

IELTS SPEAKING SUCCESS WITH CUE CARDS AND IDIOMS



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Topic 1: Where do you live

1. Tell me about your hometown/ street/ apartment.
2. What do you like about your hometown/ street/ apartment?
3. Tell me the good things about your house.
4. Is there anything you don't like about it?
5. Would *you* like to move to another city/street/house/apartment?
6. What would you change about your city?

Nouns

winding street

back alley

shopping

estate

apartment complex

the locals

municipality

residential area

local cuisine

architecture

capital

neighborhood

district

Adjectives

Sprawling

Commercial

Unique

built-up

industrial

regionally important

powerful

distinctive

affluent

provincial

Idioms

run down = in bad condition

Eg: Some areas are run-down

up market: chic (=fashionable)

Eg: Some neighborhoods are becoming very up market/chic

Topic 2: What do you do- your job

1. Tell me about your job? What job do you do?
2. Why did you choose this job?
3. What do you like about your job?
4. How long have you been doing this job?
5. Is there anything you don't like?

Nouns Profession Occupation line of business line of work

Topic 3 Hobbies / Free-time activities

1. Do you have any hobbies?
2. What do you do in your free time?
3. What hobbies/free-time activities are popular in your country?
4. Is it important to have a hobby?
5. Is it important for people to have free-time activities?
6. Is it harmful to spend too much time on a hobby?
7. What free-time activities would you like to try in the future? **Nouns**

leisure pursuit

spare time pastime **Verbs**

amuse oneself by

unwind by kill time by

Adjectives

Fascinating captivating

Appealing time-consuming

Idioms

take up (=start)

take part in

get into (= enjoy)

Hate a go at (= try)

Idle away the hours (= spend time)

Eg: *I have recently taken up swimming*

I frequently take part in group activities like

Recently I have been getting into fishing

I would really like to have a go at scuba diving. In my time off, I often idle away the hours by playing guitar.

Topic 4: Sports

1. Do you like playing sports?
2. How often do you play sports?
3. What sports are the most popular in your country?
4. Do you think it is important to play a sports?

5. What sports would you like to try in the future?
 6. Do you prefer watching or playing sports? **Nouns**
 Team game solo sport Spectator sport physical activity Squad **Verb**

. Compete

. get fit

Adjectives

. Strenuous

. Revitalizing **Idioms**

stay healthy challenge lose weight

physical

energizing

• have a crack at (= had a try at)

Eg: *I had a crack at haseball but it was too strenuous for me. . get into shape*

I have been trying to get into shape by going to the gym.

Topic 5: Television

1. Do you like watching TV?
2. How much time do you spend watching TV?
3. When do you usually watch TV?
4. What types of TV programmer do you like watching?
5. What types of TV programmer are popular in your country?
6. Why do children like watching TV?

Nouns

telly (=TV) audience

Episode sitcom

Series mainstream

soap opera documentary

viewer

Verbs turn on / off /over repeat

tune in product

sit in front of the telly broadcast

televise

Adjectives

Witty televised

pre-recorded enlightening

live-broadcast mind-numbing (= boring) attention-grabbing (= interesting)

Idioms

watch the box (= watch TV)

channel surf (= change TV channels frequently)

I often watch the box at weekends.

I usually sit in front of the telly and channel surf.

Topic 6: Music

1. Do you like listening to music?
2. What types of music do you like listening to?
3. Where do you usually listen to music?
4. Can you play any musical instruments?
5. Do you think it's important for children to learn to play a musical instrument?
6. Do you prefer listening to live performances or recorded music? **Nouns**

. harmony concert melody

. gig (=concert) CO player portable

album MP3 player

. tune a hit record

. lyric

synthesizer **Verbs**

. download burn CD's

. put on a CO/piece of music

Adjectives

. funky catchy

. Soothing atmospheric **Idioms**

. blow one's mind

. set sth to music

. chill out to (= relax)

Eg: The music was so amazing it blew my mind. The composer managed to set the lyrics to music. I often chill out to atmospheric ambient music.

Topic 7: Reading

1. Do you like reading?
2. How often do you read?
3. What do you like to read?
4. Where do you usually read?
5. Do you read for pleasure or to get information? **Nouns**

. a work of fiction

. novel

. author

. best-seller

Verbs

• skim

• Scan

. thick through **Adjectives**

Fictional

Contemporary **Idioms**

biography novelist

literature poetry

browse

flip/ through

gripping classical

read up on (= read about)

have one's nose in a book(= read a book)

a coffee-table book (= a large book that one leaves on the table often with photos etc)

• *I often read no on modem literature.*

• *I always have my note in a book*

• *I sometimes flick through a coffee-table book.*

1.

