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| --- |
| **About My Family -**  My family is not very big, just a typical family: Dad, Mom, me, my brother and sister and our cat. My Mummy is forty-one, she is a teacher of Spanish at the University. She is a born teacher. She has teaching abilities. My Dad is forty-two, he is a professional painter, he works for a design company. My parents both like their work very much.  My elder sister Natasha is nineteen, she goes to the Uni­versity, she wants to be a teacher of history. She is fond of reading books on history and fiction. My younger brother Igor is only six years old, he goes to the kindergarten. He is very funny, I like to spend my free time teaching him something. Igor likes to play with our cat.  My grandparents are retired. They like gardening. They spend a lot of their time in the garden. They grow vegetables and fruits. We enjoy having fresh vegetables and green on our dinner table. I love my family very much. We always help each other. Everyone in my family is my best friend.    **Моя семья**  Моя семья не очень большая, это типичная семья: папа, мама, я, мои брат, сестра и кот. Моей маме сорок один год, она - учительница испанского языка в университете. Она прирожденная учительница. У нее дар преподавать. Моему отцу - сорок два, он профессиональный художник и работает в оформительском комбинате. Обоим моим ро­дителям очень нравится их работа.  Моей старшей сестре Наташе - девятнадцать, она ходит в университет и хочет стать учительницей по истории. Ей нравится читать историческую и художественную ли­тературу. Моему младшему братишке Игорю только шесть лет, он ходит в детский сад. Он очень смешной, мне нравится проводить свободное время, обучая его чему-нибудь. Игорю нравится играть с нашим котом.  Мои бабушка и дедушка - на пенсии. Им нравится возиться на приусадебном участке. Они проводят много времени в огороде. Они выращивают овощи и фрукты. Мы наслаждаемся тем, что на нашем столе всегда свежие овощи и зелень. Я очень люблю свою семью. Мы всегда помогаем друг другу. Каждый член моей семьи - мой лучший друг.    **Questions:**  1. How many are there in the family? 2. Do you have a brother or a sister? 3. Where do your parents work? 4. Do your parents understand you? 5. In what way do you help your parents? 6. How old are your grandparents? 7. How do you get along with your family? 8. Which of the parents do you want to be like?  **Vocabulary:**  typical- типичный Spanish - испанский ability - способность painter - художник fiction - художественная литература funny - смешной to spend - проводить to grow - выращивать to enjoy - наслаждаться green - зелень to be fond of smth. - нравиться кому-либо |

*You are planning to spend a month with your foreign friend's family. What do you think they would like to learn about you?*

The first thing 1 would tell my foreign friends about is, of course, my family as the family is a place where children are born and socialized, it brings us into being, shapes our values and personality, passes the skills and knowledge to us, provides social and moral guidance. I was lucky to be born in Moscow into a two-parent family. Why I think I was lucky is because I believe a child needs both a father and a mother to grow an optimistic, kind and successful person, and Moscow is probably the best place in Russia to live in. My father is the managing director of a company selling computers, he is strong-willed, energetic and well-educated, a loving father and the main breadwinner in the family. My mother is a teacher at Moscow University, she is well-educated and a perfect mother. My mother and father were the authority figures in my life, I admired them because they have achieved social status and success and realized that I wanted to lead a life like theirs. This probably accounts for the fact that I have always done more or less well at school. Not only did I try my best to maintain good grades in school subjects, but also made sure to learn how I could use this education to brighten my chances of success in my future endeavours.

The second thing I would tell my foreign friends about is the career I have chosen. After I finish secondary school, I am planning to go on to higher education. There are several reasons why I've decided to do it. The first reason is that I've always enjoyed studying; it gives me pleasure to learn something new, to get information in any field of knowledge, I believe education broadens the mind. Secondly, growing unemployment makes it more and more difficult for a young person to get a good job. In a world full of competition, secondary education is simply inadequate to remain competitive in industry. Even though experience is also important, I believe one should pursue a proper academic career before he can be prepared to pursue his professional career. My goal is to receive an MBA which would allow me a greater knowledge about business, which leads to better understanding and effectiveness in any career. The higher my qualifications are, the more chances of finding a decent job I will have. That is why I've decided to try to enter two universities this year: Moscow State University and the Russian Academy of Economics. The reason why I have decided to do this is that the competition is rather tough and I prefer trying twice to failing to enter any university this year. I've chosen the two institutions because they have a long-standing tradition in training economists for this country. Secondly, I believe they have better-qualified teachers and scientists as compared to most recently-founded universities.

The third thing I would tell my foreign friends about will be my hobbies and the way I spend my leisure time. Actually, I don't have much free time, but if I do have some, I prefer visiting museums and art exhibitions. For me, it's the best way of relaxing and entertainment. Firstly, it gives me pleasure to watch masterpieces and enjoy the perfect harmony of colour and line created by gifted artists and sculptors. Secondly, I believe it is really educating. I learn about art schools, trends and techniques and new names in the world of art. My hobby is collecting rare books. I have a small but valuable collection of books published at the beginning and in the middle of the 20th century. They date back to the period from pre-revolutionary years till the end of the 1930s. My grandmother's library forms the basis of my collection, and my most valuable possession is a collection of poems by Pushkin published at the end of the 19th century. The first reason why I collect books is that I am really keen on reading: books open to me a whole world of events and people. The second one is that collecting rare books is getting to know history better. Reading a book is getting information about the period it describes, feeling its atmosphere and getting to know historical figures of the period.

I am doing sports, too. I have been doing swimming since I was 7 when my father took me to a swimming pool and I joined the Dynamo sports club. It was my wish to take up this kind of sports, and my parents approved of my choice. The first reason is that we believe it is the best sport for building up stamina and a good figure, and a good way to get tempered. The second reason is that it's very good for your nerves — to go swimming is the best method of taking away the stress of our everyday life.

It also means participating in competitions, which develops sportsmanship and ability to overcome hardships.

**Translate the following sentences into English.**  
1. Семья — это место, где человек рождается и получает подготовку к жизни в обществе, она формирует наши ценности и личность, передает нам свои навыки и знания, обеспечивает поддержку в моральном и социальном отношении.  
2. Мой отец — управляющий директор компании по продаже компьютеров, он волевой, энергичный и хорошо образованный и является главным кормильцем в семье, а моя мама хорошо образована и отличная мать.  
3. Мои родители были для меня авторитетом в жизни, поскольку они достигли социального статуса и успеха.  
4. Я всегда относительно неплохо учился в школе, получал хорошие оценки и задумывался о том, как использовать свое образование для улучшения своих возможностей в будущем.  
5. Я планирую продолжить образование в вузе, поскольку среднего образования недостаточно, чтобы оставаться конкурентоспособным в мире конкуренции и безработицы.  
6. Я планирую получить должное образование и степень МБА.  
7. Чем выше моя квалификация, тем больше у меня будет шансов найти хорошую работу.  
8. Конкурс очень высокий, и я предпочитаю попробовать поступить в два вуза.  
9. У этих университетов давние традиции в подготовке экономистов для нашей страны.  
10. В них более квалифицированные преподаватели по сравнению с большинством недавно основанных университетов.  
11. У меня несколько любимых способов проводить свободное время: посещение музеев и художественных галерей, где я узнаю о новых художественных школах, направлениях и техниках, мое хобби — собирание редких книг и занятия плаванием, которое воспитывает выносливость, снимает стресс и развивает спортивный дух.

1. The family is a place where a person is born and socialized, it shapes our values and personality, passes the skills and knowledge to us, provides social and moral guidance.  
2. My father is the managing director of a company selling computers, he is strong-willed, energetic and well-educated, and the main breadwinner in the family; my mother is well-educated and a perfect mother.  
3. My parents were the authority figures in my life, as they achieved social status and success.  
4. I have always done more or less well at school, maintaining good grades and thinking how I could use my education to brighten my future chances.  
5. I am planning to go on to higher education, as secondary education is inadequate to remain competitive in a world full of competition and unemployment.  
6. I am planning to pursue a proper academic career and to receive an MBA.  
7. The higher my qualifications are, the more chances of finding a decent job I will have.  
8. The competition is rather tough, and I prefer trying to enter two universities.  
9. The universities have a long-standing tradition in training economists for the country.  
10. They have better-qualified teachers and scientists as compared to most recently-founded universities.  
11. I have several favourite ways of spending my free time: visiting museums and art exhibitions where I learn about art schools, trends and techniques, pursuing my hobby which is collecting rare books and doing swimming which builds up stamina, takes away the stress and develops sportsmanship.

**About Myself (1)**

First of all let me introduce myself. My name is Taras. I'm seventeen years old. I'm at 11-th grade. There are two more kids in the family besides - my elder brother Oleg and my younger sister Maria. Oleg is twenty-one, he attends a University, he will be a dentist. Maria is only twelve, she is a schoolgirl. I forgot to mention one more member of our family. It's our favourite poodle Tim.

My parents are not old at all. My Mum is forty, she works for newspaper. My Dad is forty-four, he is an engineer in computers. My parents love their jobs very much.

I'm doing quite well at school. My parents are proud of my marks. I go in for sports. I play basket-ball. In summer time I like yachting and windsurfing. I take part in different basket-ball competitions. In a year I shall finish my school and I have to decide what occupation to choose I have been studying English for seven years. I want to be a military interpreter. My grandparents are already retired. They like gardening and spend all their time growing tomatoes, potatoes, onions, strawberries, raspberries.

**О себе (1)**

Прежде всего, позвольте представиться. Меня зовут Тарас. Мне семнадцать лет. Я учусь в 11-м классе. Кроме меня в семье еще два ребенка - мой старший брат Олег и младшая сестренка Мария. Олегу двадцать один год, он ходит в университет, он будет дантистом. Марии только двенадцать, она школьница. Я забыл упомянуть еще одно­го члена нашей семьи. Это - наш любимый пудель Тим.

Мои родители еще совсем не старые. Моей маме сорок, она работает в газете. Моему папе -- сорок четыре, он работает инженером ЭВМ. Мои родители очень любят свои профессии.

В школе я учусь хорошо. Мои родители гордятся моими отметками. Я увлекаюсь спортом - играю в баскетбол. В летнее время мне нравится парусный спорт и винд­серфинг. Я участвую в различных соревнованиях по бас­кетболу. Через год я закончу школу, и мне нужно решить, какую профессию выбрать. Я изучаю английский язык семь лет. Я хочу быть военным переводчиком. Мои бабушка и дедушка уже на пенсии. Им нравится заниматься на приусадебном участке, и они проводят там все свое время, выращивая помидоры, картошку, лук, клубнику, малину.

**Questions:**

1. Do you go to school?  
2. What grade are you at?  
3. How old are your parents?  
4. Are you the only child in the family?  
5. Do you have a pet?  
6. Are your grandparents still alive?  
7. Do you go in for sports?  
8. Do you like reading?

**Vocabulary:**

to introduce - представлять  
let me introduce myself - разрешите представиться  
residential - жилой  
residential areas - жилые районы  
grade - класс в школе  
to attend university - ходить в университет  
kid - ребенок  
favourite - любимец, любимый

poodle - пудель  
to forget - забывать  
job - работа  
proud - гордый  
to be proud of smth - гордиться чем-то  
to go in for sports - увлекаться спортом  
occupation - занятие, род занятий, профессия  
military - военный  
interpreter - переводчик  
to retire - быть на пенсии

**About Myself (2)**

I was born on the 3rd of June 1991 in Moscow. Like many other children when I was a child I went to a kindergarten.

At the age of 7 I went to school. I was very proud when I became a pupil.

But very soon I realized that I had to work hard if I wanted my parents to be pleased with me.

I am an outgoing person. I like to go to discos, to parties with my friends. Certainly we talk a lot about life, our problems.

Sometimes I like to stay home alone, especially when I need some relaxation. Then I listen to music, watch television or read books.

I am a school leaver now. I have good marks. I am going to enter the university. The most important thing now is to pass the entrance exams well and to enter the university.

**О себе (2)**

Я родился 3 июня 1991 года в Москве. Как и другие дети, когда я был ребенком, я ходил в детский сад.

В 7 лет я пошел в школу. Я очень гордился тем, что стал школьником.

Но очень скоро я понял, что должен очень стараться, если хочу, чтобы мои родители были довольны мной.

Я — коммуникабельный человек. Я люблю ходить на дискотеки и вечеринки с моими друзьями. Конечно, мы много говорим о жизни, о наших проблемах.

Иногда мне нравится оставаться одному дома, особенно когда мне нужно расслабиться. Тогда я слушаю музыку, смотрю телевизор или читаю.

Теперь я выпускник. У меня хорошие оценки. Я собираюсь поступать в университет. Самое главное сейчас — хорошо сдать вступительные экзамены и поступить в университет.

**About Myself (3)**

I was born on the 3rd of July 1990 in Moscow. Like many other children I went to a kindergarten. At the age of 6 I went to school. My school was next to my house. Many pupils of our primary school were my neighbours. I was very proud when I became a pupil.

But very soon I realized that this was not a game, and I had to work hard if I wanted my parents to be pleased with me. Now, when the school years have passed so quickly I see clearly that sometimes I succeeded and sometimes I failed in my intention.

I am an outgoing person. I think I took after my father. As a matter of fact my parents are friendly and hospitable. They like to invite our friends and neighbours.

I like to go to discos, to parties with my friends. We like to dance, have coffee and soft drinks. I like when somebody plays the guitar or the piano. But I myself don't play any musical instrument. Certainly we talk a lot about life, our problems. But now I cant afford to spend much time for entertainment.

Sometimes I like to stay home alone, especially when I need some relaxation. Then I listen to music, watch television or read books. 1 am fond of reading. I prefer historical novels. Some detective stories are very interesting too. It is considered that detective stories can t be regarded as the real literature. I don't agree with this. Everything depends on the skill and gift of the writer.

I don't go in for sport regularly. But if I have a possibility, I go to the swimming pool. I also like to play different ball games such as volleyball, basketball.

I am a school leaver now. I have good marks. I am going to enter the university. Our teachers say I am good at Literature. It seems to me that in fact I have some attitude for it.

My parents think that after graduating from the university it will be difficult to find a job I'll be trained for. But as for me it's early to discuss this question. The most important thing now is to pass the entrance exams well and to enter the university.

**О себе (3)**

Я родился 3 июля 1990 года в Москве. Как и другие дети, я ходил в детский сад. В 6 лет я пошел в школу. Моя школа находилась рядом с моим домом. Многие ученики нашей начальной школы были моими соседями. Я очень гордился тем, что стал школьником.

Но очень скоро я понял, что это не игра, и я должен очень стараться, если хочу, чтобы мои родители были довольны мной. Теперь, когда школьные годы прошли так быстро, я понимаю, что иногда это у меня получалось, а иногда нет.

Я — общительный человек. Я думаю, что я похож в этом на моего отца. Мои родители дружные и гостеприимные. Они любят приглашать в гости наших друзей и соседей.

Я люблю ходить на дискотеки и вечеринки с друзьями. Нам нравится танцевать, пить кофе и безалкогольные напитки. Мне нравится, когда кто-нибудь играет на гитаре или фортепиано. Но лично я не играю ни на каком музыкальном инструменте. Обычно мы много говорим о жизни, о наших проблемах. Но сейчас я не могу тратить много времени на развлечения.

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Я не занимаюсь спортом регулярно. Но если у меня есть возможность, я иду в бассейн. Мне также нравится играть в разные игры с мячом, например, в волейбол, баскетбол.

Сейчас я выпускник. У меня хорошие оценки. Я собираюсь поступить в университет. Наши учителя говорят, что я делаю успехи в литературе. Мне кажется, что у меня действительно есть определенные способности к этому.

Мои родители думают, что после получения высшего образования в университете будет трудно найти работу по специальности. Но, как по мне, еще рано обсуждать этот вопрос. Самое главное сейчас — хорошо сдать вступительные экзамены и поступить в университет.

**About Myself (3)**

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**About Myself (5)**

It is both pleasant and a bit difficult to speak about myself. It is pleasant because every person enjoys speaking about his or her interests, likes or dislikes. But at the same time it is difficult because to study a person, especially yourself, it is a great journey, not a little walk.

Speaking about my character I'd like first of all to define what character is. These are some qualities that make a person different from others. People often say about me that I am not like others. I don't think that I am something special. When candles are out all cats are grey. But of course if you come closer and turn on the light you can see that some features are typical to me.

But to cut the long story short I think I am a good humoured, very responsible, hard working and emotional person. I like creativity and appreciate this trait in others. I don't like to he and I feel when others do. I try not to be late and I hate when others don't come on time. I prefer to associate with clever and polite people. It is very annoying when somebody whom I trust turns out to be unreliable.

But I try to treat other people so as I want them to treat me. I see the man whom I am looking for also as a person with a strong and sound body and mind. The person, who is interesting to talk to, whom I can trust and rely on.

As for my interests I am fond of psychology in the sphere of dealing with people and the questions of how to form your thoughts in the most favourable way. I adore travelling, seeing other people, their traditions, customs, to get acquainted with their culture, going sightseeing. Besides I like different kinds of music, I like music with rhythm you can dance to.

**О себе (5)**

О себе говорить приятно, но немного трудно. Приятно, потому что всем нравится говорить о своих интересах, вкусах и предпочтениях. Но это в то же время трудно, так как изучить человека, особенно себя самого, не так уж просто.

Прежде чем говорить о своем характере, хотелось бы сначала уточнить, что такое характер. Человек отличается от остальных своими качествами. Часто люди говорят, что я не такой как остальные. Но я не считаю, что я какой-то особенный. В темноте все кошки серые. Но если вы подойдете ближе и включите свет, вы увидите, что мне присущи определенные черты.

Но не будем вдаваться в подробности, и немного сократим рассказ. У меня хорошее чувство юмора, я ответственный, трудолюбивый и эмоциональный человек. Мне нравится творчество, и я ценю эту черту в других людях. Я не люблю ложь и чувствую, когда другие лгут. Я стараюсь никогда не опаздывать и терпеть не могу, когда другие не приходят вовремя. Я предпочитаю общаться с умными и вежливыми людьми. Досадно, когда тот, кому ты доверяешь, оказывается ненадежным человеком.

Я стараюсь обращаться с другими так, как я хотел бы, чтобы они обращались со мной. Я ищу человека со здоровым и сильным умом и телом. Человека, с которым интересно общаться, которому я могу доверять и на кого можно положиться.

Что касается моих интересов, мне нравится психология в плане общения с людьми, а также способа формирования мыслей наилучшим образом. Я очень люблю путешествовать, встречаться с новыми людьми, знакомиться с их традициями и обычаями, их культурой, смотреть достопримечательности. Мне также нравятся разные стили музыки, нравится ритмичная музыка, под которую можно танцевать.

**Questions:**

1. Why is it both pleasant and a bit difficult to speak about oneself?  
2. What can you tell about your character?  
3. What personal qualities do you appreciate?  
4. What are you fond of doing?  
5. What do you hate that other people do?  
6. What is it annoying to you about other people?  
7. How do you try to treat other people?  
8. What are your interests and hobbies?  
9. What do you adore doing?

**Vocabulary:**

at the same time — в то же время, одновременно   
to define — определять, давать определение   
When candles are out all cats are grey — в темноте все кошки серые   
feature — особенность, характерная черта   
to cut the long story short — короче говоря   
responsible — ответственный, дисциплинированный; надежный   
creativity — творчество   
to appreciate — (высоко) ценить   
to lie — лгать, обманывать   
to associate with — общаться с   
annoying — раздражающий; досадный; надоедливый   
to trust — верить, доверять(ся), полагаться (на кого-л.)  
to treat — обращаться, обходиться, вести себя по отношению к кому-л.; относиться   
to rely on — полагаться, надеяться; доверять, быть уверенным   
psychology — психология   
to deal with — иметь дело с кем-л.   
to adore — обожать

**About Myself (6)**

1). Let me introduce myself. 2). My full name is Oleg Olegovitch Orlov. 3). I have been named after my father and I am very happy about it. 4). I was born on May 3, 1991 in Volgograd. 5). I descend from the family of the office-workers. 6). I am the only child in the family. 7). My father is a doctor, he works at a hospital. 8). My mother is a housewife.

