

## Variant 1

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### Hobbies and interest.

If you were to ask me what my favourite sport is, my answer would be swimming. I started learning how to swim when I was five years old and I have been swimming ever since.

There are many reasons why I love swimming but I'll just share a few with you, and maybe I can even encourage you to go for a swim. The first reason that I love swimming is that it can be extremely relaxing. I love the feeling of floating on the water and feeling almost weightless. I find that whenever I leave the pool I feel totally relaxed.

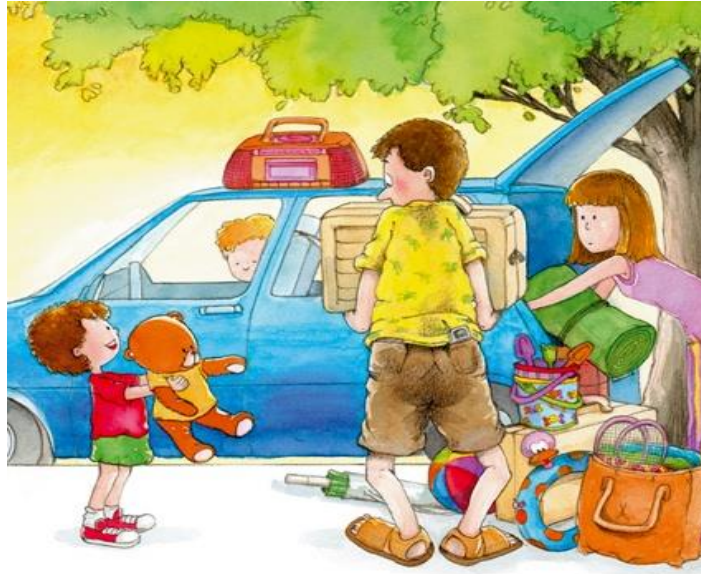
On the other hand, it can also be a fast-paced competitive sport which raises your heartbeat. It's amazing pushing yourself to the challenge of beating someone else to the finish line and it's great fun racing across the pool as fast as you can! Trying little tricks like underwater handstands and flips also puts a big smile on my face.

Another reason that I love swimming is that it has more variety than other sports. Swimming offers many different strokes, so it doesn't feel like you're stuck doing the same thing over and over again. Adding swimming equipment like flippers, a snorkel or a noodle (a flexible cylindrical piece of foam) changes the experience yet again and can help you develop your swimming technique.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) What is your favourite sport?
  - B) Have you ever attended any sport competitions?
  - C) What other kinds of sports do you know?

## Variant 2

1. Tell me about your favourite singer
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### Culture

Of course, coffee is also very popular in the UK but coffee culture in Italy is a completely different story. In Italy, when you order a coffee in a café or bar, you are presented with a tiny, bitter espresso. This is ‘normal coffee’ for Italians and they are not so keen on the huge coffees that we drink in the UK. In addition, whilst takeaway coffee is extremely popular amongst Brits, it is not very common at all in Italy, especially in non-touristy areas. Generally, Italians prefer to drink their tiny coffees whilst standing at the bar and, for many, this short break is an important part of their day.

Typically, breakfast in a bar in Italy involves a coffee and a pastry. I have been spoiled for choice with lovely cafés in the Italian town I’m living in. These cafés sell an array of mouth-watering pastries – either plain or decadently filled with cream, chocolate, jam or Nutella – as well as delicious coffee. Cappuccinos are very popular at breakfast time and, for me, a creamy cappuccino and a pastry full of Nutella is the perfect way to start the day. I think it’s a nice ritual to head to a bar to grab a coffee and a brioche for breakfast before work and it’s a luxury to take more time to indulge in such a breakfast at the weekend.

Finally, I have found that coffee in Italy is so much cheaper than coffee in the UK. Normally, an espresso or a macchiato (an espresso with a drop of milk) costs around a euro and a cappuccino about €1.50! They are small, of course, but this means that in Italy it is possible to go out for coffee regularly without breaking the bank.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A. Do you drink coffee?
  - B. Is Italian coffee culture similar to the coffee culture in your country?
  - C. Do you think that the coffee is healthy?

### Variant 3

1. Tell me about your day
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### Family and Friends

I have just returned from a weekend away with my friends and on the journey back home I took some time to reflect back on the past couple of months since I arrived in France in September. When I first arrived in France I was nervous of what was ahead of me and did not know what to expect ... Well, it has definitely been a roller coaster and I have loved being here so far. Of course moving to a new country and leaving family and friends is very difficult but it is also very exciting.

I thought I would share with you just a few things that I love about living in France and the new experiences I have encountered. Here we go ...

1: I have made some great new friends who are from all over the world. I never thought I would have friends from America, Canada, South Africa and Spain.

2: I have learnt a lot more about French culture and discovered some beautiful places in France. My favourite place so far has been a town called Ville-franche near Lyon; it is a beautiful town in the valleys of the Rhone region with winding streets. When we visited there was a wine festival and half marathon so there was a great atmosphere.

