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English for Exams

makkarIELTS Speaking Guesswork

Sep- Dec 2021

Final Version



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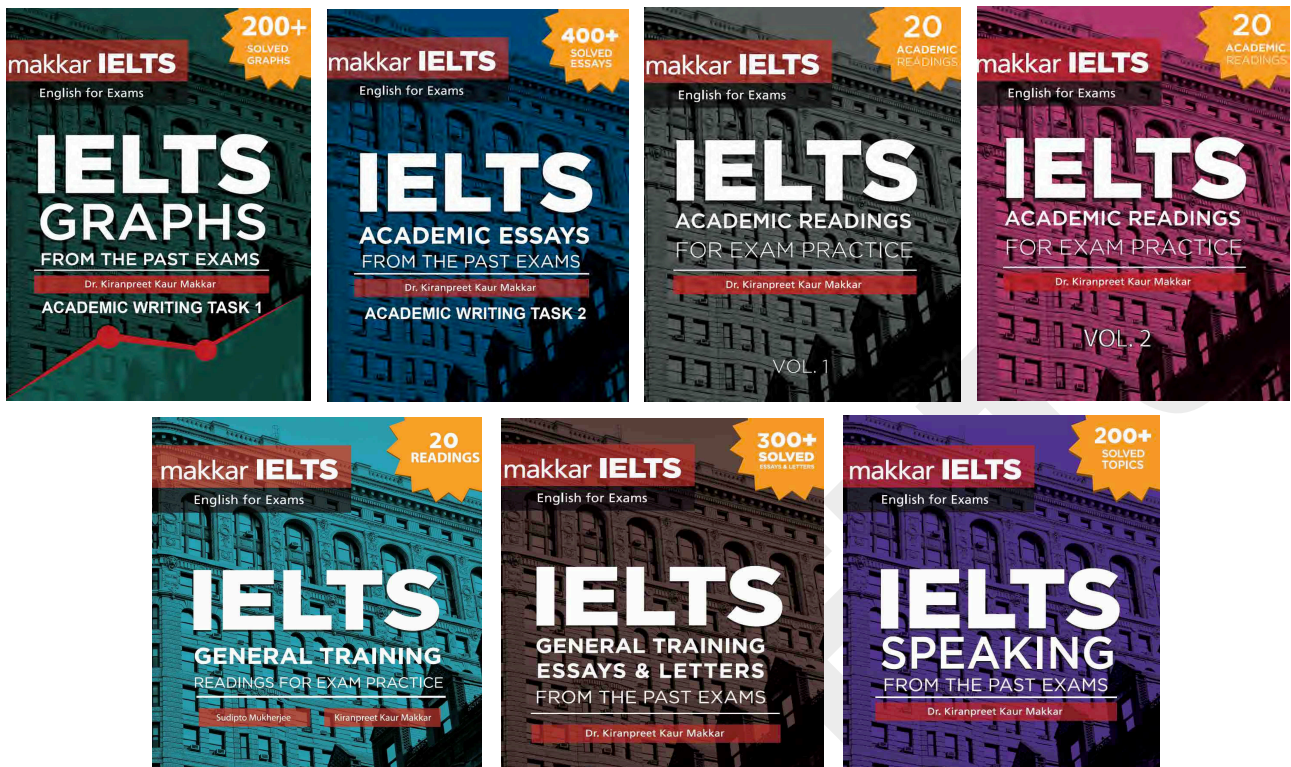
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1. Describe a person who impressed you the most when you were in primary school

You should say

- Who he/she is?
 - How you knew him/her
 - Why he/she impressed you the most
 - And how you feel about him/her
-
- I was considered a very naughty kid in my childhood.
 - I was intelligent, but I used to never study at home.
 - In fact, I would spend all my day playing sports or video games.
 - So, my mother made me join extra classes after school with a home tutor nearby.
 - Her name was Mrs. Bambang.
 - She is the person who impressed me the most during my childhood.
 - In fact, I believe it is because of her that I might be able to fulfil my dream of going abroad.
 - First, she developed my interest in studies.
 - Before her, I used to consider studies a chore.
 - I only studied before exams.
 - Rather than asking me to memorise things, she made me understand the concept behind things.
 - The teachers at my school were also good, but due to the burden of covering the vast syllabus and shortage of time, they found it hard to cover everything in detail.
 - She covered everything in detail.
 - But studies were not the only reason, why she left such a big imprint on me.
 - I learnt many of life's valuable lessons from her in my childhood.
 - She taught me the importance of humility, punctuality, and industriousness.
 - Even if I was late by 5 minutes, I was not allowed to attend the class.
 - In India, where being a few minutes late is on time, I am actually early for every appointment.
 - Another thing that I liked about her was that though she was strict, she was also very friendly to talk to.
 - She was more than a teacher to me in this regard.
 - I shared all my problems with her, and she would always patiently listen.
 - And instead of providing solutions, she would ask me to think what the best action in that scenario would be.
 - Because of this, I am independent today and I am confident of taking decisions without second-guessing myself.
 - I have the utmost respect for her and along with that, there is a feeling of guilt because I feel I would never be able to pay her back for all that she did for me.

