

TỔNG HỢP BÀI MẪU

IELTS SPEAKING PART 2 SIMON



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Chào các bạn,

Dưới đây là tuyển tập 41 bài mẫu IELTS Speaking Part 2 Huyền tổng hợp được từ website của thầy Simon.

Huyền đã in đậm và dịch các từ/cụm từ hay tiếng Việt để giúp các bạn dễ dàng hiểu bài hơn.

Huyền mong rằng tài liệu sẽ hữu ích với các bạn trong quá trình ôn luyện IELTS Speaking nhé!

Chúc các bạn học thật tốt!

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Nguyễn Huyền

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1. Describe a time when you received good service in a restaurant or cafe.

You should say

- when this was
- what kind of restaurant or cafe you were in
- why you were there
- and why you thought the service was good

I'm going to talk about the service we received in a restaurant where a friend of mine **celebrated his birthday** last Saturday evening.

My friend had decided to **book a table** in a local Italian restaurant for the party. It was a small, **family-run place**, but this made it feel all the more welcoming and inviting. The atmosphere was great and the service was excellent.

As I mentioned, I went to the restaurant because a friend had invited me to celebrate his birthday there. There were about ten of us there - mostly people I've known since university - and it was really nice to **catch up with** them and **chat about what we had all been up to** since we last got together.

The service was good because the restaurant staff and owners really made us **feel at home**. From the moment we walked in, the waiters were **polite, approachable** and **attentive**; nothing was too much to ask. They **brought out a cake with candles** and sang 'Happy Birthday' to my friend, although we hadn't asked them to do this, and the restaurant owners kept checking whether we were happy with everything, which was **thoughtful** of them. All in all, the delicious food, good company and friendly service made it **an unforgettable evening**.

Celebrated his birthday: tổ chức sinh nhật của anh ta

Book a table: đặt bàn

Family-run place: nơi do gia đình điều hành

Catch up with: bắt kịp với

Chat about what we had all been up to: trò chuyện về tất cả những gì chúng tôi đã làm

Feel at home: cảm thấy như ở nhà

Polite: lịch sự

Approachable: dễ gần

Attentive: niềm nở

Brought out a cake with candles: mang ra một cái bánh với những cây nến

Thoughtful: chu đáo

An unforgettable evening: buổi tối không thể quên

2. Describe a café that you have been to.

You should say

- *where it is*
- *why you went there*
- *what you ate or drank*
- *and explain why you liked or disliked the café.*

I'm going to describe a café that I go to maybe once a week. It's just down the road from where I live, near Manchester, so it's really convenient for me to **walk down there for a coffee or a bite to eat**, and to use the wifi.

The last time I went to this local café was on Friday afternoon. I was trying to do some work at home, but I **found myself getting distracted** by little jobs around the house. So I decided to **have a change of scenery**; I put my laptop in my bag and made the short walk to the café, where I spent the next few hours **getting all of my work done**. With a nice cup of coffee and just **the right level of background noise**, I found it much easier to concentrate.

Over the course of the afternoon, I drank two cups of coffee and a glass or two of water. The café owner **takes a lot of pride in** making the best **'flat white' coffee** in the area, so that's what I tend to drink. If I remember correctly, the second coffee that I ordered was a **decaf**, because I try to avoid drinking too much caffeine in the afternoon. I didn't have anything to eat on that occasion, but I do sometimes have one of the **home-made cakes** that they sell.

There are a few reasons why I like going to my local café. I suppose the main reasons are the coffee, the free wifi and the friendly staff. However, on Friday I also managed to sit at my favourite table near one of the windows, and the café wasn't very busy. So the atmosphere and noise level were just right, and I was able to focus on my work **without distractions** for most of the afternoon.

Walk down there for a coffee or a bite to eat: đi xuống đó để uống cà phê hay ăn gì đó

Found myself getting distracted: phát hiện bản thân bị phân tâm

Have a change of scenery: có một sự thay đổi khung cảnh

Getting all of my work done: hoàn thành tất cả những công việc của tôi

The right level of background noise: mức độ tiếng ồn vừa phải

Over the course of: trong suốt...

Takes a lot of pride in: rất tự hào về điều gì

'flat white' coffee: cà phê fat white

Decaf: cà phê không chứa cafein

Home-made cakes: bánh tự làm

Without distractions: không phân tâm

3. Describe a time when you were really busy.

You should say

- *when this was*
- *why you were so busy*
- *how you managed the situation*
- *and explain how you felt at the time.*

I'm going to talk about the time I left a university **assignment** until the last minute and had to **work flat out** to get it finished. This was about ten years ago when I was doing my **Master's degree**.

I had to do several 3000-word assignments for the modules on my Master's course, but I remember that there was one **in particular** that I really **struggled with**. I had been **procrastinating** and **putting it off for weeks**, and in the end I left myself just two days to **get the whole assignment done**. This included finding and reading relevant books and articles, deciding on my **thesis and assignment title**, and producing **a final draft** which had to be **handed in to** the department office before the deadline.

The pressure of such a close deadline actually forced me to manage the task in a really efficient way. My first step was to **decide on** the general area that I wanted to write about, and then I limited myself to just ten **research sources**. I printed the most **relevant pages**, highlighted the key paragraphs and **made some notes** to **summarise** and **synthesise** the ideas that I found interesting. Finally, I just started writing the main body of the assignment, and I wrote the title and the introduction last.

assignment: bài tập phải hoàn thành
Work flat out: làm việc hết sức
Master's degree: bằng thạc sĩ
In particular: đặc biệt
Struggled with: đấu tranh với
Procrastinating: trì hoãn
Putting it off for weeks: hoãn lại nó trong vài tuần
Get the whole assignment done: hoàn thành bài tập
Thesis and assignment title: luận điểm và chủ đề bài làm
A final draft: bản dự thảo cuối cùng
Handed in to: nộp lại
Decide on: chọn
Research sources: nguồn nghiên cứu
Relevant pages: các trang liên quan
Made some notes: thực hiện một số ghi chú
Summarise: tóm tắt
Synthesise: tổng hợp

4. Describe something you did that made you feel proud of yourself.

You should say

- *what you did*
- *when you did it*
- *why you felt proud of what you had done*
- *and explain how you felt when this happened.*

One of my **proudest achievements** was completing my **undergraduate degree** at the university of (name). **The key moment** that I remember was when I received my **final exam results**; I was **delighted** to have passed with better scores than I expected.

I graduated from university in (year). As far as I recall, we received our final exam results in May and **the graduation ceremony** was in July. Our exam scores for individual course modules were **posted on the noticeboard** in the corridor of the university department, and I remember **getting into the lift** in the department one morning, knowing that I would soon see my results.

The particular moment when I really **felt overjoyed** and proud of what I had achieved was when I saw my exam results on the department noticeboard. This was **the precise point in time** when I realised that I had passed and that my **hard work had paid off**. I was proud because I had **overcome some setbacks** earlier in the course, and I had **proved to myself that** I could achieve my goals.

As I approached the department noticeboard I felt really **nervous** but also **excited**; I knew that **the moment of truth** was **just seconds away**. And when I saw my final exam results I was surprised, **thrilled** and **relieved** all at the same time. I didn't **shout out with joy**, but I think I probably **clenched my fist** and said "yes" to myself. I certainly remember **walking back down the corridor with a spring in my step, feeling elated** and knowing that four years of study were finally over.

Proudest achievements: thành tích tự hào nhất

Undergraduate degree: bằng đại học

The key moment: khoảnh khắc then chốt

Final exam results: kết quả thi cuối khóa

Delighted: vui mừng

The graduation ceremony: lễ tốt nghiệp

Posted on the noticeboard: đăng trên bảng thông báo

Getting into the lift: đi vào thang máy

Felt overjoyed: cảm thấy rất vui mừng

The precise point in time: thời điểm chính xác

Hard work had paid off: nỗ lực được trả công

Overcome some setbacks: vượt qua một số trở ngại

Proved to myself that: chứng minh với tôi rằng

Nervous: lo lắng

Excited: phấn khích

The moment of truth: khoảnh khắc của sự thật

Just seconds away: cách đó vài giây

Thrilled: vui mừng

Relieved: an tâm

Shout out with joy: hét lên với niềm vui

Clenched my fist: nắm chặt tay tôi

Walking back down the corridor with a spring in my

step: đi bộ xuống hành lang với niềm vui trong bước chân của tôi

Feeling elated: cảm thấy vui mừng

5. Describe a piece of clothing that you like wearing.

You should say

- *what the item of clothing is*
- *where and when you bought it*
- *when you wear it*
- *and explain why you like wearing it.*

I'm going to describe a coat that I often wear at the moment. The coat is **dark blue** in colour, and it's **made out of a lightweight, waterproof material**, which makes it perfect for wearing at this time of year here in the UK. It also has a **detachable hood**, which I used yesterday when it was raining, and various **pockets** on the outside and on the inside.

I bought the coat last year at the beginning of autumn when the weather started to get colder. It was easy to buy because I had had the exact same coat before; my old coat was starting to **look a bit worn out**, so I decided to buy **a new version**. As I knew which size I needed, I simply went online and found the best offer; I bought it through a shopping website, and it **was delivered to** my house a few days later.

As I said, I'm wearing this coat a lot at the moment. It's my everyday coat for going to work or for when I go out shopping or for any other reason.