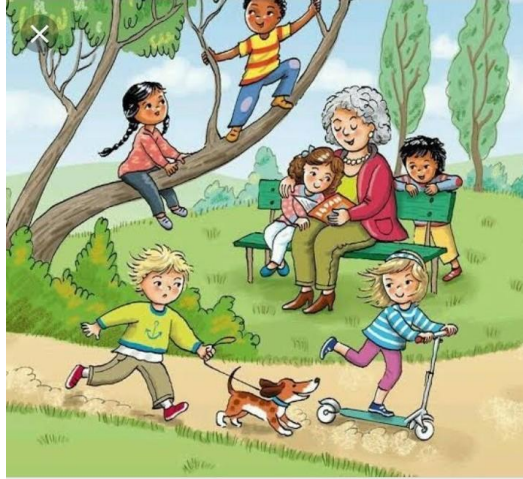
3: Improving my French and meeting French people. Everyone is very kind and welcoming here.

These are just a few thoughts - I could write a very long list. By taking the time to reflect I have realized that by learning a new language you gain so many possibilities, whether it be reading a book in another language, ordering a drink in another language or being lucky enough to work or study abroad like me. We are always learning and developing as individuals.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) Do you like travelling?
  - B) Have you ever been abroad?
  - C) What challenges have you faced?

## Variant 4

1. Tell me about your week
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### Relax,

I am a person who has always loved reading. For me, it is easy to get lost in a book and return to the world a couple of hours later having been on an adventure. As a 6-year-old, I could be found reading Harry Potter, an ambitious book for a 6-year-old but I enjoyed it all the same. Now, as a student, it is harder to find the time to read books for pleasure; however, I relish the summers where I have the time to read to my heart's content. Growing up, it soon became apparent that spelling for me was not difficult and I had a wide vocabulary. This is something I credit to reading from such a young age.

My advice for you as English learners would be to read the books that you have often read in your native language in English. Reading, fiction especially, is a great way of improving your vocabulary and spelling without noticing as you are wrapped up in the storyline. For me, I have read Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in French and am currently reading Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets in Spanish. This is a really effective way of being able to read in another language because I know the story so well in English, it is easy to follow the story in the target language even if I do not understand every word.

This is another essential point: it is not necessary to understand absolutely every word. If you understand the meaning of the sentence, each word is not necessarily important. Sometimes it is impossible to translate directly from one language to another. Quite often, if a word is used several times in a text, you can gain your own meaning from it and it makes much more sense than if you tried to translate it in the first place.

Give it a try. If you like reading you could be opening up a whole world of literature you never knew existed!

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) Do you like reading?
  - B) What kinds of books do you enjoy?
  - C) What is the importance of reading?

## Variant 5

1. Tell me about your favourite sport
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### 4. Travelling

Recently I was watching a stand-up comedy sketch by a comedian called Trevor Noah, a mixed-race comedian from South Africa who often discusses important topics such as discrimination and racism. I was extremely impressed with his performance. The part which struck me the most was his advice about travelling. He said, 'The one thing you will never waste your money on is travelling. It is the antidote to ignorance.' In my opinion this statement should be everyone's life motto.

5. This year I've had the opportunity to do a lot of travelling around Europe and it has shown me first hand how much you can learn and develop by visiting different places. It is so wonderful to be able to go to a different country, listen to the different languages, try local food and experience the different culture. It's never good to live in a bubble, and travelling allows you to step out of your comfort zone.
6. I've personally noticed how different I am since I started exploring more. Travelling has made me so much more confident and independent. It involves being able to find good train or plane tickets, getting yourself to the airport, not to mention trying to find your way around a brand new city. Whilst it can be scary at first, after a few trips you realise that Google Maps is your best friend and it really isn't that difficult to figure out public transport. Travelling also helps you develop your organisation skills! It is essential to figure out how to get to different tourist attractions and plan your time wisely.
7. Answer the questions below:
  - A) How might growing up with social media affect the next generation's ability to communicate?
  - B) How often do you use social media?
  - C) What is the importance of communicating face-to-face?

## Variant 6

1. Tell me about your interests
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### Using Phones.

In one of my classes today we discussed the question of how our lives would be without a phone and I actually felt quite sad to hear how some kids these days cannot survive without their mobiles. Personally, I think nowadays we are controlled by our technology and pressurised to keep up. So let's see some of the points that came up in the debate and see if our generation really is addicted to electronic connections rather than true communication.

It is true that everything works at a fast pace these days, due to the quick access we have to pretty much anything and anyone. For example, you can contact someone who lives on the other side of the world within seconds. This is great if you think about how connected we can stay to the people who are far away from us; however, on the contrary, can we be too connected to the people who are close to us? An argument arose about the fact that it is easier to message someone from your sofa than to meet them in person and talk. On one hand, it is easier and nice sometimes to casually chat to a friend this way. However, it is also lazier and rude to prefer to talk to someone on your phone rather than meeting up, if you are able to, in my opinion. Social skills are important to have and if you are not going to put effort into real-life communication, then you are not going to progress in this ability.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) Is phone addiction a serious problem where you live?
  - B) What solutions are there for people to keep their phone usage under control?
  - C) How often do you use phones?

## Variant 7

1. Tell me about your week
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### **My future profession.**

In early childhood children tell their parents whom they would like to be when they grow up. In school students begin thinking of their future profession. There are lots of professions in the world, and all of them are interesting and exciting. So it's very hard to discover your vocation in life.