Topic 8: Email

- How often do you use email? 2. What do most people in your country use email for? 3. What are the advantages of email?
4. Are there any disadvantages?
 5. Do you think that email will replace letter-writing?

Nouns

- . email account
- . attachment
- . Cyberspace

Verbs

send out

Adjectives

- . web based
- . Prompt
- . Virtual

Idioms

electronic message

spam (=pink mail)

commercial correspondence (=business communication)

deliver delete

time-consuming speedy

- . snail mail (• sending letters through the posit)
- . lost in cyberspace (= lost somewhere on the internet)
- . at the push of a button
- . *Snail mail is extremely time -consuming*
- . *Sometimes emails get fast in cyberspace.*
- . *With email you can send a message at the push of a button.*

Topic 9 : Learning English

1. How long have you been learning English?
2. What do you find difficult about learning English?
3. What advice would you give to someone starting to learn English?
4. Would you like to learn another language in the future? **Nouns**

- . express-on learning
- . strategy syntax
- . irregularity

Verbs

become skilled at sth

make progress

recall

Adjectives

- tough (= difficult)
- effortless (= easy)

intricate (= complex)

Idioms

learn by heart (= remember) swot up on (= learn) block out (=ignore)

- ◆ *It quite tough to learn expressions by heart.*
- *I find it effortless to swot up on the irregular verbs.*
- *it's a good idea to block out your first language.* **Topic 10: Writing**

1. How often do you write something by hand?
2. What types of things do you usually write by hand?
3. Do you think it is important to have good handwriting?
4. What are the advantages of writing something by hand?

Nouns

Handwriting Script (handwriting)

- . Diary Correspondence (letter)
- . calligraphy (nice writing art)
- . journal

Verbs

Scribble sth down (write sth quickly)

Keep a diary

Adjectives

Hand-written personal

Illegible sloppy (=untidy)

clear (=tidy)

Idioms

- put pen to paper (« write by hand)
- put in writing
- . jot down (= write quickly)
- *I do not put pen to paper every often*
- *A diary is a cool way to put your thoughts in writing . I might jot down a new idea in my notebook.*

Topic 11: Clothes

1. What types of clothes do you like wearing?
2. Where do you usually buy your clothes?
3. Did you wear a school uniform when you were younger?
4. What can we learn about a person from the clothes that they wear?

Nouns

- . clothing clothes
- . Boutique (= clothes shop)
- . garment trend

Verbs

- flaunt show off
- dress up

Adjectives

- Stylish chic (well-dressed)
- Well-made (elegant)
- hard-wearing (durable)

Idioms

- the in thing (=fashionable)
- at the height of fashion (= fashionable)
- up-to-the-minute (= the most recent)
- dressed to the nines (= wearing very formal clothes)

This summer, baggy jeans are the in thing.

Sports clothing is at the height of fashion

I do not really follow up-to-the-minute fashion.

If a person is dressed to the nines, then it usually means they want to impress someone.

Topic 12: School

1. Tell me about school that you went to when you were younger.
2. What did you like about that school?
3. What subject did you like best at that school?
4. What would you like to change about that school? **Nouns**

- . rules and regulations
- . subject matter
- . curriculum
- . tutor

Verbs

- cram (= remember a lot of information in a short time)

punish reward

assess clarify

Adjectives

Monotonous (dull)

thought-provoking (= stimulating/challenging)

authoritarian (= strict)

easy -going

Idioms

off by heart (= remember 100%)

We had to learn all our lessons off by heart.

off the top of one's head (= without any help)

We had to recite famous stories off the top of our heads.

come down like a ton of bricks (= punish severely)

My math's teacher used to come down on us like a ton of bricks if we would not work out some problems.

Topic 13: Restaurants

1. How often do you eat out in restaurants?
2. What types of restaurants do you like best?
3. What types of restaurants are common in your city?
4. What are the advantages of eating out in restaurants?

Nouns

. eatery (self-service restaurant) cuisine (cookery) delicacy

. decor

. setting

. meal

service

specialty dish . early bird

Verbs

eat out

dine out least on simple a new restaurant

Adjectives

. regional

. swanky he stays in the swankiest hotels

. nosh (high – class)

. unsophisticated

Idioms

1) not as good as it's/ they re cracked up to be (= not as good as people say)

Lots of the posh restaurants are not as good as they're cracked up to be

2) run of the mill (= average typical)

In my neighborhood, there are quite a few run of the mill eateries. . vet sb

back (= cost sb an amount of money)

The swanky restaurants will set you back quite a lot of money.

