

安小雅 雅思口语素材 Part1

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如果我觉得素材有错怎么办？

我们的素材都是经过店主和外教一起编写和检查过的哦！您可以放心！

其实外国人在生活中有一些常用的口头上的表达，看起来很奇怪但实际并没有错的，国内老师也不会懂这些。所以呀！如果你觉得素材有错，我们是非常欢迎您来询问我们滴！千万不要觉得不好意思哦！

下面举两个例子：

“Anna is two years my elder.” 安娜比我大两岁。“She is four months my younger” 她比我小四个月。

这是一种比较现代的说法，当然我们平时都会讲 “Anna is two years older than me” 和 “She is four months younger than me.” 但其实外国人都会用前者多一些的。

“The majority of the girls were content discussing about how handsome or how affluent their boyfriends were.” 女孩子们都在热烈地讨论他们的男朋友有多帅。

这是现代英语的另一个特征，就是现在外国人在口头上都常常会省略掉介词。这里就把 were content with discussing 的 with 去掉了。这在口语上是没问题的，但大家在写作中就尽量要避免哦。

目前资料里的题目是 5-8 月的保留题，一共 15 个话题。

5 月初还会更新 5-8 月的新题，新题也是 15 个话题。

新题会在群里更新，5 月 2 日开始更新，5 月 8 日左右更新完题目，5 月 10 日更新完第 1 套答案，20 日更新完第 2 套答案

保留题+新题=完整题库，每个话题考到的概率完全完全一模一样，并没有重点之分。

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1: Work / Study

Work

大公司版本

1. Where do you work?

I work in an office for a large company in the inner city. It is a tech company that specializes in security and antivirus software. I work with hundreds of other people and we supply our service across the country.

2. Is it a good place to work?

I think it is a very good place to work. I have a decent pay and there is a large team I work with so it never feels too stressful. There are always co-workers who can help me with difficult tasks and we bear the load together.

3. Would you like the place where you work to make any changes?

I am mostly happy where I work but there are definitely some improvements that could be made. My office does not have a good staff room or a communal area for us to take our lunches. I think these are major changes that would greatly improve working conditions.

打零工版本

1. Where do you work?

I work in a small café in a suburb on the outskirts of the city. My job is mainly waiting tables, making coffee, and delivering food. I have worked there for a year or so now while I finish my studies.

2. Is it a good place to work?

It is not the best place to work as the pay is not very high and I do not find the work very stimulating or rewarding. My coworkers are nice, as are the customers, and the place is very pretty, but I would prefer a more exciting and rewarding job sometime in the future.

3. Would you like the place where you work to make any changes?

There are no changes I would want made to the place I work. The staff are nice and the managers are respectful. They care about me, the clients are sweet and kind, and the place has a wonderful energy to be in. For what the job is, it's great!

家庭主妇版本

1. Where do you work?

I am a stay-at-home mom and so my place of work is the house. I spend a usual day in the house, cleaning, cooking, and looking after my children. Caring for a family takes many hours of work.

2. Is it a good place to work?

I can't complain about my workplace to be honest, since I am lucky enough to work at home. As I am in charge of the housework and caring for the family, I do not have to report to anyone or deal with ineffective colleagues. I control my daily work.

3. Would you like the place where you work to make any changes?

If I were to make any changes to my housework I would like for my husband and older children to take on a larger portion of the house chores. The cleaning and housework is never ending and there is often far more than I can do by myself in a single day. It would be nice if my family pulled their weight.

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Study

通用版本

1. Where do you study?

I study at USST which is the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology. I am studying engineering with a minor in software development. I moved away from my small hometown to study here so it is a very big change to the lifestyle I am used to.

2. Is it a good place to study?

I think USST is a brilliant place to study if you are interested in my area of study. Things like engineering, software development, and the study of science and technology are brilliant subjects to study at USST. Obviously, it is not the best place to study art or music.