The choice of profession depends on your abilities. If you are good at humanities you should choose something in this field. And if you are good at natural sciences you should choose something closely connected with them. I would like to become a chemist because I like chemistry. I think that it is a very interesting subject, but I am not so good at it so I think that I am not suitable for this profession. In spite of all I possess some qualities which are needed in this field.

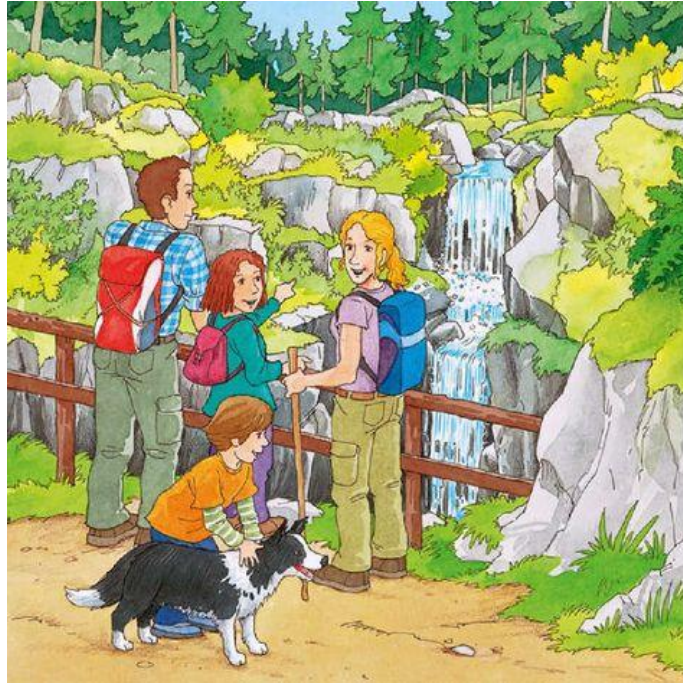
I think that my future profession will be closely connected with computers. I am capable to work with them, and I also possess the qualities needed in this work. They are accuracy, energy, carefulness. But I hesitate if I have enough patience. I must develop it if I want to become a computer operator. I know that it would be better to choose a profession of an interpreter or any other occupation connected with Russian and literature because I am good at these subjects but when I began to study the computer skills that was what I have been looking for. In our modern world it's hard to do without computers. They are needed everywhere, and I hope that my interests in this subject will never change in spite of any circumstances.

Answer the questions below:

- A. What are your future plans in study?
- B. What is your purpose in attending the competition?
- C. What is your goal after graduating the university?

## Variant 8

1. Tell me about your hobby
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### Mind and body

I have been dancing since I was 14 years old, when my best friend dragged me to an after-school dance class. I enjoyed that dance class so much that I have been dancing ever since. After every dance class, however, I always have to stretch out my legs and back, as dancing can be quite a tough workout! It feels like as much exercise as a contact sport or going to the gym – but dancing is not widely considered to be a sport. Does the fact that dancing is expressive and artistic mean that it is not a sport?

Many dancers would argue that dancing is a sport, as it requires great physical stamina, strong muscles and impressive flexibility. No matter what style of dance you are participating in, you will always be using all of your muscles while dancing and this can often be for several hours a day. Additionally, in the more traditional dance styles (such as ballet and contemporary dance), men often lift their female dance partners way up in the air. The strength that dancers need means that they are often just as athletic as footballers, runners or swimmers.

On the other hand, many people argue that dance is an art form. Dances often exhibit emotion, portray characters and tell stories. Dancing to music is creative and visually appealing to the eyes and ears, just like watching a play or a professional orchestra. The glittery costumes, the stage make-up and the big hairstyles are artistic and imaginative. It is easy to see why many people consider dance to be an art form.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) Have you ever been to a dance class?
  - B) What sports do you like?
  - C) Do you think dance is a sport, an art or a bit of both?



## Variant 9

1. Tell me about your favourite subject
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### **English as a new language.**

There's no denying that learning a foreign language is difficult, and when it comes to speaking in the language, it can be extremely daunting. I remember walking into my first-ever Spanish class at university only to discover that half of my class were already fluent in multiple languages. It's safe to say I felt out of my depth!

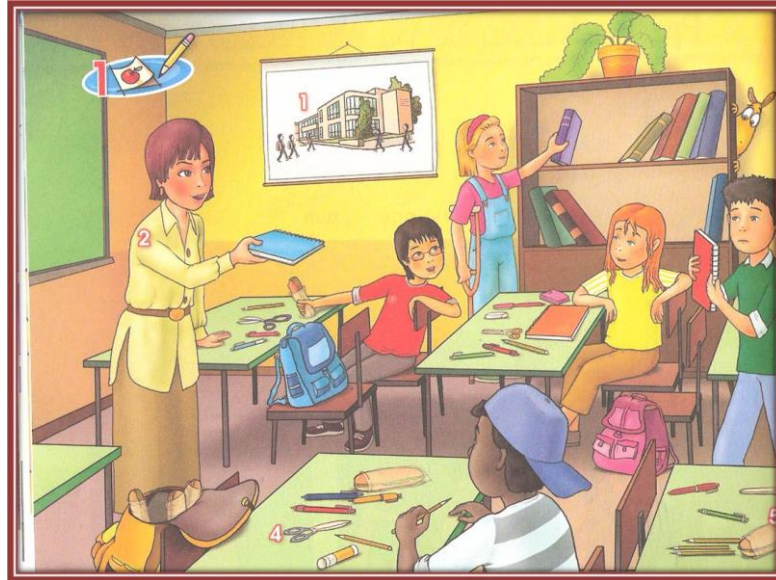
At first the thought of speaking in Spanish terrified me; not only were my vocabulary and grammar very limited, but I had never spoken another language before. Despite my initial apprehension I was determined to overcome my fear, and by adopting a few simple strategies I have been able to build my confidence and develop at my own pace. So, I thought I would share a few tips with you in the hope that you find them useful too.