9). I am a pupil of the eleventh form of a secondary school. 10). I want to enter the University of Volgograd. 11). That is why I have to study twice as hard as an ordinary pupil. 12). I do not only do my best at school, I take a preparatory course at the University.

13). My favourite subject at school is Literature. 14). My teacher of Literature is an well-educated man with broad outlook and deep knowledge of the subject. 15). He teaches us to understand Russian classics, to appreciate the language and style. 16). He also encourages me in my desire to enter the Philological Department of the Volgograd University. 17). Whether I shall be a teacher or a researcher we shall know later on.

18). I am always very busy, but when I am free I am fond of reading books and I am fond of sports. 19). I've got the first category in volleyball and have many friends among sportsmen, but my best friend is Paul.

20). I like to travel. 21). My parents and I have visited many ancient Russian towns. 22). I am on friendly terms with my parents.

23). I am very happy.

**О себе (6)**

1). Разрешите представиться. 2). Меня зовут Олег Олегович Орлов. 3). Меня назвали в честь отца, и я этому очень рад. 4). Я родился 3 мая 1991 года в Волгограде. 5). Я - из семьи служащих. 6). Я единственный ребёнок в семье. 7). Мой папа - врач, он работает в больнице. 8). Моя мама - домохозяйка.

9). Я учусь в 10 классе общеобразовательной школы. 10). Я хочу поступить в Волгоградский университет через год. 11). Поэтому я должен заниматься вдвое больше, чем обычно. 12). Я не только хорошо учусь в школе, но и занимаюсь на подготовительных курсах в университете.

13). Мой любимый предмет - литература. 14). Мой учитель литературы - образованный человек с широким кругозором и глубокими знаниями предмета. 15). Он учит нас понимать и любить русскую классику, язык и стиль. 16). Он также поддерживает меня в моём стремлении поступить в Волгоградский университет на отделение филологии. 17). Буду ли я учителем или учёным, будет известно позже.

18). Я всегда занят, но когда я бываю свободен, я люблю читать книги, а также заниматься спортом. 19). У меня первый разряд по волейболу и у меня много друзей среди спортсменов, но мой лучший друг - Павел.

20). Я люблю путешествовать. 21). Вместе с родителями я посетил много древних русских городов. 22). У меня дружеские отношения с моими родителями.

23). Я счастлив.

Questions:  
1. Where and when were you born?  
2. What relations do you have in your family?  
3. How well do you do at school?  
4. What is your favourite subject?  
5. Who is your favourite writer?  
6. What sport do you go in for?  
7. What are you going to be?

Вопросы:  
1. Где и когда Вы родились?  
2. Каковы отношения в Вашей семье?  
3. Что Вам нравится делать в школе?  
4. Какой Ваш любимый предмет?  
5. Кто Ваш любимый писатель?  
6. Каким видом спорта Вы занимаетесь?  
7. Кем Вы хотите стать?

**Books in Our Life**

Nowadays it's almost impossible to imagine our life without books. Perhaps, there are more books on our planet than men alive.

Long before the invention of printing people valued books as treasure troves of the human knowledge and experience. Hand — written manuscripts took months of writing and were collected by and kept in monasteries with utmost care. We can distinguish books between three classes of them.

Firstly, books on different branches of knowledge, works by brilliant minds of mankind. Secondly, textbooks, reference books and numerous dictionaries. And at last, books of all kinds and genres to read at leisure.

Classics should be taken a little at a time. One's understanding of books by Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky, Mopassan and Balzak depends on one's age and experience.

Serious books are to be read conscientiously and maybe more than once. To a thinking reader they will provide new food for thought every time he rereads it. Many people indulge in reading science fiction, fantasy or detective stories. Of course, there are some advantages and disadvantages of this kind of literature, often reffered to as «easy reading».

As for me, good science fiction and fantasy develop imagination, logical thinking, broader one's outlook.

The same could be said in favour of detective stories. They reveal such minute details of everyday life in this or that particular country that are of greatest interest for a curious reader. The masterpieces of this genre by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie and others, show the depths of psychological analysis, the insight into the human nature.

As an old saying goes, man cannot live on bread alone. Books are the source of knowledge and the means of self — perfection. Sometimes it is difficult to solve some problems in life. I think that books can help us. Books must be our friends during all our life.

**Книги в нашей жизни**

Сегодня почти невозможно представить нашу жизнь без книг. Наверное, на нашей планете больше книг, чем людей.

До изобретения книгопечатания люди считали книги сокровищницей человеческого знания и опыта. Рукописи писались месяцами, собирались и хранились в монастырях с благоговением. Существует три типа книг.

Прежде всего это книги различных отраслей знаний, работы блестящих умов человечества. Затем это учебники, справочники и множество словарей. И в конце концов? книги всех видов и жанров для чтения на досуге.

Классику необходимо читать всякий раз не спеша. Понимание книг Толстого и Достоевского, Мопассана и Бальзака зависит от возраста и опыта.

Серьезные книги должны читаться вдумчиво и, может быть, не один раз. Думающему читателю они дадут пищу для размышлений каждый раз, когда он перечитывает их. Многие люди увлекаются чтением фантастики, в том числе научной, или детективов. Конечно, есть свои преимущества и недостатки у этого вида литературы, относящегося к «легкому чтиву».

На мой взгляд, хорошая фантастика развивает воображение, логическое мышление, расширяет кругозор.

То же самое может быть сказано в защиту детективов. Они описывают такие мелкие детали повседневной жизни той или иной страны, которые очень интересны любопытному читателю. Шедевры этого жанра сэра Артура Конан Дойла, Агаты Кристи и других показывают глубины психологического анализа, проникновения в человеческую натуру.

Как говорится в старой пословице, не хлебом единым жив человек. Книги — источник знания и средство самосовершенствования. Иногда очень трудно решить некоторые жизненные проблемы. Я думаю, что книги помогают нам в этом. Книги должны быть нашими друзьями на протяжении всей жизни.

**Questions:**

1. What kind of books do you prefer to read?  
2. Do you like to read English or Russian books?  
3. Is it possible to live without books for you?  
4. Books are our friends, aren't they?  
5. How many classes of books do we distinguish?  
  
**Vocabulary:**

treasure trove — сокровищница   
monastery — монастырь   
conscientiously — сознательно   
to indulge in — увлекаться   
science fiction — научная фантастика   
outlook — кругозор

**At School**

1). When children in our country are six or seven years old they begin to go to school. 2). They spend there 5 or 6 hours daily during ten or eleven years. 3). That's why we may very often hear a phrase, "School is our second home". 4). There are different kinds of schools - secondary schools, lyceums, gymnasiums, schools specializing in foreign languages, in mathematics, chemistry, biology, etc. 5). Still, different as they are, all schools have much in common. 6). The first thing is that all pupils go to school to get knowledge in different subjects and to develop good work habits. 7). Besides, many schools look alike. 8). As a rule it is a two- or three-storey building, rather large with a lot of classrooms and studies in it.

9). When you enter any school you can see a cloakroom where pupils leave their coats in cold seasons. 10). Here on the ground floor you can find a school canteen. 11). Pupils come here to have lunch during the long breaks. 12). There is also an assembly hall in every school. 13). All school celebrations and gatherings are held there. 14). In many schools there is a gym on the ground floor where schoolchildren have their lessons of physical training. 15). Every school has at least two workshops: one for boys and the other one - for girls. 16). Girls are taught cooking, sewing, and knitting there. 17). As for boys they get acquainted, with production work, with the latest achievements of engineering and modern equipment. 18). They are also taught to use some tools and machines.

19). Quite a number of classrooms in every school are given to junior pupils, where they develop their speaking, reading and writing habits.

20). All modern schools have mainly well equipped classrooms for studying Maths, Russian and literature, geography, history, music and arts. 21). Various schemes and tables, maps and pictures can be seen on the walls of the classrooms. 22). Modern equipment such as tape-recorders and record players, cinema and slide-projectors makes the process of teaching easier and more interesting. 23). A few words should be said about science rooms where physics, chemistry and biology are taught. 24). These rooms are not only equipped with all necessary devices but they also have science laboratories, where pupils carry out experiments and make careful observations of different phenomena. 25). The scientific knowledge the pupils get in these laboratories is, of course, valuable to them.

26). Every school has a good library at the pupils' disposal. 27). There they can not only get textbooks on different subjects, but also take various books for individual reading.

28). In every school where English is taught there are some specialized classrooms for studying it. 29). Junior pupils learn to read, write and speak English there, they learn a lot of songs and poems. 30). Senior pupils read texts, listen to spoken English from records, and learn a lot about English-speaking countries, customs, traditions and history of their peoples. 31). They get acquainted with English writers, read and discuss extracts from their books, take part in out-of-school activities.

**В школе**

1). Когда дети в нашей стране достигают возраста шести-семи лет, они начинают ходить в школу. 2). Они проводят там 5-6 часов ежедневно в течение 10 или 11 лет. 3). Поэтому можно очень часто услышать фразу: "Школа - наш второй дом". 4). Есть много разных школ - средние школы, лицеи, гимназии, школы, специализирующиеся на изучении иностранных языков, математики, химии, биологии и т. д. 5). И всё же, несмотря на различия, все школы имеют много общего. 6). Во-первых, все ученики ходят в школу, чтобы получить знания по разным предметам и развить хорошие трудовые навыки. 7). Кроме того, многие школы и выглядят похожими. 8). Как правило, это двух- или трёхэтажное здание, довольно большое, с множеством классных комнат и кабинетов.

9). Когда входишь в школу, видишь раздевалку, где учащиеся оставляют свои пальто в холодное время года. 10). Здесь же на первом этаже можно увидеть школьную столовую. 11). Учащиеся приходят сюда перекусить во время большой перемены. 12). В каждой школе есть также актовый зал. 13). Все школьные праздники и собрания проводятся здесь. 14). Во многих школах на первом этаже есть спортивный зал, где у школьников проходят уроки физкультуры. 15). В каждой школе имеется, по крайней мере, две мастерские: одна для мальчиков, а другая для девочек. 16). Девочек учат здесь готовить, шить, вязать. 17). А мальчики знакомятся с производительным трудом, с последними достижениями техники и современным оборудованием. 18). Их также учат использовать инструменты и станки,

19). Довольно много классных комнат в каждой школе отдано младшим школьникам, где они учатся говорить, читать и писать.

20). Все современные школы имеют, в основном, хорошо оборудованные классы для изучения математики, русского языка и литературы, географии, истории, музыки и искусств. 21). На стенах классных комнат можно увидеть различные схемы и таблицы, карты и картины. 22). Современное оборудование, как, например, магнитофоны и проигрыватели, кино- и диапроекторы, делает процесс обучения более лёгким и интересным. 23). Несколько слов следует сказать о кабинетах, где обучают физике, химии и биологии. 24). Эти классы не только оборудованы всеми необходимыми приборами, но при них есть также научные лаборатории, где учащиеся проводят эксперименты и проводят тщательные наблюдения за различными явлениями. 25). Научные знания, которые ученики получают в этих лабораториях, являются, конечно, очень ценными для них.

26). В каждой школе в распоряжении учащихся имеется хорошая библиотека. 27). Здесь они могут не только получить учебники по разным предметам, но и брать различные книги для индивидуального чтения.

28). В каждой школе, где изучается английский язык, есть специальные классы. 29). Школьники младших классов здесь учатся читать, писать и говорить по-английски, они также учат много песен и стихов. 30). Старшеклассники читают тексты, слушают разговорный английский с пластинок, изучают многое об англоязычных странах, о традициях, обычаях и истории их народов. 31). Они знакомятся с английскими писателями, читают и обсуждают отрывки из их книг, принимают участие во внеклассных мероприятиях.

**Hobbies (1)**

Hobby is a favourite occupation of a person in his free time. I have many friends. They are very different and they have different kinds of hobbies.

One of my girl-friends, for example, likes to knit very much. Another girl-friend of mine spends all her free time sewing things: skirts, blouses, dresses. She makes it nicely and she always looks fine.

One of my friends likes to make everything with his own hands. He can repair an iron, a radio-set, or a tape-recorder. I think it's a very good hobby.

Many people are very fond of collecting. Some collect old coins, others collect post-cards. As for me, my hobby is collecting stamps. Now I have 5 albums full of stamps.

I like to sit at the table in the evening and arrange new stamps in the albums or just look through the stamps. Each stamp has a story to tell about distant countries and new people.

I see pictures of people, birds and animals which I have never seen. Kings and presidents pass before my eyes and I can follow the history of whole nations.

My hobby is not only wonderful but is also very useful.

**Хобби (1)**

Хобби — любимое занятие человека в свободное время. У меня есть много друзей. Они совершенно разные, и у них разные хобби.

Одной из моих подруг, например, очень нравится вязать. Другая моя подруга проводит все свое свободное время за пошивом вещей: юбок, блузок, платьев. Она делает это хорошо, и поэтому всегда прекрасно выглядит.

Одному из моих друзей нравится делать все собственными руками. Он может починить утюг, радио или магнитофон. Я думаю, что это — очень хорошее хобби.

Много людей любят коллекционировать. Некоторые собирают старые монеты, другие — открытки. Что касается меня, мое хобби — собирать марки. Сейчас у меня 5 альбомов с марками.

Мне нравится сидеть вечером за столом и рассматривать их. У каждой марки есть своя история о далеких странах и новых людях.

Я вижу изображения людей, птиц и животных, которых я никогда не видел. Короли и президенты проходят перед моими глазами, и я могу проследить историю целых наций.

Мое хобби не только замечательное, но еще и полезное.

**Hobbies (2)**

Hobbies differ like tastes. If you have chosen a hobby according to your character and taste, you are lucky because your life becomes more interesting.

Gardening is one of the oldest man's hobbies. It is a well-known fact that the English are very fond of gardening and growing flowers, especially roses.

Both grown-ups and children are fond of playing different computer games. This is a relatively new hobby but it is becoming more and more popular.

Making things includes drawing, painting, making sculpture, designing costumes, handicrafts. Two of the most famous hobby painters were President Eisenhower and Sir Winston Churchill.

Some hobbyists write music or play musical instruments. President Bill Clinton, for example, plays the saxophone.

Almost everyone collects something at some period in his life: stamps, coins, matchboxes, books, records, postcards, toys, watches. Some collections have no real value. Others become so large and so valuable that they are housed in museums and galleries.

Many world-famous collections started in a small way with one or two items. People with a good deal of money often collect paintings, rare books, and other art objects. Such private collections are sometimes given to museums, libraries and public galleries so that others might take pleasure in seeing them.

No matter what kind of hobby a person has, he always has the opportunity of learning much from it. Learning new things can be the most exciting hobby.

**Хобби (2)**

Хобби бывают разные. Если вы выбрали хобби согласно своему характеру и вкусу, вам повезло, потому что ваша жизнь станет более интересной.

Работа в саду — одно из самых старых хобби человека. Хорошо известен факт, что англичане очень любят работу в саду и выращивание цветов, особенно роз.

Как взрослые, так и дети любят играть в различные компьютерные игры. Это относительно новое хобби, но это становится все более и более популярным.

Рисование, живопись, создание скульптур, моделирование одежды, рукоделие — это тоже хобби. Двумя самыми известными людьми, чьим хобби была живопись, были президент Эйзенхауэр и сэр Уинстон Черчилль.

Некоторые люди, увлеченные своим хобби, сочиняют музыку или играют на музыкальных инструментах. Президент Билл Клинтон, например, играет на саксофоне.

Почти все коллекционируют что-то в определенный период своей жизни: марки, монеты, спичечные коробки, книги, пластинки, открытки, игрушки, часы. Некоторые коллекции не имеют никакой реальной ценности. Другие становятся настолько большими и настолько ценными, что их размещаются в музеях и галереях.

Многие всемирно известные коллекции начинались с одного или двух предметов. Люди, имеющие много денег, часто собирают картины, редкие книги и другие предметы искусства. Такие частные коллекции иногда отдают в музеи, библиотеки, галереи, чтобы и другие люди могли получить удовольствие от их просмотра.

Чем бы человек не увлекался, у него всегда есть возможность узнать больше. Изучение новых вещей может быть самым захватывающим хобби.

**My Day off (1)**

When a school-girl I always envied those students who went to school five but not six days a week, as we did. So you may guess, I had the only day off — Sunday. On Sunday, I didn't have to hurry anywhere, that's why, I got up at nine or ten o'clock. I wasn't an early riser.

I did my bed, washed myself and went to the kitchen. In the kitchen the table had already been laid and I always had something tasty on Sunday: fried potatoes, meat salad or my favourite apple pies. After breakfast, if the weather was sunny, I usually didn't stay indoors, I went to see my friends.

We often played volleyball or basket-ball in the yard and in winter if there was much snow out-of-doors we went skating and skiing in the woods. But sometimes the day happened to be rainy and gloomy.

I preferred to be in watching TV, listening to music, reading books, speaking over the phone or just lying on the sofa idling away the time. Some of my classmates could watch all TV-programmes from morning till night, but I think it's rather boring, and I always felt sorry for those TV-addicts.

It's much more interesting to play a game of chess with your grandfather, or help your mother about the house, or argue with your father about the latest events at home and abroad. In the evening, when all the family were together, we had some tea with a cake or biscuits, we listened to my younger sister playing the piano, sometimes we sang folk songs.

Every Sunday, when I went to bed, I was thinking that the day had flashed past and the next week would bring new problems and their solution. 

**Мой выходной день (1)**

Когда я училась в школе, я всегда завидовала студентам, которые учились пять, а не шесть дней в неделю, как мы. Как вы можете догадаться, у меня был один выходной — воскресенье. В воскресенье мне не надо было никуда спешить, поэтому я вставала в девять или десять часов.

Я заправляла постель, умывалась и шла на кухню. Стол на кухне был уже накрыт, и 'я всегда ела что-нибудь вкусненькое по воскресеньям: жареный картофель, мясной салат или мои любимые пироги с яблоками. После завтрака, если погода была солнечной, я не сидела дома, а шла повидать своих друзей.

Мы часто играли в волейбол или баскетбол во дворе, а зимой, когда на улице было много снега, мы ходили в лес кататься на коньках и на лыжах. Иногда случалось, что дни были дождливыми и мрачными.

Я предпочитала сидеть дома: смотреть телевизор, слушать музыку, читать книги, разговаривать по телефону или просто лежать на диване и тратить попусту время. Некоторые мои одноклассники могли смотреть все телепередачи с утра до вечера. Но думаю, что это очень утомительно, и мне всегда было жаль телеманов.

Намного интереснее сыграть в шахматы с дедушкой или помочь маме по дому, или поспорить с папой по поводу последних событий в стране и за границей. Вечером, когда вся семья была в сборе, мы пили чай с тортом или печеньем, слушали, как моя младшая сестра играет на пианино. Иногда мы пели народные песни.

Каждое воскресенье, когда я ложилась спать, я думала 0 том, что день промчался, а следующая неделя принесет новые проблемы и их решение. 

**Questions:**

1. What day was your day off?   
2. When did you get up on Sunday?   
3. Were you an early riser?   
4. What did you have for breakfast on Sunday?   
5. What did you do if the weather was sunny?   
6. Did you like to stay indoors when the day was rainy and gloomy?   
7. Do you think to watch TV from morning till night is rather boring?   
8. What did you do in the evening?

**Vocabulary:**

to envy — завидовать   
to guess — догадываться   
I didn't have to hurry — мне не нужно было торопиться   
an early riser — человек, поднимающийся рано   
to wash oneself — умываться   
to lay the table — накрывать на стол   
tasty — вкусный   
favourite — любимый   
pie — пирог   
to go skating and skiing — кататься на коньках и лыжах   
to happen — случаться   
gloomy — мрачный   
to speak over the phone — разговаривать по телефону   
boring — утомительный, скучный   
to feel sorry for smb. — жалеть кого-нибудь   
to feel — чувствовать   
TV-addicts — "телеманы"; люди, проводящие много времени перед телевизором   
to play a game of chess — сыграть партию в шахматы   
to argue — спорить   
we listened to my younger sister playing the piano (Complex Object) — мы слушали, как моя младшая сестра играет на пианино

**My Day off (2)**

I go to school five days a week, so I have two days off — Saturday and Sunday (I'm lucky, because some other pupils have the only one day off). During the week I am very busy, so I like to have a rest on weekend.