Topic 14: Friends

1. How much time do you spend with your friends?

2. What do you usually do with your friends?

3. Do you prefer spending time with your family or friends?

4. Is friendship important to you?

Nouns

- companion (friend)

- acquaintance

- best-buddy (US) company (friendship) Sibling

- best-mate (UK)

- shared interests (similar hobbies)

Verbs

- get together

- . hang out with

- socialize

Adjectives

- sociable (friendly/out-going) . extrovert

- gregarious (unreserved)

- introvert

Idioms

- chummy (friendly)

- out -going

- own flesh and blood (= family relative)

Obviously, my siblings are my own flesh and blood so I have them very much

- soul mate (- best friend)

I usually hang out with my soul mate.

- a sounding board (= a good person to talk to)

I can use my best mate as a sounding board when I have problems.

Topic 15: Festivals

1. Do you often celebrate festivals **in** your culture?
2. What do people usually do during festivals?
3. Which is your favorite festival?
4. Do you think festivals are important?

. Nouns

Celebrate reunion

ritual festivity

Ceremony folklore (myths)

the royal wedding was an occasion of great festivity legend

•Adjectives

Cheerful

•long-established

• Verbs

celebrate

Revisit

•Idioms

family get-together

customary =traditional time-honored

reunite

pay one's respects to

- push the boat out (= have a party)
- make merry (= drink and eat)
- slap-up meal (= big meal)
- in high spirits (= happy)

We really push the boat out during spring festival celebrations. People always make merry on New Year's Eve.

There is usually a customary slap up meal.

Everyone is in high spirits just before midnight.

Topic 16: Meeting new people

1. Do you often meet new people?
2. In your country, where can you meet new people?
3. How easy is it to meet new people in your city?
4. Is it possible to meet people from other countries where you live?

. Nouns

Individual nightclub

meeting point gathering place

Verb

. Congregate (come/gather together)

• get acquainted with

. flock to

• crowds at people hooked to the theatre

• befriend

• meet for the first time

• crowd together

Adjective

• Approachable (easy to talk to)

antisocial

• Idioms

bump into (= meet)

It's quite easy to bump into someone from another country. make somebody's acquaintance (= get to know somebody)

It is possible to make somebody's acquaintance online.

Topic 17: The Sea

1. Have you spent much time near the sea?
2. What do people usually do when they visit the sea?
3. Why do people like spending time near the sea?
4. Would you like to live near the sea?

3) Nouns

4) Coast scuba diving

5) marine wildlife sea breeze

6) beach resort

7) seashore

8) wave

• **Verbs**

• sunbathe

• paddle

. **Adjectives**

• marine

rocky

pebbly

• coastal

Idioms

shoreline

water's edge

get a suntan go for a swim

tropical sandy exotic

(water! crystal-clear

go for a dip (= go swimming)

You can go for a dip in the crystal-clear water. get one's sea legs (= get used to being on a ship / boat)

I went tanning but it took me a while to get my sea legs.

Topic 18: Computers

1. How often do you use computers?

2. In what ways do people use computer in your country?

3. How did you learn to use a computer?

4. How much have computers changed your life?

Nouns

Laptop

Forum

online gaming **Verb**

• surf (the net) worldwide web online shopping cart room

. browse (website)

. sit in front of (the computer)

. **Adjectives**

• digital electronic

. computer-literate (able to use a computer) . virtual

. Idioms

Technophobe (= someone who can't use a computer)

I used to be a technophobe but now I am computer-literate call up (= find and read)

I can use the Internet to call up current news items. conk out on (= break)

My old computer conked out on me.

do by hand

Some tasks I prefer to do by hand, like writing letters.

Topic 19: Collecting things

1. Have you ever collected anything?
2. What things do people collect in your country?
3. Why do people like collecting things?
4. Would you like to start collecting something new in the future?

. Nouns

- . Collection personal value
- . postage stamp autograph
- . album

Topic 21: Learning languages

1. What languages do you speak?
2. Do you think it's important to learn a foreign language?
3. What languages are spoken in your country?
4. Would you like to learn another language in the future?

Nouns

Native tongue Dialect

Verbal communication

Verbs

Be fluent in converse = communicate Gossip-chat

Adjectives

Understandable incomprehensible = unintelligible Meaningless

Idioms

Have a chinwag (= have a conversation)

When I travelled to France, I tried to have a chinwag with the locals. All Greek (= a language that one does not understand)

Topic 22: Weather

1. What's the weather like where you live?
2. What do you do when the weather is bad?
3. What type of weather do you like best?
4. Would you like to have that type of weather all year round? **Nouns**

Climate Blizzard = snowstorm

Average temperature shower

Spell = weather

A day of sunny spells and scattered showers.