The reason why I like this coat is that it's so **practical and functional**. It's waterproof and it keeps me warm, but it also **comes in handy for carrying things** like my phone, **wallet, loose change**, a pen, and even a **notebook**; I tend to **fill my pockets with** whatever I can. It even **folds up** small enough to fit in my bag when I don't need it.

Dark blue: xanh đậm

Made out of: làm từ

Lightweight: trọng lượng nhẹ

Waterproof material: vật liệu không thấm nước

Detachable hood: mũ xe có thể tháo

Pockets: túi

Look a bit worn out: nhìn có vẻ sờn đi

A new version: một phiên bản mới

Was delivered to: được gửi tới

Practical and functional: thực tiễn và nhiều chức năng

Comes in handy for carrying things: có ích để mang đồ đạc

Wallet: ví

Loose change: tiền lẻ

Notebook: sổ tay

Fill my pockets with: cho vào túi của tôi với

Folds up: gấp lại

6. Describe a time when you had to do something in a hurry.

You should say

- what you were doing
- when this was
- why you had to hurry
- and explain how you felt at that time

I'm going to talk about a time when I had to **hurry** to **get ready for** a trip with some **colleagues** while I was **working in a previous job**.

It was a Monday morning about five years ago. A group of us had to **catch an early flight**, and a **senior member** of our **department** had **volunteered to** drive us to the airport. I was supposed to be ready and waiting to **be picked up** from my home at 5.30am, and my colleague had asked me to **look out for** his car so that he didn't have to **ring my doorbell**.

The problem was that I **overslept**. I had **set my alarm**, but somehow I must have **turned it off** and **carried on sleeping**. Suddenly, at 5.30am, my doorbell rang and I **looked over at my alarm clock**. I **immediately realised** what had happened, and I **sprang out of bed** and **got dressed in record time**. I **splashed some water on my face**, quickly **brushed my teeth**, and **put my shoes on** without properly **tying the laces**. Then I **picked up my suitcase and coat**, and left the house.

I can still remember the moment when the doorbell woke me up and I saw the time: I was **filled with a sense of panic and fear** as I realised that my colleagues were waiting outside. Then, when I left my house and walked towards the awaiting car, I felt so **embarrassed** because it was obvious that I hadn't been ready on time.

Hurry: vội**Get ready for:** sẵn sàng cho**Colleagues:** đồng nghiệp**Working in a previous job:** làm công việc giống trước đây**Catch an early flight:** bắt một chuyến bay sớm**Senior member:** thành viên cao cấp**Department:** điểm đến**Volunteered to:** tình nguyện để**Be picked up:** được đón đi**Look out for:** chú ý**Ring my doorbell:** nhấn chuông cửa**Overslept:** ngủ quá giờ**Set my alarm:** đặt báo thức**Turned it off:** tắt nó đi**Carried on sleeping:** tiếp tục ngủ**I looked over at my alarm clock:** tôi nhìn qua đồng hồ báo thức của tôi**Immediately realised:** lập tức nhận ra**Sprang out of bed:** nhảy ra khỏi giường**Got dressed in record time:** mặc quần áo trong thời gian kỉ lục**Splashed some water on my face:** rửa mặt sơ qua**Brushed my teeth:** đánh răng**Put my shoes on:** mang giày**Tying the laces:** buộc dây giày**Picked up my suitcase and coat:** lấy vali và áo khoác**Filled with a sense of panic and fear:** đầy cảm giác hoảng sợ và sợ hãi**Embarrassed:** xấu hổ

7. Describe a long walk that you enjoyed.

You should say

- *when you went on this walk*
- *where it took place*

<p>When I'm going to describe a walk that I enjoyed last summer while I was on holiday on the south coast of England. It was the first week of August, and we set off on the walk on the first morning of the holiday just after breakfast, at around 9 o'clock. The walk took us the whole morning and finished at lunchtime.</p> <p>Where As I mentioned, the walk took place on the south coast of England. I was on holiday with my family in a place called Dorset, and we were staying in a rented house. Our aim was to walk from the house to a place called Durdle Door beach. First we had to find the coast path, and then we followed this path for several miles until we reached Durdle Door and finally descended the steep steps that led to the beach.</p>	<p>On holiday: trong kì nghỉ Set off on the walk: bắt đầu đi dạo Took place: đã diễn ra The south coast: bờ biển phía Nam Rented house: nhà cho thuê The coast path: đường bờ biển Descended the steep step: đi xuống những bậc khá dốc</p>
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8. Describe an educational television programme that you liked.

You should say

- what the programme was about
- when and where you saw it
- how you found out about this programme
- and why you liked it.

I'm going to talk about one of my favourite educational TV programmes, which is **a nature documentary** called 'Planet Earth'. There were eleven **episodes** of this programme, and each one **featured a different habitat** on Earth, such as mountains, **caves**, **deserts** and **jungles**. The aim of the 'Planet Earth' series was to take the viewer into those habitats, using **spectacular footage** of interesting animals, plants and landscapes.

I first saw 'Planet Earth' on television when it was **broadcast** by the BBC several years ago. I think it was shown every Sunday evening, which was the perfect time to watch **a fascinating nature programme**. Then, a few years ago, somebody bought me the DVD box set of the whole series as a Christmas present, and I watched the episodes again.

I found out about this TV programme because it **was advertised repeatedly** in the weeks before it was first **aired**. The TV trailers were really **eye-catching** because they showed incredibly beautiful images of nature. I also recognised the voice of the **narrator** of the programme, the **well-known naturalist** David Attenborough. It was these trailers that persuaded me to watch the first episode.

What I liked most about the 'Planet Earth' series was its **stunning photography** and its **global scope**. For example, in the "Fresh Water" episode, they showed us **the giant salamander** in Japan, **crocodiles** in the river Nile, and river dolphins in the Amazon. I was amazed at how they had managed to film such **interesting creatures** in so many locations. I enjoyed learning about **strange animal species**, and the programme opened my eyes to

A nature documentary: phim tài liệu về thiên nhiên
Episodes: tập
Featured a different habitat: trình chiếu một môi trường sống khác nhau
Caves: hang động
Deserts: sa mạc
Jungles: rừng
Spectacular footage: cảnh quan tuyệt đẹp
Broadcast: phát sóng
A fascinating nature programme: một chương trình tự nhiên hấp dẫn
Was advertised repeatedly: được quảng cáo nhiều lần
Aired: đã phát sóng
Eye-catching: bắt mắt
Narrator: người dẫn chuyện
Well-known naturalist: nhà tự nhiên học nổi tiếng
Stunning photography: ảnh đẹp
Global scope: phạm vi toàn cầu
The giant salamander: bò sát khổng lồ
Crocodiles: cá sấu
Interesting creatures: những sinh vật thú vị
Strange animal species: loài động vật lạ
The hidden wonders: kì quan ẩn

the hidden wonders of our planet.	
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9. Describe a change that you would like to see in your local area.

You should say

- *what the change would be*
- *who would be involved in making the change*
- *how it would be done*
- *and why you would like to see the change happen.*

The change that I'd like to see in my **local neighbourhood** is the **pedestrianisation** of the main shopping street in the town centre. I'd like to see traffic diverted around this area in order to make it safer and more attractive for visitors and shoppers. Most of the traffic that **clogs up the main street** is just passing through the town, but it's the local people who have to **put up with the congestion, noise and pollution**.

It's the job of the **local council** to make changes like the one I'm suggesting. But before the council does anything, there usually needs to be some **pressure** from local people to **bring a problem to light**. So, perhaps we need a **campaign** by **local residents** who want to see this change. Then the council might **contract** a town planner or an architect to **come up with** some possible designs for a new road system.

I'm not sure how exactly the process of creating a **pedestrian street** would work, but I imagine that it would require detailed planning. Perhaps a **bypass** would need to be built around the town centre first. This would give drivers a faster **alternative** to driving through the town, and it would allow the main shopping street to be **blocked off** and **pedestrianised**.

I'd like to see this change because it would really improve the quality of life of residents in the town where I live. I can imagine the new pedestrian street having cafes and restaurants with **outdoor seating**. It would be a safer and more **pleasant** place for families to go shopping, and I'm sure this would **have a positive knock-on effect on** local shops and businesses.

Local neighbourhood: địa phương lân cận
Pedestrianisation: quá trình biến con đường mua sắm thành đường cho người đi bộ
Clogs up the main street: chặn các tuyến đường chính
Put up with the congestion: chịu đựng việc kẹt xe
Noise and pollution: tiếng ồn và ô nhiễm
Local council: hội đồng địa phương
Pressure: áp lực
Bring a problem to light: đưa một vấn đề ra ánh sáng
Campaign: chiến dịch
Local residents: cư dân địa phương
Contract: ký hợp đồng với
Come up with: đưa ra
Pedestrian street: phố đi bộ
Bypass: cầu vượt
Alternative: cách thay thế
Blocked off: bị chặn
Pedestrianised: người đi bộ
Outdoor seating: chỗ ngồi ngoài trời
Pleasant: thoải mái
Have a positive knock-on effect on: có tác động tích cực đến

10. Describe a film that you would like to see in the future.

You should say:

What the film is called

What it is about

How you heard about this film

And why you would like to see it.

I'm going to talk about a film that I'd like to see when it comes out later this year. It's the new James Bond film, and I saw in the news that it's going to be called 'Spectre'. I think 'Spectre' refers to the name of **the imaginary criminal organisation** that James Bond has to **defeat** in the film.

