

### **21.2. What have you ever done by boat?**

From my recollection, my father and I did hire a boat to go fishing in a river. It was an **out-of-this-world experience** since we **marveled at** the beautiful landscapes and caught lots of big fish and squids.

### **21.3. Do you want to own a boat?**

No, it's the last thing I want to do. I'm not living near coastal areas. Here in the cities, there're hardly any lakes or rivers for me to go boating. Besides, a boat can **cost an arm and a leg** these days, so I think it's not **worth your while**.

## **22. Rain**

### **22.1. Does it rain much in your country? (Where? When?)**

I would say yes. It rains a lot in the summer when **tropical storms strike** our country. There is **torrential rain** in the region in June, July and August, and the rainfall tends to be higher in the North than in the South.

### **22.2. Is there any part of your country where it doesn't rain much?**

To tell you the truth, I have no clue about this. I do not **give a hoot about** geography and the amount of rain in my country. I think the most rainfall is in the North where there is an **intricate** system of rivers.

### **22.3. Does it rain a lot in your hometown?**

Well, it depends on the season. In winter and spring, there is a **dearth of rain** associated with the **arid weather**. In contrast, it is usually **raining cats and dogs** in summer and august, causing **loads of troubles** for people travelling on the road.

### **22.4. Can you remember any time when it rained particularly heavily in your hometown?**

That would be last summer. I was going to work and then **all of a sudden** it started to rain, followed by a **deluge**. I was soaked to the skin and couldn't attend a very important meeting.

### **22.5. Does rain ever affect transportation in your hometown?**

Yeah, of course. **Traffic is often held up** when it rains. All the **roads are clogged**, and people find it difficult to **escape from traffic congestion**. I would stay at home and watch TV rather than going out and being caught up in traffic.

### ***Vocabulary***

**Tropical storm (phrase)** A tropical storm is an organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds between 34 knots (63 km/h) and 64 knots (119 km/h).

**Torrential rain (phrase)** If it's raining extremely hard, then the rain is torrential

**Give a hoot about something/someone (phrase)** to not be interested in someone or something

**Intricate (adj)** very complicated or detailed.

**Dearth (noun)** a scarcity or lack of something.

**Arid (adj)** (of land or a climate) having little or no rain; too dry or barren to support vegetation

**Rain cats and dogs (idiom)** rain heavily

**All of a sudden (phrase)** happening, coming, made, or done quickly, without warning, or unexpectedly

**Deluge (noun)** a great flood of water

**Hold someone/something up (phrasal verb)** to delay someone or something

## **23. Emails/ Letters**

### **23.1. Do you like to write a letter or an email?**

Due to **time constraint** and professionalism, emails are much more favorable than traditional **handwritten correspondence**. However, I still enjoy the **sophistication** and **artfulness** of handwritten letters since each one is

## 26. Sunny days

### 26.1. Do you like sunny days?

I would say I am most productive and energetic on sunny days since there are full of brightness and positivity. For me, sunshine **represents** hope and **optimism**, thus, it gives me motivation to perform better at school or at work. On the contrary, I tend to be more **lethargic** and less enthusiastic during rainy season, mostly because of its **dull** and **gloomy** atmosphere.

**Represent** (v): to be a symbol of something

**Optimism** (n): a feeling that good things will happen and that something will be successful; the tendency to have this feeling

**Lethargic** (a): without any energy or enthusiasm for doing things

**Dull** (a): not bright, with a lot of clouds

**Gloomy** (a): nearly dark, or badly lit in a way that makes you feel sad

### 26.2. What do you like to do when it's a sunny day?

I'd love to participate in some outdoor activities under the sun like meeting up with some friends or do some sports, especially swimming. Or I'll **grab the chance** for a photography tour. Everything becomes so clear and stunning on sunny days, no matter it's **early in the morning** or **late in the afternoon**, as long as the sun shines, I'm sure I'll find inspiration almost everywhere.

#### ***Vocabulary***

**To grab the chance** (v) to have an opportunity to do Sth

*Or:*

I'm a **highly active** person who really enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking or cycling. Therefore, on a sunny day, if I have some time to spare, I will do some exercises in the local park or explore the surrounding neighborhood where I **have yet to visit**. It would be a shame if people stay indoor all day without bathing under the sun every once in a while.

**Have yet to do something (phrase)** used for saying that something has not happened or been done up to the present time

### 26.3. Would you like to stay at home or go outside when the weather is great?

It's recommended that people should spend more time outside for both **physical and mental benefits** and there's no reason not to, especially when the weather is great. I usually get out of the house for a walk or short break just to enjoy the fresh air. It's also a really helpful **tactic** to **boost creativity** and **regain focus** after long working hours.

**Tactic** (n): the particular method you use to achieve something

**Boost** (v): to make something increase, or become better or more successful

**Regain** (v): to get back something you no longer have, especially an ability or a quality

*Or:*

I think I would say it depends on my mood and my **workload**. I definitely cannot go out enjoy myself if my work is still a mess, even though it was such nice weather. And unless I feel super energetic and motivated, I think most of the time I'd prefer staying inside, no matter how the sun shines or how cool the weather is.

### 26.4. Are there many sunny days in your hometown?

I'm living in a tropical country so it's safe to say that there are more sunshine than rain, which is great news for people who enjoy being outside like me. However, the heat can be **extreme** in some specific months of the year, therefore, we have to apply sunscreen or cover ourselves carefully before leaving the house to avoid **sunburn** or **heatstroke**.

**Extreme** (a): very great in degree

**Sunburn** (n): the condition of having painful red skin because you have spent too much time in the sun

**Heatstroke** (n): an illness with fever and often loss of consciousness, caused by being in too great a heat for too long

*Or:*