Verbs

- Drizzle = rain slightly
- shift

Adjective

(rain) torrential

- Sunny
- sweltering (=hot)
- chilly (=cold)
- nippy (= cold)

Idioms

vary

balmy (= warm) sun-drenched

muggy (= humid) clammy (=humid)

- chuck It down (= rain heavily) /rain cats and dogs
- rain or shine (= in all weather)
- like a sauna (= a hot and humid place)
- *In spring it usually chuck it down for days on end . Rain or shine – I love to be outdoors.*

1. My city is like a sauna in summer.

Topic 23: Happiness

What kinds of things make you happy? 2. What do you do if you feel unhappy? 3. Is unhappiness always a bad thing?

. Nouns

- . Pleasure satisfaction
- . depression

. frame of mind

. **Verbs**

cheer up brighten up
go through (a bad time)

. **Adjectives**

- . Contented (at ease/ happy)
- . gloomy (depressing)
- . Overjoyed (delighted)
- . dejected (miserable)

. **Idioms**

- . in high spirits (= happy)
- . on cloud nine (= happy)
- . down in the dumps (= sad)
- . *I am always in high spirits when I go out with my friends.*
- . *After I win at basketball I feel like I'm on cloud nine.*
- . *I usually feel down in the dumps if my football team loses.*

Topic 24: Shopping

1. Do you like shopping?
2. How often *do* you go shopping?
3. What kind of shops there in the area where you live?
4. What's the worst thing about shopping?

Nouns

- . Essential luxury
- . independent retailer
- . chain a number of shops hotels, cinemas etc owned or

managed by the same company or person

- . store market stall

Verbs

Purchase

Haggle = bargain

Adjectives

Inexpensive
 Pricey
 Fake
 Posh- stylish

costly

Idioms

flog (slang for “sell”) pick out = choose

low-priced over priced genuine
 classy

. the real McCoy (= genuine, not fake)

Most chain stores only stock the Real McCoy goods.

• going for a song = offered at a low price

If I see some daisy products going for a song-t might be tempted

• rip sb off = cheat sb

Some market stalls rip you off-they always flog fake stuff.

Topic 25: Films

1 Do you like watching film?

2 What types of film do you like watching?

3 HOW often do you watch films?

4 Do you prefer watching films at home or at the cinema?

5. Would you like to be a MOVIE?

Nouns

big name

flick (slang for movie) director

soundtrack

cast

animated film

current release

DVD release

star

oldie (= old movie)

the pictures (= the cinema) multiples

silent film

blockbuster (a success film) **Verbs**

Produce play the lead role Direct star in

Act in

Adjectives

avant-garde: extremely modern often seems strange slightly shocking

tear-jerking = touching spellbinding (Fascinating) thrilling

romantic

Idioms

samey = boring action-packed big-budget

Unforgettable

film buff = someone who loves films

box-office smash (= a very successful film) *I wouldn't describe myself as a film buff I find most box-office smash to be a bit samey.*

Topic 26: Weekends

1. What do you usually do at the weekend?
2. What do people usually do at weekends in your country?
3. Do you think your weekends are long enough?
4. How important do you think it is to have free time?

. Nouns

- . leisure pursuit spare time
- . Pastime= entertainment
- . Time off =vacation
- . Have a good time

Verbs

- . amuse by enjoy oneself
- . kill time by unwind by = relax

Adjectives

Soothing = relaxing Pleasing = enjoyable

- . engaging = appealing

Idioms

- . let one's hair down (= relax)
- . take it easy (= relax)
- . slip by (= (time) passes quickly)

. *At weekends, I usually let my hair down.*

- . *On Saturday, I take it easy.*
- . *I feel like the weekend slip by too quickly.*

Topic 27: Going out in the evening

1. **How often do you go out in the evening?**
2. **Who do you usually spend your evening with?**
3. **When you go out in the evening what do you usually do?**
4. **Do you think there is enough to do in the evening in your city?**

Nouns

- . dusk
- . Café = coffee bar

Nightspot = nightclub **Verbs**

go for a stroll

pay a visit to

Adjectives

Invigorating (= refreshing) happening (= fashionable) late-night

Idioms

The street lights go on at dusk
Nightlife
discotheque

wander around

regular haunt (= a place one regularly goes to)

My regular late-night haunt is a trendy little café. drop in on (= visit)

I sometimes drop in on my neighbors.

the wee hours (= very early in the morning -after midnight)

I usually have to get home before the wee hours. in the dead of night (= very late at night)

Occasionally I go for a stroll in the dead of night.

1.

Topic 28: Animals

Do you like animals?

