

英语交流 II 口语考试 (课内)

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B2U5

1. What are the good things about living in your hometown? (P77)

I come from a small town in the mountain areas in the east of China.

- It has **beautiful scenery** and **a pleasant climate**, neither too cold nor too hot.
- It is a **quiet** town with a pretty relaxing lifestyle.
- **The residents** there are kind, friendly and helpful.
- I like the pleasant **atmosphere** of living in such a small town.

2. What are the main problems in your hometown?

- Since my hometown is in the mountains and is far from big cities, the **bus service** there is poor and infrequent.
- **It is also difficult for** children to receive a good **education** locally. So many children have to live in boarding schools.
- **A more serious problem is** that it is inconvenient to go to **hospital**. When it is an emergency case, it can be a matter of life and death.

3. What do you think of city life?

Generally speaking, I like living in a big city.

- **There is greater convenience, diversity and choice living in a big city.** There are a lot of **things to see and do**, and I'll never feel bored. And there are also many opportunities for me in big cities.
- But **more opportunities also mean more challenges.** So I have to be quite competitive to survive in a big city.

1. What are the important criteria for a good city? (P78)

In my opinion, **the important criteria** for a good city are **safety**, affordable **housing**, sound **education** and **health care system**, pleasant **climate** and **environment**, abundant leisure and cultural **facilities**, good **public services**, and convenient **transportation**.

2. Which city in China do you think is the best city for living? Why?

In my opinion, Weihai is the best city for living in China.

- Weihai is a **coastal garden** city with a pleasant **climate**, clean air, beautiful natural **scenery**, blue **sea**, soft sand, clean and **safe** streets as well as small European style residential buildings.
- It is a modern, up-to-date city that still maintains the charm and atmosphere of a small town.

1. Which of the three cities do you like most? Why? (P79)

I like Sydney mainly because of its beautiful harbor, beaches and buildings. I also like its warm weather and café culture.

B2U6

1. What are the pros and cons of the work of accountants? (P95)

- **The good thing of being** an accountant **is that** the job offers a very good salary and benefits and excellent job security.
- **The bad thing is that** it has a high potential for human error and the tasks involved are usually boring.

2. What are the pros and cons of the work of lawyers?

- **The benefits of being** a lawyer **are that** lawyers are respected, and are usually paid a good salary. **Besides**, the work of lawyers is not repetitive, and they can meet different clients and different situations.
- **The downsides of being** a lawyer are lawyers usually live a stressful life. **They often have to** work long hours and meet strict deadlines, **and even worse** they may sometimes be confronted with threats or actual violence.

3. What are the pros and cons of the work of salesperson?

- **The pros of being** a salesperson include flexibility, potentially unlimited income and opportunities to meet many different people.
- **While the cons include** irregular income, unpredictable schedule, demanding expectations, and constant pressure.

4. What are the pros and cons of the work of doctors?

- **The good thing of being** a doctor is that doctors are very respectable and usually have a decent salary.
- **The bad thing is that** the job requires a long process to acquire a license, and doctors usually work long hours and have a great deal of responsibility.

1. Which way of motivating staff do you like most? Why? (P97)

I like the methods adopted by Google most. Because one of the benefits Google offers is a cheap massage, which is my favorite form of relaxation.

2. If you were a boss, what would you do to motivate your staff?

If I were the boss, **I would** offer free daycare for children, **in addition to** benefits such as free lunches, free drinks and paid holidays. But most importantly, I would create a healthy company culture to motivate the staff.

1. What are the major concerns people have when looking for a job?

Which is the most important thing for you when you look for a job? (P95)

1. flexible hours

What I look for in a job is flexible working hours.

- I hate those nine-to-five jobs.
- I want flexibility in working time so as to better meet my individual and business needs.

2. stability

When I look for a job, what I expect most is job security.

- I won't worry about becoming unemployed.
- A job with a low level of security may result in low morale and excessive stress, thus affecting my overall work performance.

3. good work-life balance

I regard a good work-life balance as the most important thing.

- It refers to the proper division of time and energy between work and the other important aspects of life.
- It will make me feel I am paying attention to all the important factors in my life, and thus gives me a sense of achievement and satisfaction.
- But if not, I will feel stressed and unhappy.