As 'Spectre' hasn't been **released** yet, I don't know exactly what it will be about. But I can guess that the hero, Bond, is going to be **on a mission** to save the world from an **arch-criminal** as usual. I'm sure it will be similar to most of the previous Bond films, with a **plot line** involving lots of **twists and turns**, and with Bond using his skills to defeat his **nemesis** in the end.

I first heard about this film when I was watching the news a couple of months ago, and since then I've seen the official trailer on TV. There have also been **various articles in newspapers** discussing the actors who **have been cast to play supporting roles in the film**. The James Bond films are always big news here in the UK, probably because Bond himself is an English character.

I'd like to see 'Spectre' at the cinema because I'm sure it will be **full of action scenes** and **special effects**, and I like the fact that Bond's missions always take place in **spectacular locations** in different parts of the world. Of course Bond films are totally **unrealistic**, you could even say **ridiculous**. But they're always fast, entertaining and fun, a bit like a **roller-coaster ride**!

The imaginary criminal organization: tổ chức tội phạm tưởng tượng

Defeat: đánh bại

Released: phát hành

On a mission: làm nhiệm vụ

Arch-criminal: tội phạm cao cấp

Plot line: cốt truyện

Twists and turns: sự thay đổi bất ngờ

Nemesis: kẻ báo thù

Various articles in newspapers: nhiều bài viết trên báo chí

Have been cast to play supporting roles in the film: đã được mời đóng vai phụ trong phim

Full of action scenes: đầy những cảnh hành động

Special effects: hiệu ứng đặc biệt

Spectacular locations: địa điểm hấp dẫn

Unrealistic: không thực tế

Ridiculous: nực cười

Roller-coaster ride: tàu lượn siêu tốc

11. Describe a prize that you would like to win.

You should say

- *what the prize is for*
- *how you know about it*
- *what you would have to do to win it*
- *and why you would like to win this prize.*

I'm going to talk about a prize that I would like to win, which is the **'employee of the year' award** at the company where I work. At the end of December each year, the company **directors give this award to** a member of staff who has **made an outstanding contribution to** the business over the previous twelve months.

I first heard about this prize during my training and **orientation period** just after I got the job three years ago. It was early December and some of my colleagues were discussing who might be awarded 'employee of the year' later that month. I was **intrigued**, and asked them to tell me more about the award.

As I said, the prize is given for 'outstanding contribution to the business'. We don't have an exact definition of what this means, but we **assume** that you have to **achieve certain standards**, such as **100% attendance, good punctuality, meeting targets and deadlines**, good teamwork, and so on. I think the winner also needs to have done something especially creative. For example, last year's winner created a completely new service for our clients.

I'd like to win 'employee of the year' because it would mean that my work had been recognised by the company directors, and this would definitely help me to **progress in my career**. It would also give me **a great sense of personal achievement**.

'Employee of the year' award: giải thưởng nhân viên của năm

Directors give this award to: đạo diễn trao giải thưởng cho

Made an outstanding contribution to: đóng góp đáng kể cho

Orientation period: khoảng thời gian thử việc

Intrigued: phấn khích

Assume: giả sử

Achieve certain standards: đạt các tiêu chuẩn nhất định

100% attendance: 100% tham dự

Good punctuality: đúng thời gian

Meeting targets and deadlines: đáp ứng các mục tiêu và thời hạn

Progress in my career: tiến bộ trong công việc của tôi

A great sense of personal achievement: một cảm giác tuyệt vời về thành tựu cá nhân

12. Describe a future aim.

- *what the aim is*
- *when you hope to achieve it*
- *what you need to do to reach your goal*
- *and why this goal is important to you.*

<p>I'm going to describe a future aim of mine, which is to write a book. I'd like to write a novel, so the story or plot would be fictional, but it would probably be influenced by some of my own experiences, ideas and views.</p> <p>Unfortunately I have no idea where to start or what my novel would be about, so I can't imagine achieving this aim until later in my life. Maybe it will be something that I do as a hobby when I retire, or I might suddenly be inspired to start writing much sooner. It's just a vague objective at the moment.</p> <p>I think it must be extremely difficult to find the motivation to write a novel, so more than anything I would need time, commitment and the passion to keep working until I finished. I would probably need to set a goal of writing for a certain amount of time each day, and of course I'd need a good idea for a story in the first place.</p> <p>This goal interests me because I've always wondered how people manage to create a work of fiction from nothing; I've always wondered whether I could do the same, and whether I'd be capable of bringing a story to life. I've always enjoyed reading, and I'd like to follow in the footsteps of my favourite authors.</p>	<p>Write a novel: viết một cuốn tiểu thuyết Plot: cốt truyện Fictional: viễn tưởng As a hobby: như một sở thích Retire: về hưu A vague objective: mục tiêu mơ hồ Commitment: cam kết Passion: đam mê Set a goal of writing for a certain amount of time each day: đặt mục tiêu viết cho một khoảng thời gian nhất định mỗi ngày Create a work of fiction from nothing: tạo ra một tác phẩm viễn tưởng từ con số 0 Bringing a story to life: mang câu chuyện vào cuộc sống Follow in the footsteps of my favourite authors: theo bước chân của tác giả yêu thích của tôi</p>
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13. Describe an indoor game that you enjoyed as a child.

You should say

- *what the game was*
- *where you played it*
- *who played this game with you*
- *and why you liked it*

As a child I enjoyed playing chess. I think chess is probably **the best known board game** in the world. It's a game for two players, and the aim is to **defeat** the other player by **taking his or her pieces** and eventually **trapping his King**. This final move is called **checkmate**.

I remember that it was a classmate of mine at primary school who first taught me to play chess. He had **a small, portable chess set**, and once I knew how each piece moved, we started playing at break and lunch times; we played in our classroom or outside on **the school playground**. Later my parents bought me my own chess set as a birthday present so that I could play at home.

I taught my younger brother to play, and at some point I joined the school chess club. There I had the chance to **hone my skills against** some of the older **pupils**, and in my final year of primary school I **made it onto the school team**. There were five of us on the team, and we **competed against** children from other primary schools in the same town.

I liked playing chess because I enjoyed **the challenge of thinking ahead** and trying to **outwit my opponent**. I was probably seven or eight years old when I started playing, and it seemed like **a very mysterious and intellectual game** at that time. Also, although I loved winning, chess taught me to **learn from my losses** and to **congratulate the person who had beaten me**.

The best known board game: trò chơi cờ nổi tiếng nhất

Defeat: đánh bại

Taking his or her pieces: lấy quân cờ của đối phương

Trapping his king: đặt bẫy quân vua

Checkmate: chiếu tướng

A small, portable chess set: một bộ cờ vua cầm tay nhỏ

The school playground: sân chơi trường học

Hone my skills against: trau dồi kĩ năng của tôi chống lại

Pupils: học sinh

Made it onto the school team: tham gia vào đội tuyển trường

Competed against: đấu với

The challenge of thinking ahead: thách thức những suy nghĩ phía trước

Outwit my opponent: đánh lừa đối thủ của tôi

A very mysterious and intellectual game: một trò chơi rất bí ẩn và trí tuệ

Learn from my losses: học từ những tổn thất của mình

Congratulate the person who had beaten me: chúc mừng người đã đánh bại tôi

14. Describe a school that you went to when you were a child.

You should say

- **where the school was**
- **when you went there**
- **what the school and the teachers were like**
- **and explain whether you enjoyed your time there.**

I'm going to talk about my primary school. The school was called and it was in the town of The location of the school was great because it was within walking distance of our family home at the time. The route to school was all **downhill**, which made it an easy walk in the morning, but **a tiring journey on the way home** in the afternoon!

I was a pupil at school between the ages of 5 and 11 - the full 6 years of primary education. **From age 11 onwards**, I went to a nearby secondary school.

My primary school seemed like a big place at the time, but it was actually quite a small school, with only six classes. I remember there being a large room called the **assembly hall**, where the whole school gathered every morning to hear messages from the **headmaster**. I also remember spending a lot of time on the playground and on the **sports field**. I liked all of my teachers; they were **caring** but **strict** at the same time, and I think they **fostered a positive and fun atmosphere** in the school.

I have really fond memories of my primary school years, mainly because of the friends I made and the fun I had. One of my most **vivid memories** is of **performing in the school play** in my final year. I had to learn **lines** and play the part of a character in a traditional children's story. It was a **nerve-racking experience**, but it felt like my first real achievement.

Downhill: dốc xuống
A tiring journey on the way home: một chuyến hành trình mệt mỏi trên đường về nhà
From age 11 onwards: từ 11 tuổi trở lên
Assembly hall: hội trường
Headmaster: hiệu trưởng
Sports field: sân thể thao
Caring: chăm sóc
Strict: nghiêm khắc
Fostered a positive and fun atmosphere: tạo được bầu không khí vui vẻ và tích cực
Vivid memories: những kí ức sống động
Performing in the school play: biểu diễn trong vở kịch của trường
Lines: kịch bản
Nerve-racking experience: trải nghiệm căng thẳng

15. Describe a family celebration that you remember.

You should say

- *what you were celebrating*
- *who was present*
- *what you and your family did to make the celebration special*
- *and why you enjoyed the occasion.*

I'm going to describe my sister's wedding day, which took place a few years ago in the town where I grew up. For my sister it was the biggest and most important day of her life.