2. **What types of animals do people keep as pets?**
3. **How do most people feel about animals in your country?**
4. **What are animals used for in your country?**

Nouns

wildlife

Reptile

Species

domestic animal animal lover

wild/domestic/farm animals dairy farming (cow)

mammal

Topic 30: Family

1. Tell me about your family.
2. What kind of things do you and your family do together?
3. Who does the housework in your family?
4. Would you prefer to have a larger or smaller family?

Nouns

family unit

Relative

household chore (= housework) the whole family

family circle

family connection

family member

a family of three/four etc

a close family (= a family whose members have a close relationship)

immediate family (= closest relations)

nuclear family family background one-parent family family life

lathering

Verbs

Adore admire enjoy the company of **Adjectives**

Affectionate intimate(dear) distant

Idioms

- it's in the blood (= it's a natural part of one's character)
- *All my family are really fond of reading I guess it's in the blood.*
- run in the family (= be a shared family characteristic)
- *My brothers and I have big ears-it runs in the family*
- born with a silver spoon in one's mouth (= born into a rich family)

I wasn't exactly born with a silver in my mouth—my family is quite normal.

Topic 31: Cooking

1. Can you cook?
2. Who usually does the cooking in your home?
3. How do people usually learn to cook in your country?
4. What are the advantages of being able to cook?

Nouns

. Cookery cuisine
 ingredient Recipe
 bite to eat (= snack) oven
 home economics = the study of cooking, sewing, and other skills

Verbs

become skilled at
 entertain (= have guests) **Adjectives**

Yummy = delicious

Nourishing

home-cooked

Idioms

- lip-smacking (= delicious) prepare

full of flavor- flavorsome hot from

famished- starving

. *When I entertain guests, I try to prepare some lip-smacking recipes.*

- burn to a crisp (= burn food)

• *Once I tried to prepare steak for my friends but it came out burnt to a crisp.* . rustle up (= cook sth quickly without a recipe)

It's good to be able to rustle up a quick bite to eat when you're famished.

Topic 32: Weddings

1. Have you ever been to a wedding?
2. What do people usually do at weddings in your country?
3. What clothes do people usually wear at weddings in your country?
4. Which people are usually invited to weddings?

Nouns

marriage ceremony Groom bridal gown = dressing gown best man
 bride

banquet = feast
newly-wed

Verbs

9) get married

Adjectives

10) conventional

► customary = traditional ► ceremonial * traditional **Idioms**

Reception honeymoon bride's maid

give presents drink a toast
tie the knot (= get married)

When people decide to tie the knot, they usually want to lead a steady life. .

get hitched (= get married)

My cousin got hitched when she was 21 years old.

raise a glass (= drink a toast)

The bride and groom have to ruse a glass with all the guests give (the bride) away (part of a traditional wedding ceremony)

The bride is given away by her father or mother.

Topic 33: Public transport

1. What types of public transport can be found in your city?
2. What type of public transport do you use most?
3. Are there any public transport problems in your city?
4. How would you improve the public transport system in your city?

Nouns

transport network Congestion

Journey

bus lane

traffic

commuter

road safety

Minicab

fare

busy road

bus system delay

rush hour

underground

Verbs

commute catch (a bus/train)

Adjectives

old-fashioned inefficient

well-organized government subsidized

Idioms

packed like sardines / jam-packed (= very crowded)

During rush hour the buses are always jam-packed -actually the passengers are packed like the sardines.

pile-up (= traffic accident)

Sometimes there are serious pile-ups on the main roads.

get stuck in traffic (= get stuck in a traffic jam)

Buses always get stuck in traffic during rush hour.

Topic 34: Travelling

1. How much travelling have you done?
2. Do you prefer travelling alone or in a group?
3. When you visit new places, what do you like to do?
4. What places would you like to visit in the future?

Nouns

package tour tourism independent travel tourist

tourist trap=a place that many tourists visit sightseeing holiday-maker

Verbs

Go backpacking take photos

Adjectives

touristy

overdeveloped luxurious

Idioms

travel agent

go sightseeing

tacky (cheap)

exclusive(unique)

off the beaten track (= to a place not usually visited by tourists) .

When I go backpacking, I prefer to go off the beaten track. rough it (= live in uncomfortable conditions, eg. camping)

*When we went camping we had to rough it for two days on the mountain
see the sights I visit the famous places
I always try to see the sights.*

Topic 35: Names

1. Do you like your name?
2. Does your name have any special meaning?
3. Who usually chooses babies' names in your country?
4. Would you ever change your name?