3. Would you like the place where you study to make any changes?

If I could I would like to make some changes to the place I study. USST is a very intense University. They set a lot of work and there are constantly more exams and essays. There is too much work and it would be nice if there was more time for relaxation.

艺术版本

1. Where do you study?

I study at one of the art colleges in the city I live in. There are a few art colleges but the one I study in specializes in modern art and performance art which is the field I want to create my artworks in.

2. Is it a good place to study?

I do not know if my college is the best place to study! It is full of wonderful people and I am making great connections but the teaching is very casual and relaxed. They kind of let us just do our own thing, which is great for creative freedom but not too good if you want to study.

3. Would you like the place where you study to make any changes?

The biggest changes I would want to make to the place I study would be the introduction of more teaching hours and a focus on teaching new technique and art history. There is a little too much freedom in the place I study and it would be better if there was a stronger sense of structure.

2: Where you live

住家的

1. How long have you lived in your area?

I have lived in my area only a few years. I came here from my small hometown. I now live in a very large city so this is a new experience for me and sometimes it can be overwhelming!

2. Do people of all ages live in your area?

Yes, people of all ages live in my area. This is a large metropolitan city so there are people from all walks of life, young and old. My specific neighbourhood is where a lot of the university students live, so there are many 20 year olds.

3. Is the area where you live a friendly place?

I think where I live is a friendly place but with all cities there are some parts that are more dangerous and less friendly than others. Most people are nice but there are parts of town where people go to drink and these are not always the friendliest places.

住宿舍的

1. How long have you lived in your area?

I have lived in this area for about three years now. I first moved here when I came to study at the university. I have been living in the dormitory of the university with the other students ever since I arrived.

2. Do people of all ages live in your area?

No, there is quite a specific age range to the people who live in my area. As I live in the dormitory of a university pretty much everyone who lives here is between the ages of 18 and 22. We are all studying our degrees and will move away once we have graduated.

3. Is the area where you live a friendly place?

Where I live is a very friendly place! We are all students so there is a great sense of camaraderie between us. We are all doing the same thing and all have to study hard, so we respect each other and get on well. We like to play games and watch TV to relax together.

3: Libraries

1. How often do you visit a library?

- 1) I visit the library very frequently. I am in the middle of my studies at university and I am constantly writing essays, studying for exams, and learning new materials. Therefore, I am in the library almost every day doing something related to my studies. My friends tell me I practically live there!
- 2) I do not visit the library very often at all. To be quite honest, I am not that much of a bookworm. I find reading tedious and boring. Therefore, spending time in the library is my idea of hell! I would go as far as to say I actively avoid the library at all costs.

2. Do you like to work in a library?

- 1) I could see myself working for a library sometime in the future. On the one hand, I am a studious person and I like reading books, so a library is my idea of heaven! On the other hand, libraries are very relaxing places and the job is not stressful. That sounds like a good deal to me.
- 2) Working in a library is one of my least favourite things to do. I find the atmosphere in a library very oppressive. It is always so silent and the energy in the air is quite tense. This makes me uncomfortable and I find I work quite poorly in most libraries.

3. Did you use a library more when you were younger?

- 1) I did not use a library more when I was younger. To be honest, when I was growing up I spent most of my time watching TV or playing video games with my friends. I did not read a lot as a kid, so I did not spend a lot of time in libraries. Now that I am a student, I spend far more time in libraries.
- 2) I would say that I used libraries a lot more frequently when I was younger. When I was a kid, the library was a fun place where I could discover a new picture book or children's book and relax with it. So, I went to the library a lot. Nowadays, the only thing I do in the library is study, so I do not want to go there as often.

4. How common is it for children to visit libraries in your country?

- 1) I think it is very **usual** for children to visit libraries in my country. In China we have a strong culture of hard work and self-improvement, this is first taught to us when we are children. So, many parents will often take their children to libraries to foster good reading habits and encourage them to study.
- 2) It is not all that common for children to visit libraries in my country. Nowadays, most kids spend their time playing mobile games on their phone or watching TV. Children do not want to spend time reading and certainly do not want to spend time in libraries anymore.