I think there were around 100 people at the **marriage ceremony**, which **was held in a church**. Even more people came to the party, or the **wedding reception** as we call it, after the ceremony. Of course, most members of my family were there, as well as the **groom's** family and a collection of the **bride** and groom's friends and colleagues.

To make the celebration special, we did what families normally do. My mother made sure that the church and the reception venue **were nicely decorated** - there were flowers everywhere! Obviously we all **dressed for the occasion**, and there were **bridesmaids, gifts**, a huge **wedding cake**, and so on.

I enjoyed the occasion because it was great to see my sister so happy on her big day. The ceremony was perfect, and we all **had a fantastic time** at the reception. It's rare for me to see all of my family and friends together in one place, so that's probably what made the day so memorable for me.

- Marriage ceremony:** lễ cưới
- Was held in a church:** tổ chức tại nhà thờ
- Wedding reception:** tiệc cưới
- Groom:** chú rể
- Bride:** cô dâu
- Were nicely decorated:** được trang trí độc đáo
- Dressed for the occasion:** trang phục cho dịp này
- Bridesmaids:** phù dâu
- Gifts:** quà tặng
- Wedding cake:** bánh cưới
- Had a fantastic time:** có một khoảng thời gian tuyệt vời

16. Describe a positive experience that you had as a teenager.

You should say

- *what the positive experience was*
- *where you were*
- *who you were with*
- *and explain why you found the experience positive.*

I'm going to describe the first time I visited England's capital city, London, on **a school trip** when I was a teenager. I had never been to London before, and it was great to share that experience with my school friends.

The positive experience wasn't **confined to** one particular place in London. As far as I remember, I enjoyed the whole trip, from the **coach journey** to the visits to **various tourist attractions**. We **got off** the coach near the Houses of Parliament, and so one of my first memories was seeing the famous **'Big Ben' clock tower**. We also visited the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square.

As I said earlier, it was a school trip, and I think there were around thirty of us, including two teachers. I was with a group of close friends, which made the experience more enjoyable.

What really **struck** me about London was that it was **historic** but modern and **thriving** at the same time. It seemed to me to be **a lively, fashionable and cosmopolitan place**. Coming from a relatively small town, the experience made me keen to visit more capital cities in the future.

A school trip: một chuyến đi của trường
Confined to: giới hạn
Coach journey: hướng dẫn viên hành trình
Various tourist attractions: các điểm tham quan khác nhau
Got off: xuống xe
Big ben' clock tower: tháp đồng hồ Big Ben
Struck: làm cho ngạc nhiên
Historic: mang tính lịch sử
Thriving: phát triển mạnh, thịnh vượng
A lively, fashionable and cosmopolitan place: một nơi sống động, thời trang và có tính quốc tế.

17. Describe a subject that you think should be removed from school education programmes.

You should say

- what the subject is
- why you think it is unnecessary for children to study it
- and explain what you would replace it with.

<p>I'm going to suggest that art could be taken out of the school curriculum. In my experience, art lessons at school tend to include drawing, painting, and the making of collages using paper, fabric and other household materials.</p> <p>There are a few reasons why I think that school art lessons are unnecessary.</p> <p>Firstly, I don't believe that drawing and painting are essential skills that children will need when they leave school. Children might find these activities enjoyable, but it's unlikely that they will need them in the working world.</p> <p>Secondly, children can draw, paint and make collages in their own time at home; parents can encourage this, and they can even join in. Finally, remembering my own art lessons at school, I don't think we learnt any real art skills; the teachers left us to draw or create things, but they didn't provide much technical instruction.</p> <p>Instead of art lessons, children could do more work on core subjects like maths, science or language. These subjects are more likely to help children in later life when they enter the job market, and I think both children and their teachers would benefit if more time were devoted to them.</p>	<p>Be taken out of the school curriculum : đưa ra khỏi chương trình giảng dạy của trường</p> <p>Drawing: vẽ</p> <p>Painting: tô màu</p> <p>Making of collages using paper: làm tranh ghép bằng giấy</p> <p>Fabric and other household materials: vải và các vật liệu gia dụng khác</p> <p>Unnecessary: không cần thiết</p> <p>Essential skills: kỹ năng thiết yếu</p> <p>The working world: thế giới làm việc</p> <p>Encourage: khuyến khích</p> <p>Technical instruction: hướng dẫn kỹ thuật</p> <p>Core subjects: môn học chính</p> <p>Enter the job market: bước vào thị trường lao động</p> <p>Devoted: hết lòng</p>
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18. Describe an interesting conversation you had with someone you didn't know.

You should say

- *who the person was*
- *where the conversation took place*
- *what you talked about*
- *and explain why you found the conversation interesting.*

I'm going to talk about an interesting conversation that I had a couple of weeks ago in a music shop. I was walking along one of the main shopping streets in the city centre, when a large window **displaying** all sorts of **musical instruments caught my eye**. **Out of curiosity**, I decided to go in and **have a look around**.

The person I ended up speaking to was a **shop assistant** on the second floor, in the area of the shop **dedicated to** acoustic guitars. I hadn't **intended to** speak to anyone, but the assistant **approached** me in a friendly way and asked whether I had any questions.

I explained to the assistant that I hadn't played the guitar for years, but that I **wondered** what the differences were between the various acoustic guitars on show. He talked to me about the different **makes and models**, whether they were factory or hand made, the **woods** and **varnishes** used, the variation in **sound quality**, and of course the **price range**.

I found the conversation fascinating because the shop assistant was so **knowledgeable**. It was obvious that he **had a passion for** the guitar, and he **didn't mind** talking to me even though I had made it clear that I didn't intend to buy anything. He even **picked up** and played three or four of the instruments to **demonstrate the differences** in their sound.

Displaying: trưng bày

Musical instruments caught my eye: nhạc cụ thu hút cái nhìn của tôi

Out of curiosity: vì tò mò

Have a look around: nhìn xung quanh

Shop assistant: người phụ giúp cửa hàng

Dedicated to: dành riêng cho

Intended to: dự định

Approached: đã tiếp cận

Wondered: tự hỏi

Makes and models: mô hình và mẫu

Woods: gỗ

Varnishes: vecni, sơn dầu

Price range: khung giá cả

Knowledgeable: có kiến thức

Had a passion for: có niềm đam mê cho

Didn't mind: không phiền

Picked up: chọn

Demonstrate the differences: minh họa sự khác biệt

19. Describe your favourite season in your country.

You should say

- *when that season is*
- *what the weather is like at that time of year*
- *how that season is different from other seasons*
- *and why it is your favourite season.*

My favourite season in England is winter. A typical English winter would last around 4 or 5 months between November and March, but when I say that I like the winter, I'm really thinking about the coldest month or two each year.

During those really **wintry** months, the temperature **drops below zero** and it often snows. Over the last few years we've had periods of quite **heavy snowfall**, **to the extent that** roads have been **blocked** and schools have had to close. Last winter I remember **looking out of the window** one morning and seeing everything **covered in a layer of white**.

Obviously the snow is what **differentiates winter from the other seasons**, but when it doesn't snow there isn't much difference between winter, autumn and spring; winter is just a bit colder.

The reason I've chosen winter as my favourite season is because I like the snow. I live near the countryside, and the landscape looks beautiful when everything is covered in white. We also **celebrate** Christmas and New Year in the winter, and these are my **favourite festivals**.

- Wintry:** mùa đông
- Drops below zero:** xuống dưới 0 độ
- Heavy snowfall:** tuyết rơi dày
- To the extent that:** đến mức mà
- Blocked:** chặn
- Looking out of the window:** nhìn ra cửa sổ
- Covered in a layer of white:** bao phủ bởi một lớp trắng xóa
- Differentiates winter from the other seasons:** phân biệt mùa đông với những mùa khác
- Celebrate:** tổ chức
- Favourite festivals:** lễ hội yêu thích

20. Describe an open-air or street market which you enjoyed visiting.

You should say:

- where the market is
- what the market sells
- how big the market is
- and explain why you enjoyed visiting it.

I'm going to describe a **street market** that I've enjoyed visiting many times in Manchester. It's the Manchester Christmas Market, and it comes to the city for about a month from the end of November every year. The **market stalls** are **spread across several sites** in the city centre, but the **centerpiece** is the large European market in Albert Square next to the Town Hall.

The Christmas Market stalls **sell an array of** Christmas gifts and **mouth-watering** food and drink from all over Europe. It's a great place to find **handmade crafts** such as **jewellery, ornaments, wooden toys** and other **souvenirs**, but it's the food and drink that seem to be most popular. Probably the biggest seller is the 'Gluhwein', **a hot, sweet wine** which is sold in **a souvenir mug**.

The market was **originally** quite small, **occupying** just one of the central squares in Manchester, but it's grown quickly in recent years, **spilling over into** maybe five other **pedestrian streets** and a few other squares. Apparently there are over 200 stalls now, so it's become a really big event attracting thousands of visitors.

The main reason I've always enjoyed visiting the Christmas Market is the **fantastic atmosphere**. When I went there last December, it didn't matter how cold or wet the weather was, Manchester seemed to **come alive** when the market opened; the streets were **bustling with** people and there was **a real festive feel** to the city.