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Follow-ups

1. Why do people always miss their childhood?

I think it's because that is the only time when we are free of worries, tensions, and stress. We know that our parents would take care of any problem we face. It is also because after childhood we are never able to spend that much time with our family again.

2. Are kids happier than adults? Why?

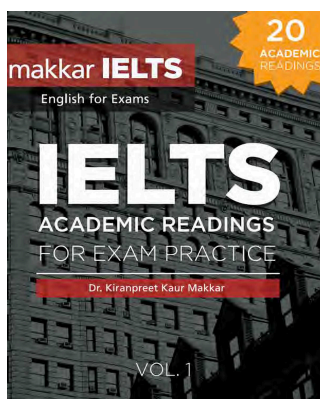
Yes, I believe most people are happier during their childhood and it's because of the same reason, they don't have to face the responsibilities and stress of adult life.

3. Why do people still remember many of their friends from primary school?

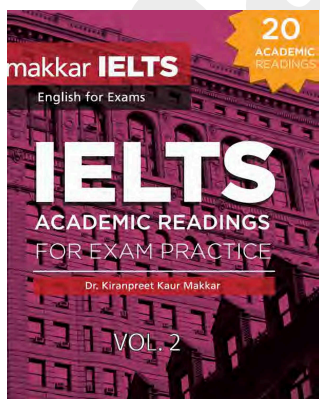
I think it's because of the amount of time we spent with them. We never spend as much time with friends during adulthood because of work and familial responsibilities. Also, because we all like to reminisce about our childhood, and childhood friends are a big part of our childhood.

4. What kinds of primary school teachers impress students?

I think primary school teachers need to be patient and understanding. All children are different in different ways. For example, some have a difficult time reading but are good at math. Teachers need to be able to understand these differences and have the patience to be able to guide students at their own speed. This is especially important at early ages because children are not mature enough to explain their problems to teachers.



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2. Describe an item on which you spent more than expected

You should say:

- What it is
 - How much did you spend on it
 - Why you bought it
 - And explain why you think you spent more than expected.
- Recently, my old phone broke down and I had to buy a new phone.
 - I considered various models but ultimately, I decided to buy the Apple iPhone.
 - I think I made the purchase because of the brand name and because of friend's reviews.
 - The phone was much more costlier than I expected.
 - It was priced at Rs 70,000.
 - I still went for it because I wanted to own an iPhone.
 - Previously, I had a Samsung phone, but all my friends told me that Apple is way above Samsung in quality.
 - After buying it, I also felt that Apple is better.
 - The camera quality was better, the response rate was faster, the look was more elegant.
 - However, deep down, I knew I didn't care about these things.
 - I rarely click pictures with the phone and even if I do, I am fine with a lower resolution.
 - The response rate was faster, but then I was comparing the response rate of a new Apple iPhone with a 3-year-old Samsung phone, so the comparison was not apt.
 - And, above all, the price was way higher than the other models in the market.
 - I bought the mobile phone not because of need but because of impulse.
 - I know I am not a heavy mobile phone user.
 - I mainly use the mobile phone to call and to check WhatsApp messages.
 - Besides that, I use barely 2-3 apps like Zomato for ordering food and Uber for travelling.
 - I knew I could have that done all that I wanted with a much cheaper version, but I still went for the Apple iPhone.
 - Finally, because of this decision, I had to postpone the decision of buying a new laptop, which I urgently need.
 - My old one is about 6 years old and sometimes it takes nearly half an hour to start up.
 - A new laptop would have made my life much more comfortable than the iPhone did.
 - For all these reasons, I regret buying the iPhone and spending so much on it.