Nouns

Surname

last name

Christian name **Verbs**

Christen

Signify(mean) **Adjectives**

meaning

middle name full name

settle on

pick out(choose)

Conventional= traditional

insignificant

Auspicious- promising

Idioms

Be named after (= have the same name as someone else)

My father named me after my great-grandfather. nothing out of the ordinary(= common, ordinary)

My name is nothing out of the ordinary it's quite common run of the mill (= typical, ordinary)

My name is actually very run of the mill.

Topic 36: Food

1. What food do you like eating?
2. Is there any food that you don't like?
3. What food is popular where you live?
4. Is fast food popular in your country?

Nouns

- Cuisine good food junk food regional dish
fresh food frozen food fast food
hot/ cold/spicy/ fatty/starchy food
- Italian/French/Chinese etc food
- processed food (= food that has chemicals in it to make it last a long time)
- canned food also tinned food British English (= sold in cans)
- organic food (= food that it produced without using harmful chemicals)
- Flavor health food additives

Verbs

eat out dine out

Adjectives

scrumptious = mouthwatering Revolting= awful

Peppery= hot- spicy Flavor

Vinegary= sour

Idioms

wolf down (= eat very quickly)

sink one's teeth into (= eat (some special food))

something about it (= something strange at special)

When I'm in a hurry I wolf down some fat food.

I love to sink my teeth into a JUKY steak.

I can't stand seafood. There's just something about it I'm not sure about.

She can eat like a horse and never put on weight.

I could eat a horse: spoken used to say you are very hungry.

Topic 37: Birthdays

1. How are birthdays usually celebrated in your country?
2. What gifts do people receive on their birthdays in your country?
3. Do people eat special food on their birthdays in your country?
4. Which birthday is most important in your culture?

Nouns

Get-together

greeting card

the birthday girl/boy **Verbs**

Celebrate

grow older

Adjectives

Unexpected

Idioms

Shindig = party surprise
happy birthday'

get older

crack open a bottle of wine

customary

throw a party (= have a party) .

Most people throw a party on their 21st birthday.

let one's hair down (= enjoy oneself)

People can really let their hair down on their birthday

push the boat out / paint the town red (= have a big celebration)

On their 21st birthday, most people really push the boat out / paint the town red.

Topic 38: Seasons

1. Tell me about the seasons in your country?
2. What is your favorite season?
3. Do the seasons affect people's behavior?
4. Do you wear different clothes in different seasons?

Nouns

time of year

average temperature good weather

Holidays Festivals Weeding season **Verbs**

vary

differ

unwind

Adjectives

seasonal

erratic

climate

Variability=changeability there isn't a cloud in the sky Fashion Mood

fluctuate Show

celebrate

unpredictable Constant
frost chilly

- nice/lovely/glorious very sunny and good
- Ram wet, rainy, damp
- Blustery: very windy
- Breeze: a gentle pleasant wind

Idioms

in blossom (= many flowers opening)

- *When you see the cherry trees in blossom you know spring is on its way.*
- down south (= in the southern part of a country)
- *Down south the winters are much milder.*

Up north (= in the northern part of a country)

- *Up north, the winter will be quite harsh.*

Topic 39: Birds

- Are there many birds where you live?
- How do people in your country feel about birds?
- Do birds have any special meaning in your culture?
- Should we protect birds?

Nouns

Poultry
resident bird
Bird flu
Parrot
Peacock
Swallow con en

Verbs

Symbolize
Provide food for
Be a sign of freedom

Adjectives

Rate
Fairy-tale
Mythical
commonplace
domestic fowl (= farm birds) Pest
Eagle
Swans
seagull

kiwi

affect protection be a symbol of love mean peacefulness

endangered Widespread symbolic

Idioms

on the wing (= flying)

in my city you can often see pigeons on the wing

dart in and out = move quickly between two things, eg. trees

Almost every day I catch a glimpse of a woodpecker a darting in and out of the pine trees near my house.

in one's own backyard (= near where one lives)

You never really see rare birds like owls in your own backyard.

ten a penny/ dime a dozen (= very common)

Sparrows are ten a penny in my city you can see them everywhere.

Topic 40: Photography

1. Do you like taking photographs of new places?
2. Is photography popular in your country?
3. What kinds of photographs do you like looking at?
4. Would you prefer to buy a postcard or take a photograph of a new place?

Nouns

Snapshot

Cyber-shot

Likeness (portrait/image) Memory card

Verbs

Take a photo

Keep one's moment Pose for the camera landscape shot

Fashion photography studio print

Model photos

get (photos) develop

Every photo captures a fleeting moment in time **Adjectives** Photogenic picturesque **Idioms**

camera-friendly photographable
do justice to... (= represent or illustrate accurately)

Photographs don't do justice to the beauty of natural places. touch...up (= repair...on the surface)

The good thing about digital photos is that you can touch them up afterwards. strike a pose (= position oneself in a certain way)

I never strike a pose in front of the camera-I'm not really photogenic

zoom in on (= use a zoom lens to get a closer view on a camera)

My camera has a zoom lens so / can really zoom in on things and get fine detail in my shots.