Street market: khu chợ đường phố
Market stalls: gian hàng chợ
Spread across several sites: trải dài nhiều khu vực
Centerpiece: trung tâm
Sell an array of: bán rất nhiều
Mouth-watering: ngon đến chảy nước miếng
Handmade crafts: đồ thủ công
Jewellery: đồ kim hoàn, trang sức
Ornaments: đồ trang trí
Wooden toys: đồ chơi gỗ
Souvenirs: quà lưu niệm
A hot, sweet wine: rượu vang nóng, ngọt
A souvenir mug: cốc lưu niệm
Originally: ban đầu
Occupying: chiếm
Spilling over into: tràn vào
Pedestrian streets: phố đi bộ
Fantastic atmosphere: không khí tuyệt vời
Come alive: trở nên sống động
Bustling with: nhộn nhịp với
A real festive feel: một cảm giác lễ hội thực sự

21. Describe a funny situation that made you laugh.

You should say

- when this situation took place
- what happened
- how you reacted and why you found the situation funny.

I'm going to talk about a funny thing that happened to me a couple of weeks ago. I think it was a Saturday morning, and I was sitting having a coffee in a café near where I live.

I was on my own so I decided to read the newspaper while drinking my coffee. I must have been quite **engrossed in** what I was reading because the time passed quickly, and I **suddenly realised that** I needed to **get going**. What I didn't realise was that I had been **sitting with my legs crossed**, and one of my legs **had completely gone to sleep**. As I **stood up** to leave the café, I **quickly became aware that** my left leg was 'dead', but it was too late; I **started to fall**. I thought I could **catch myself on the table**, but the table **tipped over** and I fell to the floor in front of everyone in the café!

I can remember **being on my knees** in **the middle** of the café, looking up at the staff and customers around me. I felt really **embarrassed** and I expected the other people to find it funny, but **to my surprise** nobody was **laughing**. They were all **worried** that something really bad had happened to me! As I got up from the floor, I had to explain to the whole café that I was fine. I was embarrassed at the time, but I laughed about it later!

- Engrossed in:** hăng say
- Suddenly realised that:** đột nhiên nhận ra rằng
- Get going:** phải đi
- Sitting with my legs crossed:** ngồi với đôi chân bắt ngang
- Had completely gone to sleep:** hoàn toàn mất cảm giác
- Stood up:** đứng dậy
- Quickly became aware that:** nhanh chóng nhận ra rằng
- Started to fall:** bắt đầu té
- Catch myself on the table:** bắt mình trên bàn
- Tipped over:** lật
- Being on my knees:** đang quỳ
- The middle:** ở giữa
- Embarrassed:** xấu hổ
- My surprise:** ngạc nhiên của tôi
- Laughing:** cười to
- Worried:** lo lắng

22. Describe a team project that you worked on.

You should say:

- *what it was*
- *what you did*
- *and how you felt about it.*

<p>I'd like to talk about a team project that I was involved in during my final term at business school. There were four of us on the team, and our task was to work with a local company to research a new market, in a European country, for one of their products or services. Our objective was to produce a report and give a presentation.</p> <p>The first thing we did was split into two groups of two. We had been assigned a company that produced a range of bicycle accessories, so two of us spent some time getting to know the company while the other two researched the market and the competitors in the target country, which was Germany. In the end, I think it was a successful project because we managed to identify a possible gap in the market in Germany for one of the company's products. Our group presentation also went really well.</p> <p>Until that point, the course had been all about business theory, so it was quite a learning experience to work with a real company. I felt a real sense of accomplishment when we handed in our report and delivered our presentation, and I think all of us were proud of what we had done.</p>	<p>A team project: một dự án nhóm Involved in: tham gia vào Final term: kì thi cuối Objective: mục tiêu Produce a report: làm một báo cáo Give a presentation: làm một bài thuyết trình Split into: chia ra Assigned: giao Bicycle accessories: phụ kiện xe đạp Getting to know: làm quen Competitors: đối thủ cạnh tranh Identify a possible gap: xác định khoảng cách có thể Went really well: thực sự tốt Until that point: cho đến thời điểm đó Business theory: lý thuyết kinh doanh Felt a real sense of accomplishment: cảm thấy một cảm giác thành công thực sự Handed in: nộp lại Proud of: tự hào về</p>
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23. Describe a piece of furniture that you own.

You should say

- *what it is*
- *where you bought it*
- *how you use it*
- *and explain why you like it.*

I'm going to talk about my favourite chair. It's a big, leather armchair that sits in my living room at home, just under my living room window.

I didn't actually buy the **armchair**. One of my friends was moving house and was going to buy some new **furniture**. I had always liked his **leather armchair**, so he said I could have it if I managed to move it. The chair wouldn't **fit** in my car, and it was **tricky** to **get it out of** my friend's apartment. I had to **hire a small van** to take the armchair home.

Obviously I use the armchair for sitting! It's my favourite place in the house to relax, read a book, watch TV or even do some work; the chair's arms are quite **wide and flat**, so my laptop fits nicely on either of them. Last night I **fell asleep** in my armchair while I was watching a film.

The main reasons why I like this piece of furniture are that it's **comfortable** and it's **in the perfect position** in my living room. The only **drawback** might be that I enjoy sitting in the armchair too much, and sometimes I think it makes me lazy!

Armchair: ghế bành

Furniture: đồ nội thất

Leather armchair: ghế da

Fit: vừa vặn

Tricky: khó

Get it out of: làm cho nó ra khỏi

Hire a small van: thuê một chiếc van nhỏ

Wide and flat: rộng và phẳng

Fell asleep: ngủ thiếp đi

Comfortable: thoải mái

In the perfect position: ở vị trí hoàn hảo

Drawback: hạn chế

24. Describe an old building that you like.

You should say:

- *where it is*
- *what it is used for*
- *and why you like it.*

<p>I'm going to describe a very famous building in New York: the Empire State Building. People might not think of it as an old building, but the Empire State Building was built in 1931, so I don't think it can be classed as new. It's located on Manhattan and it's probably the most distinctive and recognisable building when you look at New York's skyline.</p> <p>As far as I know, the Empire State Building is an office building, but visitors can go up to an observation deck on the top floor, which is the 102nd floor. There's also a 360-degree observation area on the 86th floor. Apparently, the building makes more money from the sale of tickets to the observation floors than it does from office rentals.</p> <p>I think the Empire State Building is still one of the most impressive skyscrapers in the world. It's such an iconic structure, and it's amazing to think that it was built around 80 years ago. The best thing about the building is the viewing deck on the top floor, which offers spectacular views of the city; it's definitely the best vantage point in New York. I'd recommend anyone who visits the city to go there and experience the view.</p>	<p>Island: đảo</p> <p>Distinctive and recognisable building: tòa nhà đặc biệt và dễ nhận biết</p> <p>Office building: tòa nhà văn phòng</p> <p>Observation deck: đài quan sát</p> <p>A 360-degree observation area: khu vực quan sát 360 độ</p> <p>Office rentals: văn phòng cho thuê</p> <p>Impressive skyscrapers: những tòa nhà chọc trời ấn tượng</p> <p>Iconic structure: cấu trúc mang tính biểu tượng</p> <p>Viewing deck: đài/khoang quan sát</p> <p>Offers spectacular views of the city: có tầm nhìn ngoạn mục ra thành phố</p> <p>The best vantage point: điểm thuận lợi nhất</p>
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25. Describe a TV programme or channel that you enjoy watching regularly.

- *What it is called and what is it about?*
- *When do you usually watch it ?*
- *Why do you prefer it to other programmes or channels?*

I rarely watch traditional television channels nowadays; I much prefer searching for interesting programmes or videos online. So, although it's not a normal TV channel or programme, I'd like to talk about a website which I think is kind of **a modern version of** a TV channel. It's called TED, which stands for 'Technology, Entertainment, Design', and it's a great place to **watch short talks and presentations about** all sorts of interesting topics.

The good thing about the videos on TED is that I can watch them whenever I want. I have ted.com saved as one of my favourites on my laptop, and I **tend to** visit the website **every few days** to check whether there is anything new. I often watch TED videos on my phone while I'm travelling to work on the train.

The reason I like watching online videos on TED is that I learn something new every time I watch one. **The tagline for** the TED website is 'ideas worth spreading', and this really **sums up the appeal of the site** for me. Instead of watching **meaningless soap operas** and talk shows on TV, I'd much rather spend 10 minutes watching someone talk about **a breakthrough in technology, science or healthcare**.

A modern version of: một phiên bản hiện đại của
Watch short talks and presentations about: xem các cuộc hội đàm và thuyết trình ngắn về

Tend to: có xu hướng

Every few days: cứ mỗi vài ngày

The tagline for: dòng khẩu hiệu cho

Sums up the appeal of the site: tổng hợp sự hấp dẫn của các trang web

Meaningless soap operas: những vở opera vô nghĩa

A breakthrough in technology: một bước đột phá về công nghệ

Science or healthcare: khoa học hoặc chăm sóc sức khỏe

26. Describe a vehicle you would like to buy in the future.

You should say

- *what kind of vehicle it is*
- *what you would use it for*
- *and why you would like to buy it.*

If I had the money, I'd like to buy my own **helicopter**. I recently saw a TV programme about someone who flew around in his own helicopter, and I remember thinking that it would be great to have one. The helicopter on the programme was a small, blue, **two-seater** and it seemed quite easy to fly - that's the kind of thing I'd like to buy.

