

Age/Different stages in life



1.12

1. Are you happy with the age you are now?

→ Yes, I'm enjoying the best time of my life, at the age of twenty four. I have everything I need: a **well-paid job**⁽¹⁾, a boyfriend and a house to return. It can be considered as a **sense of satisfaction**⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾**A well-paid job** /,wel 'peɪd dʒɒb/: một công việc lương cao

Ví dụ: *At last he had found a well-paid job that interested him.*

⁽²⁾**A sense of satisfaction**: cảm giác hài lòng

Sense /sens/: Cảm giác

Satisfaction /,sæt.ɪs'fæk.ʃən/: hài lòng

Ví dụ: *I did not feel any sense of satisfaction at all.*

2. What is the most important thing you've done in your life so far?

→ Up until now, the most crucial thing is that I have got a **decent job**⁽³⁾ to earn money and **relieve the financial burden**⁽⁴⁾ on my family. I could also buy my dad a new tie and buy my mom a new dress with the amount of money I earn by myself.

⁽³⁾**A decent job** /'di:.sənt dʒɒb/: Một công việc tốt, ổn định

Ví dụ: *He got a decent job doing construction*

⁽⁴⁾**To relieve the financial burden**: giảm bớt gánh nặng tài chính

Relieve /rɪ'li:v/: Dịu đi, giảm bớt đi

Burden /'bɜ:.dən/: gánh nặng

Financial /faɪ'næn.ʃəl/: tài chính

Ví dụ: *The New Zealander believes that central contracts for the top players could help relieve the financial burden.*

3. What do you hope you'll be doing in five years time?

→ I haven't had any clear plan yet but I think at this time 5 years later, I will be studying overseas for a **master's degree**⁽⁵⁾. You know, **pursuing further education**⁽⁶⁾ is always my dream.

⁽⁵⁾**Master's degree**: bằng thạc sĩ

Degree /di'grɪ:/: trình độ, bằng cấp

Ví dụ: *He received a master's degree at Villanova.*

⁽⁶⁾**To pursue further education**: theo đuổi nền giáo dục cao hơn

Pursue /pə'sju:/: theo đuổi

Further /'fɜ:.ðər/: Xa hơn

Education /,edʒ.ʊ'keɪ.ʃən/: Giáo dục

Ví dụ: *If they don't pursue further education by age 24, statistically it is not going to happen.*

Discussion



1. What kinds of things do you enjoy discussing with your friends?

→ Well, all sorts of things from films, idols, shopping to food can be a topic of our talk. We also like to **catch up on**⁽¹⁾ what each of us has been up to recently. Well, I don't really know whether it's **a stereotype**⁽²⁾ but women tend to have many more things to discuss than men, right?

⁽¹⁾**To catch up on** /kætʃ ʌp ɒn/: bắt kịp, theo kịp
Ví dụ: *we catch up on the work.*

⁽²⁾**A stereotype** /'ster.i.ə.taɪp/: một điều định kiến
Ví dụ: *The characters in the book are just stereotypes*

2. In a discussion, do you prefer to talk more or listen more?

→ Well, I would say I'm more into listening. Honestly, I'm not a talkative person but when needed, I'm ready to raise my voice and share my opinions.

3. Do you often change your opinion during a discussion?

→ In case I find that my point's no longer appropriate, I will **adapt**⁽³⁾ to make my idea better. Being **determined**⁽⁴⁾ and sticking with an opinion is good but not all the time. Sometimes, change is for the better.

⁽³⁾**To adapt** /ə'dæpt/: thay đổi
Ví dụ: *The play had been adapted for children.*

⁽⁴⁾**To be determined** /dɪ'tɜː.mɪnd/ : kiên định
Ví dụ: *She will get the job she wants - she's a very determined person.*



1. Do you recycle now? Why?

→ Yes, I do recycle but not too often. Instead, I reuse things like glass jars and bottles, paper bags or plastic bags to reduce the amount of waste thrown out. If I have no idea about how to reuse it, I will **sort things out**⁽¹⁾ and send them to the recycling centre.

2. Did you recycle when you were a kid?

→ No, I'm afraid. Recycling wasn't common at that time, especially in the place where I lived which was a rural area. That's why **my memory went blank**⁽²⁾ for a second after hearing your question.

3. Will you recycle in the future?

→ Of course yes. Recycling is **environmentally friendly**⁽³⁾. As I said, it helps to limit the amount of harmful **pollutants**⁽⁴⁾ that need to be **disposed of**⁽⁵⁾. Besides, I will also encourage my friends and family to recycle and reuse so as to keep our environment clean.