4. chances of promotion

I have strong ambition about my career and I want to achieve professional success.

- It can give me a chance to develop my skills, and have potential room for me to advance in my career.
- I expect the company or organization I work for to offer necessary training and chances.

5. a good salary and benefits

The salary and benefits are the most important factors that I will take into consideration.

- They are the biggest motivation for me to work hard and also the best way to prove that my good work is recognized and rewarded.
- At least I expect I am paid enough to meet my needs, and paid fairly in comparison to others.

6. interesting job tasks

When I look for a job, I will consider what job tasks I am supposed to complete.

- I prefer tasks that are interesting and challenging.
- Repetitive and boring tasks will only make me lose interest or motivation in my job.

7. a good boss

When I look for a job, a good boss is a very important factor that will affect my decision.

- A good boss is honest, compassionate, fair, hard-working, and understanding.
- A good boss always keeps an open door, lends an ear to employees, and never let good work go unnoticed.
- A good boss will make employees feel appreciated, recognized and valued.

B2U7

1. How do you feel about technology? (P113)

Technology is new and innovative, which can make life easier and more comfortable. I love technology and I spend a lot of money on technology.

2. What items of technology do you have with you at the moment?

I have two iPhones in my pocket and a laptop in my backpack.

3. What items of technology could / couldn't you live without? Why?

I think I could live without an MP3 player. Now I often play music on my computer, so an MP3 player isn't essential to me. I couldn't live without my computer. I have to work on it every day. I search for useful information online, write drafts of my compositions, email them to my teachers, receive feedback and make changes accordingly. In my spare time, I surf on the Internet, write blogs, chat online with my friends, have video calls with my parents, and shop online. I depend on it.

1. How much time do you spend on the Internet every day? (P113)

One to two hours a day.

2. What do you usually do when you surf the Internet?

I usually search for information, read news articles, shop online, or download music.

3. Do you get distracted when you work or study online?

Yes. When I search for certain information and open a new page, there are pop-ups related to news, sales information, new trailers, or something else. If it is something I'm interested in, I will click on it on impulse. So I'm vulnerable to these distractions.

1. You shouldn't believe what you read on the Internet. (P115)

I partly agree with the statement.

- **On one hand**, we have to admit that the Internet enhances all our lives on a daily basis.

We can search for information online, communicate with others.

It also makes our work more convenient.

- **On the other hand**, the Internet is a big platform, which allows everyone to express their own opinions, even release unreliable information or rumors. You may read false news, false statistics and made-up stories. **It is impossible and unnecessary to** conduct cyber-investigations all the time, but just be careful to check what you read online.

2. It's better to talk to someone than to send them a text message.

I think it depends.

- **Traditionally, talking to someone face to face is a good way to** show your sincerity and your attention. **Besides**, face-to-face talk can make you well understood and ensure the talk goes smoothly.
- **But**, if you are too shy to make a request face-to-face, sending a text message will be a better choice. If you don't receive any answer, it means the other person has declined politely. To most Chinese people this is the best strategy in order to avoid losing face.

B2U8

1. Where did your ancestors come from? (P131)

My ancestors came from the northeast of China. They moved to Zhejiang Province about 200 years ago.

2. Are you related to anyone famous? If yes, who is he / she?

- No, I'm not related to anyone famous.
- Yes, I may have some connections with Confucius.

3. Which members of your family do you feel close to?

My grandmother, because I was brought up by her.

4. Have you ever met your great-grandparents? What do you know about them?

- No. Unfortunately, they died before I was born. I know they were farmers.
- Yes, I've met my great-grandmother on my mother's side. She thought girls should receive more education than boys, so she sent my grandfather's younger sister to university, while let my grandfather work to support the whole family.

5. What family characteristics have you inherited?

I'm a bit shy and reserved, just like my father and my older brothers.

6. Who in your family do you take after?

My mother. We look alike and we have similar characters.

1. Recall memorable events about your family. (p133)

My grandma is very kind to me and she teaches me a lot. On a birthday party for me at a restaurant, a doorman came to help me. I didn't say anything to him. But, my grandma told me that every man deserves respect. From then on I began to say "Thank you!" to anyone who helped me.