Ideally, I'd use my helicopter instead of a car. First, I'd need to learn to fly it, but then I'd use it to **go on short trips or holidays**. It would be fantastic to be able to **avoid traffic jams**, and **get everywhere in a fraction of the time it normally takes**. I'd take friends and family sightseeing, over cities or mountain tops, and maybe I could even use it to do the shopping!

The reason I'd like to buy a helicopter is that you can **park one almost anywhere**. You don't need to find a **runway** or an **airport** like you would for a plane. So I'd be able to park my helicopter in my garden - if I had a bigger garden. Also, I've always been **intrigued** by those **helipads** on the tops of tall buildings - I think it would be fun to **land on top of a building**. A helicopter probably isn't a realistic choice of vehicle, but you never know - I might **win the lottery!**

Helicopter: máy bay trực thăng
Two-seater: hai chỗ ngồi
Go on short trips or holidays: đi nghỉ ngắn ngày hay nghỉ lễ
Avoid traffic jams: tránh ùn tắc giao thông
Get everywhere in a fraction of the time it normally takes: đi khắp nơi trong cùng khoảng thời gian như vậy
Park one almost anywhere: đậu bất cứ đâu
Runway: đường băng
Airport: sân bay
Intrigued: phần khích
Helipads: bãi đáp trực thăng
Land on top of a building: đáp máy bay trên đỉnh tòa nhà
Win the lottery: trúng số

27. Describe a beautiful garden that you like.

You should say

- where it is
 - what you can see there
 - what people do there
- and explain why you like it.

Today I'd like to describe my home garden, which I think is a beautiful one and which I like very much. The garden is part of my home's **backyard**, and my house **is located in the suburbs**, about a 1-hour drive from the city of San Francisco. There is a big tree right in the middle of my garden, which is surrounded by a **hot tub**, a small **water fountain**, **several bushes**, a section for vegetables, and different kinds of flowers.

This garden was actually one of the reasons why my wife and I chose to buy our house because it had been **beautifully maintained by the previous owner's gardener and landscaper**. It's been only 1 year since we bought the house and now we are taking care of the garden ourselves. Even though we are not **experts in** gardening, we still try our best to plant things that we like, such as **roses** and **tulips**, and we even grow our own **tomatoes**.

Whenever family and friends come to visit us, we invite them to have a relaxing time in our hot tub, and **enjoy the view**. So **in other words**, our garden has also **become a kind of resort**! It definitely **requires lots of hard work** to **properly maintain** the garden, but it gives us **a great sense of accomplishment** to "decorate" it the way we like.

All in all, the garden is one of the best features of my home and it is a place where I can relax after a long day of work or during the weekends.

- Backyard:** sân sau
- Is located in the suburbs:** nằm ở ngoại ô
- Hot tub:** bồn nước nóng
- Water fountain:** đài phun nước
- Several bushes:** vài bụi cây
- Beautifully maintained by the previous owner's gardener and landscaper:** được duy trì tốt bởi người làm vườn và canh tác của chủ sở hữu trước
- Experts in:** các chuyên gia trong
- Roses:** hoa hồng
- Tulips:** hoa tu líp
- Tomatoes:** cà chua
- Enjoy the view:** thưởng thức khung cảnh
- In other words:** nói cách khác
- Become a kind of resort:** trở thành một loại resort
- Requires lots of hard work:** yêu cầu rất nhiều sự chăm chỉ
- Properly maintain:** duy trì đúng cách
- A great sense of accomplishment:** một cảm giác thành công

28. Describe a situation that made you angry.

You should say

- *when it happened*
- *what happened*
- *how you felt*

A recent situation that made me angry was **getting stuck in a traffic jam** on the way to meet some friends. It was last Sunday lunchtime, and I didn't expect there to be much traffic; people don't work on Sundays, so the roads aren't usually very busy.

Everything was going well until suddenly I saw a **queue of cars** on the road in front of me. I had no choice but to **join the queue** and wait to get past whatever was **causing the delay**. **It turned out that** it was caused by some **roadworks**, and it took me an extra 30 minutes to **get past** them.

Getting stuck in **traffic congestion** doesn't usually make me angry, but this time it did, mainly because I wasn't expecting it and I knew that my friends were waiting to meet me for lunch. I **felt frustrated and powerless** because there was nothing I could do to change the situation, and **I had no idea** how long I would be sitting there waiting. When I finally saw the reason for the congestion, I was relieved that I was close to getting past the roadworks, but I still felt a bit stressed knowing that I **was half an hour late**.

Getting stuck in a traffic jam: bị kẹt xe
A queue of cars: chuỗi xe hơi xếp hàng (bị kẹt xe)
Join the queue: tham gia vào hàng đợi
Causing the delay: gây ra sự chậm trễ
It turned out that: hóa ra nó là...
Roadworks: làm đường, thi công
Get past: vượt qua
Traffic congestion: ùn tắc giao thông
Felt frustrated and powerless: cảm thấy nản lòng và bất lực
I had no idea: tôi không biết
Was half an hour late: đã trễ nửa tiếng

29. Describe an artist or entertainer you admire

You should say

- *who they are and what they do*
- *how they became successful*
- *how you found out about them*
- *and why you admire them*

I'm going to talk about a musician that I admire, called... He's a singer who also plays the guitar and writes his own songs. I think he recorded his first album about 10 years ago, and he's **released** several other CDs since then.

He became successful after many years of writing songs and **performing live** in small **venues** all over the country. Gradually he built a following of people who liked his music. I think the key to his success was one of his songs that was used on a **TV advertisement**. This meant that more people **became aware of** his music.

I found out about... because one of my friends got tickets to see him in **concert**. I hadn't heard any of his music before, but I **went along to the gig** and really enjoyed it. After that I bought the first CD, and now I've got all of them.

The reason I admire... is that he has worked hard for his success: **it takes years of practice** to become a good singer and **guitarist**, and he spent several years playing to **very small audiences** before he became successful. I also like the fact that he writes his own music. I admire people who have worked hard to get where they are.

Released: phát hành

Performing live: biểu diễn trực tiếp

Venues: địa điểm

Tv advertisement: quảng cáo truyền hình

Became aware of: đã biết

Concert: buổi hòa nhạc

Went along to the gig: đi đến buổi diễn

It takes years of practice: phải mất nhiều năm thực hành

Guitarist: nghệ sĩ ghi ta

Very small audiences: lượng rất nhỏ khán giả

30. Describe an interesting lesson that you attended.

You should say

- *where you attended this lesson*
- *what it was about*
- *and why you found it interesting*

I'm going to talk about an interesting science lesson that I attended at secondary school when I was 14 or 15 years old.

It was quite a long time ago, so I can't remember every detail, but the lesson was about **respiration**. We learnt about **how the lungs work**, how we **breathe**, and how oxygen **passes into the blood**. The science teacher also talked to us about the effects of smoking on the lungs.

I found this lesson interesting because my science teacher, Dr. Smith, always introduced new topics by showing us a video. We watched a short film about how respiration works, and I found this much easier to understand than a science textbook. The film showed **diagrams** of the lungs to explain the **breathing process**. Later in the lesson we saw real photos of healthy lungs and lungs that had **been damaged as a result of smoking**; they had turned black. I think the image of a smoker's lungs is the reason why I remember this lesson.

Respiration: hít thở, hô hấp

How the lungs work: phổi làm việc như thế nào

Breathe: thở

Passes into the blood: đi vào máu

Diagrams: biểu đồ

Breathing process: quá trình thở

Been damaged as a result of smoking: bị phá hủy do hút thuốc

31. Describe a modern building.

You should say:

- *where it is*
- *what it is used for*
- *and why you like/dislike it.*

<p>I'm going to describe a modern building in Manchester. It's called the Beetham Tower, and it's the tallest building in the city, with about 50 floors.</p> <p>Although it's called the Beetham Tower, most people know this building as the Hilton Hotel. In fact, the bottom half of the tower is the hotel and the top half is apartments. The apartments are expensive because the location and views make them very desirable.</p> <p>I'm not sure if I like the design of the building, it's just a huge glass tower, but it definitely stands out. It has become a famous landmark in the city. You can see it as you approach Manchester, and it's an easy place to meet people because it's so distinctive and easy to find. The most interesting thing about the Beetham Tower is that there is a bar/restaurant on the 23rd floor which has spectacular views of the city; it's definitely the best vantage point in Manchester because there are no walls, only huge windows, so you can look out over the city in any direction. I'd recommend anyone who visits Manchester to go there and experience the view.</p>	<p>The bottom half of the tower: phần dưới cùng của tháp</p> <p>The top half: phần trên cùng</p> <p>Desirable: mong muốn</p> <p>Huge glass tower: tháp thủy tinh lớn</p> <p>Stands out: nổi bật</p> <p>A famous landmark: cột mốc nổi tiếng</p> <p>Approach: đi tới</p> <p>Distinctive: đặc biệt, khác biệt</p> <p>Has spectacular views of the city: có tầm nhìn ngoạn mục của thành phố</p> <p>The best vantage point: điểm thuận lợi nhất</p> <p>Look out over the city in any direction: nhìn ra thành phố theo mọi hướng</p>
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32. Describe a person you admire.

You should say:

- who the person is
- what he or she is like
- and why you admire him or her.