Firstly, remember it is OK to make mistakes and that you should embrace them. This sounds obvious, but when it comes to language learning we often aim for perfection and feel as though we are not ready to speak until we have 'enough' words or grammatical knowledge. The truth is you will never feel ready, and instead it is important to use the knowledge that you do have to communicate what you can.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) Do you have any tips for getting over fears about speaking another language?
  - B) What has helped you build your confidence?
  - C) What effective ways do you know to reduce the fear of speaking another language?

## Variant 10

1. Tell me about your favourite food
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### Home.

Moving to a foreign country is an amazing, life-changing experience. It's an opportunity to meet new people, immerse yourself in a different culture and possibly learn another language. However, before embarking on such an adventure, there are some practical decisions that need to be made. One such decision is choosing where to live.

Will you stay in your own apartment where you can have your own space and privacy? Will you share a flat with other young foreigners who are in a similar position to you? Or will you do what I did and choose to live with a host family? For me, choosing to live with a French family was the best choice I made, and here is why.

Firstly, a family can show you around the city or town and help you settle in, stopping you from feeling lonely and overwhelmed. When you're in a new environment with people you don't know who are speaking a language you're still not fluent in, you might feel lost, tired and homesick – I know I did. However, my host family were wonderful and welcoming; they showed me which buses to take to get to work, cooked dinner for me so we could eat together, and took me with them on trips to the beach, the theatre and even a bullfight. These were great opportunities to experience French culture and build relationships, which in turn helped me feel more comfortable and welcome.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) Would you prefer to live alone, with flatmates or with a host family? Why?
  - B) What do you think about host families?
  - C) Do you have host families in your country?

### **Variant 11**

1. Tell me about your national food
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### **High school in the UK**

It's interesting to have a chance to teach English abroad because you get to see a completely different education system from the one you experienced. I am teaching in Belgium this year and I have noticed that there are some big differences.

In the UK, for example, as many of you will know, it is common to wear a school uniform. This is for egalitarian reasons: if students all wear the same thing then, in theory, they will feel less excluded as everyone looks the same. It is also nice to wear a school uniform because you don't have to think about what to wear in the morning; you just put on your uniform and off you go. This saves a lot of time as you don't have to worry about what to wear, what looks nice and what is fashionable.

Another difference I have noticed also concerns clothing: teachers dress in a more relaxed way in Belgium. They wear jeans and trainers for example. In my experience in the UK, teachers dress much more formally to work in a school. They wear similar things to the people who work in an office: shirt and tie for men; dresses, skirts, dark trousers and shirts for women. With this in mind, I bought a new pair of black shoes for my new job as a language assistant, assuming it would be inappropriate to wear my Converse to work.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) What do you wear to your school?
  - B) What do teachers wear to your school?
  - C) Do you have special uniforms in your country?

## Variant 12

1. Tell me about your favourite holiday
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

## Holidays.

Around the world, many people come together on 31st December to celebrate the coming of the New Year. In Scotland, this is a very important occasion, which is called 'Hogmanay'. The tradition of Hogmanay comes from Viking times and for some time, the celebration was more popular in Scotland than Christmas. From early childhood, I remember large family gatherings on New Year's Eve where everyone would come together to 'bring in the bells'. Another common phrase in Scotland, 'bringing in the bells' refers to the ten-second countdown to midnight where bells chime all over Scotland to signify the beginning of the New Year. Most towns in Scotland have local celebrations with fireworks and family gatherings, but in the bigger Scottish cities, other events take place.

This year, I decided to stay in my home city which is Glasgow and bring in the bells at home for the first time! It was a great experience celebrating in Glasgow. My friend's 21st birthday was on Hogmanay, so we went out to a party in Glasgow which took place in a bar. We had a lovely night filled with birthday cake, cocktails and dancing, and we all sang 'Auld Lang Syne' at midnight. Despite being a Scottish song, 'Auld Lang Syne' is sung internationally on January 1st. There is a very friendly atmosphere in Glasgow, with everyone hugging each other and wishing each other a Happy New Year!

On New Year's Day in Scotland, it is traditional to have a meal with your family. My family always eat a steak pie with vegetables and we have a trifle for pudding, but this tradition varies from family to family. Another tradition I have to mention is the 'First Footing' tradition. Also from the time of the Vikings, this is the tradition where the first person to enter the home after Hogmanay has to bring something with them (usually something Scottish, like whisky or shortbread), otherwise it brings bad luck for the coming year. I like this tradition, as people are usually very generous with their first footing gifts. This year, our house received ginger wine and homemade shortbread.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) Do you have any special traditions on New Year's Eve?
  - B) What do you do on this day?
  - C) How do people celebrate this holiday?