B3U1

1. How do you feel about trying new things? (P5)

- I like trying new things because **it enables me to experience more and learn more** about others, by which I can become more liberal and less biased.
- I don't like trying new things because **they often let me down**. Trying new things sometimes means venture or even danger, so I don't like trying new things and would like to stick to the familiar.

2. What stops you from trying new things?

Trying new things may **have too much demand on me**. Furthermore, trying new things may bring me disappointment or even failure.

3. What have you achieved in your life that makes you feel proud?

I take great pride in winning first place in the speech contest held in my university.

4. Who do you admire for their achievements and why?

I admire Winston Churchill, who led his country from the verge of defeat to victory.

1. Do you believe that a good memory is critical to success? Why or why not? (P5)

- Yes, **I firmly believe that** a good memory determines a person's success. **Firstly**, a good memory is a great help in the process of learning. **Secondly**, a good memory can help you build relationships, which is also a decisive factor for success. **Thirdly and most importantly**, a good memory can provide you with quick, reliable access to essential thinking tools.
- No, I don't think a good memory is critical to success. **In my opinion, it is** diligence, creativity and persistence **that** eventually determine one's success.

2. Have you ever tried any method to improve your memory? Do you think that useful?

- Yes, I have tried some methods to improve my memory. For example, I learned the method of location from a book and I liked it very much.
- Yes, I once believed that there might be some special shortcuts to improving my memory. But when I tried a couple of methods, I felt it was inconvenient to apply them and it is a waste of time. I think I would never try any method again.

B3U2

1. How are you feeling today? Why? (P27)

- I'm feeling quite well-balanced and optimistic today.
- I am not quite feeling myself today. I feel I have a sore throat.

2. Would you describe yourself as an optimist or a pessimist? Why?

- I am an optimist. Whenever I get in a tricky situation, I think of the positives and manage to pull myself through.
- I think I am a pessimist. I always feel that I can't do well enough. I am always afraid of being laughed by others.

3. What's the best thing that's happened to you this year?

The happiest thing that happened to me this year is that I got a scholarship. I was even not a good student last year and indulged myself in playing computer games. But I made up my mind to catch up with my classmates because of the encouragement from my family and my teachers. After several months of hard work, finally I made it.

B3U3

1. Discuss what you like / dislike about where you live. (P46)

- **things you like**
a food market; a bookstore; close to the metro; a good hospital / medical care center
- **things that are nice but not essential**
a good local supermarket; a sports center;
a theater / cinema; a bar
- **things you dislike**
lacking of parking space; various types of noise; pollution; high crime rate

2. Think about your neighborhood. What would make it:

- **safer?**
Lectures should be given to tell people how to prevent fire, theft and other dangers. Besides, the police should make sure the streets are safe - not only from crime but also from traffic accidents.
- **more beautiful?**
I think we should plant more trees and flowers in the community. In addition, we should discipline our own behavior and should not litter garbage everywhere or draw on the buildings.
- **more interesting?**
More entertainment activities should be held to draw the interest of people. Meanwhile, don't forget the children. We should also provide them with facilities to give them fun and joy.
- **better for your health?**
I think we should build a community gym providing a variety of affordable exercise options. Besides, activities should be conducted to help people quit smoking or excessive drinking.
- **more of a community?**
I'd really like to see a good shopping mall, where people can meet, get to know each other and entertain themselves.

1. Do you know your neighbors? How well do you know them? (P48)

- Yes, I know my neighbors very well. We have been friends for many years and often invite each other for family dinners.
- Actually, I don't know my neighbors very well. It's difficult for people living in apartments to know their next-door neighbors nowadays. We may nod at each other or say hi when meeting in the building but never have a long conversation. I even don't know what they do or where they work.

2. What do you think makes a good / bad neighbor?

- A good neighbor is someone you can trust, depend on and share your happiness and grief, just like one of your family members.
- A bad and inconsiderate neighbor makes much noise late at night, throws rubbish anywhere in the doorway, and never cares about what others feel.