<p>I'm going to talk about my father because he has been a major influence in my life.</p> <p>My father was always a good role model for me as I was growing up. He's hard-working, patient and understanding; he's also got a good sense of humour and seems to get on well with everybody. Hopefully I've inherited some of these traits.</p> <p>I admire my father because I think he brought me and my brothers/sisters up well; he was quite strict but always fair, and he has always been someone I can turn to for advice. I think my father set a good example by working hard and having a positive outlook on life. I remember that he used to leave for work early and come home quite late, but he always made time for me and my brothers/sisters.</p>	<p>A major influence: một người có ảnh hưởng lớn A good role model: một hình mẫu tốt Hard-working: chăm chỉ Patient: kiên nhẫn Understanding: thấu hiểu A good sense of humour: có khiếu hài hước Inherited: thừa hưởng Traits: đặc điểm tính cách Admire: ngưỡng mộ Strict: nghiêm khắc Fair: công bằng Turn to for advice: đến để xin lời khuyên Set a good example: là 1 tấm gương tốt Having a positive outlook on life: có quan điểm tích cực về cuộc sống Leave for work early: rời nhà đi làm sớm</p>
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33. Describe a festival that is important in your country

You should say:

- when the festival occurs
- what you did during it
- what you like or dislike about it
- and explain why this festival is important

<p>Christmas is an annual holiday that, in Christianity, commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Popular customs of the holiday include gift-giving, music, an exchange of greeting cards, church celebrations, a special meal, and the display of various decorations; including Christmas trees, lights, nativity scenes, and holly. In addition, Father Christmas (known as Santa Claus in some areas) is a popular figure in many countries, associated with the bringing of gifts for children.</p> <p>Over the Christmas period, people decorate their homes and exchange gifts. In some countries, children perform plays re-telling the events of the Nativity, or sing carols that reference the event. Christmas, along with Easter, is the period of highest annual church attendance.</p> <p>A special Christmas family meal is an important part of the celebration for many, and what is served varies greatly from country to country. In England and countries influenced by its traditions, a standard Christmas meal includes turkey, potatoes, vegetables, sausages and gravy, followed by Christmas pudding, mince pies and fruit cake.</p>	<p>Annual holiday: lễ thường niên Commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ: kỉ niệm ra đời của Chúa Giê su Popular customs: tập quán phổ biến Gift-giving: tặng quà An exchange of greeting cards: trao đổi thiệp mừng Church celebrations: lễ kỉ niệm ở nhà thờ The display of various decorations: khung cảnh của nhiều loại trang trí Nativity scenes: những cảnh giáng sinh Holly: thần thánh A popular figure: một hình tượng phổ biến Associated with: có liên quan với Exchange gifts: trao đổi những món quà Perform plays: diễn kịch Sing carols: hát bài hát mừng Reference the event: có liên quan đến sự kiện Varies greatly from country to country: thay đổi rất nhiều từ nước này đến nước khác Turkey: gà tây Potatoes: khoai tây Vegetables: rau củ Sausages: xúc xích Gravy: nước thịt Christmas pudding: bánh pút-đinh giáng sinh Mince pies: bánh nướng thịt băm Fruit cake: bánh trái cây</p>
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34. Describe an interesting advertisement that you have seen.

You should say:

- *where you saw it*
- *what it was about*
- *why you think it was an interesting advertisement.*

<p>I'd like to talk about an advertisement for Coca-Cola, which is one of the biggest brands in the world. I've seen Coke advertised everywhere, on posters and TV commercials.</p> <p>The advert shows a picture of Santa Claus smiling and holding a bottle of Coke. I think the aim is to target children and associate (link/connect) the brand with Christmas time.</p> <p>The advert is interesting because the company is deliberately trying to influence and attract children. The marketers are trying to capture young customers. They are presenting the drink as something special, a gift for Christmas. However, Coca-Cola is not necessarily a healthy drink for children; it contains a lot of sugar. Maybe this kind of advertising manipulates children and encourages them to pester their parents.</p>	<p>Posters: áp phích Tv commercials: quảng cáo truyền hình Advert: quảng cáo Holding a bottle of coke: cầm một chai coca The aim: mục đích Target: mục tiêu Deliberately: chủ ý Influence and attract: thu hút và ảnh hưởng Marketers: nhà tiếp thị Capture: nhắm tới A healthy drink: nước uống bổ dưỡng Manipulates: chi phối Pester their parents: đòi cha mẹ của chúng mua những thứ chúng muốn</p>
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35. Describe a toy that was special to you when you were a child.

You should say:

- *when you got it*
- *what it looked like*
- *who gave it to you*
- *and how you used it or played with it.*

One special toy that I remember getting was a Lego car. It was a birthday present from my parents. I can't remember exactly how old I was, but I was probably about 10 or 11.

The special thing about this car was that I had to **build it myself** out of **hundreds of pieces of Lego**. The pieces came in a box with a picture of the finished car on the front, and I had to **follow step-by-step instructions** to **put all the pieces together in the correct way**.

This wasn't an easy task because the car even had an **engine, movable seats and gears**. It took me a day or two to make, **and required a lot of concentration**.

When the car was finished it looked great, and I **felt a sense of accomplishment**. I seem to remember that I didn't play with the car very much; the fun part had been the process of building it.

Build it myself: tự làm nó
Hundreds of pieces of lego: hàng trăm mảnh lego
Follow step-by-step instructions: thực hiện theo các hướng dẫn từng bước
Put all the pieces together in the correct way: đặt tất cả các mảnh lại với nhau đúng cách
Engine: động cơ
Movable seats and gears: ghế di chuyển và bánh răng
And required a lot of concentration: và đòi hỏi nhiều sự tập trung
Felt a sense of accomplishment: cảm thấy một cảm giác thành công

36. Describe a wild animal from your country.

You should say

- *what the animal is and what it looks like*
- *where it lives*
- *and explain how people in your country (or you) feel about this animal.*

<p>I'm going to describe the 'robin' which is a wild bird that is common in the UK. The robin is a small bird with brown and white feathers and an area of bright red colour on it's face and on the front of its body. The area of red colour makes robins very easy to distinguish from other birds.</p> <p>Robins are common garden birds. Many houses in the UK have a garden, and you can often see this bird sitting in a tree. They make their nests in trees and go looking for food. You might also see a robin if you go for a walk in the countryside or in a park.</p> <p>Robins have a special place in British culture. They are considered to be christmas birds, and are often used on christmas cards. Many people leave food in their gardens for robins and other small birds to eat.</p>	<p>Wild bird: chim hoang dã Feathers: lông vũ Easy to distinguish: dễ phân biệt Garden birds: chim vườn Make their nests: làm tổ của chúng Go looking for food: đi tìm thức ăn Have a special place in: có một vị trí đặc biệt trong Christmas birds: chim giáng sinh Leave food in their gardens for robins: để thức ăn trong vườn của họ cho robins</p>
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37. Describe something important that you learned in a maths lesson at primary school.

You should say:

- *what is it*
- *when you learned it*
- *how you learned it*
- *and explain how it became important in your future life.*

I'm going to talk about learning **the multiplication tables** for the numbers 1 to 12, which I remember doing in **the penultimate year** of primary school, when I was maybe 9 years old. As children, we called these **the 'times tables'**.

As far as I remember, we started with the number 2, and we learnt to **multiply** this number by each of the numbers from 1 to 12. Our teacher taught us to **go through the tables speaking aloud**; for example: 1 times 2 is 2, 2 times 2 is 4, 3 times 2 is 6 etc. We gradually worked our way through the tables for all of the numbers, and we **learnt the answers by heart**. I think the teacher also gave us regular tests to make sure that we had learnt the tables **properly**.

I'm not sure whether I really understood at the time why it was important to learn the 'times tables' by rote. But I think I enjoyed the challenge, and I **was keen to** get good marks in our tests. I also liked my teacher and wanted to do well for her.

Many years later I realise how important it is to have **the basic multiplication tables ingrained in** my mind. It's useful to be able to **do quick calculations** without having to think. Recently, for example, I needed to multiply 6 by 7 for some reason - I can't even remember why - and the answer 42 just **popped into my head**. **Another instance that I can think of is** when I'm **calculating bill payments, earnings and savings** over a 12-month period, and I find myself using the '12 times table'. In these situations, I'm glad that my primary school teachers were so **insistent about** learning to multiply by heart.

the multiplication tables: bảng cửu chương
the penultimate year: năm kế cuối
the 'times tables': bảng nhân
multiply: nhân
go through the tables speaking aloud: nhìn qua bảng rồi đọc to
learnt the answers by heart: học thuộc lòng câu trả lời
properly (adv): tốt = well
was keen to: muốn làm gì
the basic multiplication tables: bảng cửu chương cơ bản
ingrained in: hằn sâu/ấn sâu vào....
do quick calculations: làm các phép tính toán nhanh
popped into my head: tự xuất hiện trong đầu tôi
Another instance that I can think of is: Một ví dụ khác mà tôi có thể nghĩ đến là
calculating bill payments, earnings and savings
insistent about: tính toán các khoản thanh toán hóa đơn, thu nhập và tiết kiệm

38. Describe a time you travelled by public transport.

You should say:

- *what type of public transport you used*
- *where you travelled from and to*
- *what you did during the journey*
- *and explain how you felt about travelling in this way*

I'm going to describe a train journey that I took last year between Manchester and London. I've made the same journey many times, but I'll never forget this particular time because something happened that I wasn't expecting.