Follow-ups

1. Do you often buy more than you expected?

Yes, I often buy more than I expected, but it is normally in case of small household items or grocery items. For example, I would buy 2 pairs of jeans if they are on an offer, even if I need just one. The iPhone was the first time, I spent so much more than I should have spent.

2. What do you think young people spend most of their money on?

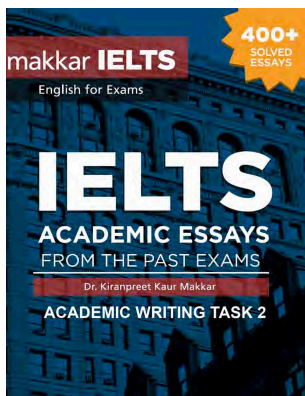
I think young people spend their money on clothes and other fashion accessories like belts, shoes, etc. Also, I think a lot of youth spend their money on gadgets like mobile phones, laptops, and headphones.

3. Do you think it is important to save money? Why?

Yes, I think it is crucial as we can never be certain about the future. The recent Corona epidemic has made it even more clear that how uncertain life is. Many people died because they couldn't afford the costly healthcare. Also, if people didn't have savings, it would have been impossible to tide over these difficult times.

4. Do people buy things that they don't need?

Yes, all the time. I think we buy things because buying things makes us happy. Even though we know we won't be using the thing, we buy it for momentary happiness. A common example is an electric drill, which people barely use for 10 mins after buying and then collects dust sitting unused for years.



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3. Describe an activity that you usually do that wastes your time

- What it is
 - When you usually do it
 - Why do you do it
 - And explain why you think it wastes your time.
- In all honesty, thinking about an activity that wastes my time was rather picking one activity from a long list of activities that I waste my time on.
 - So, out of all those activities, I think playing video games is the one that I regret the most.
 - I play video games in the evening or on the weekends.
 - I feel they are wasteful because they don't achieve my intended purpose.
 - I think I play them to relieve my stress, but actually I end up feeling more stressed after playing them,
 - The thrill of the win makes me play more and thus I end wasting hours on it, which in the end stresses me.
 - Losing, on the other hand, makes me feel incompetent, which again ultimately makes me feel stressed.
 - However, more than anything, I think it is wasteful because it doesn't benefit me in any way.
 - Rather I lose out on a lot of important things in life because of playing these games.
 - I feel like I would spend more time with my family if I didn't play them.
 - I could also be playing outdoor activities or going to the gym instead, which would be beneficial for me from a health perspective.
 - Another hobby I had in my childhood was reading books, but because of this, I am not able to read books as well.
 - And reading novels always improved my mood because I felt I gained something after reading them.
 - It didn't matter whether it was fiction or non-fiction.
 - A lot of my friends also complain that in recent years I have stopped spending time with them.
 - I always give the excuse that I am busy, but I know that I would be able to spend plenty of time with them if I didn't play video games.
 - However, I also believe that there are people who are really able to enjoy games and feel better after playing them.
 - Then, there are others who are actually able to make money by playing video games.
 - For them, it might not be wasteful, but for me it certainly is.

Follow-ups

1. How do you balance work and life?

I think balancing work and life is always a work in progress. We are always doing it and it is not something specific. For example, if we go on vacation with the family, we come back and spend extra time at work to make up for the pending work. Another rather unhealthy way, we achieve it is by cutting down on our sleep hours, but it takes a big toll on our mental and physical health.

2. Will you continue doing something when you are aware that it wastes your time?

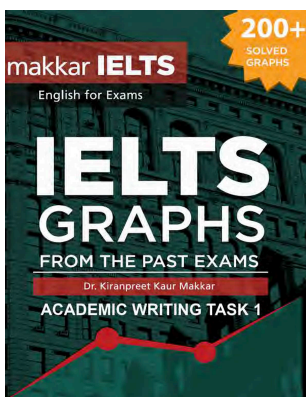
I think the adage 'bad habits die hard' would be the best answer to this question. I think we do such things because we are addicted to them. I think it's very hard to give up on such activities and it requires a lot of willpower. However, the realisation that the activity is wasteful is the first step, and once people have that it becomes easier to stop.

3. What kind of things make people pressured?

I think there are millions of things in today's life that stress us- for example financial obligations, unreasonable work deadlines, competition with others, and maintaining relationships. The pressure each puts varies according to the stage of life- for example, competition stress is in the early stages when we are trying to get into universities or trying to secure a good job and financial stress comes a little later when we have to manage the expenses for the whole family.

