



IELTS SPEAKING LESSON 04-12-2019

Section One Speaking

Activity 1

1. Name a list of words which you associate with the word 'childhood'. For example: parents, toys, school...
2. What is your earliest memory? How old were you at the time?
3. Describe your happiest memories of childhood.
4. Were you naughty as a child? What's the naughtiest thing you did?
5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being an only child?
6. How was your childhood different from that of your parents and grandparents?
7. Do you think that childhood is shorter these days than it was in the past? Do children grow up too fast nowadays? Do you think they become mature at a younger age than in the past? If so, what do you think are the implications of this - what are the advantages and disadvantages?
8. In the book by J.M. Barrie, the character Peter Pan never grew up. Do you think there is a part in all of us which never grows up or doesn't want to grow up? What are the advantages and disadvantages of being 'young at heart'?

Activity 2

Match the following proverbs with the corresponding explanations below. Then discuss with your partner how much you agree with them.

1. Children should be seen and not heard.
 2. Spare the rod and spoil the child.
 3. The child is the father of the man.
- a) if children are not physically punished when they do wrong their personal development will suffer.
 - b) We can use the character of a child to predict what sort of personality they will have when they become adult.
 - c) When children are with their parents and other older relatives and family friends etc, they should be silent.

1) COLIN

When I was eleven, my dad inherited quite a large amount of money from a distant relative. It was typical of him that he decided to use the money to make a whole party of local kids to Disneyland in Florida for three days. Fortunately, I was able to go as well, which was **tremendous**. In those days, you had to buy tickets for each ride so we made a checklist of them all ticked them one by one until we'd been on everyone. They still had a donkey train and canoe ride back then. My friend Eric bought a funny hat with his name on the front and then kept wondering how, all over "Disneyland, random people knew his name and kept saying "Hi Eric" My family never let me forget how I ordered a bowl of potato chips on room service at all motel which cost them a **staggering** 20\$. They were good chips, though!



2) Marylin

Most teenagers' parents have normal jobs like working in an office, being a part of a company but not my mom she lives for her work and make **spur-of-the-moment** decisions.

When I was a teenager it almost felt as if I was the parent and she was the child I tried to talk her out of whatever her latest scheme involved.

She is an archaeologist, she travels around the world finding exciting things in old ruins and because she was always on the road so sometimes, I used to wonder if we'd ever settle down and live a normal life but we never did which is a shame really of course now I'm going to make sure that I don't do the same to my daughter.

3) Tanya

When I was a teenager, my parents used to send my brother and me off on a weeklong summer activity camp each year. Actually, we went to the same place five years running. I think it was because they wanted us to do something outdoors rather than have us sitting in front of a computer screen at home. And it was certainly challenging. We learned to do many things like climbing and caving. It wouldn't suit all kids, but for us it was great. We found out how to depend on ourselves. We met a lot of people from all around the world. I am still in touch with some of the by email even now. Looking back, I guess it costed my parents a lot of money, but as far as I'm concerned it was a good investment because it really **broadened my horizons**.

What is the meaning of the expressions in Bold?**Who mentioned the statement below?**

- 1) His/ her intention was to act differently from a parent
- 2) Enjoying the fact that something was difficult
- 3) An act of great generosity
- 4) Someone who found something puzzling
- 5) Learning to be more independent

Answer the following questions

- 1) How did Colin's parents spend the money that he inherited?
- 2) What does Marylin regret missing from her childhood?
- 3) Why did Tanya's parents send her and her brother for camping holiday?

Homework: write a short story or poem on the theme of memories for the next lesson.

Idioms**Discuss the following idioms:**

- Refresh someone's memory
- If (my) memory serves me correctly
- Trip down memory lane
- Bear in mind
- In one ear and out the other
- (have a) brain/memory like a sieve
- lose your train of thought