

IELTS™

English for International Opportunity

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ERGİN HOCA IELTS

IELTS Writing & Speaking Örnekleri

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IELTS Speaking Part 1

Do you like holidays?

Of course, I do. We all need some spare time. We cannot struggle for something all the time. Living without holidays would be a disaster. Both mentally and physically.

When did you last have a holiday?

At the end of last summer. I have a busy schedule at other times of the year. I camped in Antalya. It was a lovely experience. I felt part of the nature.

Do you like long or short holidays?

It does not matter. If I want to visit a new place, it is better to have a longer holiday. For instance, I had the chance to visit Barcelona last year. I had only one week for the entire holiday. It was not enough.

But, if I need to unwind only, even three days can be enough. Sometimes, I need to rest only. I just want to get rid of all my responsibilities.

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Would you prefer to have a holiday at a beach or in a city?

At a beach, of course. I like to sunbathe and swim. I do this whenever possible. Spending a few hours at the beach fully refreshes me.

But, I also like cultural tours in historical cities. I like to think about ancient people. It feels good to imagine how they lived, what they went through.

Are there many public holidays in your country?

Many, I think. We have a public holiday almost every month. These range from religious festivals to historically important days. Our country has had a turbulent history. There are many things to remember.

What do people usually do in public holidays?

Some attend celebrations in city centers or stadiums. Others prefer to rest at home. Children love the opportunity to skip a few lessons thanks to these. Public holidays are embraced by all members of a society for a reason.

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Do you like to spend time by yourself?

I do. I am an introvert. I often need to spend time alone to feel better.

What do you usually do when you spend time alone?

I either watch movies or read something. I am really fond of science fiction.

Do you prefer spending time alone or with friends?

It depends on my mood. I have a limited number of friends. I like to hang out with them at most twice a week. Spending time alone sounds like a better idea to me.

Is it boring to spend time alone?

Not for me. There is so much to read and watch. I think introverts can never get bored of reading. I have no idea about the rest.

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Do you like travelling?

More than everything. I like to see new places. There is nothing else that gives me more joy.

How often do you travel?

Very often. There are so many beautiful places to see in my country. From mountains and forests to beaches. There is something for everybody.

What is the best place for vacation in your country?

The southern areas are best for those who love to swim and sunbathe. But, if you are willing to have a winter holiday, Eastern Turkey is the more suitable destination.

Would you like to travel around the world?

Who would not? I wish I had the courage to give up my job and see all exotic locations, such as the Amazon river or the Himalayas.

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Would you like to have a job that involves travelling to different countries?

That sounds like a dream. Getting paid for it sounds too good to be true.

What kind of challenges can you face while travelling?

You may have to be extra careful in dangerous countries, such as Honduras or Brazil. In exotic locations, accommodation and food may pose challenges.

How do you commute to school or work?

I usually take the subway. I am lucky to live around a subway station. It significantly reduces the amount of time spent for commuting.

What other mode of transport can you use to get there?

It is possible to take the bus, as well. My workplace is located at the very center of the city.

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Would you prefer to travel by your own car or a bus?

Depends on my mood. If in a hurry, driving my own car sounds better. But, if I feel a little lazy, I would not like to drive at all. Driving requires being alert all the time. It is a little taxing for the brain.

How did you commute to school when you were a child?

I did not. I lived only a few hundred meters away from the school. I went there on foot all the time.

Which modes of transport are widespread in your country?

Buses are much more common, because it is more affordable to travel by them. But, flights are also becoming more popular, either. 10 years ago, only the very rich could fly, but plane tickets are not that costly anymore.

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Have you ever met any of your online friends?

Not yet. And that will never be the case I think. I do not trust people that I meet online. They would be after anything. My friends are enough for me.

Are you in touch with some of your childhood friends?

Thanks to social media, I am. We occasionally text each other. I would like to meet them in person, but I live too far away from them anymore.

What kind of people do you like to be friends with?

I like people with whom I can talk comfortably. I do not want to hesitate when around friends. I want to speak my mind all the time.

Do you consider yourself a good friend?

