

makkar IELTS

English for Exams

makkarIELTS Speaking Guesswork

Sep- Dec 2021

First Version



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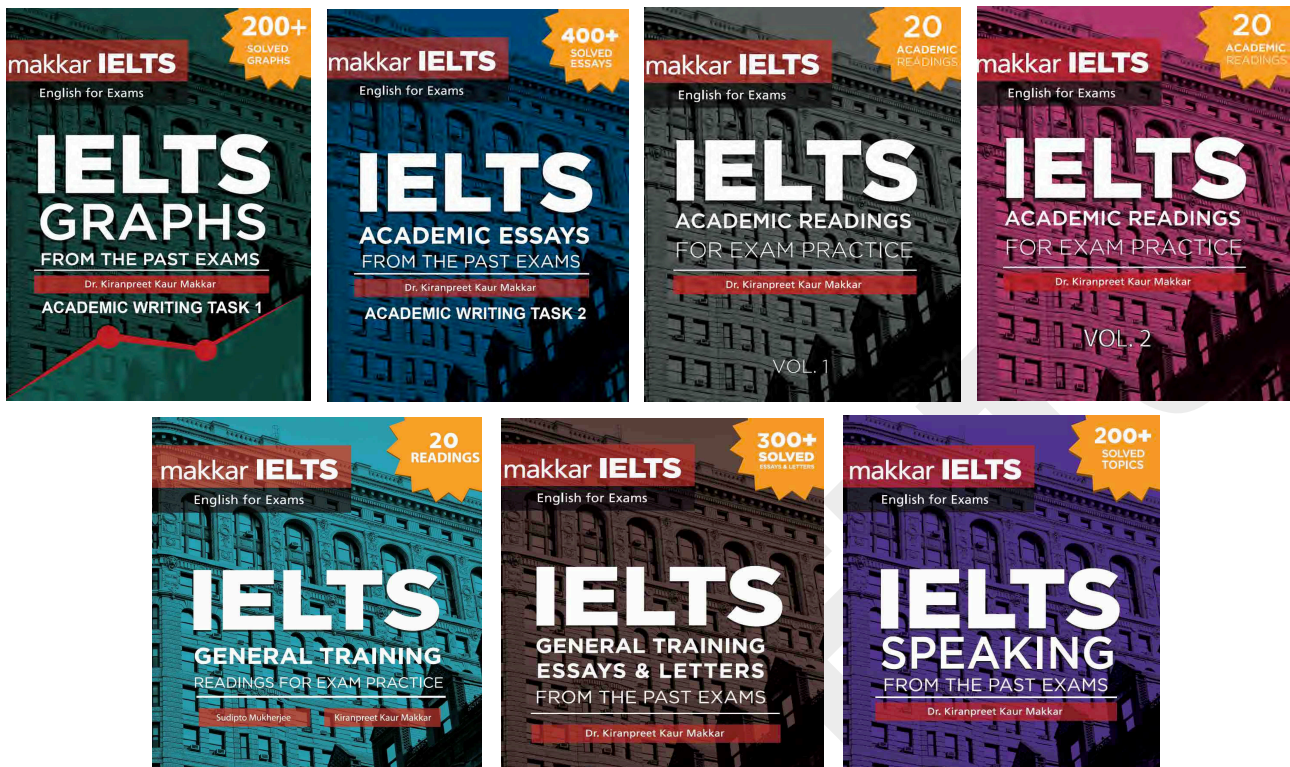
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1. Describe a time you got up early.

