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Kiran Makkar's Speaking Guesswork

May- Aug 2022

First Version



Dr Kiranpreet Kaur Makkar (MBBS, DGO - Makkar Hospital Phagwara)

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1. Describe a time when you were stuck in a traffic jam.

You should Say:

- When and where it happened
- How long you were in the traffic jam
- What you did while waiting
- And explain how you felt when you were in that traffic jam.
- I live in a small town and in general, there is not much traffic on the roads.
- The only time we face traffic jams is when there is a religious procession or a political rally.
- And most of the times, these are announced beforehand so I rarely get stuck in traffic jams.
- However, last month I had gone to Jalandhar to buy some clothes for my cousin's wedding.
- When we went, there was no traffic.
- On the way back, the main road was shut down as there had been a collision between two buses between Phagwara, my hometown and Jalandhar.
- Big cranes had to be called to remove the buses from the roads and that took time.
- This being a main road slowly led to a huge jam.
- The traffic police tried to get the traffic diverted through the service road.
- But the road was considerably narrower than the main road and because of that the traffic built up.
- We were stuck in the jam for at least 2 to 3 hours.
- At first, we didn't think we would have to wait for so long.
- We thought it was just busier than normal and things would clear up soon.
- However, when our car barely moved 100 metres in 15 minutes, my dad went out and enquired about what had happened.
- We couldn't really back up as there was no space.
- So, we tried to use the time by playing games and listening to music.
- To be honest, we also spent a big part whining about government failure, although we all knew such circumstances are unavoidable.
- I don't think I could describe what we felt at that time.
- We all just wanted the traffic jam to clear up and reach home as soon as possible.
- But the day ended on a happy note as far I as was concerned.
- Because we reached home late, my mother didn't get time to cook.
- And we got Pizzas to eat for dinner.

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Follow-ups

1. Are traffic jams common in Indian cities?

Yes, India has a huge population and traffic jams are not uncommon especially in big cities like Delhi, Bombay, Chennai and Kokatta. Moreover, there is also a bad culture of parking cars on the roads in India, which reduces available space for parking and leads to jams.

2. Why are cities today facing serious traffic issues?

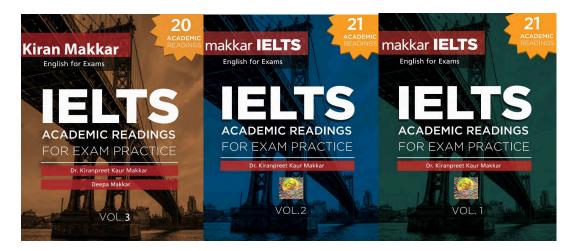
I think the main reason for the serious traffic issues is increasing urbanisation. More and more people are moving to cities for the better quality of life but this leads to more cars than roads can handle. Moreover, some older cities have narrow roads as they were not designed keeping today's use of cars in minds. These narrow roads restrict traffic flow and lead to jams.

3. What can be done to improve traffic conditions in cities?

First, I think the government should promote the use of public transportation by making it more comfortable and faster. For example, the traffic conditions in Delhi have improved considerably after the launch of Delhi Metro. Also, the roads need to be widened wherever possible to accommodate more cars.

4. Can developing public transport help resolve traffic issues in cities?

I think public transportation can resolve traffic issues but if it is fast and comfortable. Delhi had local trains for long time and people did not prefer them because they were slow. However, the construction of Delhi metro, which is quite fast and comfortable, made a real dent in traffic.



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2. Describe an invention that has changed how people live.

You should say:

- What it is
- How has it changed people's lives
- What benefits did it bring
- And explain if it is more important for older or younger people.
- Life has progressed by leaps and bounds due to inventions in science.
- Nearly every field in life has been impacted by some invention or the other.
- However, today I would like to talk the invention, which has had an impact on our entire life.
- It is the internet.
- Nearly everything we do has changed because of the internet.
- The biggest difference has been on the way we communicate.
- We can talk to anyone, anytime and from anywhere.
- Also, it is much easier to remain in contact with our friends and family members because of the internet.
- Life has become faster as communication has become instantaneous.
- Internet's impact is not only limited to just communication.
- It has made a difference to the way we shop, the way we learn and the way we seek healthcare.
- We can access every luxury, sitting in the comforts of our home.
- On the other hand, there have also been a few negatives of the internet.
- Internet has in some ways decreased respect for the elderly.
- First, we don't value them as much because we are not dependent upon them for advice or suggestions as in the past.
- We can search for anything online.
- If we don't know anything, we don't need to ask anyone, we can just simply search it online.
- This is making us independent, but at the same time making our grandparents and parents feel like they are losing their importance.
- Secondly, because they are not that comfortable with use of computers and the internet, they haven't been benefited as much as the young one's have.
- Slowly, everything is moving online and the old people are finding it challenging to adapt because of this.



Follow-ups

1. How has technology made our life easier?

Different technologies have made our lives easier in different ways. However, in effect most technologies reduce our labour and save us valuable time, thus improving our quality of life considerably. They also in a way reduce our need on others because we can do everything on our own.

2. Which invention do you think is the most useful at home?

I think it's very hard to choose one. It really depends upon the person and their use. For example, I find dishwashers as very useful because in my house, I have the responsibility of washing utensils. For my mother the answer might be the vacuum cleaner as she is responsible for cleaning.

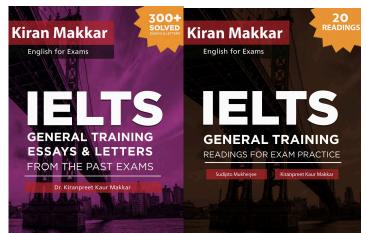
3. Is it more difficult for old people to accept new technologies?

I think change is difficult for everyone and the difficulty increases with age because the time we spend accustomed to something also increases as we grow older. I think rather than looking at it as a problem, we should be focusing on ways to making it easier for our elders to accept them.

4. What can be done to help old people learn to make use of new technologies? Many steps can be taken to encourage the use of new technologies. Firstly, these big technology companies can organise seminars where older people can be taught about use of latest gadgets. I remember when my mother first bought a laptop, she was offered a free two hour session on its use for the whole week. At the end of the week, she knew many things, I didn't. Secondly, family members can also be helpful in helping their parents and grandparents when they are finding something difficult.

5. Will our life be better if we live without technology?

Technology has improved our life in many ways but it has also brought many challenges. Life would certainly be simpler, but I wouldn't call it better. Moreover, I think we have become so accustomed to technology just the idea of living without it is unfathomable.



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English for Exams

3. Describe a family member whom you would like to work with in the future.

You should say:

- Who the person is
- Have you ever worked with the person before
- What kinds of work you would like to do with the person
- And explain how you will feel if you can finally work together.
- I have always wanted to work in a big multinational company.
- I would never miss a chance to work in any such company.
- However, my uncle runs a spare part manufacturing company by the name of Akal Industries.
- I have seen him grow from a small firm with a handful of employees working under him, to a fairly big company with about 300 employees.
- I am sure that with his way of working and his rapport with his employees, the day is not far when it will be no less than any MNC
- I would love to work with him.
- I would like to do my 'Masters in Business Management' from Canada and then join him.
- I have never worked with him so far, but have seen him work many times.
- He is in his forties and is tall and very handsome.
- His son Aman is the same age as I, and we are both classmates.
- My uncle has promised that he would allow us to work for his company only after we have both got some degrees from good colleges in hand.
- Aman wants to go for Mechanical Engineering and I want to do Business management.
- With different skills in hand we both would prove to be an asset to the company.
- I would feel very good if I would get a chance to work in my uncle's company.
- Although he has so many employees, he himself also works with the machines with them. He looks after their needs very well.
- All of them are happy working for him.
- He has taken part in many auto fests in India and abroad.
- He gets many orders from abroad and always fulfills them in time even though he has to make his workers work double time.
- He is very quality conscious and if any end product does not meet his expectations, he takes a second to discard it.
- It would be great to work for a person like him, and be like him one day.

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Follow-ups

Family businesses:

1. Are there any positive effects of working with a family member?

Certainly, there are many benefits of working with a family member. A family member would be more supportive if an occasional time off is needed. Secondly, the family member would also be satisfied as he would not have the fear of any outsider cheating him in business. However, one must realise that some work ethics have to be maintained even if one is working for a family member.