4. Why do some people refuse to abide by the rules?

I think there is a certain thrill in breaking rules and doing whatever we want. In some ways, it is exhilarating and freeing to not care about the rules and regulations. Actually, I think it is good as long as we don't harm others because it prevents life from becoming monotonous and boring.



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4. Describe a skill that was difficult for you to learn

You should say:

- When you learned it
 - Why you learned it
 - How you learned it
 - How you felt when you learned it
-
- When I was young, my parents planned a vacation for Goa, a state famous for its picturesque beaches.
 - I was very excited to visit Goa and spend some time at the beach, as I had never visited one before.
 - My parents also told me that they would allow me to Goa, only if I learnt swimming first.
 - However, I had a terrible time learning swimming.
 - Firstly, since my childhood, I have had big fear of water.
 - I wanted to visit the beaches, but I was not planning on entering the water.
 - In fact, that's the reason my dad planned the whole trip- he wanted me to get over my fear
 - Secondly, there was only one swimming pool in my city at that time.
 - And the swimming instructor there was strict and rude.
 - I knew I would get shouted at because I would be slow at learning.
 - So, I used to skip the swimming lessons without telling my parents.
 - I used to go play table tennis with my friends instead of going to the pool.
 - Then, one day my dad accompanied me to the pool to check on my progress.
 - My father saw that I hadn't made any progress.
 - He got really angry and told me that either I learn swimming, or he would cancel the whole trip.
 - After that day, I became serious about it.
 - It wasn't easy and on the first two-three days, I barely entered the water once.
 - But when the instructor came to know about my water phobia, he was really patient with me.
 - He let me learn it at my own pace.
 - He also allowed me to use the tube to float, even though he forbids everyone else from using it.
 - Slowly, as I got comfortable, he told me how to use my legs to stay afloat, instead of the tube.
 - I don't remember much, as it was quite some time ago, but I do remember it took me more than 3 months to learn swimming, while on average people pick it up within 2-3 weeks.
 - After learning, I felt amazing.
 - I hadn't just learnt swimming; I had also conquered my fear of water.
 - My parents were also very proud of me.
 - And because I learnt swimming, I had an amazing time in Goa.

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Follow-ups

1. What skills do students need to master?

Academically speaking, I think students need to master skills like reading, math, and speaking. Non academically, I think skills like cooking, money management, driving, and so on are skills that every student should possess. Also, in today's world, everyone should try to have computer skills.

2. Is it hard for students to learn new skills?

On the contrary, I feel it is easier for them to pick up new skills as they are young, and their minds can pick up and retain things better. That is why, children are encouraged to learn many things like driving, swimming, foreign languages at a young age.

3. It is hard for old people to learn new skills.

I wouldn't say it is hard for them either. But it is not as easy as it is for children or kids to pick up new things. Old people might not be able to remember things, so they might need to do things repeatedly for them to pick up on skills.

4. Is a good teacher very important for students learning experience? Why?

Yes, absolutely. Teachers are not only responsible for teaching but also ensuring that children are motivated to learn things. Moreover, nowadays, children are very impatient and lose focus easily. If the teacher is not able to grab and hold on to their attention, he would not be able to teach anything.

5. Describe a time you moved to a new home/school

You should say:

- When you moved
 - Where you moved
 - Why you moved
 - And how you felt about it
-
- 5 years ago, my grandparents moved in with us from the village.
 - Their health was deteriorating because of old age, and they were feeling very lonely in the village. My father found it very difficult to take care of them and focus on his work at the same time.
 - So, he requested grandpa and grandma to come live with us.
 - At first, they were reluctant.
 - However, after some cajoling by my sister and I, they finally agreed.
 - We had been so focused on convincing them to shift in with us that we had forgotten one thing.
 - We had a small two-bedroom house at that time, and it was insufficient for the six of us to live in the house.
 - We adjusted for a while, but ultimately my dad decided to rent a four-bedroom house about 5 kilometres meters from our old house.
 - Our last house was rental as well and despite the difference in size, there wasn't much difference in the rent between the two houses.
 - Maybe it was because the house we shifted to was quite old.
 - I had mixed feelings about the whole experience.
 - On the one hand, I was very happy that I would be getting my own room.
 - On the other hand, the house we shifted to wasn't as comfortable as the old one.
 - There was no air-conditioning in my room. So, it got very hot during the day, and I was barely able to stay in the room during the day.
 - But, at night, as the temperature came down, I was able to sleep in the room.
 - Moreover, I missed my old neighbours and friends.
 - There were many children of my age in my previous neighbourhood.
 - In the new community, there was hardly anyone my age.
 - It got very boring.
 - My parents were afraid of sending me too far to my old neighbourhood to play.
 - But, on a positive note, this meant that I spent more time with my grandparents, which improved my bond with them.
 - I still reminisce about that old house sometimes, but I don't regret moving to the new house.
 - Actually, I am very happy that my parents made that sacrifice for taking better care of my grandparents.