### Variant 13

1. Tell me about your university
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### Hobbies and interest.

Language is part of our daily lives, no matter where we live in the world. Similarly, music is a part of many people's lives, whether it be listening to the radio on your drive to work or playing in an orchestra. Both language and music play a huge role in our culture and here are some of their similarities.

1. Both language and music have a writing system.

In English we record language using the alphabet, which is a collection of letters. Similarly, we use notes to keep a record of music. Just as you are reading this collection of letters on the screen and find meaning in it, musicians read notes and create meaning in the form of music which we can hear. So just as you read English, you can read music. By writing pieces of text or music, we are able to share experiences through time. I can read the ideas or hear the composition of someone who lived hundreds of years ago, which is really quite exciting.

2. Both vary with culture.

You can make a good guess at where someone is from by listening to the language they use. In the same way, we know that styles of music are different around the world, giving us the opportunity to explore many different cultures through their music and providing us with music for every situation. This also means that there is something for everyone! Even if you don't like Britpop melodies, you may love the energy of Latin American salsa music.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) How often do you listen to music?
  - B) What are your favourite songs and song lyrics?
  - C) Is it effective to listen to music to learn a language?

## Variant 14

1. Tell me about your group
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### **The world's most common habits**

Like most people I know, I love watching television. When I was little, I would always look forward to watching a children's programme on TV when I arrived home from school. These days, when I'm at home, I enjoy flicking on the television in the evening after a busy day to watch a crime drama or chat show. Although we typically watch television to unwind and we often feel guilty about watching too much of it, TV series are an excellent resource for any aspiring language learner.

When you are learning a language, it is a great idea to choose a foreign language series to watch. The series can belong to any genre: thriller, drama, comedy or even reality television, whatever takes your fancy. Watching this series is a fantastic way to improve your listening skills because the characters or presenters will talk at a normal pace and will use authentic language. It is also a very useful way to familiarise yourself with more colloquial language which cannot be found in a textbook but which is used regularly in real life.

If you are a beginner, it can be a good idea to start by watching the programme with subtitles in your native language. However, as you become more confident, you can have a go at watching a series with foreign language subtitles or even with no subtitles at all. Remember that the aim is not to understand every single word! You just need to be able to understand the overall storyline and you can often work out the meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases from the context. Although it can be difficult at first, it is important to keep going!

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) What English language programmes do you watch?
  - B) How often do you watch TV?
  - C) What are your favourite programmes?

## Variant 15

1. Tell me about your hobby
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### **Travelling – never a waste of money**

Recently I was watching a stand-up comedy sketch by a comedian called Trevor Noah, a mixed-race comedian from South Africa who often discusses important topics such as discrimination and racism. I was extremely impressed with his performance. The part which struck me the most was his advice about travelling. He said, 'The one thing you will never waste your money on is travelling. It is the antidote to ignorance.' In my opinion this statement should be everyone's life motto.

This year I've had the opportunity to do a lot of travelling around Europe and it has shown me first hand how much you can learn and develop by visiting different places. It is so wonderful to be able to go to a different country, listen to the different languages, try local food and experience the different culture. It's never good to live in a bubble, and travelling allows you to step out of your comfort zone.

I've personally noticed how different I am since I started exploring more. Travelling has made me so much more confident and independent. It involves being able to find good train or plane tickets, getting yourself to the airport, not to mention trying to find your way around a brand new city. Whilst it can be scary at first, after a few trips you realise that Google Maps is your best friend and it really isn't that difficult to figure out public transport. Travelling also helps you develop your organisation skills! It is essential to figure out how to get to different tourist attractions and plan your time wisely.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) What do you think the best part of travelling is?
  - B) What countries are you looking forward to visiting?
  - C) How often do you travel?

## Variant 16

1. Tell me about your favourite toy as a child
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### Professional development

Before my year as a language assistant, I never imagined I could enjoy teaching as much as I do. I assumed it might be awkward and boring at times and, of course, there are some classes that go faster than others. However, my experience has been overwhelmingly positive. So positive, in fact, that I am definitely considering it as a career.

There's something so great about being around young people and getting to interact with them on a daily basis. I am finally at that stage where names are starting to stick and I am more comfortable than I was at the beginning (it always takes a little while to find your feet).

Now, of course as a language assistant, I teach conversation class exclusively and I am guided by the English teacher. This means that I haven't had to teach the more technical aspects of English (I'm looking at you, grammar!) and there's always someone in the classroom to guarantee some discipline. Despite those advantages, I feel a strong pull to the profession. I guess I'll end it by saying: watch this space!

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) What about you? Would you like to teach one day?
  - B) What do you think the best part of teaching is?
  - C) What are your expectations from teaching young learners?



## Variant 17

1. Tell me about your future profession
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

## Studying with multiple sources

We are all aware that practical exercises using textbooks and classroom materials are valuable when it comes to language learning. However, I realised early on in my language learning journey that the only way to keep up my motivation for language learning was to make sure it was accessible and fun. To do this I found enjoyable ways of integrating language learning into my everyday life. Here are a few of them:

This is an easy one. By simply changing the language of your mobile phone you are exposed to many different words and phrases in your target language, many of which will be easily added to your vocabulary. Most of us navigate our way around our phone without a second thought anyway, so this should be a simple way to learn more without having to try too hard.

