

Books and Reading Habits



1.5

1. Do you often read books?

→ Unfortunately I spend far less time reading books than I would like. So much of my time is spent involved with my studies, and while I guess that **counts in the context of** reading textbooks, I don't think that is what you mean. The only times I really get to sit down and read a book is when traveling. Being on a bus or an airplane is a great time to really **delve into** a good book.

- **count in the context of** /kaunt ɪn ðə 'kontekst əv/: Được tính vào bối cảnh/ việc nào đó.
Ex: I think reading comics doesn't count in the context of reading books.
- **delve into** /dɛlv 'ɪntu:/: Tìm hiểu sâu
Ex: It's not always a good idea to delve too deeply into someone's past.

2. Do you read differently now than you did before?

→ I hadn't thought about it, but now that I do, I definitely read very differently than I used to. I used to get very **absorbed** into books and not look up from the pages for hours. Now when I read, I do so quite differently, I can still get just as caught up in the books, but when I see a new word I don't know, or something is referenced that I am **curious** about, I cannot help but whip out my phone and search the word or concept on the internet to learn more, then, back to the book.

- **absorbed** /əb'zɔ:bd/: thích thú, say đắm
Ex: She was completely absorbed in the task.
- **curious** /'kjʊəriəs/: tò mò
Ex: He is such a curious boy, always asking questions.

3. Have you ever read a novel that has been adapted into a film? Which do you prefer, reading the books, or watching the movies?

→ I have on many occasions either read a book then seen a **movie adaptation**, or watched a movie then been **inspired** to read the book. I have to say, in almost all cases, the books have been better than the movies, though I cannot say I completely prefer that to the other. Some things just work better as a book, and some things work better as a movie. Books also tend to take a significantly longer time to finish, and this means that many people just don't have the time to **dedicate** to a single story, whereas if it is a movie, they can get the enjoyment of the story in one evening.

- **a movie adaptation** /ə 'mu:vi ,ædæp'teɪʃ(ə)n/: bộ phim chuyển thể
Ex: There have been more than 60 film adaptations of his literary works.
- **inspire (v)** /ɪn'spaɪə/: Truyền cảm hứng
Ex: The actors inspired the kids with their enthusiasm.
- **dedicate (a)** /'dedɪkeɪt/: dành thời gian làm gì / cống hiến
Ex: She dedicates herself to her work.

Birthday



1.6

1. What do you usually do on your birthday?

→ Well usually, on my birthday I prefer to spend the day and most of the evening at home. I tend to spend that time celebrating with my family, and **catching up with** any relatives who have come to wish me a happy birthday. Then, later at night I like to **meet up with** my friends and go visit street markets for snacks and fresh juices. That is my favourite way to spend my birthday, and so how I try to do it every year.

- **Catch up with** / 'kætʃ 'ʌp wɪð /: hỏi thăm tình hình
Ex: I should catch up with you some time.
- **Meet up with** / mi:t 'ʌp wɪð /: gặp mặt
Ex: They met up with each other for drinks.

2. What did you do on your birthday when you were young?

→ Well, when I was younger it was much more **conventional**. The way we celebrated, I mean. It was mostly **planned** by my parents, of course, so most activities like games were chosen by them. I always got to pick what food was served though, and have for as long as I can remember. Most years we had pizza.

- **Conventional (a)** /kən'ven.jən.əl/: truyền thống, đơn giản
Ex: I find his art dull and conventional.
- **Plan (v)** /plæn/: tổ chức, lên kế hoạch
Ex: She is already planning what to do on her weekend.

3. Do you think it is important for you to celebrate your birthday?

→ I don't think that it is particularly special, but on the other hand I kind of do. For myself, I don't really care, because for years I have thought that in a world of almost eight billion people, there are only 365 days in a year! We can't have a **special day** for everyone. Although, for the same reason, there are a lot of people in the world and it is easy to feel small, so it is important for everyone to **take out some time** in their lives to celebrate themselves.

- **special day** / 'speʃl 'deɪ /: ngày trọng đại
Ex: Today is your special day Ellie, it's your birthday!
- **take out some time** / 'teɪk aʊt səm 'taɪm /: dành thời gian làm việc gì đó khác
Ex: She took out some time from her career to raise her children.

3. Whose birthday do you think is the most important to celebrate in Viet Nam?

→ I think that would depend on who you ask, but for most people I think the most important birthdays to celebrate are those of the very young and also those of the very old. The young because it is more special to them and it is important to build positive memories **tied to aging**. For the older people it is also important because we should celebrate that they have lived so long and are still with us.

- **Tie to** / 'taɪ tu: /: gắn liền với
Ex: His allergy is tied to dairy products.
- **Aging (n)** / 'eɪ.dʒɪŋ/: sự già hóa
Ex: Our bodies will change due to aging.