4: Staying up late

1. Do you often go to bed very late?

- 1) I must admit, I have a bad habit of staying up very late into the evenings. Sometimes I stay up late because I have a big exam and I need to study. Sometimes I am just mindlessly scrolling on TikTok. Whatever the case, I wake up tired and grumpy every time!
- 2) I have a very healthy sleep schedule and so I seldom go to bed very late. I am what they call an early riser, so I am normally awake each day by 7:30am at the latest. This means that I get very tired in the early evenings and I am normally asleep in bed by 9pm or 10pm!

2. Did you stay up late when you were a child?

- 1) Yes, I used to stay up late when I was a child. I was quite rebellious and I always hated going to bed! But even when my parents sent me to my bedroom, I would stay up late into the night reading and playing games. I would always feel so restless and excited when the sun started going down. So, I could never go to sleep early.
- 2) No, I never used to stay up late when I was a child. I had very strict parents when I was growing up and my bedtime was one of the things that was non-negotiable. As soon as it was 8pm I was supposed to be asleep, in bed, with the lights out. So, I would normally go up to bed a little earlier than that to keep my parents happy.

3. How do you feel the next morning after a late night?

- 1) To be honest, after a late night I do not feel the worst. I know some people who are miserable after a late night, or who cannot concentrate and become easily irritated all day. For me, I am just a little sleepy and maybe a bit grumpy until I get a mug of tea or a cup of coffee!
- 2) I feel horrendous the next morning when I have not had a proper night's sleep. If I have a late night, I am miserable and I cannot focus on anything all day. I lose all productivity and become frustrated at the slightest inconveniences.

4. What do you like to do when you stay up late?

- 1) When I stay up late my favourite thing to do is to watch my favourite TV programs or play on apps like TikTok or Honor of Kings. I have some friends who also stay up late and sometimes we play games together or chat to each other late into the night. I work and study very hard during the day so in the evening I like to relax and entertain myself.
- 2) When I do stay up late, I like to do something relaxing such as listening to music or reading. Even if I am not going to sleep, I still get very tired in the late evenings and so I cannot do anything strenuous or too engaging. That is why reading or listening to music are perfect late-night activities for me.

5: Chocolate

1. How often do you eat chocolate?

- 1) I must admit a vice of mine, I have a very sweet tooth. I think I probably eat chocolate at least every day, sometimes I eat it multiple times a day. There are so many different types of chocolate and almost all of them taste delicious to me! I know it is a bad habit but I just can't control myself.
- 2) Ann aYasi, Compared to most people, I eat chocolate very infrequently. I have never particularly had a taste for desserts and sweet foods. I much prefer savoury and umami flavours. So, I only eat chocolate every once in a while when the opportunity arises.

2. Have you ever given someone chocolate as a present

- 1) I have often used chocolate as a gift to give to people on special occasions and times of celebration. I think chocolate makes an excellent gift because everybody loves chocolate! It is far less complicated than presents such as nice watches, new clothes, books, or gadgets, of which it is very easy to accidentally buy someone a gift they do not like!
- 2) No, I have never used chocolate as a gift before. Personally, I think a box of chocolates is a pretty bad gift. Giving somebody chocolates is so impersonal and lazy. Anyone can give somebody a box of chocolates. If I am going to give someone a present, I would put more thought in and gift something personal to them.

3. Did you like chocolate when you were younger?

- 1) Yes, when I was a child I adored chocolate! I could never get enough of it! My parents would use chocolate as a reward for me completing my homework or helping them with chores. I was always trying to find more housework in the hopes of receiving chocolate as a reward.
- 2) No, I never much cared for chocolate when I was a child. Most children love chocolate and cannot get enough of it, but I was different. I would much rather have some fresh fruit for dessert than a chocolate cake or pudding. I always found the chocolate far too rich!