You should say #\$\$%m a kk ar IELTS\$%*

- When was it
 - Why did you get up early
 - What did you do after getting up
 - How did you feel about it
-
- I normally sleep late, sometimes even as late as 1 AM or 2AM.
 - As a result, I mostly wake up late as well.
 - But recently I had to take an exam in Amritsar, which is about 100 kms from my hometown.
 - The exam time was also quite early from 9 AM to 12:30 AM.
 - I had two options, either I could have gone there one day in advance or I could have taken an early morning bus on the exam day.
 - I decided on the latter because I didn't want to waste money on a hotel night stay.
 - So a few days before the exam, I started sleeping a bit early and getting up a bit earlier.
 - I wanted to get into rhythm before the actual day.
 - I was worried that if I directly tried it on the exam day, I would fall asleep during the exam.
 - On the day of the exam, I woke up at 4 AM.
 - After finishing my morning chores, I did some last minute preparation.
 - Then at 6 AM I went to the bus stop and caught the bus.
 - I could have taken the 7'o clock bus as well, but I thought it would be better to reach in advance than risk getting late due to some delay on the way.
 - During the journey, I went through my notes, one last time.
 - After reaching, I called up my parents and took their blessings.
 - My exam went really well and rather than feeling tired and sleepy ,I felt very fresh and relaxed.
 - Getting up early was a very nice experience.
 - It made me feel that I could do a lot more during the day than I did earlier.
 - But it was not easy, it required a lot of willpower.
 - I continued to get up early for a few more days, but gradually I fell back into my old habit of sleeping late and getting up late.

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Follow-ups

1. Do you know anyone who likes to get up early?

Yes, actually both the parents like to get up early. My mother wakes up as early as 5'o clock. My father also wakes up quite early but not as early as my mother. As for my sister and I, we can sleep for as long as we are not woken up.

2. Why do people get up early?

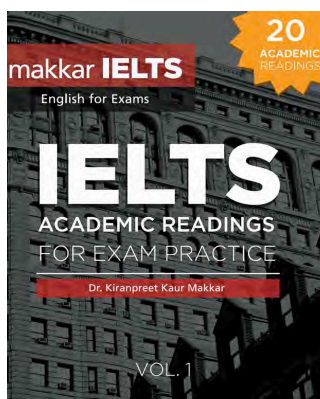
I think the main reason for people to get up early is that they can finish their household chores before going to work. After coming back from school or work, it hard to finish them due to work tiredness and stress.

3. What kind of situations need people to arrive early?

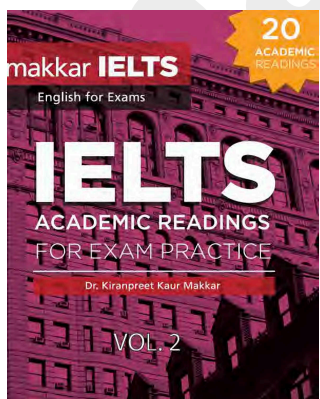
I think people should always arrive early for formal commitments like interviews, office meetings and medical appointments. For other occasions like family meets, I don't think it is necessary to reach before time, but one should try to be on time.

4. Why do some people like to stay up late?

I think people who stay up late are generally those who like quiet and spending time with themselves. They feel that during the day, they get might disturbed, so they prefer staying up late and doing their work at night.



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2. Describe an art or craft activity (example painting, woodwork, etcetera) that you had at school.

You should say

- What you made
 - How you made it
 - What it looked like
 - and how you felt about this activity
-
- I studied in Saint Joseph's convent school Phagwara
 - There were not many art or craft activities that I did at school
 - However, every year an NGO in my hometown organised a painting competition in which our school used to participate.
 - When I was in 10th, I was selected by my school to participate in that painting competition.
 - I remember I was very excited.
 - There were two more participants from my school.
 - They were from the other sections.
 - We were given an art sheet over there, but we had to bring our own poster colors and brushes.
 - The theme we got to draw and paint on was global warming.
 - Although the theme was announced on the spot, I was well aware of global warming as it had been taught to us in science classes.
 - On the right-hand corner of my sheet, I drew a person cutting trees.
 - Next to it, I drew a factory that was emitting smoke from its chimneys
 - And next to it I drew a house with AC's fitted on all windows and two cars parked in front.
 - These things represented the causes of global warming.
 - On the upper left side, I drew mountains with melting glaciers, and water flowing down to the seas, to represent the rise in sea levels.
 - In the lower left corner, I made a few flies and mosquitos with happy faces, depicting their happiness.
 - They seemed unreal, but I wanted to convey that these insects are happy in the hot weather and these lead to diseases.
 - Then I painted it all and named my painting – Global Warming – Causes and effects.
 - I was very happy with my work. (m a k k a r %(#IELTS)
 - My joy knew no bounds when my name was announced as the winner of the competition.
 - My school principal told the whole school about my achievement in the morning assembly the next day.
 - That painting is in the school corridor even today.