2. What kinds of family businesses are there in India?

India is a diverse country and a fast growing one too. All sorts of family businesses are there in India. My hometown Phagwara is a hub of small scale industry. Many people are into making auto spare parts. I visited Rajkot in Gujarat and I saw many households run the business of Patola sarees. You name a business, and you will find it in India.

3. Why do people like to set up a family business?

Family business ensures employment within a family. If there is some business know-how to any person, he can start a small business and make it grow with family support. One does not have to go out hunting for jobs. By having a family business, one can be a job provider rather than being a job seeker.

4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a family business?

The advantages are that one does not have to go out hunting for jobs. By having a family business, one can be a job provider rather than being a job seeker. An entrepreneur is his own boss. If the whole family works hard and the business flourishes, it can be a rags to riches story. The disadvantages are that if the business faces a slump, the whole family can turn from riches to rags overnight. The family members may also have conflicts if they feel that some of them are just reaping benefits without actually working hard.

5. What are the causes for the success of a family business?

The success of a family business are dependent on mutual trust among the family members, disciplined atmosphere at work and recognition of each others inputs.

6. How is the relation among members of a family business?

For any family business to thrive, good relation among family members is of paramount importance. If this is not there then the family business can see its doom very soon.

Family in general:

1. In what ways have families in your country changed recently?

Families have changed from joint to extended. This change has mostly been out of compulsion rather than choice. Young people are getting jobs in metros and in foreign countries. So, they leave their parents behind. However, these nuclear units are well connected to each other.

2. Should husbands and wives have different roles within the family?

Gender differences are disappearing these days and both husband and wife have to work outside for making a comfortable living. So, roles within the family should ideally be the same. However, these changes will take some time to implement. Women are yet supposed to look after household chores more than men despite being out of the home for the same time as men.

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3. Which are more important to you: your family or your friends?

Both are important to me, but family definitely has an edge over friends. Friends can turn out to be fair weather friends, but family is always there through their thick and thin. It has been rightly said that 'in times of test, family is best'.

Working in large companies:

1. What are the advantages of working in a big company?

There are many advantages of working in a big company. Firstly, big companies offer big salaries. Secondly, there is a status symbol attached. Also, there are chances of foreign visits. Finally, there is multi-culture experience in big companies

2. Will promotion be easier in a big company?

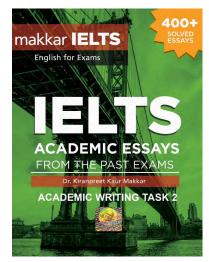
I don't think so. In a big company, you are part of a big crowd. Unless your work really stands out, you are not even noticed.

3. Should big companies donate more to charities? Definitely yes. Big companies have a corporate social responsibility. Under that, they are supposed to do for charity.

4. Should big companies be punished more seriously if they break the law? I don't think so. Punishment should be the same for all if they break the law. Even a small company should be punished as severely.

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4. Talk about an important river or lake in your country or hometown

- Which water body is that
- How do you know about it?
- Why does it impress you so much
- India is a diverse country.
- There are many rivers, lakes, beaches in India which are important.
- One important river that I would like to talk about here is the river Ganges or the Ganga, as we popularly call it
- I don't exactly remember when I learnt about it but I think it was most likely in school.
- It was a part of Geography class which covered major Indian rivers.
- I think I learnt more about it as I grew older through news.
- I don't know everything about it but I do know quite a lot about it.
- It emerges out of the Himalayas from the glaciers and falls into the Bay of Bengal.
- It is a perennial river as water is available throughout the year.
- It receives water from two sources, the glaciers in the Himalayas and the rainfall in the monsoon season.
- It is impressive for many reasons, the first being its length.
- It is one of the longest rivers of the world and it is the longest river in India.
- Many people are dependent upon it for their livelihood.
- The farmers use its water for agriculuture and people also do fishing in this river.
- The river is also famous for religious reasons.
- It is considered sacred and many Hindu festivals are organised on the banks of river Ganga.
- In fact, last rites of Hindus are conducted on the river banks as well.
- A dip in the river Ganga is believed to wash away all the sins.
- However, in recent years, I hear about the river mostly for the wrong reasons like excessive pollution, illegal fishing and illegal sand mining from the river banks.
- I have also heard about fish and dolphins dying because of these activities.
- The governments have promised to bring about changes but unfortunately the results have been far from satisfactory.
- But, I also believe that government can't do anything, if people do not support it in its actions.



