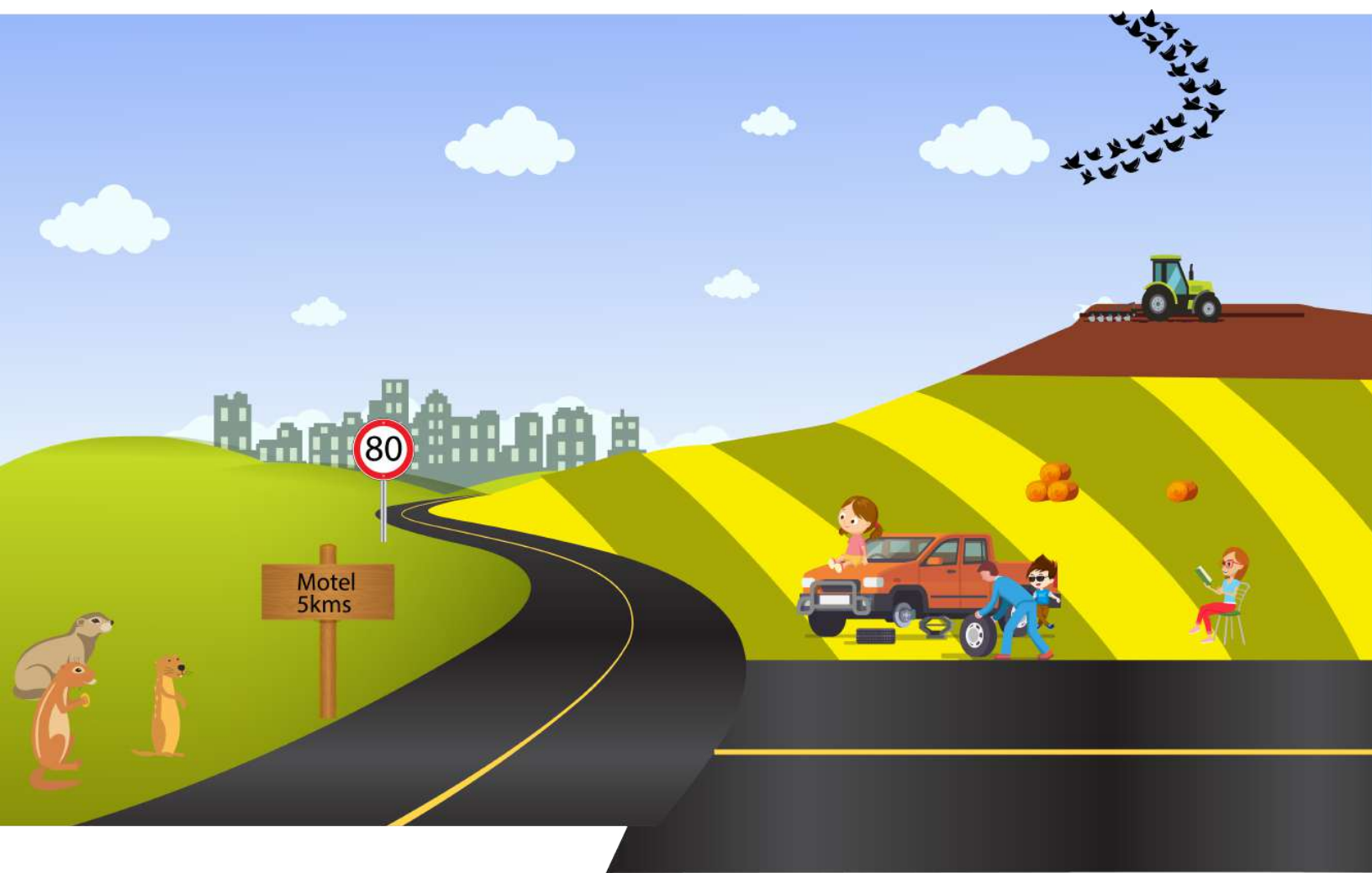
So, four years ago I worked at a restaurant. I had to start work at 5am every morning, even though the restaurant only opened at 7am. I was in charge of doing all the prep work for the day. One of my coworkers was supposed to start work at the same time, but he was always late. Sometimes he would come in over an hour late. That meant I had to do a lot more work. At first, I tolerated his tardiness, but after a few months, I got really fed up. I vented to my boss about it one day. I told him that I was doing most of the work and it wasn't fair. My boss said he would deal with the situation, so I calmed down for a while. But after a few weeks, I realized the situation wasn't getting any better. So I gave my boss an ultimatum. I told him if my coworker was late one more time, I would quit. The next day my coworker was late again, so I walked off the job. That was a really frustrating experience I had.



Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



Key Terms

Prairies (middle provinces of Canada)

Road trip

Pickup truck

Highway

Flat tire

Spare tire

Hood

Lawn chair (foldable chair)

Gophers

Speed limit sign

Field

Bales

Tractor

Canada geese

Flying in a V (the formation geese fly in)

T-intersection

Canola (a kind of yellow crop)

My Answer

This is a picture of a family going on a road trip through the Prairies. Their pickup truck has gotten a flat tire and they are stopped on the side of the road. The father is putting on the spare tire, and the son is helping him. The daughter is sitting on the hood of the vehicle. The mother is sitting on a lawn chair reading a book. There are two highways that meet in a T-intersection in the bottom of the picture. One of the highways goes toward a city in the distance. There is a speed limit sign that says 80 kilometres per hour. Also, there is a sign that says “Motel 5 kilometres”. In the bottom left corner, there are a few gophers. In the top left corner there are some Canada geese flying in a V. In the middle of the picture, there is a big yellow canola field. There are some bales on the field. A green tractor is working on part of the field. Alright, that’s what I can see in this picture.



Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Make predictions



Key Terms

Beg (ask)

Cultivate (dig up the field)

My Answer

There are several things I think will happen next in this scene. I think the gophers in the bottom left corner will cross the highway and start begging for food from the girl. I think the girl will get some chips from inside the vehicle and start feeding them. I think the father will teach his son how to fix a flat tire. The mother will keep enjoying her book while the others work. The geese will fly out of the picture in the next few seconds. The tractor will probably keep working until the whole field has been cultivated. In the end, the family will continue on their road trip and spend the night in the motel which is 5kms away.



Question 5

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

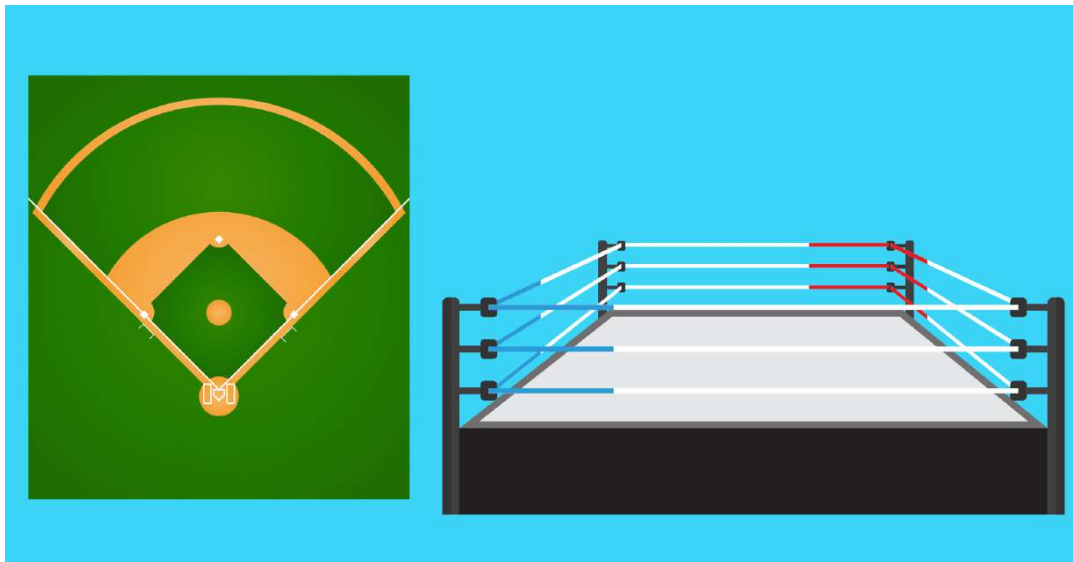
Your friends want to go to a sporting event this weekend. Choose the option you prefer and persuade your friends that your choice is the best.

Baseball

Cost: \$20
Free hotdog
Game takes 2.5 hours
Seats in last row

Boxing

Cost: \$40
Free beer
Match takes 1 hour
Seats in first row



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

Your friends are suggesting a soccer match.

Soccer

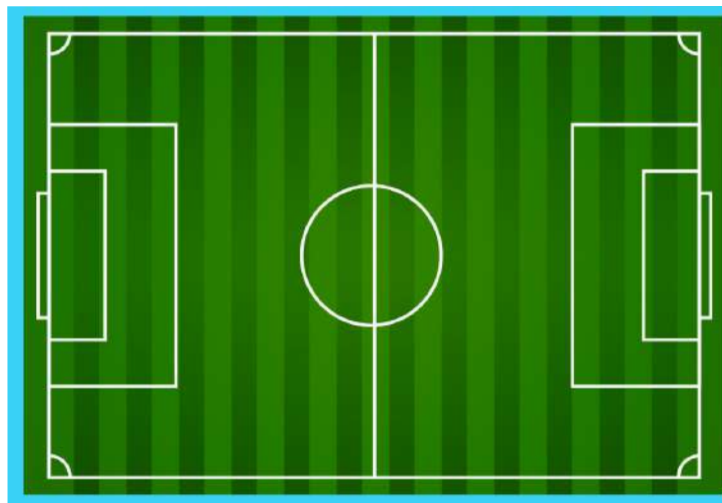
**Cost: \$10
Free pizza
Game takes 1.5 hours
No seats**

Baseball

**Cost: \$20
Free hotdog
Game takes 2.5 hours
Seats in last row**

Boxing

**Cost: \$40
Free beer
Match takes 1 hour
Seats in first row**



Key Terms

Bucks (dollars)

Overrated (not as good as you hoped)

Have a blast (have fun)

My Answer

Hey guys,
I know you're suggesting we go to the soccer game, but I think the baseball game would be more fun. Do you really want to stand for one and a half hours? I would way rather have some seats! Plus, at the baseball game, we would get a free hotdog. I like hotdogs more than pizza. I know the baseball game is more expensive, but it's only 10 bucks more and we get an extra hour of enjoyment! We want to have a relaxing evening together, so the longer the better! Also, I know the seats are in the last row, but with baseball, it's actually nice to get a big perspective of everything. One time I went to a baseball game with my dad and we had front row seats. It was a bit overrated. Anyway, that's why I think the baseball game would be better. I know we'll have a blast!

Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

It's your anniversary and you booked a table at a fancy restaurant. One hour before going to the restaurant, you get a call from a person at the restaurant saying they overbooked the restaurant and will have to cancel your reservation. Either call the manager of the restaurant and demand that they fulfill your reservation, or talk to your spouse about a different option.

Key Terms

Special occasion (special event)

Place (restaurant)

Notice (warning)

Set aside (reserve)

My Answer

Hi Sir,

My name is Randy, and I just received a call from one of your staff saying that they canceled my reservation for tonight. Tonight is very important for my wife and I because it's our 25th anniversary. We don't have enough time now to reserve a table at any other place. If we had been given more notice about this cancelation, we could have booked a different place. I think it's completely unacceptable that your staff waited till an hour before the reservation time to call us! I understand that your restaurant is overbooked, but I'm requesting that you make room for us. I'm sure nobody else in the restaurant is celebrating their 25th anniversary! This is a very special occasion for us! I really hope you can set aside a table for us. I really appreciate your help.



Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Do you think parents should pay for their children's education? Provide reasons to support your opinion.

Key Terms

Burdened (overwhelmed)

Bogged down (burdened)

Out of place (awkward)

Neck deep (very deep)

Throw into the deep end (abandon)

Transition (go from one thing to another)

My Answer

In my opinion, parents should pay for their children's education. There are several reasons why I believe this. Firstly, most kids have no ability to save money before the typical university age. They are busy with high school until age 18 and can't afford to go to university. They only have two options: either get burdened with student loans, or work for several years to save up. If they take a few years off to work, they might feel out of place when they try to re-enter the education system. If they get bogged down in debt, it will really stress them out for a long time. If parents help them financially, it will solve both these problems at the same time. Another reason I think parents should pay for their kids' education is because kids will probably need to take out other loans to pay for big events coming up in their life. Many people get married in their twenties or buy their first house. If young people are neck deep in student loans, they won't qualify for a mortgage or a loan for their wedding. If parents save them from going into debt early on, it will really help them later in life. The last reason why I think parents should pay for their kids' education is because it lets the kid know that they are loved. Some parents just throw their kids into the deep end after high school. I don't think that's a good idea because kids can feel very lost when they go through a big transition like that. They need their parents' love and support. Anyway, that's why I think parents should help their kids pay for school.



Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are walking through a park and see a very strange animal. Call the local zoo and ask if they are missing an animal. Describe the animal to them.



Key Terms

Zebra

Walrus

Deer

Eagle

Cheetah

Stripes

Spots

Antlers

Tail

Hooves

Tusks

Wings

Pupils (inner part of eye)

My Answer

Hi,

My name is Fred, and I'm just calling from a local park here in Ottawa. I was walking through the park and suddenly saw a really strange animal hiding in the bushes. I'm wondering if it might be missing from the zoo. I'll just give you a quick description of it. It looks like a cross between a zebra, a walrus, an eagle, a deer, and a cheetah. It has the body of a zebra with black and white stripes, and it has two big wings on either side of the body. It has the head of a walrus with two big tusks. It has big eyes with huge green pupils. On top of its head it has big antlers. Its tail is like a cheetah...orange and white with black spots. The animal also has black hooves. Have you lost an animal like this?



Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Your friend wants to start a business, but she has no idea what kind of business to start. Give her some advice on what kind of business would be successful for her.

Key Terms

Entrepreneur (person who starts a business)

Persevere (endure)

When the going gets tough (hard times)

Cinnamon buns

Rally behind (support)

Baked goods (pies, cakes, cookies, etc.)

Black Forest cake (chocolate cherry cake)

Endeavours (goals)

My Answer

Hi Mary,

I think it's great that you want to be an entrepreneur! I would be happy to give you some advice. I think the most important thing about business is that you're passionate about it. If you love what you do, you'll be able to persevere even when the going gets tough. I've known you for a long time, and I think the thing you're most passionate about is baking! You make the best cinnamon buns! I would recommend starting a small bakery in the community. I think the community would really rally behind you!

Everyone already knows about your baking skills! Also, there's no competition in the area. The closest store to buy baked goods is Walmart. People would way rather buy your baking than Walmart baking! I would recommend starting with a simple plan. Just choose 3 or 4 popular desserts that will build your reputation. For example, you could offer cinnamon buns, chocolate chip cookies, apple pie, and Black Forest cake. Whenever people order from you, you could ask them what other items they are interested in. After a several months of doing this, you would have a good idea of what the community wants. The nice thing about baking is that there will always be a demand for it! Especially around Christmas and Easter! You love baking so much that it wouldn't even feel like work for you. Anyway, that's what I would recommend. Let me know what you decide, and I'll support you in your new endeavours!



Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Talk about something you did for the first time. It could be playing a new sport, trying new food, etc.

Key Terms

Intimidating (scary)

Layover (stopover)

Navigate (figuring out)

Terminal (airport building)

Take off (airplane leaves ground)

Plugged (blocked)

Yawn (open mouth when tired)

My Answer

When I came to Canada last month, I flew on a plane for the first time. That was a pretty intimidating experience for me because I had never even left the country before. I had a layover in London and had to navigate my way through the airport to a different terminal. I stopped every few minutes to ask people for directions. I'm so thankful I can speak English otherwise my trip would have been a disaster! The people were really helpful and friendly. Even though the whole trip was pretty scary for me, I actually realized that I love flying! I enjoyed the feeling I got during take off. When we landed, my ears were a bit plugged, but after yawning a few times, they opened up. All in all, it was a good experience for me, and I'll never forget it!

Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



Key Terms

Hockey rink

Ice hockey

Sled

Chase (run after)

Hockey sticks

Helmets

Lodge (a big log cabin in the mountains)

Mittens

Gloves

Scarf

Tuque

Skates

Teal (blue green colour)

Pine tree

My Answer

This is a picture of several people doing winter activities. On the right side of the picture, there is an ice hockey rink. There are several kids playing ice hockey on it. They are all wearing helmets and holding hockey sticks. In the bottom left corner of the picture, there is a boy pulling his younger brother on a sled. He is wearing a teal jacket with brown pants. He is also wearing orange gloves, an orange scarf, and an orange tuque. His brother is wearing a blue jacket, purple pants, and orange shoes. He's also wearing green mittens, a green scarf, and a green tuque. In the bottom right corner of the picture, there is a dog chasing a rabbit. In the top left corner of the picture, there is a wooden lodge with a snow-covered roof. In the background of the picture, there are lots of pine trees.

Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Make predictions



Key Terms

Hot chocolate

Catch

Fireplace

Warm up (get warm)

Suppertime (dinnertime)

My Answer

In this picture, there are several things I think will happen next. First, the dog is going to catch the rabbit and eat it. Next, the boy who is pulling his brother on the sled will get bored and join the other kids playing hockey. His younger brother will go into the lodge and warm up by the fireplace. I think the boys are going to play hockey for a long time. They'll get really cold, but their mothers will come out of the lodge and bring them hot chocolate to help them warm up. After a few hours, the kids will go into the lodge for suppertime. After supper, they'll play games and tell stories till late at night. Alright, those are some things I think will happen in this picture.

Question 5

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

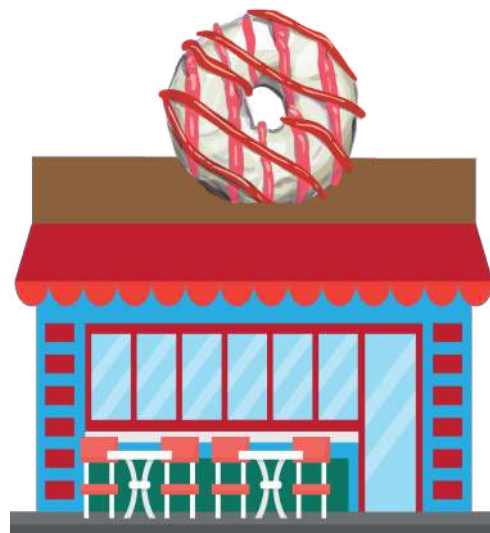
You and your business partner are considering buying a new business. Choose the option you prefer and persuade your business partner that your choice is better.

Pizza shop

Cost: \$80,000
Profit: \$20,000/year
Location: near a university
Can fit 20 customers

Donut shop

Cost: \$60,000
Profit: \$13,000/year
Location: near a subway stop
Can fit 15 customers



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

Your business partner is suggesting a hotdog stand.

Hotdog stand

**Cost: \$10,000
Profit: \$6,000/year
Location: moveable
Can serve 20 customers per hour**

Pizza shop

**Cost: \$80,000
Profit: \$20,000/year
Location: near a university
Can fit 20 customers**

Donut shop

**Cost: \$60,000
Profit: \$15,000/year
Location: near a subway stop
Can fit 15 customers**



Key Terms

Minimum wage

Long run (long term)

Truck (pickup truck)

Traffic (people walking by)

Stream (flow)

Going by (walking by)

My Answer

Hey Mike,

I know you're suggesting that we buy the hotdog stand, but I think it would be better if we bought the donut shop. The thing is that the hotdog stand would require an employee who has a truck to move it everywhere. Personally, I don't want to waste my time driving the hotdog stand all around the city. I don't think anyone making minimum wage would own a truck, so one of us would have to do it. I know the hotdog stand would have a higher rate of return than the donut shop, but with the donut shop, we would actually make more revenue in the long run. The nice thing about the donut shop is that we would have a constant stream of traffic going by because of the subway station. The other nice thing is that we could accommodate 15 customers at a time in the building. Most people only stay for a few minutes to eat a donut, so we would probably be able to serve hundreds of people per day. Anyway, those are some reasons why I think we should buy the donut shop.



Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your company is hosting a charity event tomorrow. Your boss has asked you to organize the event. You suddenly get a call from your friend asking for urgent help because his basement has flooded. Either call your friend and tell him you can't help him, or call your boss and explain your friend's situation.



Key Terms

Basement (part of house below ground)

Flooded (water damage)

Breakthrough (positive change)

Swing by (stop by, visit)

My Answer

Hi Andrew,

It's Carson calling here. I'm so sorry to hear that your basement flooded! To be honest, I don't know anything about fixing water damage. I think it would be best to leave that to professionals. I can help you financially if you need it. I actually have an important event at work tomorrow which is why I don't think I can be there to support you. I'm in charge of a charity event and I think if the event is successful my boss will give me a promotion. I really need that right now because I feel stuck in my career. If I can get this promotion, that will be a huge breakthrough for me. I really need a higher salary because I'm taking care of my parents right now. Thanks so much for understanding my situation. I'd be happy to swing by on Saturday to see how things are going.



Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

In many countries, working 40 hours a week is standard; however, in some countries, such as the Netherlands, working 30 hours a week is average. Do you think governments should lower the number of hours people have to work?

Key Terms

Around the clock (24 hours)

Right into the ground (burn out)

Fatigue (extreme tiredness)

Social bonds (relationships)

Overburdened (too much work)

Loved ones (family)

My Answer

In my opinion, governments should lower the number of hours people have to work. There are several reasons why I think this. First off, people these days are way too stressed out. It's outrageous how much stress there is in our society. People are expected to work around the clock. Businesses are expected to be open around the clock. For example, the Walmart near my house is open 24 hours. Who the heck goes shopping in the middle of the night?! I was in Germany a few years back, and I was astonished that all the stores were closed on Sunday. It took me a while to get used to it, but after a while I started appreciating the slower pace of life there. I think it's really important for people to take time to rest during the week. If governments don't put restrictions on how many hours people can work, people will work themselves right into the ground. This places a greater burden on the healthcare system because more people get sick when they are burned out. I think fatigue is a huge cause of illness in our society. Another reason I think governments should lower the number of working hours is because social bonds suffer when people are overburdened. So many kids are being raised by childcare workers these days instead of their own parents! If people worked less, they could have more time to spend with their loved ones. Anyway, those are some reasons why I think governments should restrict the number of hours people can work.



Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are in a furniture store and see a very strange chair. Call your friend and describe it to him/her. Ask if you should buy it for them.



