

IELTS Speaking Part 3: Questions on Changes

How have TV programs changed in China?

Thinking about it, I would say that they've changed quite a lot. And to begin with, I guess one of the biggest changes would be that in the past, there used to be only a limited variety of programs, whereas nowadays, there is a much wider range of things on TV, such as talent and dating shows. Another thing is that TV programs nowadays are all in colour, whereas in the past they used to all be in black and white. So yeah I guess these would be the main changes.

How has the relationship between neighbours changed between now and the past?

I'd say it's changed a lot, and probably the main change has been that nowadays, people don't really see their neighbours all that often, whereas in the past, they used to do quite a lot of things together. For example, people would often have their neighbours over for lunch or dinner, which doesn't really happen that much anymore.

Have cities changed much in your country in the past few decades?

Yeah, I'd say they definitely have, because firstly, they've become a lot more built-up, and so there are considerably more high-rise buildings than there used to be. And as well as this, another big change would be the traffic, which has got quite a lot worse in most cities, simply because there are far more cars on the road than there used to be.

Is it easier or more difficult to get a job today than in the past?

Well, I would say it's definitely more difficult to get a job nowadays than it was in the past, and one of the reasons for saying this is that in the past, there was generally less competition for jobs, because not that many people went to university, whereas nowadays, there are millions of graduates looking around for jobs, which has made it extremely difficult finding a decent, high-paid job, unless of course you have good personal connections! And as well as this, another point I should mention is that 20 or 30 years ago, people were actually assigned jobs after completing university, so getting a job was pretty much guaranteed, whereas nowadays this is not the case at all.

Is the material that furniture is made from today different to the material that was used in the past?

Yeah, I would say it is, because in the past, furniture mostly used to be made of wood, whereas nowadays, there's a huge variety of different materials that are used for making furniture, of which a few that come to mind are plastic, leather and suede. And I think this reflects the fact that people's tastes are diversifying as their standard of living improves.

How has the way people get news changed?

Well thinking about it, I'd say it's changed in a number of ways, one of which would be that in the past, people mainly used to receive news through the TV, radio and newspaper, whereas nowadays, I think it's fair to say that the Internet has become the main channel

for obtaining news. And as well as this, another thing to mention would be the emergence of microblogging, which has also become a popular way of receiving and spreading news.

Are there any differences in the way people relax today compared to the past?

Yeah, I'd say there are, because for example, in the past, I think it's fair to say that people mainly used to relax in front of the TV, whereas nowadays, it seems to be the case that people are moving away from the TV and spending more time on the computer instead. So that's one difference, and I suppose another thing to mention would be that quite a lot of people now, especially young people, like going to cafés to relax with their friends. And this is reflected in the fact that there are a lot more cafes around than there used to be.

How have toys changed?

Well I suppose they've changed quite a lot, because in the past, I guess they generally used to be quite simple and basic, whereas nowadays, I think it's fair to say that they've become a bit more sophisticated. Of course, this isn't the case with every toy, but it seems to be the general trend. So that's one thing, And as well as this, I would say that the range of toys on the market now is far wider than it used to be, so parents are kind of spoilt for choice when it comes to choosing toys for their children.

What are the differences in the things that children do now and what they did in the past?

Well, I'd say there are quite a few differences, one of the biggest being that nowadays kids spend a crazy amount of time on the computer, whereas in the past, they hardly touched computers, mainly because not that many families had computers back then. So I guess that would be the main difference, and maybe another would be that more and more children nowadays have mobile phones, which they seem to use mainly for playing games on, and this, of course, didn't used to be the case in the past, because mobiles have only become mainstream in about the last 15 years or so.