This seems like an obvious one, and is probably one that you already do. However, when I say listening, I mean actively listening. If you want to be more productive, you can find lyrics online and write them down in order to learn them off by heart. Even if you need to pause the song and search for words and phrases you don't understand, this will only aid you in your learning. Listening to music will not only help with vocabulary but also with grammar as you will begin to notice patterns, especially as many songs tend to be repetitive.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) Do you have any tips on learning a language without a textbook?
  - B) What is the importance of learning a language without a textbook??
  - C) What do you think the best part of learning a language without a textbook is?

## Variant 18

1. Tell me about your interests
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

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5. Answer the questions below:

D) Do you have any tips on

E) learning a language without a textbook?

F) What is the importance of learning a language without a textbook??

## Variant 19

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

## Ubiquity of English

It's a website that everyone has heard of. Perhaps most people even use it on a daily basis, and it's a form of both entertainment and social media. But can we use YouTube to help us learn a foreign language?

Of course there are channels which produce video classes dedicated to helping us learn, but what about the standard daily vlog or clothes haul videos? Can they be valuable learning resources too?

In my opinion, they're a way of being able to experience the way in which real people talk. This can make a good change from the listening exercises we hear in class, which aren't always authentic. For example, many English speakers have different accents or use lots of colloquial words and phrases – have you ever heard them say 'all right, guys' as a greeting in a listening clip? Some English learners don't have the chance to talk to native speakers in person, so surely YouTube videos can offer an invaluable alternative.

To add to this, there is more to learning a language than simply words, phrases and grammar. It's also about the culture of the language's speakers. As YouTube increases in popularity, it also offers an insight into popular culture. As well as the channels themselves that are popular, through watching them we can learn about a country's fashion trends, popular video games and simply how people spend their daily lives.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) What do you think, can YouTube help us learn a foreign language?
  - B) Do you know other resources to learn a foreign language?
  - C) What is the advantage of learning a foreign language by Ethernet?

## Variant 20

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### **My House**

I live in my ancestral home with my grandparents, parents, and siblings. My grandfather built this house with his hard work. It has four rooms, one kitchen, two bathrooms, and a patio. My house is at least fifty years old.

I admire the beauty of my house. The vintage vibes make it even more beautiful. My grandparents have a small garden in the patio which adds greenery to my house. Moreover, it also has two trees. One is a pomegranate tree and the other is a Henna tree. They provide us with shade and sweet fruits.

My house has very high ceilings as it was made many years back. It has vintage switchboards which give it a very unique look. My house is situated in the middle of four roads. It is not joined to any other house. My house has four entrances from each side.

Whenever my friends come over to my house, they click a lot of pictures. Even my relatives love the interior of the house which is a mix of modern and vintage architecture. My house is colored in brown and beige color and it stands out in our locality.

Answer the questions below:

- A) What do you do in your free time?
  - B) How often do you visit museums?
  - C) What makes you different from others?

## Variant 21

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### **My future profession.**

In early childhood children tell their parents whom they would like to be when they grow up. In school students begin thinking of their future profession. There are lots of professions in the world, and all of them are interesting and exciting. So it's very hard to discover your vocation in life.

The choice of profession depends on your abilities. If you are good at humanities you should choose something in this field. And if you are good at natural sciences you should choose something closely connected with them. I would like to become a chemist because I like chemistry. I think that it is a very interesting subject, but I am not so good at it so I think that I am not suitable for this profession. In spite of all I possess some qualities which are needed in this field.

I think that my future profession will be closely connected with computers. I am capable to work with them, and I also possess the qualities needed in this work. They are accuracy, energy, carefulness. But I hesitate if I have enough patience. I must develop it if I want to become a computer operator. I know that it would be better to choose a profession of an interpreter or any other occupation connected with Russian and literature because I am good at these subjects but when I began to study the computer skills that was what I have been looking for. In our modern world it's hard to do without computers. They are needed everywhere, and I hope that my interests in this subject will never change in spite of any circumstances.

- B. Answer the questions below:
- A. What are your future plans in study?
  - B. What is your purpose in attending the competition?
  - C. What is your goal after graduating the university?

## Variant 22

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### My House

I live in my ancestral home with my grandparents, parents, and siblings. My grandfather built this house with his hard work. It has four rooms, one kitchen, two bathrooms, and a patio. My house is at least fifty years old.

I admire the beauty of my house. The vintage vibes make it even more beautiful. My grandparents have a small garden in the patio which adds greenery to my house. Moreover, it also has two trees. One is a pomegranate tree and the other is a Henna tree. They provide us with shade and sweet fruits.

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Whenever my friends come over to my house, they click a lot of pictures. Even my relatives love the interior of the house which is a mix of modern and vintage architecture. My house is colored in brown and beige color and it stands out in our locality.

Answer the questions below:

- A) What do you do in your free time?
- B) How often do you visit museums?
- C) What makes you different from others?

## Variant 23

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it.

### Seasons

There are four seasons in a year: winter, spring, summer and autumn. All seasons are good in their own way. Winter, for example, is full of celebrations, presents and snow. Spring is the time of nature awakening and flower blooming. Autumn can be rainy and yet beautiful, full of multi-coloured leaves.