I guess. I help them whenever they need it. I never let them down. Let it be lending money or listening to them. I am always there for them.

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Do you have any friends who live far away from you?

Unfortunately, yes. My best friend had to move abroad for her career. She was unable to afford a living here anymore. But, we are still in touch. Through the internet, of course.

How often do you visit your relatives?

Not very often. I am too busy with my work and studies. I barely have time to rest. Even so, the idea is not very attractive. I am not really fond of most of them.

Do you enjoy spending time with your relatives?

Only with the younger ones. Older people in our society see life differently. They are stuck with the old way of life. They are too boring.

When was the last time you visited your relatives?

A few months back, my cousin got married. I attended the wedding ceremony just like many of my relatives. I had a bit of a talk with some of them.

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What do people in your country do when they visit their relatives?

They talk about what they are going through. Like how much they earn, what the kids are doing, where they study ...

Would you prefer to spend time with your relatives or friends?

Friends, of course. I cannot choose my relatives, but I am friends with people I like only. I have more fun when with friends.

What did you study at university?

Ben İngilizce öğretmeniyim, fakat rastgele bir örnek sundum. I studied software engineering at a reputable university. It was initially hard, but over time I got used to it.

Why did you choose this department?

I wanted to understand more about artificial intelligence. I am fascinated by the idea of humanlike robots. I wanted to help build them.

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Are you satisfied with your choice?

I am. I have always been interested in coding. I have learnt many things so far. I can now understand how applications work.

At what part of the day do you like to study more?

It is easier to study early in the day. I can stay focused for a longer time in the mornings. In the evening, I like to hang out with my friends or family.

Is there any method that helps you study more efficiently?

I only need to stay away from my phone. Otherwise, I get distracted by the notifications. Especially, in the evenings, I get many messages. That's why I always study away from my phone.

Do you care more about your friends or your education?

They are both important. Life means nothing without friends. Also, it is impossible to get a decent career without proper education. I have enough time for both.

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How do you maintain your health?

I train several times a week. It keeps me physically active. I also watch what I eat. I have a balanced diet, which includes enough fat and protein.

Do you have any unhealthy habits?

Unfortunately, yes. I usually do not enough as much as necessary. I hope I will be able to get rid of this.

What is more important for health? Eating healthy food or exercising regularly?

I thin both are equally important. Doing only one of these cannot ensure good health. Our body needs both. If you do not exercise, your body will weaken over time. And without nutritious food, no one can stay healthy for long.

Do you like running as an activity?

I do. Especially by the seaside. It feels great to feel the breeze.

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How often do you run?

Once a week at least. In summers, I have the chance to run more often because the weather is usually good. But, I do not run when it is rainy or too windy.

When was the last time you ran?

Last Sunday. I had a great run before breakfast. I was alone, though. I was listening to music while running.

Where can you run in your city?

I live in a city with a long shore. There is a running lane that spans more than 10 kms I think.

Have you ever participated in a long-distance running competition?

The farthest I ran was almost 20 kms. With a few breaks, of course. It was for fun only, not for a competition. I'm not fit enough for competing.

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Did you have running classes at school?

No. In physical education classes, we usually played either football or volleyball. Nothing directly about running.

Would you watch a live running event on TV?

Running itself is a little boring. But, watching a 100 meter race would be fun. It gives us the chance to see the fastest people on Earth.

Have you ever seen a wild animal?

Many times so far. The city I live in is home to a huge zoo. There are all kinds of wild animals over there. From tigers to bears.

What is your favourite wild animal?

I do not think I have a favourite one. But, if I had to choose one, it would be the bear. They are too heavy, but they can run much faster than an athlete, swim like a fish and climb up trees like monkeys.

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Do you prefer to drink tea or coffee?

Coffee tastes better. I hardly ever drink tea. It takes a lot more time to prepare.

Is it the same case for people in your country?

Not really. The overwhelming majority of Turkish people consume tea only. Some drink up to 30 glasses a day. It has become more like an addiction for them.

Do you ever go out to drink tea or coffee?

I do. Especially if I want to try a different taste. Where I live, there are many cafes offering specialty coffee.

What kind of beverages do you serve for your guests?