1. Which of these websites do you use regularly? Which do you use occasionally? Which do you never use? (P49)

The websites I use regularly include search engines, news sites, blogs, Wiki and social networking sites. I use these websites almost every day to get information I need and share things about myself. As to the types of websites such as photo sharing websites and travel sites, I only visit them occasionally. The websites I never use include rating sites, dating sites, and corporate websites.

1. What do you think are the similarities and differences between an online community and a real community? (P51)

I think there are similarities as well as differences between an online community and a real community. On the one hand, an online community is just similar to a real community in sharing and discussing. On the other hand, there are also many clear differences.

For Example, ...

2. What are the benefits of online communities?

Online communities provide another chance for people to communicate with each other. They do things without going out, and this saves time, money, energy and natural resources. Furthermore, through online communities, people can sometimes do what they can't do in real communities. For example, a guy who may be shy and quiet in the eyes of his friends and families may become open and talkative in online communities.

3. What are the possible dangers or problems if people spend a lot of time in online communities?

If people spend a lot of time in online communities, they will be greatly affected physically, mentally and emotionally. They may become inactive, slow in memorizing things, as well as addicted to the Internet and confuse the online communities with the real ones, thus having difficulties in communicating with other people around them.

B3U4

1. Why do you think they are on the “world’s worst inventions” list? Give at least one reason for each. (P68)

- car

The waste gas emitted by cars is **polluting** our living environment. Moreover, along with the increasing number of cars, the roads are becoming more and more **crowded** and there are more **traffic accidents**.

- nuclear power

Accidents caused by the nuclear power tell us that it is not as safe as it claims. In addition, the economic cost of nuclear power accidents is high, and meltdowns can take decades to clean up. The evacuation of affected populations will also pose serious problems.

- fast food

Nowadays people come to know more and more about the harmful effects of fast food. Though it can bring us a lot of convenience, it is of little nutritional value and often high in fat, sugar, salt, and calories. Eating too much fast food may cause **obesity** and other related **diseases**.

- mobile phone

Despite its convenience, the mobile phone has brought us many problems as well. As we all know, this small machine emits radiation all the time, which is **harmful to our health**. Furthermore, it reduces the intimacy between people and brought about some **psychological problems**, especially among young people.

- weapon

The weapon is a device designed or used for nothing but **killing people**. There are different kinds of weapons, including conventional weapons, chemical weapons, biological weapons, nuclear weapons, etc. They are often used in wars, leading to the **death** of people and the great **loss of property**.

- cigarette

The harmful health effects of smoking cigarettes are known to all. Every year hundreds of thousands of **people** around the world **die** from diseases caused by smoking. The mixture of nicotine and carbon monoxide in cigarettes can cause heart attacks and strokes. Smoking during pregnancy increases the risk of low birth weight, premature birth and abortion.

1. Do you often buy things on impulse? (P70)

- Yes. I can't resist the temptation of delicious food, fashionable clothes, and latest electronic products.
- No, I am self-controlled and will always think twice before I make a purchase.

2. What recent product or service do you think is impressive?

The latest mobile phone I saw on TV impresses me a lot. First, it's very smart. Second, it has a flexible 3D screen. Finally, it has an in-built projector, which is convenient for you to project pictures or movies on any flat surface.

3. If you could start a business or invent a product or service, what would it be?

I want to invent a kind of chip which can give people knowledge when it is placed in human brains. The traditional ways of teaching and learning cost too much time and energy, however, with limited effect. The invention of this chip will significantly improve human cognitive capability and get them better prepared for the future.

1. Discuss the marketing strategies for something you are all interested in. You may employ the strategies mentioned in the interview. (P74)

To sell a new toy, first we need to target on our prospective consumers. We should mainly advertise on TV since most kids only watch TV instead of reading newspapers. As to the appearance of our toy, we think purple is preferable because it is said that kids prefer purple to all other colors.

B3U5

1. What did you dream of doing or being when you were younger? How about now? (P93)

When I was a child, probably my biggest ambition was to become a professional footballer, which, I should admit, was a bit ridiculous, considering that my football skills at the time were by no means good. But still, that's what I wanted to be, at least until common sense got the better of me! But now, I have totally given up my football dream. I know it's impossible for me, so I'd rather do something more practical.