However, my favourite season is summer. I choose summer not only because my birthday is in June, but also because it's the time of holidays. Summer is the season when the sun shines brightly, the sky is rarely cloudy and the water in the sea becomes warm enough to swim. Even if it becomes too hot, you can always go for a walk in the shady woods. I also like summer because there are many berries, fruit and vegetables, not to mention numerous flowers on the fields. Among them roses, dandelions, daisies, and other flowers. Sometimes the air in summer becomes stuffy, but occasional thunderstorms bring relief. After the thunderstorms the air becomes remarkably fresh and very often we can see the rainbow in the sky.

Summer is also the time when I and my family go on holiday to the seaside. It's a wonderful time, when we can have a rest from the intense academic year and relax. I think all children love summer because of long school holidays and I'm no exception. I also enjoy my free time, playing with my friends, watching TV, and doing other fun activities. Nevertheless, I don't forget to do some useful reading from time to time.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) What is your future plans in study?
  - B) How do you imagine yourself 5 years later?
  - C) What kind of investigations are you going to conduct in near future?

## Variant 24

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### Studying with multiple sources

Mass media are one of the most characteristic features of modern civilization. People are united into one global community with the help of mass media. People can learn about what is happening in the world very fast using mass media. The mass media include newspapers, magazines, radio and television. The earliest kind of mass media was newspaper. The first newspaper was Roman handwritten newsheet called "Acta Diurna" started in 59 B.C. Magazines appeared in 1700's. They developed from newspapers and booksellers' catalogs. Radio and TV appeared only in this century. The most exciting and entertaining kind of mass media is television. It brings moving pictures and sounds directly to people's homes. So, one can see events in faraway places just sitting in his or her chair. Radio is widespread for its portability. It means that radios can easily be carried around. People like listening to the radio on the beach or picnic, while driving a car or just walking down the street. The main kind of radio entertainment is music. Newspapers can present and comment on the news in much detail in comparison to radio and TV newscasts. News-papers can cover much more events and news. Magazines do not focus on daily, rapidly changing events. They provide more profound analysis of events of proceeding week. Magazines are designed to be kept for a longer time so they have cover and binding and are printed on better paper.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) What is your favorite book?
  - B) What is your purpose in attending the competition?
  - C) What are your weaknesses and strengths ?



## Variant 25

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### National holiday

We live our lives in colour from our earliest days – in Western cultures ‘pink for a girl’ or ‘blue for a boy’. Colour plays a big part in everything we do. We use it both as a badge of identity and a way of expressing our individuality through decoration. And we use different colours to send out very different messages.

**IDENTITY** People need a sense of group identity. Look at the schoolboy in the photo. From his colourful traditional dress, other people in Peru know he comes from the Quechua community. We wear uniforms at school and work, and we dress in our favourite sports team colours to say the same thing – we belong to this group.

**DECORATION** The Huli villager in the photo is getting ready for a local festival. He’s applying the traditional colours of red, black and white in his own personal pattern. Face-painting is an important part of the celebrations, and these days people are starting to experiment with brightly coloured synthetic paints as well as traditional hues. In fashion-conscious Europe, the ‘in’ colour changes every season. This autumn, for example, women are wearing shades of purple and lilac.

**MESSAGES** Marketing experts understand the power of colour very well. Packaging and labels in eye-catching colours stand out on the supermarket shelf. And companies always select the colour of their brand very carefully – a calm blue for a bank you can trust, dark green says quality and sophistication, or brown and green means eco-friendliness.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) What makes you motivated?
  - B) How do you imagine yourself 5 years later?
  - C) How do people celebrate Navruz in your country?

## Variant 26

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### Independence day of Uzbekistan

Independence Day in Uzbekistan is regarded as one of the most important public holidays in the country.

On August 31, 1991, the Republic of Uzbekistan officially declared its independence from the USSR, which by that time had already collapsed. This declaration was only the initial step in the formation of a new country on the world map, however. Mixed feelings overwhelmed the country's population when Uzbekistan gained independence, as a longing for the former country in which they were born and raised competed with expectations for a new and brighter future.

The early years of independence were filled with hardships in every post-Soviet nation, and Uzbekistan was no exception. The transition from a planned economy to a market economy, the severance of economic ties with the powerful USSR and the sudden bankruptcy of once influential enterprises proved a difficult test for the young republic. Fortunately, the country has overcome many of its initial trials and continues to respond to the new challenges of our day.

Independence Day was the first holiday to be officially recognized after Uzbekistan's independence in 1991, and it continues to be celebrated with great exuberance each year. In each of Uzbekistan's 12 regions, special activities reflective of local culture and traditions are prepared for the public. Nowhere is Independence Day celebrated with greater fanfare, however, than in capital city Tashkent. A spectacular show fittingly held at Mustakillik Square (Independence Square) is organized well in advance and typically includes folk performances, sports competitions, special shows and a lively fair filled with the colorful displays of local artisans.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) What genre of books do you like to read?
  - B) How often do you visit libraries?
  - C) What is your goal after graduating the university?

## Variation 27

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

## Latest achievements

Goods move. People move. Ideas move. And cultures change. By Erla Zwingle

Once I start looking for them, I realise these moments are everywhere. One day, I'm sitting in a coffee shop in London having a cup of Italian espresso served by an Algerian waiter, listening to the Beach Boys playing in the background. Another day, I'm eating in a restaurant in New Delhi that serves Lebanese food to the music of a Filipino band, in rooms decorated with a vintage poster for a blues concert in New Orleans.