I am not an early riser and it is a rare Saturday or Sunday when I get up before 9 o'clock. I enjoy staying in bed, when 1 don't have to hurry anywhere. We have late breakfast at 10 and watch TV.

Usually we have something tasty: meat salad, fried potatoes, chicken, cake or pie. If the weather is fine, I usually do not stay indoors, I and my dog go outside. Often we go to the park and play there. If the weather is rainy and gloomy, I stay at home and watch TV, listen to the music, read, the books.

After dinner we go visit our grandparents or relatives, or just simply take a nap. Sometimes when my friends call me we go roller — blading near the Opera theatre

I like roller — blading very much, I think it is a lot of fun. In the evenings I like to watch video and music programs. There is a big armchair in my room right beside the lamp with blue shade. If it is cold I like to sit there with cup of coffee and read.

Sometimes I do something special on weekends: go to an art exhibition, to the theatre, to the concert. I always go to bed late on Sundays, and Monday morning is the nastiest thing through all the week.

I like weekends very much, because I can rest and gain some energy for the next week. 

**Мой выходной день (2)**

Я хожу в школу пять раз в неделю, так что у меня есть два выходных дня — суббота и воскресенье. Мне повезло, так как у других учеников всего лишь один выходной. В течение недели я очень занята, поэтому на выходных мне нравится отдыхать.

Я не отношусь к людям, которые рано встают, поэтому случается очень редко, что в субботу или воскресенье я встаю раньше девяти. Мне нравится нежиться в кровати, если не нужно никуда спешить. Мы завтракаем поздно, в 10 часов, смотрим телевизор.

Обычно на выходные мы едим что-нибудь вкусненькое: мясной салат, жареный картофель, курицу, торт или пирог. Если погода хорошая, я не остаюсь дома, я и моя собака идем на улицу. Мы часто ходим в парк и играем там. Если погода дождливая и мрачная, я остаюсь дома, смотрю телевизор, слушаю музыку, читаю книги.

После обеда мы идем проведать наших бабушку и дедушку или родственников, или просто дремлем. Иногда, когда мои друзья звонят мне, мы идем кататься на роликах к оперному театру.

Мне очень нравится кататься на роликах, я думаю, что это очень весело. По вечерам я люблю смотреть видеофильму и музыкальные передачи. В моей комнате стоит большое кресло прямо рядом с лампой с голубым абажуром. Если на улице холодно, я люблю сидеть в этом кресле с чашечкой кофе и читать.

Иногда я делаю что-нибудь особенное по выходным, посещаю художественные выставки, хожу в театр или на концерт. В воскресенье я всегда ложусь спать поздно, и утре в понедельник — самое противное утро всей недели.

Я очень люблю выходные, потому что я могу отдохнуть и набраться энергии на следующую неделю. 

**Questions:**

1. How many day offs do you have?   
2. When do you get up on Sunday?   
3. What do you usually do during weekends?   
4. What do you do if the weather in sunny?   
5. Do you spend a lot of time with your friends?   
6. Do you watch TV a lot?   
7. What time do you go to bed?   
8. Do you like weekends?

**Vocabulary:**

lucky — удачливый   
early riser — человек, встающий рано   
to enjoy — наслаждаться   
to hurry — торопиться   
tasty — вкусный   
pie — пирог   
gloomy — мрачный   
relative — родственник   
take a nap — вздремнуть   
exhibition — выставка   
nasty — противный   
to gain — приобретать

**My Day off (3)**

When we have time for leisure, we usually need something that can interest and amuse us. There are several ways to do this. In big cities it's often difficult to decide where to go in the evening.

If we want to go out there are a lot of theatres, cinemas and clubs in our country where we can spend our free time. (But in small towns and villages they have no actors of their own. So they invite a group of actors from a big town to show plays.)

People who are fond of music join a musical section where they are taught to play different instruments. Those who like to dance join a dancing section.

People who are interested in sports can join sport sections such as tennis, basket-boll, chess and others. And, of course, all the people use radio or television. They switch on the radio set or TV set and choose the programme they like best of all. People who are interested in sports listen to or watch football and basket-ball matches. Everyone likes to see skating and dancing on the ice.

Some people like music. They listen to concerts of modern and old music, new and old songs and see dances. Television helps us to "visit" different lands, see fish and insects, lakes, rivers and seas. We are shown different countries, cities and people who live there. On TV people could even see both sides of the Moon.

Radio and television extend our knowledge about the world. All that we can do at home. So I think, that ways in which leisure time can be spent are different and interesting! 

**Мой выходной день (3)**

Когда есть свободное время, нам нужно что-то, что могло бы заинтересовать или развлечь. Существует несколько способов для этого. В больших городах, часто трудно решить, куда пойти вечером.

Если мы захотим куда-то пойти, есть множество театров, кинотеатров и клубов. (В маленьких городах и деревнях нет своих актеров. Поэтому приглашается' группа актеров из большого города для показа спектакля.)

Люди, которые увлекаются музыкой, посещают музыкальные кружки, где обучаются игре на различных музыкальных инструментах. Те, кто любит танцевать, ходят в кружки танцев.

Люди, которые увлекаются спортом, могут посещать такие спортивные секции как теннис, баскетбол, шахматы и другие. И, конечно, все пользуются радио и телевидением. Они включают радиоприемник или телевизор и выбирают программу, которую любят больше всего. Люди, которые увлекаются спортом, слушают или смотрят футбольные и баскетбольные матчи. Все любят смотреть фигурное катание и танцы на льду.

Некоторые любят музыку. Они слушают концерты современной музыки и музыки прошлых лет, новые и старые песни и смотрят танцы. С помощью телевидения мы бываем на разных островах, видим рыб и насекомых, озера, реки и моря. Нам показывают различные страны, города и людей, которые живут там. По телевизору люди могут увидеть даже две стороны Луны.

Радио и телевидение расширяют наши знания о мире. Все это мы видим, не выходя из дома. Поэтому я думаю, что способы проведения досуга могут быть различными и интересными. 

**Questions:**

1. How do you spend your leisure?   
2. Do you have a lot of time for leisure?   
3. Do you like to spend your leisure outdoors or at home?   
4. Is it difficult to decide where to go out in evening in big cities?   
5. What other ways in which leisure time can be spent do you know?

**Vocabulary:**

leisure — досуг   
to switch on — включать   
insect — насекомое   
to extend — расширять

**My Family (1)**

I am Nikita Kuznetsov. I am fifteen years old. I want to tell you a few words about my family. My family is large. I have got a mother, a father, a sister, a brother, and a grandmother. There are six of us in the family.

I think I take after my father, f m tall, fair-haired, and even-tempered.

We have got a lot of relatives. We are attached to one another and we get on very well.

First of all, some words about my parents. My mother is a teacher of History. She works in a college. She likes her profession. She is a good-looking woman with brown hair. She is forty-five but she looks much younger. She is tall and slim.

My father is a computer programmer. He is a broad-shouldered, tall man with fair hair and grey eyes. He is forty-seven. My father likes to sing and when we are at home and have some free time, I play the guitar and we sing together. My father knows all about new TV sets and likes to repair old ones. He is also handy with many things.

My parents are hard-working people. My mother keeps the house and takes care of all of us. She is very good at cooking and she is clever with her hands. She is very practical. My father and I try to help her with the housework. I wash the dishes, go shopping and tidy up our flat.

My grandmother is retired. She lives with us and helps to run the house. She is fond of knitting.

My sister Helen is twenty-four. She is married and has a family of her own. She works as an accountant for a joint stock company. Her husband is a scientist. They have got twins: a daughter and a son. They go to a nursery school.

My brother Sergey is eleven. He is a schoolboy. He wants to become a doctor but he is not sure yet.

I want to become a student. I'd like to learn foreign languages. I have many friends. They are very good and we like to spend our time together. We do everything what is interesting for a teenager — talk, dance, listen to music.

I'm happy to have nice friends and a good family. I hope that my dreams will come true.

**Моя семья (1)**

Я Никита Кузнецов. Мне пятнадцать лет. Я хочу сказать вам несколько слов о моей семье. Моя семья — большая. У меня есть мать, отец, сестра, брат и бабушка. Нас шестеро в семье.

Я думаю, что я похож на своего отца. Я высокий, светловолосый и уравновешенный.

У нас есть много родственников. Мы привязаны к друг другу и очень хорошо ладим между собой.

Прежде всего, несколько слов о моих родителях. Моя мама учительница истории. Она работает в колледже. Ей нравится ее профессия. Она красивая женщина с каштановыми волосами. Ей сорок пять, но она выглядит намного моложе. Она высокая и стройная.

Мой папа — компьютерный программист. Он широкоплечий, высокий человек со светлыми волосами и серыми глазами. Ему сорок семь. Мой папа любит петь и, когда мы дома и у нас есть немного свободного времени, я играю на гитаре, и мы поем все вместе. Мой отец знает все о новых телевизорах и любит чинить старые.

Мои родители — трудолюбивые. Моя мама ведет домашнее хозяйство и заботится обо всех нас. Она очень хорошо готовит, любит заниматься рукоделием. Она очень практична. Мой отец и я пытаемся помочь ей с работой по дому. Я мою посуду, хожу по магазинам и убираю квартиру.

Моя бабушка на пенсии. Она живет с нами и помогает вести хозяйство. Она любит вязать.

Моей сестре Елене двадцать четыре. Она замужем, и у нее собственная семья. Она работает бухгалтером в акционерной компании. Ее муж — ученый. У них есть близнецы: дочь и сын. Они ходят в детский сад.

Моему брату Сергею одиннадцать. Он школьник. Он хочет стать доктором, но еще не уверен в этом.

Я хочу стать студентом. Я хотел бы изучать иностранные языки. У меня есть много друзей. Они очень хорошие, и нам нравится проводить время вместе. Мы делаем все, что интересно для подростка — разговариваем, танцуем, слушаем музыку.

Я счастлив иметь хороших друзей и хорошую семью. Я надеюсь, что мои мечты осуществятся.

**My Family (2)**

We are a family of four: my father, my mother, my younger brother and I.

My name is Olga. I am seventeen. I am a school leaver. My younger brother is ten. He is a pupil of the fifth form.

Our family lives in Moscow. We have a nice three-roomed flat. We have all modern conveniences: running hot and cold water, telephone, central heating, rubbish chute. My mother is satisfied with our flat.

My mother is about 40. We all love dearly our Mum and are always ready to help her about the house.

My younger brother helps mother to set the table and wash the dishes. Dad likes to make or repair something.

My father is an experienced engineer. He is always busy and very often he works overtime.

My mother is an economist.

My grandparents don't work now. They are on pension. My Granny is fond of gardening and my Grandpa likes to go fishing.

Our family is friendly. 1 like them very much.

**Моя семья (2)**

В нашей семье четыре человека: папа, мама, мой младший брат и я.

Меня зовут Ольга. Мне семнадцать лет. Я — выпускница. Моему младшему брату десять. Он — ученик пятого класса.

Наша семья живет в Москве, У нас хорошая трехкомнатная квартира. У нас есть все современные удобства: горячая и холодная вода, телефон, центральное отопление, мусоропровод. Мы довольны нашей квартирой.

Моей маме 40 лет. Мы все очень любим нашу маму и всегда готовы помочь ей по дому.

Мой младший брат помогает маме накрывать на стол и мыть посуду. Папа любит мастерить или ремонтировать что-либо.

Мой отец — опытный инженер. Он всегда занят, и очень часто он работает сверхурочно.

Моя мама — экономист.

Мои дедушка и бабушка сейчас не работают. Они на пенсии. Моя бабушка увлекается садоводством, а моему дедушке нравится рыбачить.

Наша семья дружная. Я очень всех их люблю.

**My Family (3)**

Our family is not large. We are a family of four: my father, my mother, my younger brother and I.

My name is Olga. I am seventeen. I am a school leaver. My younger brother is ten. He is a pupil of the fifth form. He looks like our father. He has brown eyes, short straight hair. He is tall and thin. As for me everybody says I look like my mother. I have the same blue eyes, a snub nose, fair curly hair. I am not tall and 1 am not thin. I am an ordinary girl of 17.

Our family lives in Moscow. We have a nice three-roomed flat on the fourth floor of a multistoried building. We have all modern conveniences: running hot and cold water, telephone, central heating, rubbish chute. We have no gas range. All the flats in our house are provided with electric cookers. We are satisfied with our flat where we moved only a year ago.

My mother is about 40. She looks pretty well We all love dearly our Mum, and are always ready to help her about the house. We try to share our duties. Returning home after classes I usually do the shopping. 1 drop in at the bakery and at the dairy.

My younger brother also has his duties about the house. He helps mother to set the table and wash the dishes. He usually sweeps the floor and dusts the furniture. On Saturdays Dad joins us in our work about the house. He likes to make or repair something. He also likes to clean the flat with a vacuum-cleaner. I suppose it's his little hobby But speaking seriously his real hobby is taking photos. He can do it perfectly well. We have several family albums with the pictures taken by him.

My father is an engineer in computers. He is considered to be an experienced engineer. We are very proud of him but there is one unpleasant thing with this: he is always busy and very often he works overtime.

My mother is an economist. The firm she works in deals with trading. They have business in different towns of Russia. She is to go on business trips from time to time.

We have a little summer house and a lovely garden near it not far from Moscow. The nature is very beautiful there. There is a lake there. My grandparents like to live there in summer.

They don't work now. They are on pension. They live in an industrial district of the city where the air is rather polluted. That's why they are always looking forward to going to our summer house. My Granny is fond of gardening and my Grandpa likes to go fishing.

Our family is friendly. 1 like them all.

**Моя семья (3)**

Наша семья небольшая. В нашей семье четыре человека: папа, мама, мой младший брат и я.

Меня зовут Ольга. Мне семнадцать лет. Я — выпускница. Моему младшему брату десять лет. Он ученик пятого класса. Он похож на папу. У него карие глаза, короткие прямые волосы. Он высокий и худой. Что касается меня, все говорят, что я похожа на свою маму. У меня такие же голубые глаза, курносый нос, светлые кудрявые волосы. Я не высокая и не худая. Я обычная девушка 17-ти лет.

Наша семья живет в Москве. У нас хорошая трехкомнатная квартира на четвертом этаже многоэтажки. У нас есть все современные удобства: горячая и холодная вода, телефон, центральное отопление, мусоропровод. У нас нет газовой плиты. Все квартиры в нашем доме оборудованы электрическими плитами. Нам нравится наша квартира, в которую мы переехали только год назад.

Моей маме 40 лет. Она не выглядит на свой возраст. Мы все очень любим нашу маму и всегда готовы помочь ей по дому. Мы стараемся разделять наши обязанности. Возвращаясь домой после школы, я обычно делаю покупки. Я хожу в булочную и в молочный магазин.

У моего младшего брата также есть свои домашние обязанности. Он помогает маме накрывать на стол и мыть посуду. Он обычно моет пол, вытирает пыль с мебели. По субботам папа присоединяется к нашим домашним хлопотам. Он любит мастерить или ремонтировать что-либо. Ему также нравится пылесосить. Я даже думаю, что это его хобби. А если серьезно, его настоящее хобби — фотография. Он делает это очень хорошо. У нас есть несколько семейных альбомов с фотографиями, которые сделал он.

Мой отец — компьютерный инженер. Его считают опытным инженером. Мы очень гордимся им, но есть одна негативная сторона: он всегда занят и очень часто работает сверхурочно.

Моя мама — экономист. Фирма, где она работает, занимается торговлей. У них бизнес в разных городах России. Время от времени маме приходится ездить в деловые поездки.

У нас есть маленькая дача с садом недалеко от Москвы. Природа там очень красивая. Там есть озеро. Моим дедушке и бабушке нравится жить там летом.

Они сейчас не работают, они на пенсии. Они живут в заводском районе города, где воздух довольно загрязнен. Именно поэтому они всегда с нетерпением ждут поездки на дачу. Моя бабушка увлекается садоводством, а моему дедушке нравится ловить рыбу.

Наша семья дружная. Я их всех люблю.

*What is your favourite holiday? Why?*

My favourite holiday, or, better to say, holidays are, definitely, the New Year and Christmas. I n Russia the New Year is celebrated twice — on January 1, according to the Gregorian calendar, and on January 14, according to the Julian calendar which was used in Russia before 1918. Christmas is a traditional holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus with both religious and secular aspects. It is commonly observed on December, 25 by Catholics, and on January, 7 by the Russian Orthodox Church. New Year and Christmas are the first, and the most joyful, holidays of the year, when people see the Old Year off and the New Year in. I enjoy the holidays for several reasons. Firstly, they have a special atmosphere of joy and excitement everyone looks forward to for several months. They are holidays of renewal and magic, exchanging presents and wishes. Most people, irrespective of their age, stay up all night on December, 31, setting off fireworks and making merry. Father Christmas and Snow Maiden are the popular characters of TV programmes and school festivals though no one except very young children believes in their existence. The second reason I prefer this holiday to all the rest is that it is the centre of the New Year and Christmas season which is, in fact, a sequence of holidays. It starts on the 25th of December and finishes on January 14, and everyone has a chance of relaxing after a long period of hard and stressful work.

There are many New Year and Christmas traditions which make these holidays so special. For Christmas people decorate their houses with mistletoe and the Christmas tree, go to church, send Christmas cards — and, of course, give and receive gifts.

My favourite Christmas tradition has been receiving and giving presents since my childhood when gifts were put into stockings for me and I believed it was Father Christmas who brought them, unheard and unseen while I was sleeping. I believe Christmas presents should be special and have a touch of magic, enabling your dearest wishes to come true. Firstly, giving gifts to all the members of the family adds to love and affection in it and helps to forget minor quarrels and misunderstandings. It makes you believe you are a family no matter what happens. Secondly, it creates the atmosphere of joy and magic. This simple and long-standing tradition helps you to believe in miracles and renewal, and regain optimism if you are in trouble.

I believe Christmas is not as popular in Russia as in most Christian countries. There are two main reasons why it is not. The first one is that after the Revolution of 1917 Christmas celebrations were banned in the Soviet Union for the next seventy-five years, and a century-old tradition was destroyed. It is being restored now, but it will take some time to do it. The second one is that in Russia there is a long-standing tradition of celebrating the New Year whose traditions are very similar to those of Christmas. The only difference is that Christmas is a Christian holiday marking the birth of Jesus Christ, and Christianity is not as wide-spread in Russia now as it used to be before the Revolution.

**Translate the following sentences into English.**  
1. В России Новый год празднуют дважды: 1 января по григорианскому календарю, и 14 января по юлианскому календарю.  
2. Рождество отмечает рождение Иисуса Христа и имеет религиозный и светский аспекты.  
3. Новый год — это праздник, в который люди провожают старый год и встречают Новый год и не ложатся спать всю ночь 31 декабря.  
4. Новый год отличает особая атмосфера радости и волнения, обновления и чудес.  
5. Рождество не так популярно в России как в других христианских странах по двум причинам: во-первых, оно было запрещено в России после революции 1917 года, во-вторых, подобные традиции характерны для Нового года, который популярен в стране.

1. In Russia the New Year is celebrated twice — on January, 1, according to the Gregorian calendar, and on January, 14, according to the Julian calendar.  
2. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus and has both religious and secular aspects.  
3. New Year is the holiday when people see the Old Year off and the New Year in and stay up all night on December, 31.  
4. New Year has a special atmosphere of joy and excitement, renewal and magic.  
5. Christmas is not as popular in Russia as in other Christian countries due to two reasons: firstly, it was banned in Russia after the Revolution of 1917, and secondly, New Year which has similar traditions is popular in the country.

**My Favourite Book (1)**

My favourite book is "Robinson Crusoe" by Daniel Defoe. D. Defoe (1660—1731) was a great master of realistic detail. The novel "Robinson Crusoe" was written in 1719. The novel is praise to human labour and the triumph of man over nature.