Tea is the primary choice for the majority. Coffee is not the practical choice if there are many guests. One pot of tea may be enough for a dozen.

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Have you ever baked anything?

Not yet. Neither cooking nor baking is my call. I do not have any patience when it comes to preparing food.

Do you like eating cakes?

Not really. They are too sweet. They are also packed with too many calories. But, I loved them as a child. Not anymore.

Do you ever crave desserts?

Very rarely. I have no idea what triggers it. The craving appears out of nowhere.

Do people in your country like to eat desserts after meals?

They do, I think. There are countless dessert recipes in my country. This implies that they are eaten every now and then.

Are you interested in fashion?

Not at all. I am more interested in improving the way my body looks.

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Do you follow the latest trends in fashion?

Not really. Yet, no one can completely ignore it. You will just see it around. It takes a little walk in a city center to see the current trends.

If possible, would you like to own trendy clothes?

Comfort comes first for me. If I can meet this criterion, it does not matter whether my clothes are fashionable or not.

Is fashion an important concern for people in your country?

I cannot say so. The vast majority of Turks can barely meet their essential needs. For most, there is no money left for fashion.

What are the drawbacks of wearing fashionable clothes?

I can think of one only. You will look like many other people. Fashion creates a similar look on people.

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Have you always had the same hairstyle?

I have. I am not really interested in changing it. I am used to the way it is.

How often do you have your hair cut?

Once a month. I do not like to spend any extra time to maintain it. When it is longer, you should some time to style it.

Would you like to change your hair colour?

Not really. Its natural colour is fine. I do not want to be bothered with it.

Have you ever felt bad about your hairstyle?

Never. I have always had short hair. I have never thought about changing it.

Did you like science lessons as a student?

They were harder than others, but I did. It was great to study everything in detail. I learn so much about life thanks to them.

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What have you learnt through science lessons?

I have learnt this one thing. We know so little about life. There is so much more to discover.

Are you interested in history?

I am. It may be about the past, but it also gives us a clue about the future. The saying "History repeats itself." makes sense to me.

Have you ever been to a historical museum?

No. I pay more attention to what happened. Historical objects are of no interest to me.

When was the last time you read a book on history?

I am currently reading a book on the rise of the Mongol Empire. It contains a lot of valuable information about the nomadic way of life.

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Do you like watching movies about on historic events?

I do. I always end up imagining what I would do if I lived in the past.

Do you think that history is an important school subject?

Of course it is. But, I believe that history teachers should be objective. They should focus on facts, not wishes or dreams.

What's your favourite weather?

Sunny and warm days. Like most others. I do not like the sensation triggered by cold. I feel irritated with too many clothes on me.

Do you like rainy days?

I do. There is always a beautiful smell after it rains.

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Is the weather very changeable in your country?

Not really. The weather hardly changes during each season. When it is summer, the rain cannot be expected every now and then.

Does the weather have an impact on your mood?

It does. It affects everybody. All human beings need sunlight to cheer up. It must have something to do with vitamin D.

IELTS Speaking Part 2

#1 Describe something special you brought home from a touristic place.

You should say what it is, when and where you bought it, what you did with it after bringing home, why you think it is special.

I would like to talk about the backpack I got back in Spain. It is decorated with scenes from my favourite movie, The Lord of the Rings. It is not an industrial product; it was obviously created by someone very talented.

I fell in love with it the first time I saw it. This happened only a month ago. I was walking in a small town in Madrid. I was looking for gifts for my friends. But, luckily, I happened to see it in a store. It was on sale for such a low price. I felt too lucky to see it. I bought it right away. I love everything about the movie.

I have been using this bag ever since coming back. I take it with me wherever I go. It has already become my favourite backpack. So many people have asked me where I got it. They want the same. But, unfortunately, I cannot help them. It is a unique thing.

The bag is very special for me. There is no way I can design a similar bag or I can find a person who could do the same. Until then, I did not even know that it was possible. It feels great to have such a unique one. Whenever I look at it, I remember the scenes in the movie. This makes my day right away.

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#2 Describe an indoor game you like to play.