Follow-ups

1. Why do people move to a new home?

There are many reasons why people move to a new home. But, most commonly people move for job, education. In other words, people move when they get a job or join an educational institute, which is too far for them to commute daily. Another big reason is marriage or because of children. This is because either they want independence and privacy or because their earlier house might be too small to accommodate the growing family.

2. What problems do people face after moving to a new place? How do people solve these problems?

I think it depends upon the place they are moving to. For example, if they are moving to a new place with a different culture, they might face a culture shock. Another problem is getting to know neighbours and making new friends. People solve these problems by having a housewarming party to invite new neighbours and get to know them.

3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in the same place?

It is comfortable to live in the same place for a long time. As people are familiar with everything, they don't need to spend time setting up things again and again. On the other hand, it gets boring and monotonous to live in the same place.

4. Is it good to move to a new place frequently? Why?

I don't think it is good to move to a new place too frequently. Firstly, it might be challenging to do so financially. Moving involves a lot of expenses. Secondly, it might be difficult to make new friends and people might miss their old place. Finally, from a children's point of view, it can be disastrous as it would affect their educational continuity.

6. Describe a time when you felt proud of a family member

You should say:

- When it happened
 - Who is this person?
 - What the person did
 - And explain why you felt proud of him/her.
-
- I have a big family and there are many moments when my family be it my grandparents, parents, siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins have made me proud.
 - Here I would like to talk about a moment that happened recently.
 - In July this year, my niece participated in a kid's triathlon competition.
 - She is just 10 years old, and this was her first time doing a triathlon.
 - She has participated in running competitions before but this time she was doing 3 activities, swimming, biking, and running one after the other.
 - She was very nervous about the transition phases between the 3 activities as the time taken during the transitions can get very crucial in a triathlon.
 - She got only a week to practice as my sister enrolled her at the last minute.
 - I was so proud that she was even participating in a competition like this at such a young age.
 - I couldn't believe that she was skilled at all three activities.
 - I talked to my niece on the phone the night before to motivate her. I told her to have fun and wished her the best of luck.
 - My sister called the next day to tell us that not only did my niece finish the race successfully but also stood 3rd place in her age group.
 - She took a total of 17 minutes to finish the race.
 - I was so happy to hear that and felt so proud of my niece.
 - She has always been good at academics and gets good grades but now she was a triathlete.
 - My sister sent pictures of the trophy ceremony and I showed them to everyone in our family.
 - I talked to my niece later that day to congratulate her.
 - I could hear the joy in my niece's voice. She told me that next time she will aim for a faster time.
 - She had lost some time getting on the bike, putting on the helmet, and then getting off the bike.
 - I told her she did great for her first time and went beyond my expectations.
 - No one in our family has participated in an event like this and this was a proud moment for us all.
 - In fact, my niece has motivated me to get into shape and start running.
 - I even started taking swim lessons as I never learnt swimming before because of my water phobia.

Follow-ups

1. When would parents feel proud of their children?

Parents feel proud of their children when they meet and achieve their goals. It can be getting good grades in school, getting into the sports team, graduating from college, and getting their first job, etc. For younger children parents are proud when they achieve tiny milestones like saying their first word, taking their first step, tying their shoelaces by themselves, etc.

2. Should parents reward children? Why and how?

Yes, parents should reward children for their achievements and hard work. It encourages them to continue doing it and makes them feel good about them themselves. Instead of giving material goods as rewards, parents should reward children by praising them, letting them do a favorite activity, or spending more time with them.

3. Is it good to reward children too often? Why?

I don't think parents should reward children too often as it can make them feel entitled. Buying them toys, gadgets as rewards can make them materialistic. Younger kids may become too focused on the reward and forget about the reason they are being rewarded for. They can even start negotiating with parents for every small task they do.

4. On what occasions would adults be proud of themselves?

Adults have many occasions when they are proud of themselves like a promotion at their job, buying their first home, getting their children into good schools, doing social work like helping others or a friend in need, etc.