Defoe shows the development of his hero. At the beginning of the story we see an inexperienced youth, a rather frivolous boy, who then becomes a strong-willed man.

Robinson Crusoe's most characteristic trait is his optimism. His guiding principle in life become "never say die" and "in trouble to be troubled is to have your troubles doubled".

He had confidence in himself and in man. He believed it was within the power of man to overcome all difficulties. Crusoe was an enthusiastic worker and always hoped for the best.

Defoe is a writer of the Enlightenment. He teaches people how to live, he tries to teach what's good and what's bad. His novel "Robinson Crusoe" is not only a work of fiction, an account of adventures, a biography and an educational pamphlet.

It is a study of man, a great work showing man in relation to nature and civilization as well as in relation to labour and private property. 

**Моя любимая книга (1)**

Моя любимая книга — "Робинзон Крузо", написанная Даниэлем Дефо. Д. Дефо (1660 — 1731) был великим мастером реализма. Роман "Робинзон Крузо" был написан в 1719 году. Роман — хвала человеку труда и торжеству человека над природой.

Дефо показывает развитие своего героя. В начале повествования мы видим неопытного юношу, довольно легкомысленного парня, который затем становится мужчиной с сильным характером.

Наиболее характерной чертой характера Робинзона Крузо является его оптимизм. Ведущий принцип его жизни — "никогда не думать о гибели" и "беспокоиться в беде — означает, что твоя беда удваивается".

Он уверен в себе и в человеке. Он верит, что во власти человека преодолеть трудности. Крузо был энтузиастом-трудягой и всегда надеялся на лучшее.

Дефо — писатель эпохи Просвещения. Он учит людей как жить, он старается научить тому, что такое хорошо и что такое плохо. Его роман "Робинзон Крузо" — это не только художественное произведение, описание приключений, биография и поучительная книга.

Это — исследование человека, величайший труд, показывающий как его взаимоотношения с природой и обществом, так и его отношение к труду и частной собственности.   
  
**Vocabulary:**

praise — п. хвала, v. хвалить   
triumph — торжество, победа   
unexperienced — неопытный   
frivolous — пустой, легкомысленный   
trait —: черта (характера)   
trouble — п. беда, беспокойство, v. беспокоиться   
to double — удваивать

**My Favourite Book (3)**

My favourite book is "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

I first discovered these stories when I was about twelve and I've loved them ever since. They're brilliantly written, full of bizarre crimes and they've got a terrific Victorian atmosphere.

When you read them you really feel like you've been carried back to nineteenth-century London.

All the twentieth century detectives like Miss Marple and Inspector Morse seem really boring compared to Sherlock Holmes.

That's where Conan Doyle, really makes you believe that Holmes is unique — a genius with amazing mental powers.

Normally I only read detective stories once. I mean, why read them again when you know what happens in the end?

With the Sherlock Holmes stories, though, its different.

Each time I re-read them I discover more and more to enjoy.

**Моя любимая книга (3)**

Моя любимая книга — «Приключения Шерлока Холмса» сэра Артура Конан Дойла.

Я впервые открыл для себя эти истории, когда мне было примерно двенадцать, и с тех пор я полюбил их. Они блестяще написаны, полны приключений, пропитаны потрясающей атмосферой Викторианской эпохи.

Когда вы читаете их, вы действительно чувствуете, будто переноситесь в Лондон девятнадцатого столетия.

Все детективы двадцатого столетия, такие как мисс Марпл и инспектор Морзе, кажутся действительно скучными по сравнению с Шерлоком Холмсом.

Вот где Конан Дойл действительно заставляет вас верить, что Холмс уникален, что он гений с удивительными умственными способностями.

Обычно я читаю детективные романы один раз. Я имею в виду, зачем читать их снова, когда вы знаете все, что случается в конце?

С историями Шерлока Холмса, тем не менее, все по-другому.

Каждый раз, когда я перечитываю их, я обнаруживаю, что это доставляет мне все больше удовольствия.

**My Favourite Sport**

We all need exercise. This is true for young people (in their teens) as well as for adults. Even if you don't plan make sports your main occupation. This is my opinion and I feel like it is true.

As long as I can remember myself I was always keen on tennis. I love this sport with its old noble traditions, though myself never dreamed of becoming anything more than an amateur.

I watch closely all tennis competitions and championships. There are a lot of them, but my favourite championship is Wimbledon because old tennis traditions remains there as they are.

Some of the most well-known Wimbledon champions are: John McEnroe, Boris Becker, Steffi Graf, Monica Seles. My dream is to get a chance to watch at least one of them playing.

And meantime I play tennis with my friends. It is also a great opportunity to socialize with people who have similar interest (as any sport I suppose). 

**Мой любимый вид спорта**

Нам всем нужны тренировки. Это так же верно для молодежи, как и для старших. Даже если вы не собираетесь выбирать спорт в качестве профессии. Это мое мнение, и оно мне кажется правильным.

Сколько я себя помню, мне всегда ужасно нравился теннис. Я люблю этот спорт с его старыми благородными традициями, хотя я никогда не мечтала быть чем-то больше любителя.

Я внимательно слежу за соревнованиями и чемпионатами по теннису. Их существует очень много, но мой любимый — Уимблдон, потому что в нем старые теннисные традиции сохраняются такими, какими были.

Некоторые из самых известных победителей Уимблдона: Джон Маккенрой, Борис Беккер, Штеффи Граф, Моника Селеш. Моя мечта — увидеть хотя бы одного из них.

А пока я играю в теннис со своими друзьями. Это еще и прекрасная возможность пообщаться с людьми со схожими интересами (как и любой другой спорт, я полагаю).

**Vocabulary:**

keen on — страстно любить   
noble — благородный   
amateur — любитель   
to remain — оставаться   
to socialize — общаться   
similar — похожий

**My Friends (1)**

I have a lot of friends, but the best friend of mine is Irina. She has blue eyes, a round face, fair hair and a broad smile. She is short and slim. I have known her for a long time, since our first school years. But we became true friends four years ago.

We have much in common: we like English and psychology, sport and dancing. We are looking at this world in the same way and first estimate a person's mind, their kindness. We don't understand meanness and treachery. For many years we have been sitting at the same desk: Irina and me.

But it's only recollections now. On a May morning the last bell rang for us for the last time and in the farewell waltz the last school ball was dancing. Irina chose the profession of psychologist and handed in the application for admittance to the institute. She finished school excellently and she won't have any problems with the admittance, I hope.

We shall study at different institutes and, of course, we won't see each other very often. But at weekends I'll come to her place. Irina has wonderful parents. We have a good time together. I think that we shan't stop going to the gym at school and we'll often meet our school friends.

I also have a pen-friend. Her name's Vika. She lives in Moscow. Vika is a model. She has an oval face, green eyes, straight nose and full red lips. She is rather tall and slim. She has long, curly brown hair. We spend a lot of time together.

I love my friends and I think they are my true friends. 

**Мои друзья (1)**

У меня много друзей, но самая лучшая подруга — Ира. У нее голубые глаза, круглое лицо, светлые волосы и открытая улыбка. Она маленькая и худенькая. Я знаю ее давно, с первых школьных лет. Но мы стали настоящими друзьями четыре года назад.

У нас много общего: увлечение английским и психологией, спортом и танцами. Мы во многом одинаково смотрим на мир, ценя в людях прежде всего ум, доброту. Мы не понимаем предательства и подлости. Много лет мы сидели за одной партой: Ира и я.

Теперь это уже воспоминания. Майским утром для нас в последний раз прозвенел школьный звонок и в прощальном вальсе закружил выпускной бал. Ира выбрала профессию психолога и сдала документы в институт. Школу она закончила на "отлично", и поэтому особых проблем с поступлением, я надеюсь, у нее не будет.

Учиться мы будем в разных вузах и, конечно, видеться будем реже. Но по выходным я буду приходить к ней в гости. У Иры замечательные родители. Мы проводим время хорошо. Я думаю, мы не оставим наших занятий в школьном тренажерном зале и часто будем встречаться со школьными друзьями.

У меня также есть подруга по переписке. Ее зовут Вика. Она живет в Москве. Вика — модель. У нее овальное лицо, зеленые глаза, прямой нос и полные красные губы. Она довольно высокая и худая. У нее длинные волнистые каштановые волосы. Мы хорошо проводим время вместе.

Я люблю своих подруг и знаю, что они настоящие друзья. 

**Questions:**

1. Do you have a lot of friends?   
2. What are your friends fond of?   
3. Your friends study at the institute, don't they?   
4. Do you like to spend time with them?   
5. Do you have a lot in common with your friends?

**Vocabulary:**

to estimate — ценить   
meanness — подлость   
treachery — измена   
waltz — вальс   
application — заявление   
admittance — поступление, вход

**My School (1)**

As you become older you realize that there are several essential things and places you always long to come back to. They are your birthplace, your home and the school you went to.

My school was a three-storeyed building situated in one of the residential districts of our city (town, settlement). All the children from the neighbourhood went there because it was a walking distance from their homes. There was a sports ground behind the school-building and a green lawn with flower-beds in front of it.

The school was built a few years ago. That's why its classrooms were light and spacious. There were three large windows in each classroom with flower pots on the windowsills. It was pupils' (especially girls') responsibility to water the flowers. And they did it with utmost care. There were maps and portraits, tables and charts on the walls of the classrooms.

Our classroom was on the second floor. Its windows faced the school-yard. Our form was the only one at school who had a form-master, but not a form-mistress. He appeared to be a very kind and knowledgeable teacher who spared no time to take us to different places of interest and exhibitions. He taught us Russian and Russian literature.

We respected him very much. Our lessons began at eight o'clock in the morning and lasted till one thirty in the afternoon. We had six lessons a day. Every pupil had a day-book where the teachers wrote down the mark each pupil had earned for his answers. The teacher also wrote down the mark in the class register. When the teacher asked a question, the pupils who could answer it raised their hands, and the teacher called out one of them to answer the question.

The pupils were often called to the blackboard to do some exercises or to write some sentences. When they made mistakes, other pupils .were called out to correct those mistakes or the teacher corrected them herself. After every lesson the teachers gave us some home assignments both written and oral. At the next lesson the teachers checked them up.

The teachers often took our exercise-books home to check them up. If there were any mistakes they corrected them and gave us marks. At the end of each quarter we got our report cards which our parents signed. At the end of the study year we were promoted, to the next form. 

**Моя школа (1)**

Когда человек взрослеет, он понимает, что есть некоторые необходимые вещи и места, к которым всегда хочется возвращаться. Это такие вещи как родина, родной дом и школа, в которую ты ходил.

Моя школа — трехэтажное здание, расположенное в жилых кварталах нашего города. Туда ходили все дети, живущие по соседству, потому что туда можно дойти пешком. За зданием школы была спортплощадка. Перед школой была зеленая лужайка с клумбами.

Школу построили несколько лет назад, поэтому классные комнаты были светлыми и просторными. В каждой классной комнате было три окна, а на подоконниках стояли цветы в горшках. Ученики (в основном девочки) отвечали за поливку цветов и делали это с особой любовью. На стенах класса висели карты, портреты, таблицы и схемы.

Наш класс был на втором этаже, окна выходили на школьный двор. В одном только нашем классе был классный руководитель, а не классная руководительница. Он оказался очень добрым и знающим учителем, который не жалел времени, чтобы водить нас в интересные места и на выставки. Он учил нас русскому языку и русской литературе.

Мы его очень уважали. Наши уроки начинались в восемь часов утра и длились до половины второго. У нас было по шесть уроков в день. У каждого ученика был дневник, куда учителя ставили оценки за ответы. Учитель также выставлял оценки в классный журнал. Когда учитель задавал вопрос, ученики, которые могли на него ответить, поднимали руки, и учитель вызывал одного из них отвечать на вопрос.

Учеников часто вызывали к доске выполнять упражнения или писать предложения. Когда они делали ошибки, то вызывали других учеников, чтобы их исправить, или учитель сам исправлял ошибки. В конце каждого занятия нам задавали домашние задания, как письменные, так и устные. На следующем уроке учителя их проверяли.

Они часто собирали наши тетради, чтобы проверить их дома. Если были ошибки, они исправляли их и ставили оценки. В конце каждой четверти мы получали табеля, которые подписывали наши родители. В конце учебного года нас переводили в следующий класс. 

**Questions:**

1. What do you realize as you become older?   
2. At which school did you study?   
3. Where was your school situated?   
4. Why did all the children from the neighborhood go to your school?   
5. What was there behind the school-building and in front of it?   
6. When was the school built?   
7. Were the classrooms light and spacious?   
8. What was there on the walls of the classrooms?   
9. On which floor was your classroom situated?   
10. What kind of a man was your form-master?   
11. What subject did he teach?   
12. When did your lessons begin?   
13. How many lessons had you a day?   
14. What did the teachers write down in the day-books of every pupil?   
15. What for were the pupils often called to the blackboard?   
16. What happened if the pupils made mistakes?   
17. What did the teachers give you after every lesson?   
18. What for did the teachers often take your exercise-books home?   
19. What did you get at the end of each quarter?   
20. Where were you promoted at the end of the study year?

**Vocabulary:**

to long to do — страстно желать   
birthplace — место рождения   
residential districts — жилой квартал   
to be a walking distance from — можно дойти пешком   
a flower-bed — клумба   
spacious — просторный   
a window-sill — подоконник   
he appeared to be — он оказался   
to earn a mark for the answer — получить (заработать) оценку за ответ   
to call to the blackboard — вызвать к доске   
written and oral assignments — письменные и устные задания   
to be promoted to the next form — быть переведенным в следующий класс

**My School (2)**

My school is a three-storeyed building. It is quite big with sport ground behind it, inside swimming pool.

On the ground floor there are the classrooms for the primary-school pupils, workshops, library. There are all kinds of tools and machines in the workshops. The boys of our school have a woodwork room too.

There is a room for manual works for girls. Teachers teach them how to cook, sew and design clothes. Our school library is nice and clean. Two librarians help pupils to find books they need. There are many bookcases and bookshelves with a lot of books there.

If you enter the school and turn right you see a big light dining-room. It is always busy and noisy, but it is clean. Here pupils and their teachers have their lunch. There are blue curtains on the windows and beautiful pictures on the walls.

There is a gymnasium on the ground floor as well. Our physical training lessons are held there. Pupils like to go there even after the lessons, because it has a lot of sport equipment. Our school has many classrooms. The classrooms are light and spacious. There are three large windows in each classroom with flower pots on the window sills.

Each room has teacher's table, pupils desks, blackboard, tables and charts on the wall, maps and portraits. There are special classrooms for Chemistry, Physics, Biology, History, Geography, English, and Russian. On the third floor there is a big nice assemble hall. A lot of meetings, concerts, festivals are held there.

Our classroom is on the second floor. Its windows face the school-yard. Our form-mistress is a teacher of Russian language and literature. We respect her very much, she is a kind and knowledgeable teacher. She teaches us Russian and is so fond of her subject, that each of us can not help liking too.

When I think about my school I don't remember its walls and desks; it is my teachers and school-mates who will be always with me. I am so thankful to our teachers for what they have done for us. 

**Моя школа (2)**

Моя школа — это трехэтажное здание. Оно достаточно большое, позади него — спортивная площадка, а внутри есть бассейн.

На первом этаже расположены классы, комнаты учеников начальной школы, мастерские и библиотека. В мастерской стоят станки и различные инструменты. У мальчиков нашей школы есть также кабинет, где можно работать по дереву.

Есть также кабинет по ручному труду для девочек. Там они обучаются искусству готовить, шить и моделировать одежду. Наша школьная библиотека очень хорошая и чистая. Два библиотекаря помогают ученикам найти нужные книги. В библиотеке есть много книжных шкафов и полочек с книгами.

Если вы зайдете в школу и повернете направо, вы увидите большую светлую столовую. Там всегда шумно и многолюдно, но чисто. Здесь ученики и учителя обедают. На окнах в столовой висят голубые шторы, а на стенах красивые картины.

Также на первом этаже расположен спортзал. Наши уроки физкультуры проходят там. Ученикам нравится приходить сюда даже после уроков, потому что там много спортивного инвентаря. В нашей школе много классных комнат. Они светлые и просторные. В каждой есть три окна с цветочными горшками на подоконниках.

В каждой комнате есть учительский стол, парты, доска, таблицы, портреты, карты на стенах. В нашей школе есть кабинеты химии, физики, биологии, истории, географии, английского, русского языков. На третьем этаже расположен большой, красивый актовый зал. Там проводятся многочисленные собрания, концерты, праздники.

Наша классная комната расположена на втором этаже, окнами во двор. Наша классная руководительница — учительница русского языка и литературы. Мы ее очень уважаем, она очень добрая и знающая свой предмет учительница. Она преподает нам русский язык, и ей так нравится ее предмет, что и нам невозможно не любить его.

Когда я думаю о своей школе, я не вспоминаю о ее партах и стенах; я вспоминаю о моих учителях и одноклассниках, которые всегда будут со мной. Я очень благодарна нашим учителям за все, что они сделали для нас. 

**Questions:**

1. Where is your school situated?   
2. What kind of a person is your form-mistress?   
3. Is your school rather big?   
4. How many floors are there?   
5. Is there a library?   
6. What do the classrooms look like?   
7. Do you like your school?

**Vocabulary:**

sporl ground — спортивная площадка   
behind — позади   
primary-school pupils — учащиеся начальной школы   
workshop — мастерская   
tool — инструмент   
manual — ручной   
to sew — шить   
to turn — поворачивать   
noisy — шумный   
curtain — шторы   
gymnasium — спортивный зал   
equipment — инвентарь   
spacious — просторный   
window sill — подоконник   
to face — выходить   
chart — карта   
table — таблица

**My School (3)**

I am going to tell you about my school. I have finished school number 129. My school is new and modern and it is very cosy and all the pupils like it very much, it is really home for everyone, not only who studies there but for all the stuff.

It has four floors. The classrooms are light and high. There are classrooms for practically all the subjects — two rooms for English classes, History room, Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Geography, Literature rooms, etc.

There is a computer class in our school, where pupils study computing, one of the most important subjects nowadays. There is a school hall in our school, too/It is situated on the ground floor.

Meetings, conferences, concerts and all the celebrations take place there or in our assembly hall, which is situated on the first floor.

Our school has two gymnasiums and a sports-ground, football field and two basketball fields. Many pupils are fond of sports and they have a good opportunity to go in for different sports there. Also there is a swimming bath in our school. It is not too big.

I am very thankful to my school and all teaching stuff. When I was only seven years old, I entered school to get some knowledge and now I know many things due to my teachers. I have already got secondary education. The teachers in my school are very kind and clever; they give all their knowledge and all their love to the pupils.

There is a good tradition in our school. Every year the school leavers come here to meet their teachers and classmates. Such meetings are very touching and interesting. They take place every first Saturday of February.

I'll never forget my school, my teachers and my classmates. To my thinking, it is my childhood and it is the happiest period in life. My first friends, my first love and my first achievements and disappointments are all connected with my school life.

**Моя школа (3)**

Я собираюсь рассказать вам о моей школе. Я закончил школу номер 129. Моя школа является новой и современной, и она очень уютная и все ученики ее очень любят — это действительно дом для каждого, не только, для тех кто там учится, но и для тех, кто там работает.

Школа имеет четыре этажа. Классные комнаты — светлые и высокие. В школе есть классные комнаты фактически для всех предметов — две комнаты для занятий английским языком, комнаты для занятий историей, физикой, математикой, химией, географией, литературой и т. д.

В нашей школе есть и компьютерный класс, где ученики учатся работать на компьютере, это один из самых важных предметов в настоящее время. В нашей школе также есть школьный холл. Он расположен на первом этаже.

Встречи, конференции, концерты и все празднования проходят там или в нашем актовом зале, который расположен на втором этаже.

В нашей школе есть два спортивных зала и спортивная площадка, футбольное поле, две баскетбольные площадки. Многие ученики любят спорт, и они имеют хорошую возможность заняться там различными видами спортивных состязаний. Также в школе есть плавательный бассейн. Он не слишком большой.