2. Are you ambitious? If so, in what way(s)?

- Yes, I think I am an ambitious person. I have firm confidence that I will finally be successful. I have a short-term goal and a long-term goal, and I am seeking after them step by step. I have also made preparations for the possible obstacles and even failures. Together with determination and hard work, I think I will overcome all the challenges and difficult situations in achieving my goals.
- No, I don't think I am ambitious and I don't admire ambitious people either. Ambitious people usually think too high of themselves. They are too proud of themselves. Besides, I think ambition could be dangerous sometimes. Ambitious people are not likely to follow others' advice and it could be bad for them. I never had any strange or wild ambition. I just want to choose a peaceful life that suits me well.

1. Have you ever considered the potential disadvantages of your dream job? Are you prepared to accept them when you take the job? (P96)

- Yes. My dream job is to be a software engineer. I know its disadvantages clearly, such as excessive use of the brain, keeping up with the ever-changing technology, and always sitting before a computer. But I am mature enough to realize the fact that there is no perfect dream job in this world. I am psychologically well-prepared to accept the disadvantages.
- No. My dream job is to become a musician. I think a job would not be a “dream job” any more if it has disadvantages that you cannot bear.

2. Suppose you see your dream job advertised. Unfortunately, it asks for several specific skills and you’ve only got some of them. What would you probably do?

- I think I would probably give up this time and resolve to get at least more of the skills in the near future, so that I can apply next time.
- I would probably apply for the job anyway, focusing on the skills I’ve got and ignoring the ones I haven’t.

3. If you were offered a job that is irrelevant to your specialty and interest but with a decent salary, would you take it? Why or why not?

- I prefer a well-paid job even if it has nothing to do with my specialty or interest. Salary counts most when I choose my future job because I have to shoulder the burden of supporting my family first.
- I wouldn’t take this job because I think a job in which you do not have interest is not a job any more. It’s just a way of making a living, from which I wouldn’t derive any pleasure.

B3U6

1. Do you think life is better now than in the past? (P115)

- I think life is of course better now than in the past. Thanks to modern technology and advanced medical treatment, we are living a much more convenient and healthier life now. For example, we can rely on modern communication technology to contact friends far away, and we have extended our life expectancy significantly.
- No, I don't think life is any better now than in the past. Although modern technology has brought convenience to us, it has caused problems as well. People don't know or care about each other even if they are neighbors. Moreover, people nowadays have many diseases which did not exist in the past. The environmental pollution is also one of the greatest problems that the world is facing now.

2. If you could have lived through a different age or decade, which would you choose and why?

Personally, I would probably choose to live in the 1980s. Firstly, it's because the relationships among people then were easy and simple. People cared about each other and lived a happy life. Secondly, there were not many pollutants at that time. The air was clean and the environment was friendly. Finally, I love rock and roll, and I think the 1980s was the best period in the development of rock and roll in China.

3. In your opinion, what historical events or people have changed the course of history? In what way(s)?

In my opinion, the invention of the steam engine has greatly changed the world. The steam engine was the foremost energy source in the emerging Industrial Revolution, and enormously multiplied its productive capacity. Not only did steam engines power factories that made the rapid production of goods possible, but also powered the trains and steamships that carried those goods across the globe. With Watt's invention of the first practical steam engine, our world was radically transformed from an agricultural society into an industrial one.

B3U7

1. Would you describe yourself as a practical person? (P135)

- Yes, I think I am a practical person. I like fixing problems with my computer, my TV, and other electrical appliances at home.
- No, I wouldn't describe myself as a practical person. I hate solving problems beyond my expertise. I would rather leave them to the experts.

2. What kinds of problems are you good at / not so good at solving?

- I think I am good at solving all the problems with computers or network. I am also good at solving most problems with cars. To conclude, I am good at anything that is mechanical or electronic.
- What I am not so good at is interpersonal relationships. Sometimes I find it difficult to communicate with people. And to be frank, I am afraid of talking to people, especially strange people.

3. If you could have one “super power” , what would it be and why?

The superpower I would love to have is to be able to stop time, because I always have much work to do every day and I feel I never have enough time.