It was a Sunday morning and I was **due** in London that afternoon. There was no traffic at all as I drove in to Manchester, and I was expecting a nice, peaceful trip on a **half-empty** train. But my first surprise came when I tried to print my **prepaid ticket** at one of the ticket machines: there wasn't a **reserved seat number** on my ticket, which meant that I would have to find an **available seat**. I was still wondering about this when I heard loud voices and singing coming from **the main station concourse**. Suddenly I realised what was happening - I was going to be on a train **full of** football fans travelling to a big match!

Luckily I managed to find a seat before the train **filled up**. However, the noisy fans made sure that I couldn't **concentrate on** any work; I couldn't even read the newspaper without being **interrupted by laughter**, singing and football stories. In the end, I just sat and relaxed with a cup of coffee, watching and listening to the excited fans.

All in all, it wasn't a bad journey; I love travelling by train and at least I had a comfortable seat so that I could sit back and relax for a couple of hours. I would have preferred a quieter trip, but the football fans were all friendly and **good-natured**, so I can't really **complain**. Even so, I made sure that I **avoided** them on the way home later that day!

due = arranged/expected: dự định
half-empty: trống 1 nửa
prepaid ticket: vé đã tiền trước
a reserved seat number: số ghế đã đặt sẵn
an available seat: 1 chỗ ngồi trống
the main station concourse: phòng chờ ở nhà ga
full of...: đầy ...
filled up: đầy người/ không còn chỗ trống
concentrate on: tập trung vào
interrupted by: bị gián đoạn bởi
laughter: tiếng cười
good-natured (adj): tốt bụng
complain (v): phàn nàn
avoided (v): tránh

39. Describe a plant, flower or tree that is famous or important in your country.

You should say

- *what type of plant, flower or tree it is*
- *where it grows or is usually seen*
- *how it is used in your country*
- *and why it is famous or important*

I'm going to talk about **oak trees**, and I'll also describe a specific example of a famous oak tree called the Major Oak. This is a **huge** tree in Sherwood Forest; it's thought to be around 1000 years old, and I'd probably say that it's the most **impressive** tree that I've ever seen.

Oaks are very common in England; they can be seen in **fields** and **areas of woodland** in the countryside, but they are also **commonly found in** parks and gardens in towns and cities. The Major Oak is in Sherwood Forest, which is near Nottingham. It **stands out** from the other oak trees because its **trunk and branches** are so **wide and thick**.

The wood from oak trees is used to **make furniture**; for example, I have an oak table, **wardrobe** and various other pieces of oak furniture at home. Oak is **a strong and reliable wood** that has traditionally been used in **construction**, for **beams** and **other parts of the framework of houses** and other buildings. The Major Oak obviously hasn't been used in this way; it's **a tourist attraction** that people visit and **marvel at**. For example, I went to see it on a school trip as a child.

The oak tree is important in England because it **symbolises history, strength and reliability** - probably because of its **traditional role in** construction. The Major Oak is famous for a completely different reason: it was supposedly Robin Hood's **hideout**, so it has **a kind of legendary or mythical status** because of the stories that are **associated with** it. For this reason, and because of its age and unusual size, the Major Oak has become known as Britain's favourite tree.

oak trees: cây sồi
huge (adj): khổng lồ
impressive (adj): ấn tượng
fields (n): cánh đồng
areas of woodland: khu vực rừng cây
to be commonly found in...: thường được tìm thấy ở ...
stands out: nổi bật, nổi trội
trunk and branches: thân và cành cây
wide and thick: rộng và dày
make furniture: làm đồ nội thất
wardrobe: tủ quần áo
a strong and reliable wood: 1 loại gỗ mạnh mẽ và đáng tin cậy
construction: xây dựng
beams: sà ngang
other parts of the framework of houses: các bộ phận của khung nhà
a tourist attraction: 1 địa điểm thu hút khách du lịch
marvel at: ngạc nhiên/ ấn tượng
symbolises history, strength and reliability: biểu tượng cho lịch sử, sức mạnh và sự tin cậy
its traditional role in...: vai trò truyền thống của nó trong ...
hideout: nơi ẩn náu
a kind of legendary or mythical status:
associated with: 1 loạt biểu tượng huyền thoại hay bí ẩn.

40. Describe a place of entertainment (e.g. theatre, cinema, sports centre) that you would like to have where you live.

You should say

- what this place would be
- where it should be
- whom it would be for, or who would use it
- and why you think this place of entertainment is needed

The place of entertainment that I wish we had close to where I live is a sports centre. My ideal sports centre would have a gym, swimming pool, **indoor and outdoor football pitches**, **courts for tennis, badminton and squash**, and **an all-purpose area** for things like **gymnastics and circuit training**.

I can think of the perfect place for this facility: There's a **disused piece of land** just down the road from where I live, where **an old warehouse** was **knocked down**. It's near to the main road and the train station, so it would be easy for people to get to. There are plans to build houses on this plot of land, but I think a sports centre would be much better for **local residents**.

The good thing about a sports centre is that everyone can use it. There could be sports lessons and clubs for children and teenagers - things like swimming lessons and football team practice sessions. I'm sure many **adults** in my local area would join the gym, use the pool, and book the courts for games of tennis or badminton. The centre could even **hold sports events**, such as **competitions**, that would attract **spectators** as well as **participants**.

I think we need a good sports centre where I live because people currently have to travel to the next town if they want to find some of the facilities, activities, lessons and clubs that I've **mentioned**. I think **a sports complex** would give young people, in particular, something fun and productive to do in the evening and at weekends. Playing sport keeps people healthy and makes them feel happy, so I think a sports centre would **brighten up** my local area and **improve our quality of life**.

indoor and outdoor football pitches: sân bóng đá trong nhà và ngoài trời
courts for tennis: sân cho tennis
badminton and squash: cầu lông và bóng quần
an all-purpose area for...: 1 khu vực đa năng cho ...
gymnastics and circuit training: thể dục dụng cụ và phương pháp thể dục xoay vòng.
a disused piece of land: 1 mảnh đất bị bỏ hoang
an old warehouse: 1 nhà kho cũ
to be knocked down: bị tháo dỡ xuống
local residents: người dân địa phương
adults: người lớn
hold sports events: tổ chức các sự kiện thể thao
competitions: các buổi thi đấu
spectators: khán giả
participants: những người tham gia
mentioned: đề cập đến
a sports complex: 1 khu phức hợp thể thao
brighten up: làm cho hạnh phúc, vui vẻ
improve our quality of life: cải thiện chất lượng cuộc sống của chúng tôi.

41. Describe an enjoyable day out in the countryside that you had.

You should say

- where you went on this day out
- who you were with
- what you did
- and explain why you enjoyed the day

I'm going to describe a recent trip to a lovely place called the Tissington Trail. The Tissington Trail is a path or track that follows the route of a former railway line through beautiful countryside in the county of Derbyshire, here in the UK. The old railway line was taken up many years ago, and it was transformed into a recreational trail that is ideal for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

I went to the Tissington Trail because we had some family members, my brother and sister-in-law and their daughter, staying with us over the weekend. They had come up to Manchester from London, and they wanted my wife and I to take them somewhere where they could breathe in some fresh countryside air and get away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

To reach the trail we had to park in Tissington itself, which is a charming, picturesque village. We hired some bicycles there and set off along the trail. It was an easy ride because the trail is mostly flat, with just a few gentle dips and inclines, and we were able to enjoy the stunning scenery as we passed through areas of woodland, a dramatic limestone ravine, and grassy meadows that were covered with colourful wild flowers.

The part of the day that I enjoyed the most was when we cycled through a historic railway tunnel on our bicycles. The tunnel has been fitted with a sound installation that plays eerie steam train noises as you pass through it; we all loved the idea that the sounds transport you back in time, and that you feel like you're on an old steam train with its whistles and clunking machinery. It was a really nice day out, and we all enjoyed relaxing in the village tearoom at

a recent trip to: 1 chuyến đi gần đây tới ...
 follows the route of...: đi theo con đường..
 a former railway line: 1 đường xe lửa cũ
 to be taken up: được sử dụng
 to be transformed into...: được chuyển thành
 a recreational trail: con đường giải trí
 walkers, cyclists and horse riders: người đi bộ, người đi xe đạp và người cưỡi ngựa
 sister-in-law: chị/em dâu
 daughter (n): con gái
 breathe in some fresh countryside air: hít thở không khí miền quê trong lành
 get away from the hustle and bustle of the city: tránh xa sự hối hả và nhộn nhịp của thành phố
 a charming, picturesque village: một ngôi làng quyến rũ, đẹp như tranh vẽ
 hired: thuê
 set off: bắt đầu (cuộc hành trình)
 an easy ride: một chuyến đi dễ dàng
 mostly flat: hầu như bằng phẳng
 a few gentle dips and inclines: một vài dốc nghiêng nhẹ
 the stunning scenery: phong cảnh tuyệt đẹp
 a dramatic limestone ravine: một khe núi đá vôi đầy kịch tính
 grassy meadows: những cánh đồng cỏ
 to be covered with: được phủ kín với
 a historic railway tunnel: một đường hầm xe lửa lịch sử
 to be fitted with: đã được trang bị
 a sound installation: một hệ thống âm thanh
 plays eerie steam train noises: phát tiếng ồn hơi nước kỳ lạ
 transport you back in time: đưa bạn ngược dòng thời gian
 an old steam train: một con tàu hơi nước cũ
 its whistles and clunking machinery: còi và máy

the end of our bike ride.

móc phát tiếng ồn của nó.