Topic 41: Flowers

1. Do you like flowers?
2. On what occasions do people give flowers in your culture?
3. Do any flowers have a special meaning in your cultures?

Nouns

flora = plants petal
pink petals with white markings fever
Florist houseplant
artificial flower (= silk flower)
a bouquet of flowers Orchid
Meaning of a flower thorn
lotus flower a bunch of (roses etc.)

Verbs

Cultivate sneeze
Flowers and trees have possessed symbolic meaning since classical times.
Flowers could form a language.
Flowers have long been associated with fairies.
Flowers bring you a special variety of joyful presents for the lovers.
Flowers will do the work for you when it comes a sad occasion.

Adjectives

Fragrant sweet-scented

Idioms

In bloom (= when flowers are opening)
Give off (= smell)

Roses give off a sweet fragrance they are in bloom.

Reminiscent of (= reminding sb of)

Topic 42: Buildings

1. What types of buildings are there in your city?
2. Do you prefer old or new buildings?
3. Are historical buildings important?
4. Would you like to live in an old building?

Nouns

Architecture Residence Office
structural design skyscraper
block

modern/classical/medieval etc architecture interior design row house
semi-detached house mansion, palace
tenant

Verbs

Construct
Renovate

Adjectives

elegant
Well-designed

Contemporary (up to date) **Idioms**

Put up (= build)

Do up (= repair)

Pull down (= demolish) detached house cottage
estate agent

landlord

erect (raise)

demolish (unpleasant)

old-fashioned unsightly

They are putting up Toads of unsightly office blocks.

They should do up some of the old-fashioned residences

They are pulling down older neighborhoods to make way for the new skyscrapers.

Topic 43: Rain

1. Do you like rain?

2. What do you usually do when it rains?
3. How do people feel about rain where you live?
4. What do you think is worse, too much rain or not enough rain?

Nouns

Drizzle shower
 torrential rain downpour
 heavy/torrential/pouring rain (= a lot of rain)
 in the rain acid rain
 Rain forest the monsoon
 a heavy shower of rain light rain(sudden rain)

spoken whatever happens or whatever the weather is like. rain or shine:

Verbs

pour down spit (=ram lightly)

It looks like rain (= there are dark rain clouds), so let's go inside It was pouring with rain it's raining cats and dogs **Adjectives**

showery

waterlogged (clothing) **Idioms**

it is pissing down (with rain)

damp soaked waterproof

chuck it down (= rain heavily) get wet

put off(= cancel a planned activity) clean up

In spring it often chucks it down

I really hate getting wet

If it's pouring down with rain I will usually put off any outdoor activities

Topic 44: Museums

1. Do you like museums?
2. How often do you visit museums?
3. What types of museum can be found in your country?
4. Why are museums important?

Nouns

Natural History Museum Fossil

Show

exhibition

the Museum of Mankind the Museum of Modern Art Antique Museum
gallery

Artifact

Verbs

put on display

exhibit

Adjectives

Rare

Prehistoric

Idioms

take sth in (= look at sth) put on show

antique

Primitive

It takes about a full day to take in all the museum

make a day of sth (= spend a whole day doing sth)

I'm quite into making a day of walking around the science museum on

view/ on display

There are loads of prehistoric fossils on view

Topic 45: Relaxation

1. What do you usually do to relax?
2. How much time do you usually have to relax?
3. What do people usually do to relax in your country?
4. Do you think it's important for people to relax?

Nouns

Break

Relaxation

Time off (Vacation) Massage

Gardening

Karaoke

Verbs

Unwind

Entertain

Adjectives

Soothing (restful)
Calming

Idioms

take a breather (- relax) Rest

Day off

Recreation

Sauna

Bird-watching Shopping online

recuperate(recover) relax

comforting chill out (- relax)

take it easy (= relax)

put one's feet up (- relax)

I have moved the front lawn. and I'm just taking a breather before taking the back lawn Stop working, left chill out

Don't worry, take it easy

Topic 46: Cycling

1. Do you like cycling?

2. Is cycling popular in your country?

3. What are the advantages of cycling?

4. How often do you walk to places? **Nouns**

pushbike biking mountain bike bike-riding

Verbs Peddle

speed up

protect environment

Adjectives

slow down Keep fit

Invigorating (refreshing) Energetic = vigorous environmentally- friendly

Idioms

had it (= broken)

run the risk of

My old pushbike has had it so I'm saving up to buy a new mountain bike. If you leave your bike in public place, you run the risk of having it stolen.