Я очень благодарен моей школе и всему персоналу. Когда мне было только семь лет, я пошел в школу, чтобы получить знания, и теперь я знаю много всего благодаря моим преподавателям. Я уже получил среднее образование. Преподаватели в моей школе очень любезны и умны; они отдают ученикам все свои знания и всю свою любовь.

В нашей школе есть хорошая традиция. Каждый год выпускники школы приходят сюда, чтобы встретиться со своими преподавателями и одноклассниками. Такие встречи очень трогательны и интересны. Они проходят каждую первую субботу февраля.

Я никогда не забуду мою школу, моих преподавателей и моих одноклассников. По моему мнению, мое детство — это самый счастливый период в моей жизни. Мои первые друзья, моя первая любовь и мои первые достижения и разочарования — все связано с моей школьной жизнью.

**Questions:**

1. How does the pupil's school look like?  
2. What classrooms are there?  
3. Where is the school hall situated?  
4. Where do all the celebrations take place?  
5. Where can pupils go in for different sports?  
6. What good tradition does the school have?

**Vocabulary:**

cosy — уютный   
nowadays — в наши дни   
celebration — празднование   
assembly hall — актовый зал  
to have (past had, p.p. had) a good opportunity — иметь хорошую возмовкность  
to go (past went, p.p. gone) in for — заниматься чем-либо  
swimming bath — плавательный бассейн (крытый)  
to be fond of — любить что-л.  
thankful — благодарный  
stuff —разг. Преподавательский персонал (коллектив)  
due to — благодаря  
school leaver — выпускник  
touching — трогательный  
classmate — одноклассник  
to my thinking — по моему мнению  
achievement —- достижение  
disappointment — разочарование  
to be connected with — быть связанным с

**My Hobby (1)**

Tastes differ. Different people like different things, different people have different hobbies.

I go in for sports, I like to play tennis. I go to play tennis every day. Sport is very important part of our life. Many people go in for sports, they jogging, walking, swimming, skating, skiing, train themselves in clubs and different sections.

Physical training is an important subject at school. Pupils play volleyball, football, basketball. I have been playing tennis for 5 years. Tennis became very popular now. I take part in different competitions.

To be in a good shape I'm jogging every morning and do my morning exercises. Everyone should do all he can to stay healthy and choose the sport he is interested in. I do not understand people who say that they like sport, but they only watch sport on TV.

If one goes in for sports he feels much better, looks much better, sleeps much better. Your physical appearance will change too. You will be slimmer and trimmer. And what is even more important you will not get sick often.

Why do I go in for sports? Because I think that it is very important for a man to be strong and well-built. Sport is not for weak, because, you have to learn how to lose, and it's not easy. My favourite proverb says: "A sound mind in sound body". 

**Мое хобби (1)**

О вкусах не спорят. Разным людям нравятся разные вещи, поэтому у разных людей различные хобби.

Я занимаюсь спортом, Мне нравится играть в теннис. Я играю в теннис каждый день. Спорт является важной частью нашей жизни. Много людей увлекаются спортом, они бегают, занимаются ходьбой, плавают, катаются на коньках и лыжах, тренируются в клубах и различных спортивных секциях.

Физическая культура — важный предмет в школе. Ученики играют в волейбол, футбол, баскетбол. Я играю в теннис уже 5 лет. Теннис стал очень популярен сейчас. Я принимаю участие во многих соревнованиях.

Чтобы поддерживать хорошую форму, я бегаю каждое утро и делаю утреннюю зарядку. Каждый человек должен делать все возможное, чтобы оставаться здоровым, и должен выбрать спорт, который его интересует. Я не понимаю людей, которые говорят, что им нравится спорт, а между тем они смотрят его только по телевизору.

Если заниматься спортом, то чувствуешь себя намного лучше, выглядишь намного лучше, спишь намного лучше. Твое тело тоже изменится. Ты станешь стройнее и изящнее. Но еще более важно — ты не будешь часто болеть.

Почему я занимаюсь спортом? Потому что я считаю, что для мужчины очень важно быть сильным и хорошо сложенным. Спорт не для слабых, потому что там нужно научиться проигрывать, а это не всегда легко. В моей любимой поговорке говорится: "В здоровом теле — здоровый дух". 

**Questions:**

1. What is your hobby?   
2. What sports do you go in for?   
3. Do you like summer (winter) sports?   
4. What does it mean to be healthy?   
5. Why did you chose tennis?   
6. Who is your favourite tennis-player?

**Vocabulary:**

to jog — бегать   
to skating — кататься на коньках   
to skiing — кататься на лыжах   
competition — соревнование   
shape — форма   
health — здоровье   
slim — стройный   
trim — в хорошей форме   
weak — слабый   
to lose — проигрывать

**My Hobby (2)**

1). Hobby is a favourite occupation which people like to do when they have some free time. 2). We choose a hobby according to our character and taste. 3). Very often our hobby helps us to choose our future profession because we learn a lot of new things.

4). Many people are interested in music. 5). Others like reading or going on hikes, taking photographs or knitting. 6). People living in cities and towns like to be closer to nature. 7). They get away from the tiresome and dusty cities to enjoy the countryside. 8). For example, gardening and growing flowers is the most common hobby among Englishmen.

9). All the members of our family have their own hobbies. 10). My mother enjoys knitting, and my father is fond of collecting stamps. 11). My brother's favourite occupation is playing different computer games, and my sister's hobby is cooking.

12). As for me, I am keen on music and whenever I have some free time I go to the Concert Hall. 13). I like to go to the concerts. 14. I take a special liking to the concerts. 14). I take a special liking to the music of the Russian composers and I try not to miss solo concerts or symphonic orchestras by our famous conductors. 15). I like piano concerts, especially Chopin's waltzes. 16). I like the violin too.

17). My friend has a good ear for music, she goes to school for violin lessons. 18). She accompanies me all the time when I go to the concert hall. 19). We enjoy music very much.

**Мое любимое занятие (2)**

1). Хобби - это любимое занятие людей в свободное время. 2). Мы выбираем хобби по своему вкусу и в соответствии со своим характером. 3). Очень часто хобби помогает нам выбрать нашу будущую профессию, потому что мы узнаём много нового.

4). Много людей интересуются музыкой. 5). Другие любят читать, ходить в походы, фотографировать или вязать. 6). Городские жители хотят быть поближе к природе. 7). Они уезжают из скучных, пыльных городов, чтобы отдохнуть в сельской местности. 8). Например, садоводство и выращивание цветов - самое распространённое увлечение англичан.

9). Каждый в нашей семье имеет своё хобби. 10). Моя мама любит вязать, папа - собирать марки. 11). Самое любимое занятие брата - игра на компьютере, а хобби сестры - готовить пищу.

12). Что касается меня, я очень люблю музыку и, когда у меня появляется свободное время, я иду в концертный зал. 13). Я люблю посещать концерты. 14). Мне особенно нравится музыка русских композиторов и я стараюсь не пропустить сольные концерты и концерты симфонических оркестров под управлением знаменитых дирижёров. 15). Я люблю фортепьянные концерты, особенно вальсы Шопена. 16). Мне также нравится скрипка.

17). Мой друг имеет хороший слух и занимается в музыкальной школе по классу скрипки. 18). Он всегда сопровождает меня, когда я иду на концерты. 19). Мы получаем огромное удовольствие, слушая музыку.

Questions:  
1. What is a hobby?  
2. What kinds of hobby do you know?  
3. What is the most popular hobby among Englishmen?  
4. What is your hobby?  
5. Will your hobby help you in your future life?  
6. It is a matter of taste. How do you understand this proverb?

Вопросы:  
1. Что такое хобби?  
2. Какие увлечения Вы можете ещё назвать?  
3. Какие самые большие увлечения у англичан?  
4. Ваше хобби?  
5. Будет ли Ваше увлечение полезным в Вашей будущей жизни?  
6. «Всё зависит от вкусов». Как Вы понимаете эту пословицу?

**My Summer Holidays**

After my hard and busy school year my summer holidays began. I felt happy when hard and busy school year finished and summer holidays began. I started to plan a lot of wonderful things to do during my summer vocation.

I was dreaming about visiting far south countries I always wanted to visit. For example, I dreamed to visit, Greece islands or Spanish beaches. But I had to go to the Azov Sea seaside with my parents. The water was very warm there, because the Sea of Azov isn't deep. There were different kinds of entertainments there. Best of all I liked water scooters and discos.

There was nothing to do all day except taking sunbathes and swimming. I was playing with my little sister on the sand and taught her to swim. Later, I returned home and spent some time there going out with my friends, reading, listening to the music, watching TV and playing computer games. After that I went to the sport camp where I spent twenty days with my friends.

It was very useful experience for us, because we had to get up very early, to train a lot. But it made us stronger and healthier.

I was very happy to return home and to spend several days in my summer cottage, where I had a rest helping my grandfather to dig the garden, to irrigate plants and to gather fruit and vegetables. I was fishing with my grandfather sometimes and we cooked our fish together.

Only insects were spoiling my good humour. I was enjoying floating in the boat, swimming and helping my grandparents.

During my summer holidays I made new friends, read a lot of interesting books, knew many useful things. Now, I feel ready to get back to school.

I am happy to meet my school friends and teachers.

**Мои летние каникулы**

После трудного учебного года начались мои летние каникулы, Я был счастлив, когда закончился трудный учебный год и начались каникулы. Я начал планировать много замечательных вещей, которыми можно заняться во время летних каникул.

Я мечтал о посещении далеких южных стран, которые я всегда хотел посетить. Например, я мечтал съездить на острова Греции или пляжи Испании. Но я должен был ехать на Азовское море с моими родителями. Вода там была очень теплая, потому что Азовское море не глубокое. Там много разных развлечений. Больше всего мне понравились водные скутеры и дискотеки.

Целый день я не делал ничего, кроме как загорал и плавал. Я играл с моей маленькой сестрой на песке и учил ее плавать. Позже я возвратился домой и провел некоторое время там, гуляя с моими друзьями, читал, слушал музыку, смотрел телевизор и играл в компьютерные игры. После этого я поехал в спортивный лагерь, где провел двадцать дней с моими друзьями.

Это было очень полезно для нас, потому что мы должны были очень рано вставать, много тренироваться. Это сделало нас более сильными и более здоровыми.

Я был очень счастлив возвратиться домой и провести несколько дней на нашей даче, где я отдыхал, помогая моему дедушке вскапывать сад, поливать растения и собирать фрукты и овощи. Я иногда ловил рыбу с моим дедушкой и мы готовили нашу рыбу вместе.

Только насекомые портили мое хорошее настроение. Я наслаждался катанием на лодке, плаванием и помогал моим бабушке и дедушке.

В течение моих летних каникул я нашел новых друзей, прочитал много интересных книг, узнал много полезных вещей. Теперь я чувствую, что готов вернуться к школу.

Я счастлив встретить моих школьных друзей и преподавателей.

**Questions:**

1. What was I dreaming about?  
2. What did I like to do best of all at the Sea of Azov?  
3. What did I do during my summer holidays?

**Vocabulary:**

hard — тяжелый, трудный   
busy — занятой, суетливый   
to feel (past felt, p.p. felt) — чувствовать   
to dream (past dreamt, p.p. dreamt) about — мечтать о   
beach — пляж   
deep — глубокий, глубоко   
bush — куст  
entertainment — развлечение   
scooter — зд. скутер, водный велосипед   
to sunbathe — загорать  
to teach (past taught, p.p. taught) — учить, обучать   
sport camp — спортивный лагерь   
useful — полезный   
experience — опыт  
to get (past got, p.p. got) up — вставать  
to return — возвращаться   
several — несколько, некоторое количество   
cottage — летний домик, дача, коттедж   
to have (past had, p.p. had) a rest — отдыхать   
to dig (past dug, p.p. dug) — копать, вскапывать  
to irrigate — поливать   
to cook — готовить пищу   
insect — насекомое   
to spoil — испортить  
humour — юмор, настроение   
to float — плавать, кататься на лодке   
to make (past made, p.p. made) friends — подружиться с кем-л.

**Our Family**

1). Let me introduce myself. 2). My name is Alexander, Alec for short. 3). At the moment I am a pupil of the 10th Form. 4). My parents are not old at all. 5). Father is 45 years old, and Mother is three years his junior. 6). My father works at a big plant as an engineer. 7). He is a good-looking man, tall, handsome, with dark-brown hair just beginning to go grey. 8). By character my father is a quite man, a little unpractical while my mother is energetic and talkative. 9). She is very attractive, a beautiful woman with large blue eyes and fair hair. 10). My mother is a teacher of music and plays the piano very well. 11). She always has a lot of work to do about the house, and we all help her. 12). She manages her house very well. 13). My mother is kind and gentle, very practical and full of common sense.

14). Besides me, my parents have two more children. 15). Thus I have got an older brother and a younger sister. 16). My brother, whose name is Michael, is nine years my senior. 17). He is a builder. 18). Michael is married and has a family of his own. 19). He has a wife and two children - a son and a daughter. 20). They are twins. 21). They are as like as two peas. 22). It means I have a niece and a nephew.

23). My younger sister Helen is only eleven. 24). She is a lovely little girl with golden hair and dark blue eyes. 25). She is always full of joy and gaiety. 26). Helen does well at school and gets only good and excellent marks. 27). She loves music and dancing and she sings prettily. 28). She is like a ray of sunshine in the house.

29). Our family is very united. 30). We like to spend time together watching TV, listening to music or just talking about the events of the day. 31). Our parents don't always agree to what we say but they listen to our opinion.

32). All of us like to spend our weekends out of town. 33). We often go to the village where our grandparents live. 34). They are old-age pensioners now but prefer to live in the country.

35). I also have many other relatives: uncles, aunts, cousins and many friends. 36). We are happy when we are together.

**Наша семья**

1). Разрешите представиться. 2). Меня зовут Александр, если коротко Алек. 3). В данное время я ученик 10 класса. 4). Мои родители не старые совсем. 5). Отцу - 45 лет, а мама на 3 года его моложе. 6). Папа работает на крупном заводе инженером. 7). Он имеет приятную внешность, Высокого роста, статный, у него темно-каштановые волосы с проседью. 8). По характеру папа спокойный человек, немного непрактичный, в то время как мама очень энергичная и разговорчивая. 9). Она привлекательная, красивая, белокурая женщина с голубыми глазами. 10). Мама работает учителем музыки и прекрасно играет на пианино. 11). У неё достаточно много работы по дому, и мы все помогаем ей. 12). Она хорошо справляется с домашним хозяйством. 13). Мама добрая и нежная, очень практичная женщина со здравым смыслом.

14). Кроме меня, у моих родителей ещё двое детей. 15). Таким образом, у меня есть старший брат и младшая сестра. 16). Моего брата зовут Михаил и он на 9 лет старше меня. 17). Он по профессии строитель. 18). Михаил женат и имеет свою собственную семью. 19). У него жена и двое детей - сын и дочь. 20). Они близнецы. 21). Они похожи как две капли воды. 22). Это означает, что у меня есть племянница и племянник.

23). Моей младшей сестре Елене только 11 лет. 24). Она прелестная девочка с золотистыми волосами и тёмно-синими глазами. 25). Она всегда весела и радостна. 26). Елена хорошо учится в школе и получает только хорошие и отличные оценки. 27). Она любит музыку, танцы и поёт очень хорошо. 28). Она как лучик солнышка в нашем доме.

29). Наша семья очень дружная. 30). Мы любим проводить время вместе у телевизора, слушать музыку или просто обсуждать события дня. 31). Наши родители не всегда соглашаются с тем, что мы говорим, но всегда прислушиваются к нашему мнению.

32). Мы любим проводить выходные за городом. 33). Мы часто ездим в деревню, где живут наши бабушка и дедушка. 34). Они пенсионеры в настоящее время и предпочитают жить в сельской местности.

35). У меня также много других родственников: дяди, тёти, двоюродные сестры и братья и много друзей. 36). Нам очень хорошо, когда мы вместе.

Questions:  
1. How many are you in the family?  
2. What are your parents?  
3. Are you the only child in the family?  
4. How old is your brother (sister)? Is he (she) your senior or junior?  
5. What is your sister's (brother's) occupation?  
6. Have you any other close relatives?  
7. What kind of family have you got?

Вопросы:  
1. Из скольких человек состоит Ваша семья?  
2. Кто Ваши родители?  
3. Вы - единственный ребёнок в семье?  
4. Сколько лет Вашему брату (Вашей сестре)? Он (она) младше (старше) Вас?  
5. Чем занимается Ваша сестра (брат)?  
6. Есть ли у Вас ещё близкие родственники?  
7. Какой Вы видите свою будущую семью?

**School Life (1)**

I am a pupil of the 11-th form, I study at school number 9. I would like to tell your about our school life.

I go to school five days a week. Our classes start at 8 o'clock a. m. and last till 3 o'clock p.m. So we have 6 or 7 lessons a day. We study many different subjects: Russian, English, French, literatures, history, geography, biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, programming and computer sciences.

Languages, literature and history are my favourite subjects. I make good marks in these subjects. The school year is divided into four terms, called quarters. It begins on the 1st of September known as a Day of knowledge and finishes in May.

Each quarter is followed by holidays. Every pupil has a day-book where the teachers put down the marks, that pupil has earned at the class. During the classes pupils are to answer the teacher's questions, do some exercises, write sentences, count, read.

The pupils are often called to the blackboard. After every lesson the teachers give us home assignment. At the next lesson the teachers check them up. To do good at school one should make home assignments regularly, be active at the lessons and spend at least two-three hours every day studying.

I like studying. My favourite proverb is "Live and learn". 

**Школьная жизнь (2)**

Я — ученица одиннадцатого класса, я учусь в школе № 9. Я хотела бы рассказать вам о нашей школьной жизни.

Я хожу в школу пять раз в неделю. Наши занятия начинаются в 8 часов утра и продолжаются до 3 часов дня. Значит/(поэтому) у нас шесть или семь уроков в день. Мы изучаем много разных предметов: русский, английский, французский языки, литературу, историю, географию, биологию, физику, химию, математику, программирование и информатику.

Мои любимые предметы — языки, литература и история. Я получаю хорошие оценки по этим предметам. Школьный год разделен на четыре периода, называемых четвертями. Год начинается 1 сентября, известного как День знаний, и заканчивается в мае.

После каждой четверти есть каникулы. У каждого ученика есть дневник, в который учитель ставит полученные учеником оценки. Во время урока ученики должны отвечать на вопросы учителя, выполнять упражнения, писать предложения, считать, читать.

Часто учеников вызывают к доске. После каждого урока учитель задает домашнее задание. А на следующем уроке проверяет его. Чтобы хорошо учиться в школе, нужно постоянно выполнять домашние задания и заниматься уроками хотя бы по два-три часа в день.

Мне нравится учиться. Моя любимая пословица такая: "Век живи, век учись". 

**Questions:**

1. What school do you study at?   
2. What time do the lessons begin?   
3. What subjects do you study at school?   
4. What are your favourite subjects?   
5. How many lessons a day have you got?   
6. Do you regularly make the home assignments?

**Vocabulary:**

to last — продолжаться   
programming — программирование   
computer science — информатика   
favourite — любимый   
to divide — разделять   
quarter — четверть   
day-book — дневник   
to earn a mark for the answer — получать оценку   
home assignment — домашнее задание   
to check up — проверять   
regularly — регулярно   
proverb — пословица   
live and learn — век живи, век учись.

**School Life (2)**

Its very important to have good classmates because we spend a lot of time together.

There are 28 pupils in our class — 15 boys and 13 girls.

They come to our school from different parts of the city because our class is specialized in physics and mathematics. We do a lot also in chemistry, in learning computers and other subjects.

We are friends and help each other with our lessons. Of course, work at physics, mathematics and English takes the most part of our time, we work much even after classes.

But sometimes we have a good time together celebrating some holidays or somebody's birthday Then we bring cakes to school, have a tea party, have some dancing and enjoy our life together with our class master.

He is a teacher of physics, a very good teacher. We love him and he loves and respects us.

The rest of the teachers are very good, too. I love my class, my school, my classmates and teachers. I think I am lucky because it doesn't often happen that you feel OK at your school both in studying and in after-school time.

