Singing

1.5

1. Do you like singing?

→ Yeah, I love it, although my singing voice is quite terrible. Some people have even told me that they had nightmares after hearing me sing. Anyway, I don't care much about what they say and just simply do what I like.

2. When do you sing?

→ Well, I have no particular time for that. I just do it whenever I feel like it, mostly when I take a shower. I also do some karaoke with my neighbours once or twice a week.

3. Will you take singing lessons in the future?

→ I'm considering it. I really want to expand my **vocal range**[1] and make my **vocal transition**[2] smoother. But the thing is I just can't arrange the time. You know, I've **got a lot on my plate**[3] at the moment, so that'll have to wait.

[1]**Vocal range:** quãng giọng
vocal /ˈvəʊkl/: (thuộc) giọng (nói/hát)
range /reɪndʒ/: quãng
Ví dụ: Mariah Carey is the singer having the largest vocal range.
[2]**Vocal transition:** chuyển giọng (giữa các âm vực).
transition /trænˈzɪʃn/: sự chuyển đổi, chuyển tiếp
Ví dụ: Only professional singers can do the vocal transition smoothly.
[3]**Have got a lot on one's plate:** bận rộn, có rất nhiều việc phải làm.
plate /pleɪt/: đĩa (đựng thức ăn)
Ví dụ: I can't handle this task anymore. I have already got a lot on my plate.

4. Did you enjoy singing when you were younger?

→ Yes, a lot. When I was 6 or 7 years old, I sang almost every day, and that **drove my family crazy**[1]. My brother told me to shut up all the time and even threatened to hit me, but I just ignored him.

[4]**Drive sb crazy:** khiến ai đó phát điên.
drive /draɪv/: lái (xe)
crazy /ˈkreɪzi/: điên
Ví dụ: He kept driving me crazy by repeating every word I said.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Decoration

1.6

1. What's the decoration like in your home?

→ Well, I just can't find the right words to describe it because I haven't really decorated it. I just bought a few small plants, a picture, and that's it.

2. What kind of decoration do you prefer?

→ I don't really know what "types of decoration" are out there actually, but I'll go for anything that's simple. You could say I'm a **minimalist**(1). I only buy the necessary things for my home.

(1)**Minimalist** /ˈmɪnɪməlɪst/: người theo chủ nghĩa tối giản.
Ví dụ: I don't really decorate my house much because I'm a minimalist.

3. Do Vietnamese people like decorating their home?

→ Sure. Just like everyone else in the world, Vietnamese people also decorate their home with a whole lot of things: pictures, plants, **toy figures**(2), ... I think it's just normal. You know, everyone wants to make their house look better, right?

(2)**Toy figure:** mô hình đồ chơi.
toy /tɔɪ/: đồ chơi
figure /ˈfɪgjər/: hình dáng, nhân vật
Ví dụ: Some toy figures from famous brands like Gucci are very expensive.

4. What's your favourite colour when decorating your home?

→ Anything that's **bright**(3), maybe something between white and yellow. You know my skin and my mind are dark already, so I prefer something in contrast.

***Ghi chú:** từ bright có thể dùng để nói về màu sắc và cả những thứ mang tính trừu tượng hơn.
Ví dụ: I want a shirt in a bright colour. (Tôi muốn một chiếc áo sáng màu – nói về màu sắc).
I believe you're gonna have a very bright future. (Tôi tin anh sẽ có một tương lai rất tươi sáng – nghĩa trừu tượng).
On the bright side, this change will increase our company's revenue. (Về mặt tích cực, sự thay đổi này sẽ làm tăng doanh thu của công ty).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Maths

1.7

1. Do students learn maths in secondary schools in Vietnam?

→ Of course. Actually, they have to learn maths from primary school until the end of high school. It's a compulsory subject, and I also think it's necessary for everyone.

2. Do you think maths is difficult?

→ It depends. Some basic maths like making calculations is quite easy. However, things get much more challenging when it comes to something complex like solving a long, big **equation**[1] or doing a **trigonometric calculation**[2].

[1]**Equation** /ɪ'kweɪʒn/: Phương trình
Ví dụ: I am clueless about chemical equations.
[2]**Trigonometric calculation:** phép tính lượng giác
Trigonometric /ˌtrɪgəˈnəˈmetrɪk/: lượng giác
Calculation /ˌkælkjʊˈleɪʃn/: phép tính
Ví dụ: I find it so difficult to do trigonometry calculations during Maths lessons.

3. What can people do with maths in their daily life?

→ There's a lot. I think maths exists in every aspect of our life. You know, everyone needs to calculate their own expenses and many other things – that's maths. Some jobs even require more complex and advanced maths. For example, an engineer has to do a bunch of things with **geometry**[3] and other stuff; an accountant has to deal with tons of calculations every day. See, maths is important to all of us.

[3]**Geometry** /dʒiˈɑːmətri/: hình học
Ví dụ: I think I'm better at geometry than arithmetic.

4. Do you learn maths now? Why/why not?

→ Not **formally**[4], but yes. I learn it through my everyday job. I also read some books about maths, but not something that we learn in high school or university. I prefer something that's more applicable.

[4]**Formally** /'fɔːrməli/: một cách chính thống
Ví dụ: Although she was not formally trained as a history teacher, she is widely respected for her knowledge of the period.
Lưu ý: Từ "formal" khi nói về cách sử dụng ngôn ngữ hoặc cách ăn mặc sẽ mang nghĩa "trang trọng, nghiêm túc". Tuy nhiên khi sử dụng từ này trong chủ đề giáo dục, nó sẽ mang nghĩa "chính thống – được đào tạo tại một tổ chức giáo dục chính quy".
Ví dụ: The majority of children nowadays have access to formal education. (Hầu hết trẻ em hiện nay đều có thể tiếp cận với giáo dục chính quy – giáo dục tại các cơ sở chính thống/ được công nhận).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Being Happy

1.8

1. Is there anything that makes you feel happy lately?

→ Yes. I just won a lottery 3 days ago, and I'm still **on cloud nine**[1]. It's over 1 million dollars, you know, and I still wonder whether I should throw it into real estate or the stock market, or maybe I should take the advice of Elon Musk and get some bitcoin.

[1]**On cloud nine (idiom):** rất vui
Ví dụ: I was on cloud nine when I received my test result.

2. What do you do to stay happy?

→ Keep a positive attitude. You know, being happy is a state of mind, and we can control our thinking to achieve that. Bad things come and go. What we need to do is just to keep a positive attitude, and happiness will be there with us. Don't **rant and rave**[2]. It just makes things worse.

[2]**Rant and rave (idiom):** kêu ca phàn nàn.
rant /rænt/: phàn nàn
rave /reɪv/: nói lớn (khi tức giận), nói say sưa
Ví dụ: Instead of sitting there, ranting and raving, you'd better spend time thinking of the solution.

3. Can you stay happy all the time?

→ No, of course. I'm just like every other human on earth. My mood goes up and down **from time to time**[3]. I believe no one can stay happy all the time. They have to **feel blue**[4] sometimes. That makes us human, you know.

[3]**From time to time:** đôi khi, không thường xuyên.
Ví dụ: She has to work at weekends from time to time.
[4]**Feel blue:** cảm thấy buồn rầu.
Ví dụ: After his cat's death, he always feels blue.

4. Is it important to be happy?

→ Of course. When we're happy with something, we have more motivation to keep on doing other things. Life is **gloomy**[5] and dark without happiness.

[5]**Gloomy** /'glu:mi/: ảm đạm.
Ví dụ: It was a wet and gloomy day, so I just stayed at home for the whole day.

LIVEWORKSHEETS