These are 'globalisation' moments. We are in the middle of a worldwide change in cultures – a transformation of entertainment, business and politics. Popular culture has crossed borders in ways we have never seen before. According to social scientists, our world is shrinking. In Japan, people have become fanatics of flamenco and there are hundreds of dance schools around the country. In the last few years, dozens of top Spanish flamenco artists have given performances there. It's a huge and growing market. Meanwhile, in Denmark people have discovered a new interest in Italian food, and pasta imports have grown fivefold over the last decade. And the classic American blonde Barbie doll now comes in about 30 national varieties, including new additions this year of Austrian and Moroccan.

How do people feel about globalisation? It depends to a large extent on where they live and how much money they've got. However, globalisation, as one report has stated, 'is a reality, not a choice'. Humans have always developed commercial and cultural connections, but these days computers, the Internet, mobile phones, cable TV and cheaper air transport have accelerated and complicated these connections. Nevertheless, the basic dynamic is the same: Goods move. People move. Ideas move. And cultures change. The difference now is the speed and extent of these changes. Television had 50 million users after thirteen years; the Internet had the same number after only five years. But now that more than one fifth of all the people in the world speak at least some English, critics of globalisation say that we are one big 'McWorld'.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) How often do you go shopping?
  - B) Do you buy things online?
  - C) What kind of investigations are you going to conduct in near future?

## Variant 28

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### The nature

Since ancient times Nature has served Man, being the source of his life. For thousands of years people lived in harmony with environment and it seemed to them that natural riches were unlimited. But with the development of civilization man's interference in nature began to increase. Large cities with thousands of smoky industrial enterprises appear all over the world today. The by-products of their activity pollute the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we grow grain and vegetables on. Every year world industry pollutes the atmosphere with about 1000 million tons of dust and other harmful substances. Many cities suffer from smog. Vast forests are cut and burn in fire. Their disappearance upsets the oxygen balance. As a result some rare species of animals, birds, fish and plants disappear forever, a number of rivers and lakes dry up. The pollution of air and the world's ocean, destruction of the ozone layer is the result of man's careless interaction with nature, a sign of the ecological crises. The most horrible ecological disaster befell Ukraine and its people after the Chernobyl tragedy in April 1986. About 18 percent of the territory of Belarus was also polluted with radioactive substances. A great damage has been done to the agriculture, forests and people's health. The consequences of this explosion at the atomic power-station are tragic for the Ukrainian, Belarusian and other nations. Environmental protection is of a universal concern. That is why serious measures to create a system of ecological security should be taken.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) What makes you motivated?
  - B) Do you prefer reading news in newspaper or o the Internet?
  - C) What is your goal after graduating the university?

## Variant 29

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Describe the picture



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it

### Air pollution

People have always polluted their surroundings, But until now pollution was not such a serious problem. People lived in not crowded rural areas and did not have pollution — causing machines. With the development of crowded industrial cities which put huge amounts of pollutants into small areas, the problem has become more important. Automobiles and other new inventions make pollution steadily worse. Since the late 1960's people have become alarmed with the danger of pollution. Air, water, and soil are necessary for existence of all living things. But polluted air can cause illness, and even death. Polluted water kills fish and other marine life. On polluted soil, food cannot be grown. In addition environmental pollution spoils the natural beauty of our planet. Pollution is as complicated as serious problem. Automobiles are polluting the air but they provide transportation for the people. Factories pollute the air and the water but they provide jobs for people and produce necessary goods. Fertilizers and pesticides are important for growing crops but they can ruin soil. Thus, people would have to stop using many useful things if they wanted to end pollution immediately. Most people do not want that of course. But pollution can be reduced gradually. Scientists and engineers can find the ways to reduce pollution from automobiles and factories. Government can pass the laws that would make enterprises take measures for reducing of pollution. Individuals and groups of people can work together to persuade enterprises to stop polluting activities.

4. Answer the questions below:
  - A) How often do you read books?
  - B) How do you imagine yourself 5 years later?
  - C) Which country/city would you like to visit?

## Variant 30

1. Tell about yourself.
2. Describe the picture.



3. Translate the article and compile questions about it.  
**Eat.**

For many parents, it would be much easier and simpler to forget about family dinners. Jobs, children, after-school activities all contribute to families being constantly on the go, thus feeling the need to eat on the run. But more and more parents are realizing the importance of shared family time at the dinner table. Often, this is the only time when all family members are all together in one place.

Although family dinners are viewed by some people as another burdensome chore at the end of a tiring day, more American families realize that the benefits of sharing time at day's end cannot be measured by calories alone. Numerous studies show that eating together not only is an important aspect of family life, but helps make weight control easier.

When a family sits down together, it helps them handle the stresses of daily life and the hassles of day-to-day existence. Eating together tends to promote more sensible eating habits, which in turn helps family members manage their weight more easily.

4. Answer the questions below:

- 1) What's your greatest strength and weakness?
- 2) Leadership experience is important. Tell me about your experience.
- 3) Tell me about a big mistake you made during the past few years, and describe what you learned from it.