**Школьная жизнь (2)**

Очень важно иметь хороших одноклассников, потому что мы проводим много времени вместе.

В нашем классе 28 учеников — 15 мальчиков и 13 девочек.

Они приезжают в нашу школу из разных концов города, потому что наш класс специализируется по физике и математике. Мы также углубленно изучаем химию, информатику и другие предметы.

Мы друзья и помогаем друг другу учить уроки. Конечно, занятия по физике, математике и английскому языку занимают большую часть нашего времени, мы много занимаемся даже после уроков.

Но иногда хорошо проводим время, вместе отмечая праздники или чей-то день рождения. Тогда мы приносим в школу торты, устраиваем чаепитие, танцуем и радуемся жизни вместе с нашим классным руководителем.

Он учитель физики, очень хороший учитель. Мы любим его, а он любит и уважает нас.

Остальные учителя тоже очень хорошие. Я люблю свой класс, свою школу, своих одноклассников и учителей.

**Summer Way of Spending Time**

In my opinion there is a great number of different ways of spending summer holidays. It depends on person, on his culture, education, age, social level and personal tastes and preferences. So, everyone likes his own way of summertime spending.

It is a great pleasure to have a rest after a whole year of hard work or study. People like to travel during their summer holidays.

Some people go abroad to see new countries, some people prefer to go to the country-side to enjoy country-life far from noise and fuss of big cities. Other people like staying at home doing nothing, but watching TV and playing computer games.

Some people like to spend their holidays in cities, visiting theatres, museums and going sightseeing. But a great number of people go to the seaside.

As for me, I prefer to go on holiday to the seaside. I do not like crowds. My family and I always have our holiday on the coast. Sea and sunbathes, that is what we look forward to every summer. Hotels at the large seaside towns are rather expensive, so we usually go camping.

Last year we spent our holidays in a camp. Each day was full of small joys. We swam in the sea, lay in the sun, played different games and had a wonderful time.

We lived there for about a month. The time passed very quickly. It was a wonderful holiday.

**Летнее времяпрепровождение**

По моему мнению существует большое количество различных способов времяпрепровождения во время летнего отпуска. Это зависит от человека, от его культуры, образования, возраста, социального уровня, персональных вкусов и предпочтений. Так, каждый находит приятным свой собственный способ летнего времяпрепровождения.

Это большое удовольствие отдохнуть после целого года трудной работы или обучения. Люди любят путешествовать во время своего летнего отпуска.

Некоторые люди выезжают за рубеж посмотреть новые страны, некоторые люди предпочитают выезжать за город, чтобы вдалеке от шума и суеты больших городов насладиться деревенской жизнью. Другие люди любят оставаться дома и ничего не делать, только смотреть телевизор и играть в игры на компьютере.

Некоторые люди любят проводить свой отпуск в городах, посещая театры, музеи и осматривая достопримечательности. Но большое количество людей едет на побережье.

Что касается меня, я предпочитаю проводить каникулы на побережье. Я не люблю столпотворения. Моя семья и я всегда проводим отпуск на побережье. Море и солнечные ванны, именно к этому мы и стремимся каждое лето. Гостиницы в больших приморских городах довольно дорогие, так что мы обычно отправляемся в кемпинг.

В прошлом году мы провели наш отпуск в кемпинге. Каждый день был полон маленькими радостями. Мы плавали в море, лежали под солнцем, играли в различные игры и у нас было замечательное время.

Мы прожили там целый месяц. Время прошло очень быстро., Это был замечательный отпуск.

**Questions:**

1. Is it a great pleasure to have a rest after a whole year of hard work or study?  
2. Do people dislike traveling during their summer holidays?  
3. How do other people prefer to spend their summer holidays?  
4. How do you prefer to spend your summer holidays?

**Vocabulary:**

in my opinion — по моему мнению, по-моему  
to depend on — зависеть от  
social level — социальное положение, уровень  
preferences — предпочтения  
summertime spending — летнее времяпрепровождение  
pleasure — удовольствие  
to go (past went, p«p. gone) abroad — уезжать за границу   
to go (past went, p.p. gone) to the country-side— уезжать за город  
to enjoy — наслаждаться  
noise — шум  
fuss — суета  
sightseeing — осмотр достопримечательностей  
as for me — что касается меня  
coast — побережье  
sunbathes — солнечные ванны, загорание под солнцем  
crowd — толпа, столпотворение  
to look forward — стремиться  
expensive — дорогой

<http://www.alleng.ru/english/top_19.htm>  
**ЭССЕ ДЛЯ ПОДГОТОВКИ К ЕГЭ**

[Animals](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/708.htm)  
**Animals**

**In Western countries, people spend a lot of money on their pets. They buy special food and toys for their cats and dogs and often pay high fees for medical treatment. Some people think this is a waste of money, and argue that pets are dirty and dangerous.**  
In many Western countries people are fond of keeping pets. However, others say that pets are often dangerous and aggressive.  
Personally, I think that people can benefit from pets in many ways. First of all, animals are usually devoted to their owners and love them. You will hardly feel lonely and depressed if you have a pet. Secondly, pets help people stay healthy. For example, doctors have found out that people who have high blood pressure feel much better when they stroke pets and talk to them. What is more, pets encourage their owners to get out and exercise. Dog owners usually spend much time walking which helps them improve their overall health. It is a well-known fact that people who have pets are happier and live longer than those who don't.  
But many people say that they are too busy to take care of animals. Others think that it is too difficult and time-consuming to keep pets. Cats, dogs, birds, fish, hamsters and other creatures require not only human love and kindness but also food, medical care, training and shelter. You must feed them regularly, keep them clean, go to the veterinarian for their yearly checkup and so on. It takes much effort and causes extra expenses. It is also obvious that animals make a lot of noise, may look untidy and disturb the members of your family.  
To conclude, it's important to realize that owning a pet is a great responsibility and additional work. However, for most people, the advantages of having a pet outweigh the disadvantages. Anyway, everybody must remember that all pets need love and care just as people do.

**Some people believe that animals without owners should have the right to live on the streets in cities. Others say that they could be dangerous and should be collected and found new homes, or even put down.**Unfortunately, many cats and dogs suffer abandonment, cruelty and neglect nowadays. Some of us think that it is quite normal and there is no need to change the situation. But others are convinced that some urgent measures must be taken in order to improve the lives of homeless animals.  
To my mind, the lives of homeless cats and dogs are full of hardships: they starve, catch different diseases and suffer from cold and people's cruelty. Furthermore, they may be rather dangerous because people may get infection from them. Besides, stray dogs may attack people and even kill them. In my opinion, living on the street is not a right, but a necessity for poor creatures that have no choice. I think that volunteers should catch homeless animals, provide them with food and medical care and try to find home for them. But I am against killing homeless cats and dogs because I find it inhumane.  
On the other hand, some people believe that many owners cannot provide good homes for their pets and the full lives that they deserve. Living in our homes animals must obey commands and can only behave how people allow them to. Dogs, cats, or birds want to be free, but they are confined to a house, yard or cage. But I think that domesticated animals are not able to survive on their own in the wild and it is cruel to throw them out on the streets.  
To sum up, people must be responsible for both domesticated and wild animals. I believe that homeless animals are a serious social problem that must be solved as soon as possible.

**Some people keep exotic animals as pets nowadays. Others say that it is difficult and dangerous to take care of unusual pets.**Today some people keep rare and unusual animals in their houses. But do alligators, tigers, crocodiles, snakes or raccoons feel comfortable living with people? And is it safe to keep such animals as pets?  
Personally, I think that owners of exotic animals are going to have many problems with them. Firstly, many professionals, including veterinarians and zoologists strongly discourage the keeping of exotic animals as pets, as their needs may be difficult to meet by the average owner. Providing appropriate environmental conditions, housing and diet for an exotic animal may be rather difficult. Secondly, unlike cats and dogs, exotic animals have not been domesticated and remain wild. Even if they are raised by humans, they may be unpredictable, aggressive and dangerous, especially as full-grown adults. Finally, some animals are known to carry diseases that can affect humans.  
However, some people say that having an exotic pet is funny and "cool". They are fond of showing their pets to their friends and relatives who cannot stop admiring these rare animals. Besides, the information about many commonly kept reptiles, birds and small exotic mammals is widely available through literature, Internet websites and discussion forms. Although having an exotic pet is sometimes challenging, it is generally very interesting and rewarding. But I believe that most animals feel much better in their natural homes where they have the right climate, food and exercises that meet their needs.  
To conclude, most countries have the laws that forbid people to keep exotic animal as pets. To my mind, the government must strictly control the trade of some exotic animals around the world in order to prevent any threats to their survival and ecological damage.

**Many people enjoy visiting zoos. Others believe that animals should not be taken from their natural surroundings and put into zoos.**A lot of people, especially children, are fond of going to the zoo. There they have an opportunity to look at wild animals, exotic birds, insects, reptiles and fish. When we come to the zoo, we can see animals that we would never have a chance to see in our country. But is it right to keep animals in the zoo?  
Personally, I think that animals should live in their natural habitats. Animals that live in zoos are confined within enclosures and displayed to the public. It is difficult to create ideal captive environments for some species and sometimes animals have to live in bad conditions and look miserable and untidy. They may suffer from lack of space, comfort and good food. Some wild animals feel stressed in captivity. Sometimes they are kept in such small cages that they are unable to turn around. Besides, in spite of prohibition many visitors give animals food that may do harm to their health and cause different diseases.  
However, some zoos keep fewer animals in larger, outdoor enclosures, rather than in cages. For instance, safari parks allow visitors to drive through them and come in close contact with the animals. What is more, most modern zoos display wild animals primarily for the conservation of endangered species, as well as for research purposes and education, and secondarily for the entertainment of visitors. But I still believe that animals feel much better without people's control.  
To sum up, I think that the conservation and educational role of zoos should be strengthened. All zoos must be inspected and licensed, and all animals must be provided with a suitable environment.

**Most people are convinced that a digital pet cannot substitute a real one. Others suggest that digital pets are preferable for a number of reasons.**Some children keep digital pets instead of real ones for companionship or enjoyment. But a lot of people doubt that the relationship with robotic animals can have a good effect on a child.  
I strongly feel that digital pets can never be compared with real cats, dogs and other animals. They do not even have concrete physical form. Instead of a cute little kitten or a funny puppy, you have a palm-sized computer with a small screen. I doubt that feeding, washing or playing with the digital pet may be interesting and rewarding. Nevertheless, some children believe that their digital pets are really alive and they feel extremely unhappy if their virtual cats and dogs fall ill or die. In addition, it is quite possible to become addicted to the digital pet. Some children play with them when they should be doing something else, for example, their homework.  
But some people believe that digital pets have a number of benefits. Firstly, a relationship with the digital pet teaches children that their desires cannot always come first. It can also teach boys and girls to be responsible because the digital pet requires constant attention, otherwise it will "die". Secondly, having a digital pet is a good training before adopting a real animal. Finally, digital pets can successfully substitute real ones for children who cannot care for a real pet, such as those who suffer from allergies.  
To sum up, digital pets are usually predictable and they cannot give us as much joy and satisfaction as real ones. Anyway, parents should take into consideration all advantages and disadvantages before buying a digital pet to their children.

[Books](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/709.htm)

**Books**

**Some people are fond of reading, while others consider it to be a waste of time.**  
Different people have different attitude to reading. Some of them have dozens of books in their houses and consider reading to be their favourite pastime. Other people prefer watching TV to reading books.  
Personally, I get a lot of enjoyment out of reading books. Our family loves gathering in the sitting room in the evening and reading books: fairy tales, novels, detective stories, thrillers, fantastic stories and what not. It has become a tradition and I'm sure it makes our family united. To my mind, books are our best teachers and friends because they have the power to educate and entertain us. When I'm tired, I like reading detective stories and thrillers. When I want something more serious and instructive, I take an encyclopedia or read some philosophical works. I love reading when I'm travelling, when I'm having meals, when I'm bored or just for relaxation.  
However, a lot of people read very little or don't read at all. They say they have stopped reading books due to their busy way of life. According to some people, reading is a waste of time. They prefer getting all the information they need from television, radio, and the Internet. A lot of people read everything online and check the news on the websites. Besides, some of them think that the fewer books they buy, the more trees they save. But I believe that it is rather sad that many people read much less nowadays. I'm sure that reading is the best learning.  
To sum up, I think that our lives would be dull without books because reading stirs our imagination, broadens our mind and entertains us.

**Some of my friends say there's nothing better than reading a good book, while others would rather watch its film version.**Can people live without books nowadays? Is it possible that books will be replaced by television and cinema in the nearest future?  
Personally, I'm fond of reading. Books educate and entertain us, bring past centuries to life and help us understand our deepest dreams and fears. To my mind, a book is one of the greatest wonders in the world. It gives us a unique chance to link up with authors who lived hundreds and thousands of years ago. Through reading books we hear their voices and understand their thoughts and feelings. Reading stirs my imagination, creates colourful pictures of the described characters and events in my mind, transfers me to other countries, continents or even to other worlds, introduces me to amazing people who live exciting lives, makes me laugh and cry. I can travel to wild jungles and deserts, to hot Africa and cold Arctic or wherever I like staying at home.  
However, some of my friends don't read at all or read very little. They say that they are too tired after school and can do nothing but watch TV. Some people say that they have little spare time and that is why they prefer watching a film to reading a book. What is more, watching a film is much easier than reading a book because you don't have to use your imagination.  
To sum up, it's up to you to decide whether to read a book or to watch its film version. But I'm sure that no screen version can be better than a book itself and it can't substitute a special silent conversation with the author.

**Most people are fond of detective stories. Others say that reading detective stories is just a waste of time.**  
There is hardly a person in the world who has never read detective stories. This literary genre has always been extremely popular with the reading public. But of course there are people who dislike detective stories.  
Personally, I find most detective stories rather puzzling and exciting. They arouse the reader's curiosity and keep him or her in suspense. To my mind, the popularity of detective stories lies in the fact that most people like unravelling complex puzzles. The detective story is like an intellectual game. The reader is given exactly the same information that the detective uses to find the criminal. Most readers treat the story as a battle of wits between themselves and the detective. Others read detective stories for pure relaxation.  
However, some people say that all detective stories are the same. In most detective stories, the crime is murder and the clues lead to or away from the solution. Furthermore, it is quite possible to become hooked on reading detective stories. Some people read them when they should be doing something else, for example, work or study. In addition, there are a lot of bad detective stories in many bookshops and I think that reading them is just a waste of time. A second-rate detective story describes unreal people and situations, has poor construction and a boring narrative style. Sometimes the reader can easily guess who the criminal is from the very beginning.  
To conclude, it is up to you to decide whether to read detective stories or not. Anyway, a good detective story can do you nothing but good.

**Some people say that business books can help them become successful, while others think that they are completely useless.**In any bookshop you can find a lot of books about business. Many people wonder if these books actually help them succeed in their professional careers and if they are really vital for the modern workplace.  
Personally, I think that if you want to become a successful businessman, it is not enough to read a couple of books on this subject. What you really need is a lot of experience, persistence and a wish to work hard. To my mind, business books have become a business in themselves. They are just a way for publishers to make money. The more books are sold, the richer they become. Most books that claim that they can revolutionize the way you do business and make you rich and successful have little practical use. Moreover, some business books are so boring that they sit on the shelf unread.  
However, some business books are truly worth our investment of time and money. They may become essential tools for students of business at any level. Biographies of successful business people can hold valuable lessons and interesting ideas and they can inspire others to go into business. Some books can give you helpful advice and tell you how to make other people believe you, how to read and use body language, how to make yourself a better manager and how to become richer. Nevertheless, many experts are convinced that most of business books complicate the world of business.  
To conclude, don't buy a book unless you can use it in your work right now. Try to find something really useful and to avoid needless purchases.

**Some people say that we don't need libraries any more. Others are convinced that libraries are not going to disappear.**  
Library is a place where print, audio, and visual materials are collected and arranged to serve people of all ages and interests. Some people say that traditional libraries are not so popular now as they used to be some years ago. But does it mean that libraries are going to disappear?  
Personally, I think that libraries are very useful. Nowadays, besides books, libraries keep manuscripts, documents, newspapers, magazines, CDs, DVDs, video games, e-books and many other electronic resources. Modern libraries are equipped with computers and they store enormous amounts of information that can be checked immediately. People go to the library to read, look, listen search, inquire, discuss, learn, think, relax or while away the time. Anyone can become a member of the library and it usually costs nothing to borrow books.  
However, some people say that traditional libraries are useless nowadays. Most young people have become used to retrieving information from the Internet. It may be more efficient and time-saving than visiting a traditional library. But the information that people find online may not be as in depth as the information from other resources such as the books available at a physical library. Besides, libraries are intended for use by people who don't have a PC, who cannot afford to purchase books and magazines, who need material no individual can be expected to have, or who require professional assistance with their research.  
To sum up, I think that libraries play a very important role in the cultural development of any country. Modern libraries help people get unrestricted access to information in many formats and from many sources.

**Electronic books are becoming more and more popular. Some people say that e-books are going to replace traditional books in the future, while others are convinced that print books will never disappear.**E-books are making their way onto the world's markets. A lot of people, especially children and teenagers, who are accustomed to computer screens, have already embraced e-books. But does it mean that if the popularity of e-books grows, paper editions will soon die out?  
Personally, I think that e-books are so popular with readers for several reasons. Firstly, they are easy to use because they are light, compact and can store up to thousands of pages. Secondly, e-books have a touch-sensitive screen which can be used to call up a dictionary, to increase the front size and even to add notes in the margin. Thirdly, the bright backlight gives you an opportunity to read in the dark. Finally, people can read e-books in public without having to display the covers.  
However, most people still prefer traditional print books. They say that the device for reading e-books is rather expensive and one needs access to the Internet to download them. E-books may cause problems with eyesight because it is rather tiring to read from the screen. Some people say that one of the main disadvantages of e-books is that the battery must be recharged and that e-books can be easily broken. What is more, so far there is only a limited selection of e-books being published. But I think it is very convenient to put a lightweight e-book into your bag when you are leaving for holiday.  
To conclude, people will always continue buying, collecting and displaying beautiful paper editions with the sole purpose of possessing them. To my mind, e-books will co-exist with traditional print books. Anyway, we'll have to wait and see.

[Education](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/706.htm)

[Environmental Problems](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/703.htm)

[Family Problems](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/704.htm)

[Fashion](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/692.htm)

[Food](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/691.htm)

**Food**

**Fast food is very popular and saves time for busy working people. However, many experts say that it is not completely healthy.**

Do you know a person who has never been to McDonald's? McDonald's is the leading global foodservice retailer serving millions of people in more than 100 countries each day. McDonald's restaurants sell what is called "fast" or "junk" food — hamburgers, chips and so on. Such food is very popular, especially with children and teenagers.

Personally, I adore hamburgers, cheeseburgers, apple pies, muffins and fruit cocktails. This food is tasty, cheap and ubiquitous. What is more, going to McDonald's saves much time and effort. I don't have to go to a supermarket, prepare meals and wash the dishes when I eat out. Besides, I like the holiday atmosphere of McDonald's. There I can relax, enjoy the food and celebrate some event with my friends and relatives.

But experts say that fast food makes people overweight and even obese and elevates the risk of diabetes and cancer. If your food includes hamburgers, chips, hot dogs, pizzas and fizzy drinks like Coke, Pepsi, Sprite and others, you are facing a serious problem threatening your health. Such food is full of chemical additives. For example, a can of Coke contains about eight teaspoons of sugar and artificial sweeteners. Moreover, there is a risk of food poisoning.

To sum it up, we should think more about our health. We should try to avoid fast food and eat more fruit and vegetables. Those people who don't care about what they eat may face serious problems. So let's remember about our health and make the right choice.

**Some people say that genetically modified (GM) food is dangerous to their health. Others believe that it is absolutely harmless and has a number of advantages.**

Nowadays people are getting more and more concerned about the food they eat as it is closely connected with the way they look and feel. That is why there are so many arguments about the safety of genetically modified food.