4. What kind of things do you recycle?

→ Things made from **non-biodegradable**⁽⁶⁾ materials like plastic, glass, metal, ... can be recycled.

⁽¹⁾**To sort things out:** phân loại

Sort /sɔ:t/ : sắp xếp

Ví dụ: He figured he'd burn through his \$15,000 savings and sort things out from there.

⁽²⁾**My memory went blank:** trí nhớ đột nhiên trống rỗng

Memory /'mem.ər.i/: trí nhớ

Blank/blæŋk/: trống rỗng, khoảng trống

Ví dụ: My memory went blank on my very first line.

⁽³⁾**To be environmentally friendly:** thân thiện và không gây hại cho môi trường

Friendly /'frend.li/: thân thiện

Environmentally /ɪn.vai.rən'men.tal.i/(adv) : môi trường

Ví dụ: There are a growing number of investors backing firms that are environmentally-friendly.

⁽⁴⁾**Pollutants** /pə'lu:tənt/: chất gây ô nhiễm

Ví dụ: Sulphur dioxide is one of several pollutants.

⁽⁵⁾**To dispose of** /dɪ'spəʊz əv/ : vứt ra, thải ra

Ví dụ: It took only five minutes for the world champion to dispose of his opponent.

⁽⁶⁾**Non-biodegradable** /nɒn baɪ.əʊ.dɪ'greɪ.də.bəl/:

không có khả năng tự hủy sinh học

Ví dụ: Globally, around six billion non-biodegradable cards are produced each year.



1.15

1. What sports did you do when you were a kid?

→ Actually I didn't play any sports when I was a little girl. Instead, I just spent all my childhood playing traditional games such as hide and seek, bag jumping,

2. What's your favorite sport? Why?

→ Now, I'm still not a **sporty person**⁽¹⁾ so I don't **have a passion for**⁽²⁾ any particular kinds of sport. But if I have to choose one, I would love to take up swimming. Well, I think it's kinda **exhilarating**⁽³⁾ and good fun to relax during a **boiling hot weather**⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾**A sporty** /'spɔ:ti/: một người yêu thích và giỏi thể thao

Ví dụ: *Guy wasn't really the sporty type.*

⁽²⁾**To have a passion for something**: có niềm đam mê, yêu thích về một cái gì đó

Passion /'pæʃ.ən/: đam mê

Ví dụ: *I have a passion for history.*

⁽³⁾**To be exhilarating and good fun**: hứng khởi và vui vẻ

Exhilarating /ɪg'zɪ.lə.reɪ.tɪŋ/: Hứng khởi

Ví dụ: *His work is exhilarating and good fun*

⁽⁴⁾**A boiling hot weather**: thời tiết nóng sôi (nóng như nước sôi)

Boiling /'bɔɪ.lɪŋ/: sôi

Hot /hot/: nóng

Weather /'weð.ə/: thời tiết

Ví dụ: *We don't usually have such boiling hot weather.*

3. Do you watch sports? Why?

→ No. Watching sports is **not my cup of tea**⁽⁵⁾. I find it so **tedious**⁽⁶⁾. In fact, I'm more into watching comedies or TV series which make me laugh **hysterically**⁽⁷⁾ to relieve my stress.

⁽⁵⁾**My cup of tea (idiom)**: sở thích của tôi

Ví dụ: *Opera is not my cup of tea.*

⁽⁶⁾**To be tedious** /'ti:di.əs/: buồn chán

Ví dụ: *The problem is I find most forms of exercise so tedious.*

⁽⁷⁾**Laugh hysterically**: cười một cách điên cuồng

Hysterically /hɪ'sterɪ.kəl.i/: điên cuồng, cuồng loạn

Laugh /lɑ:f/: Cười

Ví dụ: *She started laughing hysterically.*

4. Are you a fan of any sport teams? Why?

→ Honestly, I don't have my favorite team because like I said, I'm not **fond of**⁽⁸⁾ watching these matches. **Having said that**⁽⁹⁾, I do admire the Vietnamese national football team. You know, all players are skillful despite their young age.

⁽⁸⁾**To be fond of**: thích

Ví dụ: *She was very fond of horses*

⁽⁹⁾**Having said that**: mặc dù vậy

Ví dụ: *He forgets most things, but having said that, he always remembers my birthday*