Key Terms

Cross between

Wheelbarrow

Reclining chair

Backrest

Footrest

Armrest

Frame

Handles

Wheel

Grass

Leg support

Brace (support)

Padding (soft part of chair)

My Answer

Hi Larry,

It's Barry calling here. I'm just in a furniture store and see a really interesting chair that I think you might like. It looks like a cross between a wheelbarrow and a reclining chair. And it has grass growing on it. Umm, wow, it's actually really hard to describe. I don't even know where to start. Well, the seat of the chair and the backrest and footrest are all covered in grass. The backrest reclines about 45 degrees and the footrest is also at about a 45 degree angle. The frame of the chair is red and it only has one armrest on the right side. The handles of the wheelbarrow are behind the backrest. The wheel is directly under the seat of the chair. In between the wheel and the handles, there are two leg braces. The whole frame is made of metal and the padding of the seat is made of grass. I'm not sure if it's real grass or fake grass. Anyway, I'm just wondering if you want me to buy it for you.



Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Your boss wants to host an office party for everyone at your workplace. Give him some advice on how to host a good party.

Key Terms

Throw a party (have a party)

Flyers (advertisement posters)

Finger food (food you can eat with your hands)

Ordering in (ordering from a restaurant)

Big hit (popular)

Paper plates

Paper cups

Atmosphere

Mood

My Answer

Hey Bill,

That's great that you want to throw a party for everyone in our office! I think an office party is really similar to any other kind of party. There are several things I think you should consider. The first one is the invitations. It's important that everyone knows about the party. You could print off some flyers and post them around the office. It's important that the day and time are clearly stated on the flyer so that nobody forgets! The other thing that would be good is to send out emails to remind everyone about it. For example, you could send out an email one week in advance and then another one the day before the party. Another thing that is really important for a good party is food and beverages. I would suggest ordering in a bunch of finger food like pizza, wings, and spring rolls. Food like this is always a big hit! Also, I would suggest using paper plates and cups for the party. That way it will be much easier to clean up afterwards! Another thing you might want to consider is music. Music always helps create a relaxed atmosphere for the party...unless it's too loud. Ideally, people should be able to have good conversations without having to shout into each other's ears. Nice background music puts everyone in a good mood to enjoy the party. Anyway, that's my advice. I look forward to participating in whatever you decide to do!



Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Talk about a time someone helped you when you were in trouble.

Key Terms

Startled (scared, surprised)

Clued into the fact (realized)

Rear (back)

Flat

Jack (thing to lift the car)

Popped (opened)

Spare tire (extra tire)

Staring (looking)

Pull up (arrive)

No time (little time)

My Answer

One time I was driving home from work, and I heard a loud bang from the back of my car. At first it startled me and I didn't know what it was. Then I clued into the fact that one of my rear tires had exploded. I pulled over to the side of the road and got out of my vehicle. Sure enough, the tire was completely flat. It was the first time I had had a flat while driving that vehicle. I popped the trunk and took out the spare tire. Then I realized the jack was missing! How was I going to change the tire without a jack?! As I was standing beside my car staring at the flat tire, a truck pulled up beside me and a guy asked if I needed help. I explained my situation, and he said he would be happy to help me. He jacked up my car we changed the tire in no time! I was so thankful for his help.



Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



Key Terms

Camping

Campfire

Roasting (cooking over fire)

Beige (dark yellow colour)

Hot dogs

Marshmallows

Tents

Picnic table

Bear

Smoke

Pine tree

My Answer

This is a picture of several children camping. They are sitting around a campfire roasting hotdogs and marshmallows. There are two beige tents near the campfire. In front of the tent on the left, there is a picnic table with some food on it. In the bottom right corner, there is a bear looking at the children. On each side of the picture, there is a tall pine tree. In the background of the picture, there is a lake, some mountains, and some pine trees. The top part of the picture is a dark sky with stars. The smoke from the campfire is going up to the top of the picture.

Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Make predictions



Key Terms

Telling jokes

Smore (marshmallow, chocolate, cracker)

Stargazing (looking at the stars)

Spot (see, notice)

Freak out (get scared)

Park ranger (someone who works at the park)

Tranquilize (put to sleep)

My Answer

In this picture, there are several things I think will happen next. The kids are going to eat their hotdogs and tell jokes around the fire. Then, after eating the hotdogs, they're going to make smores. After sitting around the fire for a while, they'll lie down on the grass and do some stargazing. Suddenly, they will spot the bear and freak out. They'll run into their tents to hide. The bear looks really friendly. I don't think it's interested in eating the children. I think it's gonna go to the picnic table and start eating the food on it. One of the kids will call a park ranger on their cellphone. The ranger will come and tranquilize the bear and take it away in a truck. Then the kids will go back to the fire and keep telling stories. Anyway, those are some predictions I would make about the picture.



Question 5

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

Your friends want to do a weekend workshop together. Choose the option you prefer and persuade your friends to agree with your choice.

Pottery making

Cost: \$120

Two free pots

Location: 1hr. drive away

Duration: 4 hours

Cooking

Cost: \$70

Free three-course meal

Location: local college

Duration 3 hours



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

**Your friends are suggesting
basketweaving.**

Basketweaving

Cost: \$50

One free basket

**Location: instructor comes to your house
2 hour class**

Pottery making

Cost: \$120

Two free pots

Location: 1hr. drive away

Duration: 4 hours

Cooking

Cost: \$70

Free three-course meal

Location: local college

Duration 3 hours



Key Terms

Clay (like mud)

Pot

Vase (flower holder)

Splurge (spend money and have fun)

Time flies (time goes by fast)

My Answer

Hey guys,
I know you're suggesting the basketweaving workshop, but I think pottery making would be a lot more fun! Just think, we get to make our own pots and vases! I think clay pots are much more useful than baskets. I know the basketweaving would be a lot cheaper, but we only do this kind of thing once a year, so I think we can splurge a bit! Even though the pottery making workshop is an hour drive away, I think it would be a fun trip! We could all fit in my van. I'll pay for gas. The other thing I like about the pottery making workshop is that it lasts for 4 hours. Time flies when you're having fun! I think two hours would be too short to enjoy our time together. Anyway, those are my reasons why I think we should choose pottery making. I hope I've convinced you!

Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are preparing to give a speech at your company's annual conference. Ten minutes before your speech, your coworker accidentally spills coffee all over your pants. It looks like you peed your pants. You are embarrassed now and don't know what to do. Either call your boss and tell him why you can't give the speech, or give the speech and explain to everyone why your clothes are wet.



Key Terms

Dress pants (formal clothing)

Hold my bladder (hold in pee)

Adversity (challenges)

Power through (be resilient)

Recession (bad economy)

Intact (in one piece, alive)

Thrive (be very successful)

My Answer

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,
You might have noticed that my dress pants are wet. Either I was so excited for this speech that I couldn't hold my bladder, or I had an accident with a cup of coffee. I'll let you make up your own minds what happened. Haha. Actually, the accident I had fits well with the theme of this conference — overcoming adversity. I was considering canceling this speech and going home to change clothes, but I decided to power through and fulfill my duties. I believe our company has been in a similar situation this year. We have faced hard times in the recent recession, but thanks to everyone's resilience, we have made it through the year intact. In my presentation today, I would like to talk about how we can thrive in the new year ahead of us.



Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Graffiti is considered vandalism in Canada. Do you think the government should change this law to allow local artists to paint buildings, bridges, and other public areas?

Key Terms

Downright (absolutely)

Rowdy (rebellious)

Egg each other on (encourage each other)

Consequences (punishment)

Misbehaviour (bad behaviour)

Fined (pay money)

Not to mention (in addition to)

Redhanded (doing the act)

My Answer

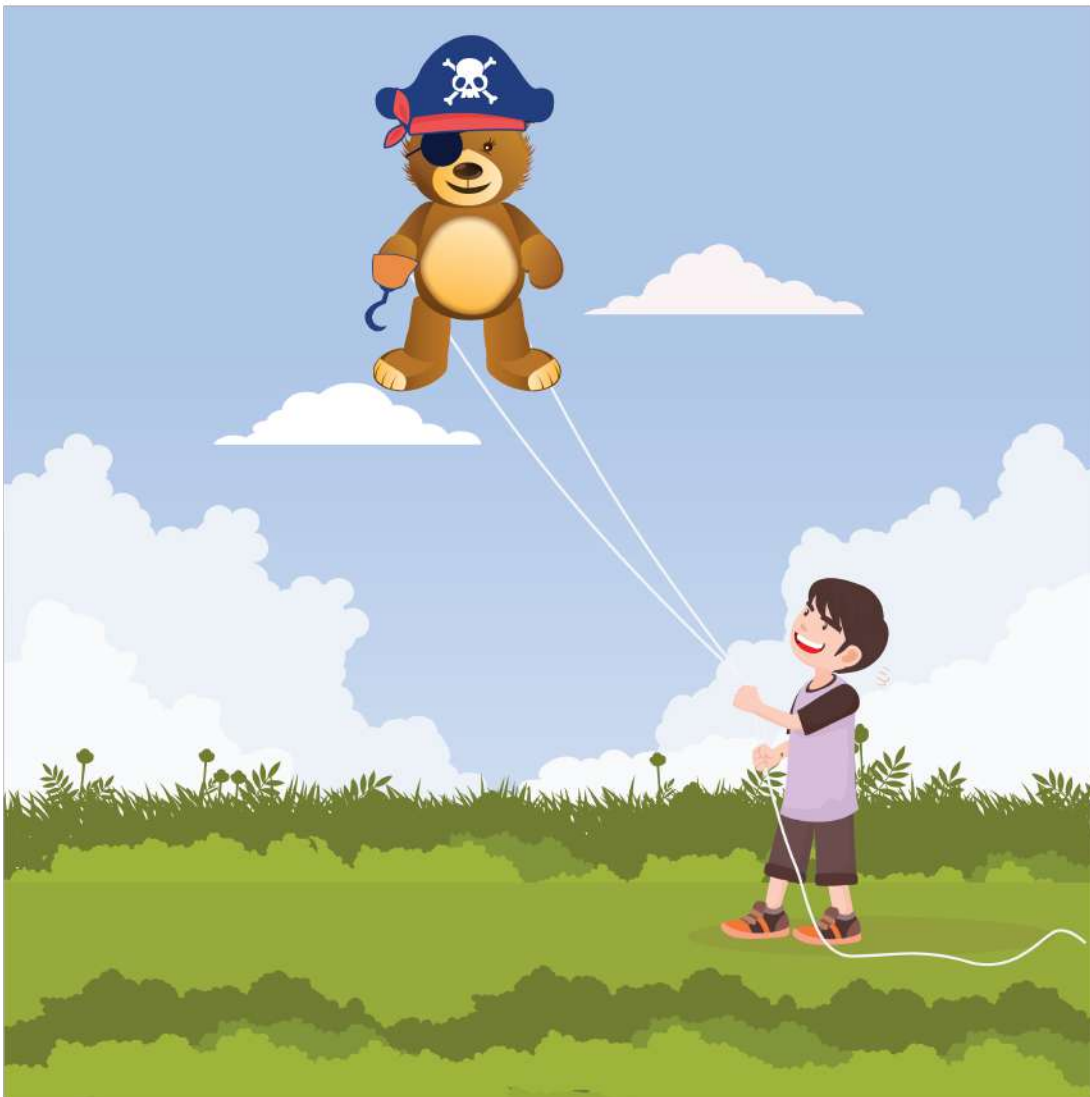
Hmm, let me gather my thoughts for a second...

