

IELTS Speaking Part 3: Ambition

1. What do you think of children having ambitions?

I'd say it's generally a good thing. You know, if they have an ambition, it kind of shows they've developed an interest in something, which should have a positive effect on their learning.

2. Do parents in your country want their children to have ambitions?

Yeah, for sure. I think most parents are very happy to see their children express ambitions. But I should also add that if the ambition doesn't accord with their own hopes for their child's future, then parents might not be so supportive.

For instance, if, let's say, a child's ambition is to be a dancer or artist or something like that, then it's probable that many parents might try to quell such aspirations, as those kinds of careers are very difficult to succeed in, and I mean, no parent wants to see their children struggling through life, (do they)!

Accord with – 符合

Quell – get rid of; 消除

Do they – here, it means “对不对”, referring to parents. When you say it, the intonation should be going down, not up.

3. Is ambition important?

Yeah, I'd say it is. You know, it gives you focus, instead of simply just drifting through life aimlessly. But it doesn't necessarily have to be a big ambition. I mean, some people's ambition might just be to raise a family, you know, it doesn't always have to be something grand like becoming the next Steve Jobs. But as long as you have some kind of ambition, that's the important thing.

Drift through life = 随波逐流地过日子

4. Are your friends ambitious?

Yeah, I suppose they are in they own way. Um...and if I give you a few examples, one of them wants to start a shop online, um, and another friend....what does she wanna do again?! Oh yeah, she wants to start her own fashion label, which is pretty cool! So I'd say they are pretty ambitious, (yeah).

Again - you can add "again" to the end of your question when you are asking a question that you know the answer to, but have forgotten. E.g. "Sorry, what's your name again?"

5. Is it always good to be ambitious?

Um... I think as long as it drives you in a positive way, and doesn't cause harm to others, then it is, yeah. So it really kind of depends on what the ambition is. You know, if a person has evil intentions, then being ambitious could have disastrous consequences, as history can attest to.

Drive -精力;干劲;冲劲;决心 *If you say that someone has drive, you mean they have energy and determination. It can be a verb, noun or adj. (she is very driven)*

History can attest to = 历史可以证明