4. Why is chocolate so popular in many parts of the world?

- 1) I think chocolate is so popular in many parts of the world because it is versatile and has such a unique flavour. On the one hand, there are all different sorts of chocolate and ways of preparing it. From simple bars of chocolate to truffles and moose. On the other hand, chocolate is such a unique blend of bitter and sweet that there is nothing that compares to it!
- 2) Personally, I think chocolate is so popular all over the world mainly because it is overrated. Chocolate is not actually that good. The only reason we eat it everywhere is because it was a product of colonialism. When Europe colonized the Americas, they exported huge amounts of chocolate and sold it as a luxury item. That is why it is so popular everywhere.

6: Music

1. What kind of music do you enjoy?

- 1) My favourite type of music is classical music. I think classical music is the perfect form of music. It is so precise, well-crafted, and elegant. I frequently listen to classical composers such as Bach, Chopin, and Mozart. But I also like modern classical musicians such as Tan Dun and Chen Yi.
- 2) My favourite type of music is K-pop and J-pop. I got into this type of music when I was younger and first downloaded TikTok. So many TikTok's would be made using the music of groups like BTS and I thought the vocals and the beats were incredible!

2. Is there any kind of music that you don't enjoy very much?

- 1) Yes, there are a few genres of music that I really don't enjoy very much at all. All of my friends have started listening to K-Pop and J-Pop. I find this type of music boring and irritating and it frustrates me how much I have to hear it. It is in commercials, TV shows, and my friends play it all the time.
- 2) To be honest, I like most genres of music. I think there is something to be enjoyed in all genres of music. Sometimes certain genres just have to be listened to in the right mood. For example, classical music when you are sad or relaxed and rap music when you are angry.

3. Are there any musicians you would like to see in a live concert?

- 1) Ever since I was a small child it has been my absolute dream to go to see LangLang's piano concert. He is a brilliant pianist and has earned endless praise from all over the world. I heard he will hold several live concerts in Shanghai this year and I am eager to buy a ticket.
- 2) I have always wanted to see BTS perform a live concert. The thing about a BTS performance is that so much money goes into the production and the performance. They always have the best lighting, the best visual effects, and the best choreography money can buy! But tickets are so expensive I don't know if I will ever be able to go.

4. Have you always listened to the same kind of music as your friends?

- 1) No, I have never really listened to the same kind of music as my friends. Throughout school and in my adult life I have always stood out as having a strange and uncommon music taste. Most of my friends listen to more modern and popular music.
- 2) Yes, for the most part I have always listened to the same kind of music as my friends. It isn't really surprising, my friends and I watch the same TV shows, use the same social media, and go to the same places so we are all exposed to the same types of music.

7: Art

1. Which one do you like, modern art or traditional art?

- 1) I prefer traditional art to modern art. Personally, I think that modern art is very confusing and a lot of the time I cannot tell the difference between the work of a famous modern artist and the drawings of a five year old child. I believe that traditional artists have far more skill, discipline, and craft.
- 2) I have always really liked modern art. I think modern art is daring and exciting. You never know what to expect with modern art! In contrast, traditional art can be pretty boring and repetitive, it does not excite me at all. I just wish there were more modern art galleries in China.

2. Did you do much art when you were a child?

- 1) I did not do a lot of art when I was a child. I did not grow up in a very creative household and my parents encouraged me to study more rather than engage in painting, crafts, or drawing. So, I hardly did much art at all while I was growing up.
- 2) I was always doing art when I was a child! I did all sorts of different art. I used to love drawing and painting. Then when I got older, I started getting into more complicated forms of art such as pottery and collage making. Most weeks I would end up making some kind of amateur artwork.

3. Do you want to be an artist?

- 1) No, I don't think I would like to be an artist. I do not think I have the personality or sense of creative inspiration that is needed to become a talented artist. It seems like a lot of pressure to me. Moreover, I believe that most people who attempt to become artists are not very successful and end up very poor.
- 2) I would love to be an artist; I think they are the coolest people! Artists are cool, creative, and thoughtful people and I would love to be somebody like that. I believe it would be a lot of fun to spend my days in a studio coming up with new artworks and practicing different artistic techniques.