Topic 47: Healthy eating

1. Do you like eating healthy food?
2. Do you think it is important to eat healthy food?
3. Is fast food popular in your country
4. Do you think people eat healthier food nowadays compared with people in the past?

Nouns

Calorie
vitamin

Verbs

munch (= eat)

Adjectives

Nutritious
cholesterol mineral

lose weight put weight on

nourishing wholesome harmful (to one's health) **Idioms**

in good shape/ in good condition (= having a healthy body)

She is in good shape after months of training. pig out (= eat a large amount of food, usually unhealthy food)

We pigged out on pizza last night.

a Big Mac Attack (modern slang for eating Macdonald's fast food)

The Child is having a Big Mac Attack.

Junk food has little or no nutrition.

A fast-food joint (- a restaurant which serves fast food)

There's a fast-food joint in the street corner

Topic 48: Hotels

1. Do you like staying in hotels?
2. How often do you stay in hotels?
3. What types of hotels can be found in your city/ country?
4. What are the advantages of staying in a hotel?

Nouns

Hostel hotel-chain (= holiday inn)

Room service double room

Motel inn

B.B British English guesthouse

Manager guest

twin room (=has two single beds)

single room (=for one person)

suite (= has two or more rooms)

desk clerk (=gives you your key)

Bellboy British English/bellhop American English (=takes your bags up to your room) Maid also chambermaid (= cleans your room)

Verbs

In English we do not usually say "live in a hotel". The common verbs are: reside in a hotel check in,

Adjectives

stay in a hotel check out.

be a hotel guest or resident pay your bil

spartan (=basic and simple) Exclusive(fashionable) **Idioms**

luxurious

get the royal treatment (= be treated as if one is a king or queen)

If you stay in an exclusive hotel, you usually get the royal treatment. at one's beck and call (= ready to serve sb.)

In most luxury hotels there are loads of staff at your beck and call.

creature comforts (= things that make people comfortable)

In 5-star hotels there are usually loads of creature comforts.

Topic 49: Outdoor activities

1. Do you like doing outdoor activities?

2. How often do you d. outdoor activities?

3. What outdoor activities are popular in your country?

4. Do you think it's important for people to spend time outdoors? **Nouns**

Outdoor Leisure open-air **Verbs**

breathe fresh air interest Pursuit

feel the wind In one's face

Adjectives

Bracing = invigorating refreshing

Revitalizing (healthy)

Idioms

out in the open air

We always have a picnic out in the open air.

Topic 50: Memories of the past

1. Do you like to think about the past?
2. How do you feel when other people talk about their memories?
3. Do you keep photographs to remind you of past events?
4. What can people learn from the past?

Nouns

Recollection

early years

Verbs

Reminisce

Adjectives

reminiscent

(memories) amusing childhood

muse over recall

Idioms hang on to old memories (= remember sth for a long time)

I'm not really the sort of person who likes to hang on to old memories prefer to look to the future.

hark back to (= remember sth. in the past)

Some of my mends often hark back to our childhood memories for the here and now (= the present day)

I think that the past is history. I prefer to live for the here and now.

rake up old memories (= remember past events, usually bad memories)

Some people often rake up old memories

Topic 51: Childhood

1. Did you have a happy childhood?
2. What part of your childhood do you remember most?
3. What makes a happy childhood?
4. What would you like to change about your childhood? **Nouns**

early years formative years **Verbs**

infancy

adolescence

grow up **Adjectives**

develop Childish Adolescent **Idioms**

in the prime of one's life (= in one's early years)

vim and vigour (= energy)

In the prime of my life, I gamed lots of prizes.

During my adolescence, I used to always have so much vim and vigour.

Topic 52: Colors

1. What's your favorite color?
2. What can we learn about a person from the colors they wear?
3. Do any colors have a special meaning in your culture? **Nouns**

vibrant colors (=vivid colors)

dull colors

hue (= shade of a certain color)

light/bright/pastel etc color

reddish-brown/yellowy-green/deep blue etc color blaze/riot, mass of color
(= lots of different bright colors) **Verbs**

Signify **Adjectives**

Colorful **Idioms**

Symbolize indicate

Multicolored

give sb the red carpet treatment (= treat sb. like a VIP)

Last night, we were given the red carpet treatment at the banquet red tape
(= official rules)

He nated red tape

see red (= become angry)

Her criticisms were enough to make anyone see red. in the red (= owing money)

My bank account is 50 dollars in the red.

in the black (= not owing money to anyone)

A business must stay in the black to keep on.

green with envy (= jealous)

green with envy when Joe bought a car.