Follow-ups

1. What traditional handicrafts are popular in India?

India is a diverse country, and many handicrafts are popular in India. The Phulkari embroidery of Punjab, the ceramic pottery of Jaipur, the terracotta pottery of the South, the woven saris of Mysore, the woven carpets of Kashmir, the cloth puppets of Rajasthan are just a few examples of the handicrafts that are popular in India.

2. What do young people think of traditional handicrafts?

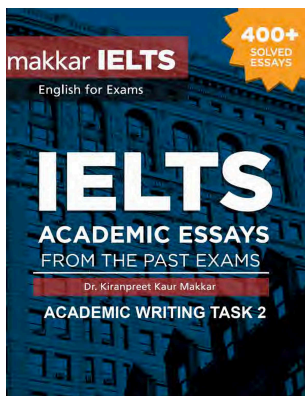
The young people of today are not much aware of the traditional handicrafts. They are children of the global village and they like modern things. However, many NGOs are promoting the handicrafts work in the remote villages and are selling them in modern outlets because of which the young people are becoming aware of these things and are in fact liking them.

3. Do people in your country send handicrafts as gifts?

Yes, people in my country gift handicrafts. They gift traditional paintings made on leaves and wood, embroidered bags and purses, and even articles made of wood.

4. What are the benefits of making handicrafts?

Handicrafts preserve the culture and tradition of the country. In addition, they bring out the creativity of people. Handicrafts also generate revenue for the country if they are promoted well and sold to tourists as souvenirs.



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3. Describe a person who solved a problem in a smart way

You should say – mAkk@r|ELTS

- Who this person is
 - What the problem was
 - How he/she solved it
 - And explain why you think he/ she did it in a smart way
-
- Everyone faces problems in life
 - Some people have a great presence of mind and can solve problems without panicking
 - Here I would like to talk about my aunt Paramjeet, who solved a problem in a really clever way
 - I remember it was about six months ago
 - My aunt and uncle had come to our place and my mother was preparing dinner for them
 - As my mother was putting salt in the cheese curry, the box of salt slipped from her hand and a lot of salt fell into the dish.
 - As my mother had not prepared anything else she started panicking because it was already dinnertime
 - My aunt came into the kitchen when she saw that my mother was looking troubled
 - She told my mother not to panic at all
 - She kneaded some dough and put 3 to 4 balls of dough into the curry
 - After about 15 minutes she removed the door balls and asked my mother to taste the curry
 - There was no excess salt in the dish anymore
 - My mother would not have been able to solve this problem on her own
 - She had started thinking that the whole curry dish would have to be thrown and she would have to cook the dish all over again
 - But my aunt saved the situation, and nobody even came to know that the problem had happened
 - My aunt Paramjeet is a great cook, and she can fix her dinner for 20 people in just one hour
 - She also conducts cookery classes during the summer vacations
 - She is in her mid-forties but looks much younger.
 - Whenever anyone in our family faces any problem, they seek her help for a solution.

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Follow-ups

1. Do you think children are born smart or do they learn to become smart?

This is a tough question to answer. Some children are innately more intelligent than others. However, I believe that with proper guidance children can be taught to be smart.