4. Would you go to an art gallery if you had time?

- 1) To be quite honest, I would not go to an art gallery if I had some free time. I know this opinion may seem uncultured, but I find most art galleries to be boring. I would much rather spend my free time at the cinema or at a good restaurant with my friends.
- 2) Whenever I have the time, I try to visit art galleries. I think passing an afternoon in an art gallery is a great use of time. Not only do you learn about different artists and art history, but you can also become inspired by the beautiful artworks you see around you. You never know what sort of experience you will have in an art gallery.

8: Being happy

1. What things made you happy when you were a child?

- 1) When I was a child I was always happiest when playing with my friends or with my pets. I loved animals as a child and I had a pet dog who was the most playful dog I have ever known. My friends and I would take him to the park and run around and play fetch. They were my happiest moments.
- 2) When I was a child, the thing that made me the happiest was honestly just playing video games. It may seem like a silly answer but I found video games so exciting. I would play them with my little sister and we would have so much fun fighting dragons, solving puzzles, and completing challenges.

2. Do you feel happy when you buy something new?

- 1) I do not always feel happy when I buy something new. To be honest, I am not the kind of person who is into **retail therapy** (花钱买乐). I buy things when I need them and I try to be **sensible** (理性) in my purchases. Therefore, buying something new doesn't make me feel particularly happy.
- 2) I must admit, I am quite the **shopaholic** (购物狂), and I always feel **ecstatic** (疯狂的) when I purchase a new item. I love going to the mall or surfing the web looking the best deal or the hottest new items. It makes me so happy to receive the new item and to use it for the first time!

3. What makes you feel happiest in your studies now?

- 1) What makes me feel happiest in my studies is when I overcome a particularly tricky problem. Sometimes I will be set a task by my boss/professor that I have to complete by a tight deadline. At first this is stressful but I rise to the challenge and I am so happy when I overcome it!
- 2) I would say that the thing that makes me happiest in my studies now are the friends I have made and the people I have met. During my studies I have been exposed to some brilliant researchers and professionals. Meeting these impressive people is always exciting and fills me with joy. I also cherish all the friends I have made along the way.

4. What do you think will bring you happiness in the future?

- 1) I think my future successes will bring me happiness in the future. I am a very ambitious person, and I am driven to succeed and prove myself in all aspects of my life. I look forward to excelling in my job, in my relationships and in my personal growth. I think this will bring me a lot of happiness.
- 2) I think a good social life and a good family life will bring me happiness in the future. I strongly believe that the most important thing in life is the people who are around you. I look forward to having a close group of friends and a strong family unit to support me through all the ups and downs life has to bring.

9: Jewelry

1. Do you often wear jewelry?

- 1) I wear jewelry probably most days of the week, I definitely wear it every weekend. I love to accessorize and I consider myself to have a good fashion sense. I am normally wearing a couple of rings or a necklace as part of my outfit. At the weekends I like to put on several pieces of jewelry when I go out.
- 2) I seldom wear jewelry as I believe it is flashy. I don't like drawing attention to myself and prefer to go unnoticed in a crowd so I do not like wearing bright and eye-grabbing items of jewelry. I will only wear jewelry on very special occasions such as attending a wedding.

2. What kind of jewelry do you like to buy?

- 1) I like to buy good high-quality jewelry but I do not need items that cost thousands of dollars. I know some people like very expensive jewelry but for me as long as it is well made, and I think it is pretty, then it is good enough for me.
- 2) As I rarely buy or wear jewelry, I think it is appropriate that when I do buy jewelry it is expensive, fine-quality jewelry. I will only wear my jewelry a handful of times a year and to very significant events so it is important to me that I am wearing the best jewelry that money can buy.

3. Have you ever bought jewelry for other people?

- 1) Yes, I have bought jewelry for someone else, I do it quite often. I think jewelry makes a wonderful gift and I believe myself to have a very good taste in jewelry. So I have bought jewelry as a gift for my friends and family, especially for my mother. My gifts are always well received.
- 2) No, I do not ever buy jewelry for other people. I believe that jewelry is something very important and very special. Therefore, I think it is only appropriate to buy jewelry for people you love the most in the world, such as a husband or wife. So, I only buy jewelry for myself at the moment.