Follow-ups

1. Why do many people like going to places with water such as lakes, rivers, or seas? People like to go to such places because they can do various activities there and have a fun time. They can do swimming, boating, rafting, surfing, snorkeling, scuba diving and so on. Moreover, India has a long coastline. People can find such places easily and so these places have become important tourist destinations.

2. What kinds of leisure activities do people like to do in water places? They can do swimming, boating, rafting, surfing, snorkeling, scuba diving and so on.

3. Do children and old people relax in the same ways when they go to beach?

No, they relax in different ways as their age allows them. The elderly just sit there and watch their children and grandchildren play with the waves. Children run around the beach, play beach volleyball, swim, splash in water and relax by sweating out their energy.

4. Why do people like water sports?

People like water sports because they are fun especially during the long summer months. For people who don't live near the coastal areas or any other water bodies, such places are a change and so they are fun and exciting.

5. Do you think beach or seaside is more suitable for children or old people to spend their leisure time with?

Yes, it is. However, they should refrain from going near water during high tide. Beaches where a lot of people are there are relatively safer than those which are isolated.

6. Is there much water transportation in your country?

I live in the north of India. There is no water transportation here, but as you go south, there is a long coastline where water transportation is very common.

7. Do people travel by boat in your country?

People living in coastal areas do travel by boat for short distances.

8. How important is water in daily life?

Water is the very essence of life. It is as simple as – no water, no life. That if why when space exploration is done, the first thing to see is signs of water. Otherwise no life is possible there.

9. How important are rivers and lakes to the cities where they located?

Water bodies are very important. They are a source of livelihood for fishermen. These water bodies attract tourism and then they boost the economy of these places.

10. Are the rivers in your country suffer from serious pollution?

Yes, pollution of these water bodies is a big issue. That is why the government of India has launched a massive campaign to save the river Ganges.

11. Do you think human activity is posing a threat to oceans globally?

Yes, definitely. People are dumping their waste in these oceans. Industries are dumping untreated effluents in oceans. Then there are oil-spills from time to time.



5. Talk about a traditional object of your country or Talk about a traditional product of your country that you bought

- What is it
- How is it made
- When did you try it for the first time
- Why do you like it
- India is rich in tradition and culture
- It is also very diverse.
- Traditional products are different in different parts of India
- Here I would like to talk about a traditional product which is of Punjab
- Jutti is an urdu word for shoe with a closed upper attached to a sole
- These are traditionally made of pure leather.
- Then it is beaded, threaded and embroidered in different eye-catching colours.
- It is made by skilled craftsmen.
- Some designs are very intrinsic and delicate
- Some are just plain or coloured leather
- I have many Punjabi juttis
- I wear them very often
- I remember, the first time I wore Punjabi jutti was on my cousin's wedding, two years ago.
- After that I liked it so much that I started wearing in routine.
- It is very comfortable
- It is the most versatile footwear.
- It is popular among both genders.
- It can be worn everyday, on weddings, parties and on festivals
- It was first introduced by the Mughals and was very popular among the royalty
- First the raw hide is processed
- Then it is dyed
- Then the cobblers make the juttis
- Final stitching and embroidery is done in the end.
- I like it because, it looks beautiful and is also very comfortable to wear.



Follow-ups

1. Describe another traditional product from your country (apart from what you spoke about) India is a diverse country. There are many traditional products in India. We have earthen pots, ceramic pottery of Jaipur, puppets of Rajasthan, phulkari embroidery of Punjab, hand-knotted carpets of Srinagar and many more.

2. What are the benefits of traditional products to locals?

Traditional products keep the locals in touch with their culture and tradition. They also become a source of earning, when tourists show interest in these products and buy them.