Genetically modified crops have been developed by changing the plant's genetic structure in order to help the plant resist against different diseases or produce larger crops. Personally, I try not to buy GM food as there is no scientific conclusion so far to prove its safety for human consumption. We don't know what unforeseen consequences there might be. I prefer not to risk my health because scientists are not sure if GM food is absolutely harmless or not.

However, a lot of people are not worried about the negative influence of GM food on their health. Besides, producers of this food say that it has a number of advantages in terms of price, durability and nutritional value. They also say there is no risk to human health, although possible side effects connected with the use of GM products have not been studied.

Can we trust producers of GM food? I don't think so. Unfortunately, in Russia the law does not prohibit the use of GM products. I believe that it's up to you to decide whether to buy GM food or not. Anyway, producers of this food must mark their products if they contain GM ingredients.

**Some people say that food is our friend, while others think that it may become an enemy.**

Can we live without food? The answer is definitely "no". Food is essential to our body which is continually wasting and requires new energy. Experts say that food has some special powers that can control our lives, for better or for worse.

To my mind, food is our friend if it is healthy and taken with due regard to the exercise and waste of the body. I believe that if you eat the right food, you can manage your mood and boost your brainpower. For example, when I feel blue, I treat myself to a bar of chocolate or an ice-cream and become more cheerful and energetic. When I am to take a test, I eat a handful of nuts or a banana because such food helps me concentrate.

However, sometimes food may become a real enemy. Unfortunately, some people don't pay attention to what they eat. If their diet includes fast food and fizzy drinks, they can do much harm to their health. People who are fond of hamburgers and Coca-Cola often suffer from diabetes, cancer and tooth decay. Moreover, they may become overweight and even obese.

To sum up, food that contains vitamins gives you a psychological lift and helps you improve your health. But food that has a hefty amount of chemical additives, fat, sugar or caffeine makes you fat and draws energy away from your brain. I strongly feel that if you take control of your food, you will be able to take control of your life.

**Nowadays more and more people become vegetarians. Others say they can't do without meat or fish.**

Being a vegetarian is rather popular nowadays. Some people say they don't eat meat and fish because it is healthy. Others follow the example of their favourite actor or musician. Is it worth becoming a vegetarian?

Personally, I think that people should eat both meat and fish. Our ancestors would not have survived if they hadn't hunted and fished. Meat and fish are nourishing and they contain vitamins that make us stronger. Besides, fish is good for our brains.

However, quite a lot of people say it is cruel to eat animals. They feel sorry for pigs, chickens or rabbits that are kept in cages. Vegetarians are convinced that killing animals is a crime. So their food consists of vegetables, fruit and nuts. They say that such a diet does much good to their health and contains all the vitamins, minerals and protein they need. But I think that if all people eat only plants, there will not be enough food for everybody. What is more, most fruit and vegetables are harmful because they are full of pesticides.

So it is up to you to decide whether to become vegetarian or not. Personally, I believe that we should eat different food but at the same time we should know where to stop.

[Friendship & Love](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/694.htm)

[Global Problems](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/707.htm)

[Leisure Time Activities](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/696.htm)

**Leisure Time Activities**

**Some people say that it is very important for everybody to have a hobby. Others do nothing but watch TV or listen to music in their free time.**  
Our lives would be hard without rest and recreation. People have quite different ideas of how to spend their free time. For some of them the only way to relax is watching TV or drinking beer. But other people use their spare time getting maximum benefit from it.  
I strongly feel that hobbies make our lives much more interesting. There are different kinds of hobbies such as reading, cooking, knitting, collecting, playing a musical instrument, painting, photography, dancing, travelling, sports and many others. So you can always find an exciting activity which you will certainly like. Personally, I am fond of camping. To my mind, it is a great opportunity to get away from town life. What is more, camping is a cheap way to rest, to improve your health, to train yourself physically and to enjoy nature.  
Nevertheless, quite a lot of people have no hobby. Most of them say that they are too busy or too tired to do anything in their free time. But I am sure that such people are lazy and passive and their lives are dull and uneventful.  
In general, having a hobby is very important for everybody because it is a kind of self-expression and the way to understand other people and the whole world. A hobby makes you stronger physically and mentally, helps you escape from reality, improve your knowledge, broaden your mind, develop your skills and gain a better understanding of how the world works.

**Many teenagers enjoy playing computer games. Some people, however, believe that teenagers should spend their free time doing more physical activities.**Computer games are extremely popular nowadays. A lot of teenagers play computer games in order to escape dull reality and to fight with horrible monsters or to save the world from hostile aliens.  
Personally, I am fond of playing computer games. They give me an opportunity to plunge into exciting adventures: to overcome obstacles, to fly an aircraft or to pilot a spacecraft, to solve different puzzles, to look after a virtual pet, to build cities, to play sport games and even to control the lives of people. Computer games are constantly becoming more life-like and complex. New styles and genres appear. That's why I can't resist the temptation to buy new computer games every month.  
But according to experts, computer games can be rather dangerous and they can harm teenagers' health. They say that computer games make young people unsociable and passive. They are absorbed in games without speaking to each other for a long time. A lot of teenagers can play for hours without eating, sleeping or learning. They sit in front of the computer screen exercising their fingers instead of doing physical activities. That's why the levels of obesity among teenagers are rising. Besides, computer games cause addiction.  
To conclude, computer games have both advantages and disadvantages. Violent computer games make teenagers aggressive. But educational games help teenagers develop many skills. Anyway, it is necessary not to forget about sports as it helps teenagers to be healthy and to stay in good shape.

**Some people prefer eating out. However, many people still like cooking meals at home.**Different people have different tastes. Some of them prefer eating out, while others enjoy tasty food at home. In the past people went to cafes and restaurants only on special occasions. But they are eating out more frequently now.  
Personally, I enjoy eating out. Firstly, the choice of restaurants is great nowadays. You can try different foreign cuisines and you can always find something to your taste. There are Italian, Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Mexican, Turkish and many other restaurants in every city. Besides, you can go to bars, cafes or pubs. Secondly, many people work too much and have no time to cook meals at home. Thirdly, they go to bars, cafes or restaurants to meet with their friends or to celebrate a holiday. Finally, at a restaurant you will be able to relax and enjoy tasty food, good service and the atmosphere of festivity.  
However, a lot of people prefer eating at home. Some of them say that it is too expensive to go to a restaurant. Others just enjoy cooking meals. What is more, some people are sure that home meals are tastier and more nutritious than food which is served at a restaurant or a cafe.  
To sum up, eating at home is cheaper and more traditional. But if you want to relax and to feel a holiday atmosphere, you will certainly eat out.

**Ecotourism is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the tourism industry today. Some people think that it teaches tourists to take care of nature and wildlife. Others say that ecotourism has a number of disadvantages.**Environmental pollution has disastrous effects on nature and wildlife. That is why nowadays many people try to damage the environment as little as possible. Ecotourism means travelling to natural destinations with rare flora and fauna. Its main goal is to conserve the environment and to improve the well-being of local people.  
In my opinion, ecotourism gives us an opportunity to broaden our mind, to discover new ways of life, to meet interesting people and to improve our knowledge of history and geography It provides funds for conservation and jobs to local people because tourists use local transportation, inns and markets. Besides, ecotourism helps people understand the environment around them, makes them respect different cultures and be careful with nature.  
However, ecotourism has some negative aspects. The increasing number of tourists can damage the local environment. Some tourists pollute drinking water, pick up rare flowers and disturb wild animals. They often purchase souvenirs made from the skin of endangered animals or leaves of rare plants and scare away animals.  
In conclusion, I think that ecotourism is for environment-conscious people who love nature, understand the negative influence of conventional tourism on the environment and want to minimize it. I strongly feel that it is an unforgettable experience which is rewarding at the same time.

**Some people are ready to risk their lives in order to establish a record, while others say that it is rather silly.**Every year hundreds of people do rather dangerous and silly things in order to set up a record and to become famous. They swallow bugs, climb skyscrapers, cross the ocean on a windsurfing board and what not. Are these people heroes or fools?  
To my mind, all these activities are just a waste of time, efforts and money. If people want to escape everyday monotony and to get their portion of adrenaline, I think they would better do something useful. What is more, record breakers are often inexperienced and sometimes they get into trouble when they climb Everest, sail across the Atlantic or do something of this kind. Thus, adventurers risk both their lives and the lives of the people who try to save them. Helicopter and ship crews are often wounded or killed when they try to reach people who lost their way in the forest, were stuck in the mountain or crashed into the sea. Such rescue missions are not only difficult and time-consuming. They also cost much money.  
But in spite of numerous warnings, people continue doing silly and dangerous things. Most of them think that they are extremely brave, strong and hardy. They want other people to admire them and to follow their example. But I'd rather call these adventures foolhardy. To my mind, if they want to get the adrenalin going, they should try such professions as rescuers, pilots or firemen.  
To sum up, the adventurer should think twice before he makes up his mind to risk his life and health. It is always useful to think about all possible consequences of your actions.

[Mass Media](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/700.htm)

[Miscellaneous](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/710.htm)

[Money](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/695.htm)

[Science & Technology](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/697.htm)

[Shopping](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/705.htm)

[Sports, Health & Beauty](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/701.htm)

**Sports, Health & Beauty**

**Some of my friends think it's important to do sports regularly, while others would rather watch a sporting event on TV.**  
Nowadays people have to work more and they prefer to rest more actively Therefore they need better health, more energy and endurance in order to carry out all activities efficiently and without fatigue. It's important to be in good shape and to stay healthy and attractive.  
To my mind, physical exercises are essential for everyone. If you want to be strong physically and mentally, you can go to a fitness club, a sauna or a swimming pool. Physical exercises strengthen the immune system, improve mental health and help prevent different diseases and obesity. Exercising is also the best remedy for insomnia, depression and stress.  
However, a lot of people say they have neither time nor opportunity to go in for sports. What is more, they feel too tired after a hard day's work. That is why all they can do in the evening is to watch sporting events on TV. But I think that if you don't have an opportunity to go to a fitness club, you can just buy a treadmill or a stationary bike and exercise at home. You can also do your morning exercises, jog, swim in summer, ski or skate in winter, play different sports games such as tennis, football, volley-ball, basket-ball and so on. At least you can dance and jump about your room to music for 10-15 minutes each day.  
To conclude, if you want to be slim and strong, you must leave your comfortable armchair and exercise. It is not enough to watch other people doing sports. Only regular exercises will help you make your life longer and healthier.

**Some parents think that Physical Education is a very important subject to their children. Others think that PE should only be optional at school because not everyone is equally good at sport.**There have been a lot of arguments if Physical Education should be on the curriculum in most schools. Some parents consider PE to be a very important subject, while others are convinced that it is up to pupils to choose whether to attend these lessons or not.  
I strongly feel that Physical Education is essential for every boy and girl. Not every child has an opportunity to go to a fitness club or a swimming pool because it costs much money. But physical exercises are important because they strengthen the immune system, improve mental health and help prevent different diseases and obesity. All children and teenagers want to be in good shape and to stay healthy.  
On the other hand, quite a lot of children have problems with their health and they can't attend PE lessons. Some boys and girls feel embarrassed when they can't do what their classmates can. They can't run fast, jump high or they don't play basketball or volley-ball well. What is more, such children often feel upset or even humiliated when they get bad marks. But I think that PE lessons are useful for everybody. To my mind, children who are weaker should do some easy exercises.  
In conclusion, I would like to say that Physical Education is an essential part of the school curriculum as well as mathematics, literature or foreign languages. Of course, not everyone is equally good at sport. But not everyone is equally good at other subjects and it is not a good reason to make them optional. Anyway, PE lessons will help children become stronger, healthier and more energetic.

**They say, excessive exercises are detrimental to health, but some people don't share this opinion.**In general, sport helps us to be in good shape, to become strong and to stay healthy and attractive. But can excessive exercises ruin your health?  
Personally, I think that immoderate training is very harmful. Firstly, a person who exercises too much feels exhausted and depressed. He or she expands too much time and energy on doing sports. Such people feel great pressure and tend to exercise harder and harder trying to achieve better results. They stop taking breaks and lose touch with their own needs. Secondly, sportsmen often suffer different injuries which sometimes can be very serious. It usually takes them much time to recover. Finally, some professional sportsmen take a dope, a drug which serves to improve their performance. Such drugs do much harm to their health and they can even kill.  
But in spite of all these dangers, many people go in for sports. Physical exercises strengthen the immune system, improve mental health and help prevent different diseases and burn calories. Exercising is also the best remedy for insomnia and stress. People who exercise regularly are productive, happy, efficient and calm. Exercise re-energizes them, improves their concentration and problem-solving.  
To conclude, it is generally well-known now that there are many physical and mental health benefits that can be gained from regular exercise. But don't forget that exercises are very useful in case they are moderate.

**The popularity of extreme sports has grown a lot for the last decades. More and more people are getting involved in this activity. Others are sure that it is silly of such people to risk their lives.**Extreme sports are becoming more and more popular. Some people say that they can't imagine their lives without them. However, others don't understand what compels some individuals to extreme sports.  
In my opinion, extreme sports give one a wonderful opportunity to release stress, to escape everyday monotony and to get his portion of adrenaline. Those people who are involved in extreme activities say it gets the adrenaline pumping and makes them forget about all their problems. Besides, it is always great to take up something new. I believe it's really very difficult to think about ordinary things when you have to survive and to fight against environmental obstacles and challenges. It makes people feel strong and alive. What is more, it is also an unusual way of losing weight and keeping fit.  
But some people think that taking up the extremist lifestyle is crazy as it often involves a high level of danger. They admit that they are afraid of diving from a plane or jumping from a bridge. Indeed, it is not a task for the weak hearted. It requires endurance and reliance on your own survival skills. Extreme activities often involve speed, height and physical exertion. Besides, you will need a certain amount of money to pay for highly specialized gear and a professional instructor.  
To sum up, it's up to you to decide whether to risk your life or not. Some extreme activities are so dangerous that people compare them with virtual suicide. Others say that the experience is magical. But you should always remember that your life and your health are the most important things.

**Surfing is becoming more and more popular nowadays. However, some people say that this sport is not for everybody because it is rather risky.**Many people admire muscular bronzed young men who ride a surfboard on the crest of a wave as it carries them towards the shore. Some people practice surfing as a recreational activity, while others think that it is the most important thing in their lives.  
Personally, I believe that surfing is a source of inspiration for many people. It gives them a wonderful opportunity to display their strength and agility, to release stress, to escape everyday monotony and to get their portion of adrenaline. Surfing is an excellent sport for those who are ready to risk their lives and to take up something new. It will certainly help you become stronger and healthier. Anyone at any age can learn to surf.  
However, many people say that surfing is very difficult. Most beginners are not able to catch the wave at all. Surfers should be able to control their board in challenging conditions, to ride challenging waves, and to execute different maneuvers. Besides, the equipment and sportswear for surfing are rather expensive. Moreover, one should not forget that surfing is extremely dangerous. Trapped inside a high wave surfers can become totally disorientated. One of the main dangers of surfing is drowning. Some professional surfers have drowned in extremely challenging conditions. Collisions with sand bars, rocks, reefs or surfboards can sometimes cause injuries and even death. Such animals as sharks or jellyfish can also present a danger.  
To sum up, if you have made up your mind to become a surfer, take all pros and cons into consideration first.

**Parkour is a sport that is extremely popular with young people. However, traceurs (parkour practitioners) say that it is rather difficult and dangerous.**Today parkour has developed throughout the world. It is especially popular with young men who are eager for new experiences. Parkour teaches them to move quickly and efficiently and to overcome obstacles such as concrete walls, high fences, hedges or rocks. But every parkour practitioner must remember that there are a number of dangers that they need to be aware of.  
Personally, I think that parkour gives you much energy and helps you develop physical fitness and coordination as well as determination, endurance, agility and courage. You can learn to trust yourself and to be strong. It's a sport that teaches you to control your body and to move without being hindered by obstacles. To my mind, it is a natural method to develop strength, speed and power. Thanks to parkour, traceurs learn how to surmount both physical and mental obstacles.  
However, parkour is a difficult discipline to train. One of its main dangers is falling. Young people usually practice in parks and abandoned structures. Of course they try to avoid injuries, but everything happens. Some reckless people who assume too much about their physical abilities and do not take full account of the risks may be seriously injured. So parkour requires cool-headedness, prudence, good self-control and the ability to be observant.  
To conclude, parkour teaches young people to overcome everyday difficulties and to approach problems differently. It pushes the limits of the human body and mind. Parkour also gives you an opportunity to explore the potential offered by your body. I believe parkour can change your life and your attitude to everything.

**A lot of people dream of being slim. They follow a diet trying to lose weight. But others say that weight-loss diets can be very harmful.**Turning over the pages of glossy fashion magazines we see pictures of beautiful women and handsome men with ideal figures and we want to be like them. In chase of health and beauty a lot of people follow different weight-loss diets. But they often forget how awful the consequences might be.  
Personally, I never follow any diets. To my mind, the best way to lose weight is to exercise. Physical exercises help you to be in good shape and to stay healthy and attractive. Running and swift walking help me to burn calories. I often go to a fitness club and a swimming pool. Besides, I try to avoid fast, fried and fatty food.  
However, a lot of people are keen on weight-loss diets. Many of them stop eating anything thinking that starvation will lead to the best results. But dieting may have such side effects as fatigue, irritability, depression or fainting and it may result in such eating disorders as anorexia or bulimia. I think that if you want to lose weight and to preserve health, it's better to begin with smaller portions of food and some substitutions. For example, you can replace a cup of tea and a cake with a glass of juice. Anyway, one should remember that a person needs 2,000 calories a day, but it depends on age, weight, physical activity and other factors.  
To conclude, it is great to be slim, but never forget that "health is the best wealth". All in all, if you want to go on a diet, you'd better consult a doctor or a nutrition expert first.

**Some people think that physical attractiveness is important to every person. Others say that it is inner beauty that really matters.**People have admired beauty since ancient times. It gives us a sense of pleasure and inspiration, keeps up our spirits and makes us accomplish feats. But there is a kind of beauty that is not observable. It is called inner beauty. So which is more important: a pretty face or a kind heart?  
Personally, I believe that inner beauty is much more important than an attractive appearance. People have always valued honesty, kindness, sincerity, devotion and tenderness. In the history of mankind there are a lot of examples when a person fell in love with an absolutely unattractive or even ugly man or woman because of his or her wonderful traits of character. Every child knows the famous story "Beauty and the Beast". It is about a charming girl who fell in love with a frightening monster because he possessed inner beauty.  
However, others believe that physical attractiveness make people happy. A person who has large eyes, a slim figure, long legs, thick hair and regular features is usually admired by everybody. Beauty can help people become successful and even famous. Beautiful people receive more attention, find romantic partners more easily, get better jobs and promotions and even earn more money. Some historical individuals have become icons of beauty, including Cleopatra, Sophie Loren and Marilyn Monroe. But I think that most beautiful people are capricious, light-minded and faithless.  
To sum up, both physical attractiveness and inner beauty are important to a person. But I strongly feel that it is better to have a good character than a beautiful face. Anyway, appearances are deceptive.

**Plastic surgery is becoming more and more popular. Some people think that it can help them become happier and more attractive. Others are convinced that there are too many risks which must be taken into account.**In modern society personal image and appearance play an important role. Now it is fashionable to be young and attractive. Both men and women are afraid of getting old. That is why they use plastic surgery procedures to conceal the signs of aging.  
In my opinion, the possibilities of plastic surgery are huge. It can help you change the shape of your nose, correct sticking-out ears, reduce a double chin and what not. Successful plastic surgery can lead to an increase in self-esteem and confidence. Studies show that beautiful people are considered to be more intelligent, successful and capable. Besides, they often have increased romantic opportunities and it is easier for them to make a career and to find friends. Young and beautiful people are more likely to succeed and they are usually happier and more satisfied with their lives.  
However, plastic surgery has its own risks including the body's rejection of an implant, allergy to anesthesia, post-operation pains, prolonged regeneration and others. Some people have lost their lives and suffered disfigurement and scarring as a result of plastic surgery gone wrong. And even if you feel good after an operation, you may be dissatisfied with results. Surgeons can never guarantee a 100-percent success. That is why I think that plastic surgery should be used only to remove or correct physical defects.  
To conclude, it's important to understand that while plastic surgery has a number of advantages, it will hardly change your life or solve your problems. Think about all the possible risks before making the final decision to have a plastic operation done.