4. Why do you think some people keep a piece of jewelry for a long time?

- 1) I think some people keep a piece of jewelry for a long time because it is very easy to attach sentimental value to jewelry. I think most people become attached to jewelry and will associate it with an important moment, a special place, or with a person they love. This is why they will keep it for a long time.
- 2) People keep a piece of jewelry for a long time because jewelry is expensive. In some ways, a lot of jewelry is like an investment. A very expensive piece of jewelry can be kept and passed down through the generations, to be sold if anyone ever desperately needs money.

10: Sports

1. Did you often do sports when you were at school?

- 1) When I was at school, I did a lot of sport. I was always a very competitive person at school and on top of that I had quite an athletic build (运动员的体格). Because of this I was always the favourite for sport's teams. I played soccer, basketball, tennis, and did long distance running.
- 2) I very rarely did sports when I was at school. I must admit that when at school I did not have the most athletic build. I was slightly overweight and not very strong. So, I was not good at sports at all and I did not have fun playing them. Therefore, I avoided sport in general.

2. What was your favourite sport when you were at school?

- 1) When I was at school my favourite sport was soccer. At my school, soccer was the most popular sport. Everybody wanted to be on the team and those of us who were on the team all became very close friends. There is so much teamwork and sportsmanship involved in football.
- 2) To be honest, I did not have a favourite sport because I hated almost every sport I played. But, if I had to pick one I would say my favourite was running. The only reason for this is that at least running was not a team sport so there were no teammates I could disappoint.

3. Is it important for children to do sport at school?

- 1) I think it is very important for children to do sport at school. Across the world, childhood obesity is becoming a rampant (泛滥的) problem. I think one of the reasons for this is that children don't exercise properly. This is why it is so important for children to do sports at school.
- 2) I think people often overvalue the importance of children doing sport at school. Sure, it is important for children to exercise but that isn't necessarily something they should have to do at school. School should be about study and learning.

4. Were any of your school friends very good at sport?

- 1) Loads of my school friends were very good at sports. I was on a lot of the school sports teams so most of my friends were people from these teams. Because of this, most of my friends are athletic, sporty types.
- 2) No, the majority of my friends were not very athletic or sporty people. We were more focused on our studies and paid little attention to playing sports. I must say very few of them were proficient at sport.

11: Weekends

1. Is the weekend your favourite part of the week?

- 1) The weekend is by far my favourite part of the week. I am not the sort of person who loves to work or study. I like to have fun and hang out with my friends, which is what the weekends were made for!
- 2) Honestly, the weekend is not my favourite part of the week. I really enjoy my week days! I have a job I love and I study a degree that interests me. And most weekdays I spend the evenings out to dinner with my friends before I go home. My weekends I use to do grocery shopping and laundry, they are kind of boring!

2. What did you do last weekend?

- 1) Last weekend I tried out a new restaurant in Beijing with my friends. We went to Choy's Seafood Restaurant, which is a highly recommended restaurant with great reviews! We had an incredible meal and we will definitely go back another weekend.
- 2) Honestly, last weekend was the same as most of my weekends and wasn't very interesting. On the Saturday I went out to the local supermarket and bought my weekly groceries, I then went home and prepared my lunches for the following week. On Sunday I did my laundry and cleaned my house.

3. Do you like to plan how to spend your weekends?

- 1) I like to plan how I spend my weekends. There is always so much I want to do, so many people to see, and so many places to go to. If I do not make a plan I will become overwhelmed and end up missing out on things that I want to do!
- 2) I do not really need to plan how I spend my weekends as I normally spend them in a pretty similar way. I know that in general I am going to do my shopping and do my cleaning but I do not feel the need to plan it out meticulously. I try to be quite relaxed at the weekends so I don't follow plans.