2. How do children become smart at school?

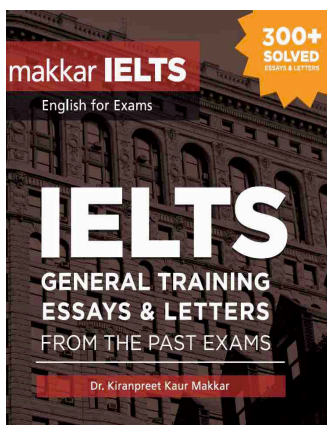
Children become smart at school by listening to the teachers, interacting with their peers, and doing their studies diligently

3. Why are some people well-rounded and others only good at one thing?

Some people are naturally curious to learn a lot of things and so they become well-rounded. However, others try to master one skill and become proficient in that.

4. Why does modern society need talent of all kinds?

Modern society needs talent of all kinds because everyone cannot be proficient in all the things. So, to have a harmonious society there has to be a mix of people with different talents so that they can work together for the benefit of the whole society.



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4. Describe an exciting book that you enjoy reading.

You should say: m@kk@rIELTS

- When you read it
 - What kind of book it is
 - What is about
 - And explain why you think it is exciting
-
- I read a lot of books.
 - However, the very first book that I read is also one that I still enjoy reading a lot.
 - It is none other than the first book of the Harry Potter series, 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'.
 - It was gifted to me by my mother on my 10th birthday.
 - Initially, I was really mad at her, because I wanted a recently released video game
 - She told me that she would get me the video game as well but if I gave the book a chance first.
 - So, I reluctantly picked up the book and started reading.
 - I read just 10 pages and I was hooked.
 - I remember I used the word unputdownable to describe the book to one of my friends, a few days later.
 - I started at 9 PM at night and I finally slept at 7 AM the next morning after finishing the last page.
 - Fortunately, it was the summer vacation or my parents would have taken the book away from me at night and made me go to bed.
 - Harry Potter needs no introduction - it is a story about magic, a story of good vs evil.
 - However, for me, it is also a coming-of-age story.
 - It is a story about a boy becoming a man.
 - Everything about the book is perfect, the world setting, the characterisation, the magic system.
 - More than that, the book isn't afraid of pulling punches.
 - When the protagonist falls into a pit, he doesn't come out unscathed, he gets hurt just like a normal human being.
 - Good characters die, they lose, the road to victory isn't a straight one.
 - Every fantasy book is about good vs evil, but the exciting books are those, where you cannot predict what would happen next and Harry Potter is one of the best examples of that.
 - And in the end, it would always be the book that got me into the habit of reading.
 - So, it will always hold a special place in my heart.
 - Even now I randomly pick up the book once a month and read two three chapters.
 - And I don't know why but there is always something I feel that I hadn't read before.

Follow-ups

1. Do you prefer books or movies?

I think movies can never capture the detail and the emotions that books can. So, I always prefer reading books to watching movies. But, then again, it's not easy to find time to read books. So, sometimes I still watch movies.

2. Do you think it is important to read the book before watching the movie version of it?

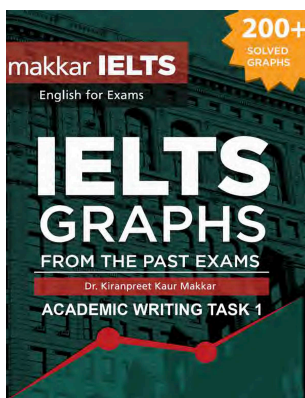
No, not really. Some movie adaptations are really good. A lot of my friends haven't read the Game of Throne series, but they still enjoyed the TV adaptation. Ultimately, it's the person's preference and availability of time.

3. Do boys and girls like the same kinds of books?

I have seen some differences in the magazines boys and girls read. For example, I have seen a lot of girls reading fashion magazines and very rarely in the case of boys. However, in the case of books, I don't think there is any particular difference.

4. What kind of books do Indian people like to read?

I think reading preference doesn't depend upon nationality. It depends upon personal preference and the book itself. For example, Harry Potter is famous all over the world, because it is a fabulous book. I think it was meant for children, but I have seen a lot of adults calling themselves Potterheads.



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5. Describe a cafe you like to visit.