3. Do you think the government should help in the promotion of traditional products? Definitely, it should. If governments promotes traditional products, only then these will remain alive, otherwise these products will die and so will our culture and tradition.

4. Do you think because of globalization countries are adopting each other traditions. Yes, as countries know about these traditions, they adopt them. In a way it is good. Diwali is celebrated by many people outside India also. We have also started celebrating Valentine's Day, Grandparents' Day, Father's Day and Mother's Day etc

5. Why people buy traditional products because of their traditional value or because of they are handmade.

People buy these products for both these reasons. Handmade things have their own charm and only handmade thinks can have the real traditional value. When things are made in bulk using machines, then the whole traditional value of the thing is lost.

6. Did the traditional things of the past have more value than the present things? Yes, of course. We must remember that the things we consider new and modern today will become traditions for the future. So, the traditional things of the past were different and as time passes those things become antiques and so become more valuable.

7. Did the traditional things of the past have better quality than the present things? Not necessarily. The things made today also have good quality. Actually, it depends on the person making those things. There have always been good craftsmen and bad craftsmen.

8. Is it necessary to protect traditions?

Yes, of course. Traditions are our roots. They bind us to our past. Without traditions we would feel cut off from our past.

9. Do you think teenagers should learn about traditions?

Yes, they should be taught. Otherwise, they will feel cut off from the past. As it is, the teenagers of today are being lured by the global culture and are drifting away from traditions



6. Describe a positive change in your life

- What the change was
- - When it happened
- - How it happened
- - And explain why it was a positive change
- Change is the law of nature.
- We all make changes in our life from time to time.
- I have also made many changes in my life.
- Here I would like to talk about a positive change that I made in my life recently.
- This change is that I have started managing my time very effectively.
- Earlier I used to procrastinate a lot.
- I was a real cunctator. (You may skip this line)
- I used to do everything at the 11th hour.
- Most of my work was left undone.
- One day I read an article in The Tribune on Effective Time Management.
- The writer had very nicely explained the importance of time management.
- Everybody on Earth has the same 24 hours in a day.
- The only difference between success and failure is effective time management.
- Time is the most important commodity on Earth.
- We can buy gold and silver but we cannot buy time.
- The writer had also given simple ways to manage time.
- I started making a list of to-do things before going to bed.
- I try my best to fulfil it the next day.
- This has brought a sea change in my life.
- Now I have time for everything.
- I have time for my hobbies and even for visiting neighbours and relatives.
- It has also reduced stress in my life because not a single important work is pending.
- Earlier, I used to be very tense about my pending works, but now I complete all my work in time and so feel relaxed all the time.
- I feel very good about it.
- I feel I am a new person.

Follow Ups

1. Is your country changing rapidly?

Yes, my country is changing rapidly. India is a developing country and is changing day-by-day for the better. With the advancement of technology it is stepping fast from a developing to a developed country. Change has always been happening, but technology has hastened the process of change.

2. How is your country changing?

I think my country is changing is many ways. Firstly, I can see the effect of globalisation, people are wearing western clothes, eating western cuisines and washing foreign shows more and more. Secondly, people are also becoming modern in their thinking and views. Many wrong traditional practices like dowry are losing ground. Finally, we are developing in infrastructure and facilities. Many modern facilities fast internet connectivity, subways are accessible to people today.

3. Do you believe that the changes your country went through are positive? www.youtube.com/makkarielts www.instagram.com/makkarielts www.facebook.com/makkarielts



For me, most of the changes have been positive. But I think this is also due to the fact that I am optimist and I like to look at things from a positive side. Moreover, although I consider that most of the changes have been positive, some have happened at a slower pace than I had hoped.

4. Do you think change is good?

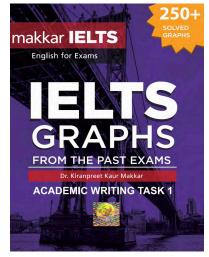
Well change can be both good and bad. It really depends upon on the change and why we are making the change. In the end, if we are changing for the right reasons, to make our ourselves better, then changing is definitely good. However, if we are being forced to change or if we are developing negative habits like drinking, smoking due to stress or peer pressure, I would consider it bad.