[Theatre, Painting, Music & Cinema](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/702.htm)

**Theatre, Painting, Music & Cinema**

**Some people say that the theatre is likely to disappear, while others believe that it will continue attracting large audiences.**The theatre has existed since 2000 ВС. Greek theatres were huge, open-air structures that were able to seat thousands of viewers. Nowadays there are many types of theatres: a comedy theatre, a drama theatre, a concert hall, a musical theatre, an opera and ballet house, a dance theatre and others. Some theatres are famous all over the world such as the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow or la Scala in Milan.  
Personally, I am sure that the theatre is not likely to disappear. I am a real theatre-goer. To my mind, a good play stirs spectators1 imagination, makes them smile and cry, fills them with joy and excitement, makes them forget about dull reality and carries them away to a fantastic country. The theatre is a small world with its own rules, its own life and feelings. Going to the theatre is always an exciting event for me.  
But nowadays a lot of people prefer watching a movie to going to the theatre. Some of them even say that the theatre will not last long. Firstly, a lot of people prefer to watch TV sitting in a comfortable armchair at home. Secondly, tickets for a good play are rather expensive. Finally, they should be bought beforehand and one will have to stand in a queue for a long time. But I believe that those people who say that they don't care about the theatre have never seen a good play.  
To conclude, I think that the theatre will exist as long as people love art and enjoy a special fascinating atmosphere that reigns in the theatre.

**Some people compare painting to literature and music. Others say that it is boring to look at pictures.**Millions of people admire pictures by great artists and pay a lot of money to become their owners. Other people don't understand why some paintings are spoken about and valued so much. Some people are fond of going to art galleries, while others consider it a waste of time.  
Personally, I am fond of examining paintings by well-known artists. I think that a good picture always provokes some mood. It is either cheerful if the colours are bright and festive, or wistful if the artist uses dull and oppressive colours. The artist tends to depict wonderful scenes of life — the grand beauty of old pines, the formidable power of a storm or the delicate colours of flowers. Painting gives me aesthetic experience, stirs my imagination and makes me think about something serious and elevated.  
However, some people say that they feel bored when they look at pictures. In contrast to books which tell us an interesting story, a picture always shows a transient moment. So the viewer should guess what happened before that moment and what will happen later. But I strongly feel that a great artist is like a writer. But instead of words he uses a canvas, a brush and paints. The pictures of talented artists can really "speak". Through their pictures artists tell us about their thoughts and feelings and open their inner world to us.  
To conclude, the masterpieces of painting, like the masterpieces of music and literature transform experience. People will admire a beautiful painting if they learn to understand the language of the artist.

**A lot of young people think that music serves only for dancing. However, others say that the aim of music is not just to entertain us.**There is hardly a person in the world who does not like music. Most young people can't imagine their lives without it. But what is music? Is it just a pleasant combination of sounds or a far more complicated notion?  
Personally, I think that music is a universal language understandable to everybody. People compose music in order to express their feelings and emotions. The composer speaks to us without using any words. Music can fill us with energy and make us happy. It's known that classical music makes us feel delighted and relaxed. And on the contrary, rock music and heavy metal arouse hatred, violence, irritation and rage. Some sounds even have a healing effect on people and can normalize heart rate and soothe them better than any pills.  
But some young people think that music serves only for entertainment. They like pop music, rap, dance music and heavy metal. These musical genres help them relax and have fun. Most teenagers are not ready to listen to such serious music as symphony, opera or chamber music. To my mind, musical compositions by such outstanding composers as Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Tchaikovsky or Shostakovich should be listened to attentively and brooded over.  
To conclude, the aim of music is not just to entertain us, but to give us aesthetic pleasure, to develop our taste and love for beauty. That is why everybody likes listening to music, dancing to it, visiting concert halls, singing or playing musical instruments. Music plays a very important role in our lives and it has the power to unite people all over the world.

**Some people say that they are used to working or studying to the sound of music, while others are convinced that music is a distraction.**Parents often complain that children listen to their favoutite records while doing their homework. Some employees cannot imagine their working day without music. But is it all right to listen to music and to work or study simultaneously?  
Personally, I think that listening to music will hardly help you when you are studying mathematics or physics or preparing for an exam. But music is fine when you are doing something that is quite automatic. Many people, especially teenagers, claim that having music on while they study or work can help improve their concentration. Besides, it makes the task seem less boring. Some teenagers even like to do their homework to the sound of heavy rock.  
However, for many people, it would be difficult not only to work with heavy rock music playing, but with any kind of music at all. They say that music does not help them concentrate, and therefore study or work. Most people need total silence to be able to work. If there's any background noise, they get distracted and annoyed. But to my mind, loud chatter, whistle or rustle disturb us more than music.  
To sum up, it is up to you to decide whether to listen to music while you study or not. I think that it is a matter of personal preference. But it is not always good to have music playing in the office or workplace. While it improves concentration or provides relaxation for some people, for others it may be a distraction and even an irritant.

**The silent film disappeared when the era of the talking film began. A lot of people say that modern movies are much better than the early ones. However, some people are sorry about the disappearance of the silent film.**Movies are truly the art of our time. Nowadays there are quite a lot of interesting films among which we can find westerns, horror films, hits, comedies, science fiction films, thrillers, romance films and many others. But why do some people still admire the first black and white films?  
Personally, I am fond of modern cinematography. Nowadays films are skillfully made and contain a lot of special effects. They attract people's attention with absorbing plots, stunning visual and sound effects, exciting scenes and complicated scripts. One of the latest inventions is 3-D films. To my mind, it is amazing to look at objects which seem to have length, depth and height. Besides, modern movies have become easily accessible.  
However, many people like early films that have picture but no sound. They say that modern movies have lost something. Silent films were understandable to everybody without any words. They were like a universal language and they united people of all nationalities. But now films have to be translated into different languages and dubbed. They make our imagination work no more and sometimes they don't help us relax and forget about our everyday problems as there is too much violence, filth and horror in them. What is more, some people say that a lot of modern films are stupid and uninteresting. But I believe that most of them have a successful run. They are watched, discussed and admired.  
To conclude, I think it is difficult to compare modern movies to silent films. They are absolutely different and have their own charm. Anyway, tastes differ and everybody can choose what to watch.

**Some people are fond of 3D films and they are convinced that 3D will take over the cinema in the future. Others are against 3D films.**Nowadays production companies are putting many films in 3D. Some people wonder if it will enhance or ruin the film they want to see.  
Personally, I think that watching a 3D movie is a great fun. It gives you a wonderful opportunity to interact more with the film. To my mind, 3D movies prove that the technology can enhance not only the experience, but the storytelling too. People perceive the world around them with depth. So it would be natural to see films that are given more depth to the scene instead of flat images.  
However, a lot of people say they were disappointed with 3D films. Firstly, some of them did not have a feeling that they got their money's worth because of the lack of effects. Secondly, some movies have 3D graphics added later. It makes films darker and 3D effect is often not very good. Thirdly, some people believe that when we see 3D we lose the artistry of the film. They also say that 3D movies are made for amusement rather than for aesthetic pleasure. In addition, tickets are expensive and it is a great disadvantage for people who are tight with money. They believe that 3D films are not worth the extra cost and they are just a way for companies to boost profits. But I am convinced that a skillfully made 3D movie is worth seeing.  
To conclude, most people think that someday every movie will be released in 3D. But you still have a choice today. If you do not want to watch movies in 3D you can choose the 2D version of a film.

**Some people think that graffiti is an art form, while others think that it is vandalism.**Nowadays graffiti can be seen in the subway and on the walls of many buildings. Some people, especially teenagers, enjoy examining these drawings. But not everybody likes graffiti and recognizes it as an art form.  
I think that graffiti is definitely art. It is so popular nowadays that it can be seen in some museums and art galleries. Graffiti varies from simple written words to elaborate wall paintings. One can see graffiti on many websites, in fashionable magazines and ^en on clothes and toys. Some graffiti artists get thousands of dollars for their paintings. To my mind, graffiti gives young people an opportunity to express their feelings and to demonstrate their skills.  
However, a lot of people say that graffiti is the work of vandals. According to them, it is silly and aggressive and it makes cities ugly. Graffiti is sometimes revolutionary. It often has a reputation as part of a subculture that rebels against authority. Besides, graffiti is still illegal in many places and punishable by fines that is why most graffiti artists choose to remain anonymous. But in my opinion, if the artists were given some place to practice their art, the attitude to graffiti would be different.  
To sum up, nowadays graffiti has the status of "street art". Some paintings are really skillfully made, while others are unsightly. Personally, I like graffiti, but I wouldn't like to see it everywhere.

[Travelling](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/693.htm)

**Travelling**

**Many pupils go on school trips. Some people say they are interesting and educational. Other people say that they are a waste of time and children should learn in the classroom.**  
Most teachers are convinced that there is more to learning than lessons in the classroom. That is why they try to create memorable learning experiences with the help of educational school trips.  
School trips include a wide range of outdoor educational and residential courses, designed to stimulate, educate and motivate pupils. To my mind, school trips help teachers inspire pupils and bring subject areas to life. School trips broaden children's mind, improve their knowledge of history and geography and make their lives interesting and eventful. Whether pupils want an educational school trip within their country or abroad their aim is the same: to enjoy sightseeing, to discover new things, to meet interesting people and to get wonderful impressions and learning experiences which educate, excite and inspire.  
However, some parents don't think that school trips are essential. They believe that pupils can learn everything staying in the classroom. Other parents don't like the fact that they have to pay for most school trips. Moreover, Moms and Dads are often afraid of possible dangers and difficulties which may arise during any school trip. Nevertheless, statistics show that school trips are usually safe for children. But reasonable safety measures are still required.  
To sum up, a school trip is a challenging, rewarding and always exciting experience. Pupils will have fun while learning new skills and capabilities. There is no better way to foster team building, positive attitudes and a sense of personal achievement. I think that school trips will certainly benefit pupils' performance back at school.

**There are people, who think that the best way to travel in a town or in a city is on foot. However a lot of others prefer driving a car or using public transport.**Today everybody understands that time is money. We can't afford to spend much time on the road, so we use cars and public transport to travel faster.  
On the one hand, we shouldn't forget that we can use our legs. In my opinion, when people travel on foot, they can see much more on their way and enjoy the sights of a town or a city. We can stop wherever we want and admire a beautiful church or monument or drop at a cafe or a shop. We won't be stuck in a traffic jam for several hours and we will certainly avoid road accidents. What is more, travelling on foot is much healthier that travelling by car or by bus. Walking is a perfect physical exercise that strengthens the immune system, improves mental health and helps prevent many diseases.  
On the other hand, travelling by car or by bus saves much time and effort. A lot of people prefer driving cars as they have speed and comfort combined. When you travel by car, you don't depend on the weather. For example, if it rains you won't get soaked. If it is cold, you can turn on a heater. While driving, you can listen to music or the latest news on the radio. Public transport is not as popular as cars. Nevertheless, thousands of people use it every day of their lives.  
To conclude, it's up to you to decide whether to travel on foot, to drive a car or to use public transport. As for me, I am young and energetic and I am for travelling on foot.

**Many people prefer to travel abroad; others say that there is much to be seen in our own country.**Most people find travelling very exciting. It gives them an opportunity to enjoy sightseeing, to discover new things, to meet interesting people, to rest physically and morally and to get wonderful impressions.  
For me there is hardly anything more interesting and exciting than a journey to a foreign country. I've been to London, Paris and Rome and it is the most wonderful experience in my life. Travelling abroad gives me a chance to feel thousands of miles away from home, to visit great cities and small villages, to admire foreign architecture, cuisine and culture, to make friends and what not. What is more, it is the best way to broaden your mind, to improve your knowledge of history and geography and to make your life interesting.  
However, a lot of people are sure that there is much to be seen in our own country. Indeed, it is difficult to disagree with them. There are many places of interest in my native town: ancient churches, monuments, museums and parks. One can go to Moscow and visit its theatres, cathedrals, art galleries and what not. The Kremlin attracts thousands of tourists as it is the heart of Moscow and the centre of the Russian government. St. Petersburg, the former capital of Russia, is known for its magnificent palaces, famous museums, beautiful buildings and wide streets. Besides, there are many small towns and villages in our country which are definitely worth visiting.  
To conclude, we should learn everything about our own country first of all. But if we want to learn more about the world around us and to expand the mind, we should travel abroad.

**The car has become the most popular means of transport in the history of the world. However, some people say that the world would be better off without cars.**Nowadays, almost every family has a car. A lot of people say that travelling by car is very convenient, while others are sure that cars cause many problems.  
In my opinion, the car is one of the most comfortable means of transport. Firstly, travelling by car is fast and it helps you save plenty of time. Secondly, it is comfortable because you don't have to buy any tickets and your car is always at your disposal. Thirdly, when you travel by car, you don't depend on the weather. While driving, you can listen to music or the latest news on the radio. And finally, you can stop where you want and have a snack or enjoy nature.  
On the other hand, travelling by car has a number of disadvantages. First and foremost, it is bad for ecology and health. Cars produce exhaust fumes which make the air foul and destroy the ozone layer protecting the Earth from the dangerous rays of the Sun. The car is not a safe means of travel as there are a lot of car and bus crashes. Travelling by car is not very convenient if the trip is long. Besides, it is rather expensive as petrol is not cheap. What is more, when we travel by car, we may be stuck in a traffic jam for several hours.  
To sum up, I think it is rather difficult to do without cars nowadays. But if we want to be healthy, we should sometimes ride a bike or walk.

**Some people think that travelling by plane is very comfortable and convenient. Others say that it has a number of disadvantages.**Nowadays we can't imagine our lives without travelling. We tend to travel longer distances and at much higher speeds. Most people say there is nothing like travel by air for them.  
Personally, I think that travelling by plane is very comfortable, quick and thrilling. It helps me save plenty of time and gives me an opportunity to visit out-of-the-way parts of the world. I don't have to worry about anything during the flight. I can relax, listen to music, read a newspaper or take a nap. The stewardess will take care of passengers during the flight and will help them get comfortable in their seats. I can always enjoy good service and tasty food. What is more, travelling by plane gives me a wonderful opportunity to look through the porthole and to admire beautiful landscapes.  
However, some people don't like travelling by air. Firstly, they complain that it takes them much time to check in at the airport and to have their baggage weighed. Secondly, some flights may be delayed or cancelled because of unfavourable weather conditions. Thirdly, those people who are airsick will hardly find the flight very nice. Finally, aircraft engines emit noise and gases and contribute to air pollution and global warming. Besides, a lot of people doubt that travelling by plane is safe. They are afraid of plane crashes and terrorists. But as a rule much attention is paid to security: all luggage is screened and all passengers are carefully examined.  
To conclude, it is up to you to decide whether to travel by plane or not. Anyway, all means of travel have their advantages and disadvantages.

**Some people consider hitch-hiking to be the best way of travelling. Others think that hitchhiking is dangerous.**Hitch-hikers travel by getting rides in other people's cars. When they want drivers to give them a lift, they stand on the roadside and raise their hand or put out their thumb. Most hitch-hikers also carry a sign with the name of the place they want to go to. But is it safe to travel in such a way?  
Personally, I think that hitch-hiking is a unique opportunity to see different cities and countries. This way of travelling is for enthusiastic people who want to reduce their road expenses. If you want to travel but have no money, hitch-hiking is a single way out. Hitch-hiking will help you get where you want to go for nothing.  
But nowadays hitch-hiking is less common than it used to be some years ago. There have been cases of hitch-hikers or the drivers who picked them up being attacked or killed. That is why people, especially young women, should avoid hitching alone. It is also necessary to be always friendly and polite with drivers in order to avoid conflicts. Besides, a lot of people say that hitchhiking is not for those who like comfort. Sometimes you will have to walk, that is why you should travel light. You should also prepare for your trip beforehand. You should have a good idea of how to get where you are going and be informed about road conditions and weather forecast.  
To sum up, hitch-hiking is both exciting and dangerous. Anyway, if you have decided to hitchhike, you should consult other people and ask them to share their impressions.

**Some people prefer travelling by train, while others say that it has a number of disadvantages.**Nowadays people travel more often than they did in the past. There are different means of travel that provide you with comfort and security, so passengers have a great variety of choice available for them. Travelling by train is very popular with many people, though it has a number of disadvantages as well.  
I am fond of travelling by train because I have speed, comfort and pleasure combined. While travelling I can walk around, look through the windows to enjoy a splendid view of the whole countryside and sit where I can stretch my legs. If I am hungry, I can go to the dining-car and have a meal. Trains can run in bad weather. What is more, as trains are electrically-powered, they are considered to be less harmful to the environment than other forms of transport. The service is popular with passengers because it is fast, efficient, comfortable and quiet.  
However, some people say that they don't like travelling by train. Firstly, they always have to stand in a long line in order to buy train tickets beforehand. Secondly, you cannot stop where you want. Thirdly, when you travel by train, you always have to get to the railway station first. Finally, travelling by train is not very convenient if the trip is long. Of course, travelling by train is not as fast as travelling by plane. But one of the latest inventions is a high-speed train that can run more than 200 km/h.  
To conclude, it is up to you to decide whether to travel by train or not. Anyway, travelling by train has both advantages and disadvantages.

**Medical travel is becoming more and more popular with many people» However, others say that it has many disadvantages.**Travelling abroad for medical treatment has been increasingly growing lately. But why do many people choose to go to foreign clinics and is medical travel as beneficial as it seems to be?  
Medical tourists go to foreign countries for different reasons. Firstly, many patients want to undergo certain medical procedures for lower prices. For example, the cost of different operations in India, Thailand or South Africa is much lower than in the United States or Western Europe. Secondly, medical travel gives people the opportunity not only to receive first-rate care from highly qualified specialists, but also to have a holiday in an exotic country. Finally, many people go abroad in order to avoid long waiting periods. In such countries as the USA or Britain a person may wait for a certain medical procedure for a year or even longer. But in other countries a patient can receive the needed treatment immediately.  
Nevertheless, some people say that undergoing treatment abroad may be rather risky. For instance, infectious diseases in such countries as Thailand or Malaysia are different from those in North America and Europe. Foreign diseases may be extremely dangerous to weakened patients. What is more, long flights should be avoided after certain medical procedures. Additionally, some holiday-related activities such as sunbathing or swimming may worsen patients' health. But to my mind, medical tourism is great because people can combine leisure with medical procedures.  
To conclude, medical travel can save your money and give you an opportunity to rest and visit other countries. However, one should take all possible risks into consideration before making the final decision to go abroad.

**Some people are fond of travelling to exotic countries, while others say that exotic travel is rather risky.**Many people dream of exciting travels to sunny, beautiful and interesting places in exotic countries. But every tourist must remember that there are a number of risks that they need to be aware of.  
In my opinion, exotic travel gives you an opportunity to participate in exciting experiences. In exotic countries you can ride a camel or an elephant, enjoy modern cities or picturesque little villages, admire ancient temples and what not. Travelling to exotic countries many tourists would like to watch the daily life of local people, to see mountains, jungles and beaches. I believe that exotic travel is very rewarding because it can lead to totally new understanding of diverse cultures and lifestyles.  
Nevertheless, arranging a perfect travel to exotic places is not an easy task. Travel agencies show tourists colorful catalogues with beautiful beaches and modern hotels. Most people find it difficult to explore this immensity of offers and spot the one that would let them admire a truly stunning seaside, good service, clean beaches and high quality hotels. Many tourists feel ill at ease when they go to an exotic country because they do not know much about its traditions and do not understand the language. Some tourists may dislike the local food. Furthermore, they have no natural immunity to foreign diseases. In addition, tourists may have problems with insects, public transport, thieves, insistent street vendors and so on.  
To conclude, many people say that once you have tasted the excitement of visiting exotic destinations, you'll never want to stop. However, tourists must take precautions in order to avoid unpleasant situations and to remain safe and secure.

[Youth Problems](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/698.htm)

[Work & Career](http://www.alleng.ru/engl-top/699.htm)