You should say - makkarIELTS

- Where it is
 - What kinds of food and drinks it serves
 - What do you do there
 - And explain why you like to go there
-
- One of my maternal aunts lives in Delhi.
 - During summer vacations, me and my sister visit her and spend some days there.
 - Her house is just next to the famous authentic Indian traditional cafe, Indian Coffee House.
 - It was one of the first few cafes set up in Delhi, during the British times.
 - It is quite different from the cafe chains of today like Barista, Cafe Coffee Day, and Starbucks.
 - Unlike them, it doesn't offer a wide variety of coffee like lattes, cappuccino, mochas.
 - In fact, they have a very short menu.
 - There are just two coffees- hot and cold.
 - Besides that, they offer tea and some fresh juices.
 - In snacks again- they have limited options four or five options.
 - But I remember just one- which is the onion fritters.
 - Sometimes I drink tea and sometimes coffee, but I always order the onion fritters.
 - They are so yummy.
 - That is the main reason I go there.
 - Well, there is another reason- the cheap prices.
 - And although the prices have increased over the past few years, they are still very affordable.
 - Because of that, it can be quite hard to find an empty table.
 - In fact, sometimes I have seen people waiting in queue for an hour before they get accommodated.
 - There is also this charm about the place.
 - The old design, the rickety tables, and chairs, the waiters dressed in traditional Indian attires, it is like a portal into the past.

Follow-ups

1. What kind of people would like to go to a cafe?

I think people who enjoy drinking tea and coffee are those that don't have time to make them or can't make them at home due to some reason. Certain people also visit to study there or work there when they are unable to do so at home.

2. Why do young people like studying in a cafe instead of at home?

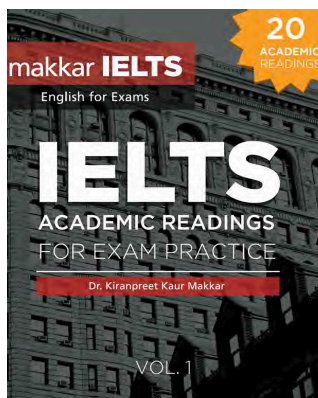
I think it's because of the atmosphere. Moreover, there are so many distractions at home. Adults prefer cafes because they might be tied down by household chores at home.

3. Do old people like to drink coffee?

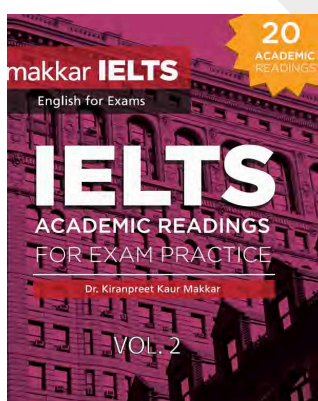
I think age has nothing to do with liking coffee or not. But I think drinking coffee does affect sleep as it contains caffeine, so people who have sleep issues do avoid coffee.

4. Do Indian people like to drink coffee?

We are a nation of tea drinkers mainly. But many youngsters and teenagers like to drink coffee too nowadays. In my house as well, nearly all of us have tea, but only my sister and I drink coffee.



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6. Describe a plan in your life that is not related to work or study

You should say

- What it is about
 - Why you have made it
 - What do you need to do first
 - And explain how you would feel if it is successful
-
- I have made many plans in my life
 - Most of them are related to my study or work, but here I would like to talk about the plan which is not related to my study or work
 - My plan is to learn French
 - I know Hindi Punjabi and English but I would like to add another language and the language that I have in my mind is French
 - It is a beautiful language
 - It is spoken in 33 countries
 - I plan to go to Canada for my higher education
 - I have heard that French is spoken in many parts of Canada
 - In fact, Québec in Canada is a Francophone area
 - If I go to study there then my knowledge of French will help me make new friends over there and communicate easily with them
 - I try to find some centres in my hometown which teach this language but I could not find any
 - So after I get the required bands score in my IELTS test I'll go and stay with my aunt and uncle in Chandigarh because there are many centres there where I can learn French
 - My father tells me that his maternal uncle knew eight languages
 - Because of his knowledge of different languages he could communicate with many foreign tourists
 - He worked as a guide for them when they visited the golden temple in Amritsar
 - Knowledge of different languages also made him more open-minded in his outlook to life
 - My father tells me that he had many stories to tell when he used to come home in the evenings
 - I would feel very good if I could learn French
 - It might open up many job opportunities for me in the tourism sector
 - But presently I do not want to learn this language keeping the job sector in mind
 - I am just fascinated by this language and the culture of the people of France. I have watched a couple of movies in French with English subtitles and I like those movies a lot.
 - I think knowing a foreign language is a must to do well in the global village of today
 - So, this is the plan I have that is not related to my work or study.