Okay, I've gathered my thoughts. In my opinion, I do not think the government should change its law regarding graffiti. There are several reasons why I think this. First, most graffiti is downright ugly. Sure, some graffiti looks nice, but how would the government control the quality of it? If they allow it, I think the city would get a lot uglier. The second reason I think they should not allow it is because it encourages bad behaviour. Rowdy teenagers would egg each other on to paint stupid things all over the city. These kinds of people need to face consequences for their misbehaviour. They should be fined or thrown in jail. A third reason I think graffiti should remain illegal is because it costs so much to undo the damage. For example, my neighbour's garage was spray painted with profanity and it took him three days to paint over all the graffiti — not to mention the cost of the paint! He's a really nice guy and did nothing to deserve that kind of treatment. A few weeks later, the police caught the teenagers redhanded and fined them \$1000 dollars. In my view, that's not enough. They should have sent them to jail for a month. But anyway, those are some reasons why I think the government should not change the law to legalize graffiti.

Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

**You see a boy in a park doing an activity.
Call your nephew and ask him if he would
like to come and see it.**



Key Terms

Kite

Pirate

String

Bandana

Eye patch

My Answer

Hey Alex,
It's Aunt Lindsey calling here. I'm just in a park right now and see a boy flying a really cool kite. It looks like a big teddy bear dressed up like a pirate. There are two strings going from the kite to the boy's hands. The teddy bear is wearing a blue pirate hat and a red bandana on its head. It also has an eyepatch on one of its eyes and a hook on its right hand. It looks really happy. The kid looks really happy too! Would you like to come to the park to see it? Maybe you could join him! It's perfect weather for flying a kite today!

Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Your neighbour has been single for many years, but he wants to find a partner. Give him some advice on how he can meet someone special and start a relationship.

Key Terms

In the same boat (in the same situation)

Daunting (scary, overwhelming)

Sifting (browsing)

Avenue (option, method)

My Answer

Hey Eric,

It's great that you want to find a girlfriend. I think I can offer you some good advice! The good news is that there are so many people who are in the same boat as you, so I don't think you'll have a problem finding a good woman to be with. The first thing I would recommend is looking online. There are so many dating sites and apps these days. E-harmony, for example, matches you with people based on your personality. My cousin joined that site and met an awesome girl in less than a week. They're getting married next month! Meeting someone online can seem a bit daunting at first, but once you start talking to some women, you'll see that it's not too bad. It's actually kind of fun sifting through hundreds of profiles looking for the right person. While you're pursuing that avenue, I would also recommend joining some sort of club in our neighbourhood. For example, my colleague is part of a wine club, and he always tells me stories of the great people he is meeting in the club. I know you like drinking wine, so I could ask my colleague for more information about the club! Another thing I would suggest is hosting parties at your house. You have such a nice house and you never have any guests over! In my experience, a lot of people don't like going to bars because they're expensive and it's hard to make genuine friends in places like that. I think a lot of people are looking for social events that are more down to earth. So, I would definitely recommend hosting a few parties at your place! Anyway, I hope those tips help, and I look forward to hearing about your experiences!



Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Talk about the best gift you ever received.

Key Terms

Baseball cap

Sentimental value (value comes from the memory)

Passing (death)

Worn (not in new condition)

Tradition

Priceless (extremely valuable)

My Answer

The best gift I ever received was the baseball cap my grandpa used to wear. My grandma gave it to me after my grandpa's passing. The cap is old and worn, so it's not very nice to look at. But it has a lot of sentimental value for me. When I was a kid my grandpa would take me to baseball games in the summertime. He would always wear the cap. When I see the cap now, it reminds me of the great times I had in my childhood. After every baseball game, we had a tradition of going to McDonald's for ice cream. Those memories are priceless to me. That's why I wear the cap so proudly today.

Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



Key Terms

Christmas tree

Ornaments (hanging decorations on tree)

Candy canes

Angel

Fireplace

Stockings

Coffee table

Rocking chair

Elderly (polite way to say “old”)

Snowman

My Answer

This is a picture of a living room at Christmas time. On the left side of the picture, there is a Christmas tree with a brown cat climbing on it. The tree is covered in Christmas ornaments. On the top of the tree, there is a golden angel. There are some candy canes on the tree as well. Under the tree, there are three presents. In the middle of the picture, there is a fireplace with stockings hanging above it. In front of the fireplace is a brown coffee table and turquoise rug. On the right side of the picture, there is an elderly woman sitting in a rocking chair. There is a window behind her, and I can see two kids building a snowman. Alright, that's how I would describe this scene.



Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Make predictions



Key Terms

Knock over (make fall)

Chase

Set up

Knitting

Turn up (increase heat)

Snowball fight (throw snowballs)

Oven

Basement (part of house underground)

Deep freeze (large horizontal freezer)

My Answer

In this picture, there are several things I think will happen next. The cat is going to knock over the Christmas tree. The grandma will quickly chase the cat out of the house and start setting up the tree again. After she is finished doing that, she will close the window because it's cold outside. Then she will turn up the fireplace and start knitting near the fire to stay warm. The kids will start a snowball fight when they finish making the snowman. After a while, the grandma will pull a fresh apple pie out of the oven and call the kids inside to eat it. She'll go into the basement and get a pail of vanilla ice cream from the deep freeze to go along with the pie. The kids are going to love it. That's what I think will happen in this picture.

Question 5

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

Your family is thinking about buying some exercise equipment. Choose the option you prefer.

Exercise bike

Cost: \$300

Purpose: cardio

Warranty: 1 years

Features: timer, calorie counter

Weight set

Cost: \$100

Purpose: building muscle

Lifetime warranty

Features: 5lb, 10lb, 25lb weights



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

Your family is suggesting getting a gym pass instead.