5. What are some of the major changes that usually occur to people in our lives? I think changes occur throughout our life. First are the physical and hormonal changes which occur when we go through puberty like developing facial hair, deepening of voice and so on. Then, it is mental maturity, which occurs as we experience and face different things. We learn how to deal with issues and face challenges.

6. Is it important for people to make changes according to their surroundings? Yes, I think there is no problem in changing according to surroundings as long we don't feel like we are changing our identity because of these changes. For example, when in a foreign country, it is perfectly fine to try about foreign clothes and dishes. At the same time, if a person is a vegetarian, I wouldn't consider it fine to try non-vegetarian just a fit in

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7. Talk about an important/Special event you celebrated

- What was it
- When did you celebrate
- Where did you celebrate
- Who was with you
- Why was It special
- I have attended many events in my life such as weddings and festivals.
- Here I would like to talk about our national festival Diwali, which I celebrated with my family on 19th October last year.
- I remember very well how the whole month before Diwali, we were busy in the cleaning of our home.
- We bought gifts to give to our friends and relatives.
- Normally we buy crackers to burn on that day, but this year we did not buy any crackers, as
 pollution is growing day by day.
- On the actual day of Diwali, we all went to the Gurdwara to pay obeisance to the almighty and seek his blessings.
- After that we went to some friends and relatives homes to present them the gifts we had bought for them
- Then we came home and decorated our home with candles and diyas.
- This time my father had also got some electric lights fitted in our home.
- My mother cooked special dishes for us and we enjoyed dinner.
- We also remember we turned on all the lights of our house and all the doors open because it is believed that Goddess Laxmi visits the homes on that day.
- I felt very good as I enjoyed all that very much.
- You know mam/Sir, Diwali holds a special significance for us.
- It is celebrated because on this day Lord Rama returned from Ayodhya after 14 years of exile.
- It is also celebrated because the sixth Guru, Guru Hargobind ji was set free from Gwalior Jail with 52 kings.
- On this day, the arrogant tyrant Bali was killed by lord Vishnu.
- So this is a traditional celebration, which all Indians celebrate with great pomp and show



Follow-ups

1. How do people in your country celebrate events?

People celebrate events in many ways. Some hold family get-togethers, others properties and some celebrate by burning crackers. Some people celebrate by just going out for a lunch or dinner, while some others celebrate by donating to charities.

2. What events do Indian people like to celebrate?

Indian people like to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, festivals like Deepawali and Dussehra. Some people celebrate if they do well in their exams, other people celebrate if they win any competition.

3. Why do you think celebration is important?

Celebration is very important. It is a time when people spend some time together and share the happiness of each other. Such events also bring about social harmony and peace.

4. Do you prefer big or small celebrations?

I personally prefer small celebrations, because in these we can interact with all the people present. Big celebrations are just a show-off and the hosts hardly even come to know who all were there.

5. Why do some people like expensive and grand celebrations? Some people like expensive and grand celebrations because they want to show their status, and they want such events to be an everlasting memory in their minds.

6. Do you think it is a waste of money to spend much on celebrations of national events? No, I do not think it is a waste of money to spend on celebrations of national events. Such events bring a feeling of patriotism in the minds of young people, who are otherwise drifting away from their culture and tradition. Such events also attach young people to their roots.

7. How can people prepare for an event?

People can prepare for any event by planning in advance. First they decide their budget and after that they make a list of people home to invite. Then they decide what all they would like to do on that day when all the guests have arrived. They arrange a proper lunch or dinner and also arrange some games and other things which they would like to do on that day.

8. Do you like to plan for an important meeting or activity?

Yes, I would definitely like to plan for an important meeting or activity. If any event is not planned then it can result in total chaos. If land well any event can leave an everlasting imprint on the minds of all those who attend it.

9. What factors should be considered when planning an event?

The first thing to be considered when planning an event is deciding on a budget. After that all the activities that need to be done on that they have to be looked into. Then it has to be decided whether the event should be held in a hotel or at home. The games to be played on that day all the activities to be done on that they have also to be blind well. All this can never be a one-man show. Teamwork is very important in planning such events.