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Follow-ups

1. Should parents make plans for children?

I think parents should make plans for the children till the children are not mature enough to plan something on their own. Parents should encourage children to take small decisions on their own like what clothes to wear or what games to play but should always guide them so that they don't suffer.

2. When should children start to make plans for themselves?

Children should start to make plans for themselves once their schooling is over and they have to choose subjects for their career. Here I feel that children should decide based on their aptitude so that their interest in their studies is maintained and they do well at college or university.

3. What things should be planned on a daily basis?

Many things have to be planned on a daily basis, such as what clothes to wear what hobbies to pursue what program to watch on TV what outdoor game to play what to cook for lunch or dinner and what exercise to do to keep physically fit

4. Our plans always necessary? Can people succeed without plans?

Yes, I think plans are always necessary. These may be short-term plans or long-term plans. It is the plans made in our minds that keep us going and give us the motive to work hard. If a person doesn't have any plans in life, then he will not know how much hard work to put in anything. I believe that generally people who have a plan, succeed in life. Some people get success by sheer luck but that is not very common. Mostly people who have a vision in their mind and who have set a goal, succeed in life.

5. In general, how do people make plans?

People make plans according to their situation, by consulting their elders and also by realizing their own interests and hobbies.

6. For a person with children, what influence does this have on their personal plans for the future?

When a person has children, all his personal plans take a backseat, and the upbringing of the child comes first. All the personal plans become flexible and revolve around the needs of the family and children. I think this flexibility has a charm of its own.

7. Should parents set goals for children?

Parents are the best people to set goals for the children. They can help their children in setting goals. They know the temperament of their child and so it is all right if they set goals for them, but at the same time, they should keep in mind the aptitude of the child and set realistic goals for him/her.

8. When do young children start to set goals for themselves?

Children start to set goals for themselves after completing senior secondary when they have to decide which college to join. But these goals are mainly in consultation with their parents. Once they start earning they start setting goals independently.

7. Talk about an article which you have read about health

You should say

- What it was
 - When you read it
 - Where did you read it
 - Why did you read it
 - Why do you think it was an interesting read?
- I read an article about intermittent fasting that I found very interesting.
 - I read it online on New York Times in December last year.
 - I have struggled with eating a healthy diet and keeping my weight in control.
 - I wanted to make a New Year's resolution for the coming year to follow a healthy lifestyle and adopt good eating habits.
 - I had winter break in December and had some time to do some research on healthy living before the Year 2021 started.
 - I went online and started searching for ways to lose weight and that's when I saw some articles on intermittent fasting.
 - One of them was from New York Times and that's the article I wanted to read.
 - I have always found news and articles from NY Times to be reliable and well researched.
 - The article explained that intermittent fasting meant fasting for 16 hours every day.
 - This can be done by eating dinner by 8 PM, skipping breakfast, and having the first meal at noon.
 - Also, people can start fasting for 12 hours and gradually increase to 16 hours.
 - This helps in losing weight as during fasting glucose gets depleted and our body starts burning fat for energy.
 - Before reading this article, I thought people only fasted for religious reasons and there were no health benefits to it.
 - I also thought that it was important to eat 3 meals a day and never miss breakfast as eating breakfast early boosted our metabolism.
 - The article also mentioned that other than weight loss, fasting every day also reduces the risk of many diseases like diabetes,
 - Alzheimer's and some cancers.
 - I found all this information very interesting and was intrigued. I began following this diet.
 - It was hard at first and I almost gave up, but I was beginning to see amazing results and that kept me going.
 - I am at my desired weight now and I am very happy that I came upon this article.
 - I have shared this article with so many friends who are trying to lose weight.