4. Do you ever work or study at the weekends?

- 1) I do not ever work or study at the weekends. I think it is very important to have a clear division between work time and personal time. I will only work or study on weekdays and even on weekdays I do not work or study in the evening.
- 2) I frequently study and work at the weekends. I use my weekends to complete my reproductive labour and ensure that I have food and clothes for the following week. This often leaves me with quite a bit of free time during the weekends which sometimes I use to work or study.

12: T-shirts

1. How often do you wear T-shirts?

- 1) I wear T-shirts very often as I think they are a convenient and comfortable item of clothing. I own a lot of T-shirts, some plain, some multicoloured, and some with designs. I find you can wear T-shirts for many different occasions.
- 2) I seldom wear T-shirts as I am more frequently dressed in slightly more formal wear. I have nothing against T-shirts in general but during my work and studies I think it is appropriate to wear a proper buttoned shirt. Then, during the weekends I normally wear things slightly more high-fashion than T-shirts.

2. Do you like T-shirts which have pictures on them?

- 1) I like T-shirts with pictures on them. I think T-shirts with pictures are a good way for people to express their interests and identity. Some T-shirts have musical designs, some are merchandise (产品) from films and TV, and some just have silly designs and drawings.
- 2) I dislike T-shirts with pictures on them, I think they are silly and childish. Fashion is very important to me and I think the way that a person presents themselves through fashion says a lot. T-shirts with pictures on them are very unserious and immature.

3. How fashionable are T-shirts for older generations in your country?

- 1) T-shirts are even fashionable with older people in my country. For one, T-shirts have been fashionable for many decades now so it is not surprising that older people like to wear them. Moreover, T-shirts are comfortable, easy to wear, and convenient, which is suitable for the elderly.
- 2) T-shirts are considered very unfashionable for the older generations in my country. This doesn't surprise me at all. Older people grew up in a time where everyone was dressed a little more seriously and sensibly. People would wear proper shirts every day. So, T-shirts are very unpopular with the elderly here.

4. Have you ever bought a T-shirt as a souvenir from a vacation?

- 1) Yes, I have bought a T-shirt as a souvenir from a holiday, I have done it multiple times in fact. I think tourist locations often have funny and interesting T-shirts which make good souvenirs. One of my favourite T-shirts is one that I bought at Disneyland, when I went to Shanghai with my family.
- 2) No, I have never wasted money on a T-shirt as a memento (纪念品) from a vacation. I think there are far finer and classier (更时髦的, classy 比较级) souvenirs than a T-shirt. You can buy wonderful postcards, magnets, notebooks, even tea towels with wonderful designs and pictures. I will always buy these over a T-shirt.

13: Keys

1. Do you often carry lots of keys with you?

- 1) Yes, I usually carry a lot of keys with me. There are so many keys I need on a daily basis. I have my room key, the key to my building, my locker key at school and my locker key at the gym. And these are on a chain with all my other random keys.
- 2) I try my best not to carry a lot of keys with me. I find that keys are cumbersome and can be annoying to carry in your pocket. They are uncomfortable and can make a lot of noise when they jangle. Therefore, I try to only take out the keys I need like my housekey.

2. Do you often forget to take keys with you?

- 1) I rarely forget to take my keys with me when I go. There are so many important keys I have that I need to use on a daily basis. Therefore, it would be detrimental (不利的, 有害的) if I ever left my keys at home.
- 2) I quite frequently forget to take my keys with me when I leave the house. There are so many things I have to remember to take that it is easy to forget one! Luckily, I live with a group of flat mates so there is always someone to let me in when I have forgotten my keys.

3. Have you ever lost any keys?

- 1) I have only ever lost my keys once and that was when I was quite young, in fact it was my first set of keys. When I was 12 years old my parents entrusted me with a set of keys for the house. I left them in a park and was severely punished.
- 2) Oh I have lost many sets of keys! I am quite a forgetful and careless person. So, I will leave my keys in cafes, on the bus, at the university, all over the place. Sometimes, I lose my keys and I have no idea where I have even lost them!