Gym pass

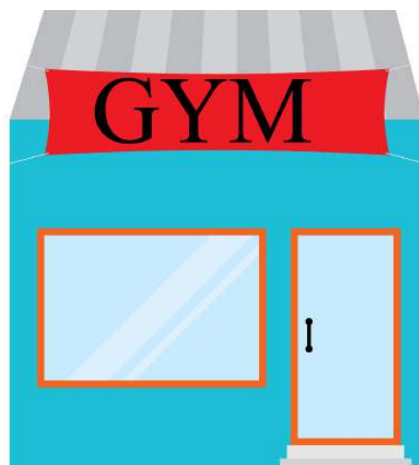
**Cost: \$400/yr
Full gym
Swimming pool and sauna
15 minute drive from home**

Exercise bike

**Cost: \$300
Purpose: cardio
Warranty: 1 years
Features: timer, calorie counter**

Weight set

**Cost: \$100
Purpose: building muscle
Lifetime warranty
Features: 5lb, 10lb, 25lb weights**



Key Terms

Membership (pass)

Coordinate (align)

Consideration (something to think about)

Fraction (a small part of)

Treadmill (machine that you can run on)

My Answer

Hey guys,

I know you want to get the gym membership, but I think it would be much better to get the weight set. The main problem with the gym membership is that we have to drive 15 mins to get there. We only have one car and our schedules are all different. I think we're too lazy to coordinate our schedules. Even though it would be awesome to hit the sauna every evening, I'm concerned that we would only go once or twice a week, so that wouldn't be worth the \$400/yr. If we have a weight set at home, we can exercise anytime we want. Another major consideration is the cost. The weight set is a fraction of the price! We could use the \$300 savings to buy an exercise bike or a treadmill! The other thing is that if we got the weight set, we would have the same kind of weights that we would use at the gym anyway. And the weights have a lifetime warranty, so we don't have to worry about losing our investment! Overall, I think it would be much better to buy the weight set.



Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your aunt and uncle are driving through your city this weekend. They live far away, and you only get to see them once a year. They want to visit you this Saturday, but you already made plans to go to your friend's housewarming party. Either call your friend and tell her you can't attend her party, or call your uncle and aunt and tell them you won't be able to see them.



Key Terms

Housewarming party (celebrate new house)

Ferry (boat for transportation)

My Answer

Hey Uncle Joe and Aunt Lina,
It's Eric calling here. I was really surprised to hear that you guys are driving through Winnipeg! Unfortunately, I already have plans for this weekend, and I won't be able to see you guys! I'm so sorry about that. My best friend just bought a house, and I promised to help her set it up and attend her housewarming party. I was actually thinking of doing a road trip out to Victoria to visit you guys next month! What do you think? I know the summers in Victoria are gorgeous, and I want to take the ferry! I remember taking the ferry a few years ago. It was so much fun! I could spend a whole week with you guys in June if that works for you. Anyway, I'm really sorry again that I can't see you this weekend!



Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 90 seconds

Parents these days often put their children into daycare so that they can work. This is a real necessity especially for single parents. Do you think the government should provide free daycare for its citizens?

Key Terms

Make ends meet (survive financially)
Long run (long term)

My Answer

I believe the government should provide free daycare for its citizens. There are several reasons why I believe this. Firstly, as a single parent myself, I know how hard it is to make ends meet. I worked as a hairdresser for several years when my kids were young. I didn't earn very much money, and I had to pay \$30/day for daycare. It was almost impossible to afford rent and food every month. If the government had provided free daycare, it would have helped me so much in those years! I hope single mothers never have to go through the struggle I had to go through. That's why I think governments should provide free daycare. Another reason I think that is because parents don't have to work as much if they receive free daycare. They can spend more time with their kids and not have to worry about paying an extra bill every month. I remember how happy I was to see my kids at the end of the day. I just wish I could have spent more time with them and less time working! A third reason why I think governments should provide free daycare is so that parents can save money for buying a house or investing for their children's future. The more money parents have, the better quality of life the child will receive in the long run. The government should really try to help parents give their children the best lives possible. Anyway, those are some reasons why I think the government should provide free daycare to its citizens.



Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You see a very strange vehicle in the mountains. Call your uncle and describe it to him.



Key Terms

Pair of skis (two skis)

Smart car (a small car)

Body

Door

Door handle

Roof rack

Slanted (tilted, angled)

Lights

Suitcase (luggage, baggage)

Wheels (tires)

My Answer

Hey Uncle Tim,
It's Paul calling here. I'm just driving through the mountains, and I see a really strange vehicle. It looks like a cross between a smart car and a pair of skis. The car doesn't have wheels. Instead, it has a pair of skis on the bottom. The body of the car is blue, but the back door is dark green. The door handle is red on the front door and white on the back door. Both the front and the back lights are yellow. The car also has a pink roof rack that is slanted forward. There's a green suitcase on it. Anyway, I'm just wondering if you've ever seen a car like this. It looks awesome!

Closing Comments

I want you to stop for a moment and congratulate yourself for all the English you have learned. And I want to congratulate you too! **CONGRATULATIONS!** Regardless of your score on the CELPIP exam, you should be proud of yourself for speaking another language. That is a huge accomplishment!

As you read through this book, you probably realized that I didn't follow the same structure in every answer. Many people want to memorize a structure that they can apply to every question. The problem with that strategy is that your answer will sound contrived (fake). In this book, I tried to show you how to answer questions in a natural way. Don't start every question with the same phrase! For example, some people say, "In my view, my favourite trip was to France." The phrase "in my view" sounds very unnatural here because the question is not asking for your view!

The difference between beginner speakers and advanced speakers is that beginners cling to memorized words, phrases, and structures. If you want to have more variety in your speaking, you need to learn more words and phrases. I think a great way to do that is to watch my YouTube videos.



Sometimes people fail the test multiple times. Just remember, every time you fail, you are learning more English! Knowing English will really help you in your real life here in Canada. I hope you pass the first time, but don't worry if you fail. If your score is very close to what you need, my advice would be to simply retake the test (if you can afford it).

If you need an 8 in all categories, and your score is something like 7-7-6-5, I think it would be better to forget about CELPIP for a few months. Focus on learning more English. Then, try again and see how you do.

Thanks again for reading this book and supporting my work! I wish you all the best as you study for CELPIP!

You will definitely succeed if you do these things:

1. Relax
2. Keep learning
3. Keep trying

Take care!

Mark