Follow-ups

1. Do you think people are healthier now than in the past?

I think people were healthier in the past. They had good pure food with no harmful additives, fresh clean air to breathe, better work-life balance, and more time for physical activities. Also, today there are so many fast-food options that people are eating junk food more than healthy home-cooked meals.

2. How can you tell whether a website is reliable or not?

One way is to check the URL and see if it's a trusted company, government agency, or a university. Another way is to double-check the information provided. If a credible site contradicts the information provided by a website, then that site can't be trusted.

3. What activities can school organize for children to keep fit?

Schools can organize fun sports events like sack race, relay runs, etc. to keep students active. Schools also need to add more physical education classes to their daily curriculum. They can increase recess time so that students get more time to play outside.

4. What can governments do to improve people's health?

- Provide people affordable good quality health care.
- Build more green spaces like parks, sports stadiums so that people have someplace to walk, exercise, and play.
- Tax junk foods, sugary drinks, alcohol, and tobacco.

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8. Describe a time you were friendly to someone you didn't like

You should say:

- When and Where it happened
 - Who he/she was
 - Why you didn't like this person
 - And explain why you were friendly to him/her on that occasion.
-
- During childhood, I had a classmate, Rajesh, who was very full of himself.
 - He always used to make others feel like they were inferior to him.
 - That's why, during schooldays, I tried to avoid him as much as I could.
 - However, around one month before the final exams for 9th standard, he met with an accident.
 - He missed a lot of classes as a result.
 - So, after recovering, he asked a few of us if we could teach him what he missed.
 - No one in the class helped him because of his attitude.
 - The next day, my mother overheard me telling one of my friends how Rajesh deserved it.
 - After hearing this, she told me that regardless of his past attitude I should help him.
 - I was reluctant at first, but I listened to my mother.
 - I called him and told him that I will sit with him an hour after class every day till the exams.
 - During these study sessions, I got to know him better.
 - I got to know that rather than being arrogant, he was actually very humble.
 - He was just not a good communicator.
 - His choice of words was a major reason for him coming off as rude and arrogant.
 - He knew people didn't like him, but he was oblivious about the reason for it.
 - After the exams, I started inviting him to my home along with my other friends.
 - As they got to know him better, they also became good friends with him.
 - Till now, we are all good friends and meet each other often.
 - Recently, I asked mom why she made me help him.
 - She told me that it was the right thing to do.
 - Helping our friends doesn't make us kind, helping people we don't like is the actual kindness.
 - Because it is done without any real expectation.

Follow-ups

1. Why are people friendly with the person they don't like?

I think the main reason is that they do not want the person to know that they don't like him/her. People feel they might need a favour from the person in the future and if the person knows that they don't like him/her, he or she won't help them.

2. What kinds of people are usually friendly?

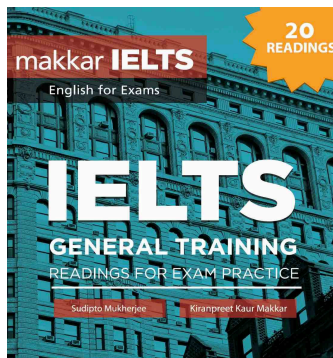
You may consider me naive, but I honestly believe that majority of the people in the world are really friendly. I also believe that people in rural areas tend to be friendlier than urban areas, but that is just because of the fast-paced and stressful life in cities.

3. What are the differences between being friendly and polite?

I think politeness is about words while being friendly is about our actions. I can decline something politely, but I wouldn't consider myself friendly if I did so.

4. What do you think about people who are always straightforward?

I think these people are actually the best people in the world for one can always expect an honest answer from them. However, I also believe that it is nearly impossible to be straightforward all the time.



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