4. Do you think it's a good idea to leave a home key with a neighbor?

- 1) Personally, I think it is not a good idea to leave a key to your home with a neighbour. I think it is more important to be responsible with your keys and self-reliant. People should not start bothering their neighbours when they are locked out!
- 2) I think it is an excellent idea to leave a home key with a neighbour. You never know when you might forget your key at home or lose your key somewhere in the city. It costs hundreds of yuan to get a locksmith (锁匠) out to unlock your door for you. It is much better and cheaper to leave a key with your neighbour.

14: Small businesses

1. Are there many small businesses where you live?

- 1) Where I live there are many small businesses. I live in a part of the city where business is local and people like to support the community. Therefore, small businesses **thrive (繁荣)** here.
- 2) There are not too many small businesses where I live. I live in a very central part of the city where the streets are dominated by international brands and large businesses. It is simply too expensive around here for small businesses to afford the rent.

2. Have you ever worked for a small business?

- 1) Yes, I have worked for a small business before, in fact, my first job was with a small business. I think it is nice to work for small companies as the team all know each other very well and there is a good working relationship.
- 2) No, I have never worked for a small business. Because small businesses are small, they do not hire a lot of people. Small businesses are made up of a small handful of people and sometimes people who all know each other already like a family business.

3. Would you like to start your own small business in the future?

- 1) It is a dream of mine to start my own small business one day. I want to own a business that brings jobs and money to my community. I think that is a very prestigious and respectable role to have in society.
- 2) I don't think I would like to start my own small business one day. That seems like a lot of stress and uncertainty. It is hard to make a business work and to make it profitable. I would rather just earn a good salary from a large company.

4. Do you prefer to buy things from a large company or small business?

- 1) I prefer to buy things from small businesses. I think it is much nicer to give your money to people in your community and to people who will also spend money in the community. Besides, it is much cheaper and more convenient to buy things from small business.
- 2) Personally, I prefer buying things from large companies rather than small businesses. Large companies are always able to offer you the most competitive prices. Also, these companies normally have decades of experience in what they do so their products are good quality.

15: The space and the stars

1. Have you ever learnt anything about space and the stars when you were at school?
 - 1) Yes. I have learned a lot about space and the stars while I was at school. We were taught about the solar system in primary school and after that I had a huge interest in physics and astronomy.
 - 2) No, to be honest I do not think I ever really learned much about space and the stars when I was at school. I was never too interested in physics and didn't pay a lot of attention during the lessons. Besides, most of the learning was to do with forces and maths rather than stars and space.
2. Would you like to know more about space and the stars?
 - 1) I am always interested in finding out more about space and the stars. The universe is so unknown and there is always more to learn so I am excited by any new findings published by astronomers. I subscribe to many physics journals and magazines about space.
 - 2) I have no desire to learn more about space and the stars. In my opinion, there is no point to learning about it. We live on planet earth and for millions of light years around us there is no other life in the universe, so what is the point of learning about a bunch of lifeless rocks?
3. Do you like science-fiction movies set in space?
 - 1) I am a big fan of watching science fiction films set in space. I have watched every movie and TV show in the Star Wars franchise and I am always looking for new content. I am currently very excited by the recent Dune films.
 - 2) I **detest** (厌恶) sci-fi movies and really dislike the ones set in space. I prefer realism and historical movies. I like watching things I can relate to and I find films set in outer space far too **alienating** (格格不入) for me to enjoy them properly.
4. Do you want to go into outer space in the future?
 - 1) Outer space is very scary but it would be a mind-blowing experience to visit outer space. To see the earth from outer space has been described by so many astronauts as a life changing experience. I would like to have that experience myself one day.
 - 2) Why would I ever want to go into outer space? Outer space is one of the most inhospitable places we know in the universe. It is cold, dark, and a total **vacuum** (真空) with no oxygen. I would be terrified the entire time I was in outer space and I would not enjoy it at all.