You should say what it is, how often you play it, how it is played, why you like to play it.

I would like to talk about chess. It is a board game played by two people. It is a game of strategy. It can be played anywhere, but mostly indoors. All you need is a chess board and pieces. But, you can play it online, as well.

I play chess almost every day. Especially when I have free time. I am usually free in the evenings. If I get bored of talking with others or watching something, the first thing I do is to play chess.

In chess, your goal is to checkmate your opponent. You move your pieces to capture the king of the enemy. In the meantime, you must protect your own king. You must have a good strategy throughout the game. Even a simple mistake may result in a defeat.

I love this game. When I play it, I focus on the game only and this way I can get rid of negative thoughts. I forget all my problems. Also, I have met many like-minded people through chess. Most chess players have a similar way of thinking. They are a bit rational. They do not rely much on their emotions. I like to be in the company of such people.

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#3 Describe an occasion when the vehicle you were traveling in broke down.

You should say where you were going, whom you were with, how long it took to fix the vehicle, how you felt.

I would like to talk about my trip to my mother's birthplace. It is a village located in a mountainous terrain in Bulgaria. It takes more than three hours of driving from the city center to the village itself. The final stage of the trip is completed on foot. The road ends 3 kms before the village. Needless to say, the road is not that good. The Bulgarian government ignores the maintenance.

I was travelling alone. I just wanted to see where she was born. I also wanted to meet some of the relatives I had not seen before. It was supposed to be a surprise visit. I did not inform even my mom about it. And, I am glad I was alone. The trip turned out to be more challenging than I expected. The bus broke down all of a sudden and we got stuck in cold.

When the bus broke down, we all had 2 options: wait for the mechanics or walk towards the village. I was ready to walk, but I was informed that it would be dangerous. Obviously, wild animals could roam freely in the area. So, we all decided to wait. The mechanics arrived more or less 5 hours later. We were all shivering. It was freezing.

I did not feel bad about the incidence. After all, I was aware that it would be hard. My only regret is that I did not have thick enough clothes with me. That was the coldest day of my life.

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#4 Describe a family member you spend the most time with.

You should say who this person is, what kind of person s/he is, what you usually do together, why you spend the most time with him/her.

I would like to talk about my cousin. The son of my only uncle. He is about my age, only a year younger than me. We have spent a lot of time together since his birth. We have grown up in the same neighbourhood. We still live at the same place.

He is one of the most outgoing people I have ever known. He could be friends with anybody in a few minutes. I have always envied his energy and social skills. He likes to try new things all the time. We travelled across Europe with him. I would not dare this by myself.

We are always after new experiences when together. We are now enrolled in a yoga class. Not many men do it in my country. Last month, we hiked in Asia. We walked for hundreds of kilometers in Nepal. Life is so much fun with him.

I like to be around him, because my life would be too boring without him. He is the one who offers new ideas all the time. He is such an adventurer. We are too different in terms of our personality, but we somehow get along very well.

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#5 Talk about a foreign celebrity whom you want to meet in future.

You should say who the person is, what s/he does, why s/he is famous, why you want to meet him/her.

I would like to talk about the director of the movie called the Lord of the Rings, Peter Jackson. Before the movie, he analyzed all the books of Tolkien for years. He got a very deep understanding of the story. That's why he could create amazing scenes in the movie. It was fascinating.

I do not know if he directed other movies. I know only of the LOTR. That's more than enough for me. It is by far the best movie I have ever watched. He gathered just the right type of people for the movie. He also made use of technology quite well. Even though the movie is based on a fantasy, it felt real from the very beginning to the end.

The books remained popular for many years even before the movie, but the movie made them wildly popular. Even after 20 years, it is still an inspiration for all those who watch it. You can still see people sharing it on their profiles.

I want to meet the director, because I want to directly ask him about his future projects. I want to learn if he will create a new movie from Tolkien's books. Tolkien wrote many other epic stories and maybe they could also become a legend just like the LOTR. They are already good, but would be easier to understand in a movie.

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#6 Describe a crowded place you've been to.

You should say which place it is, when you visited it, why you visited it, how you felt about the place.

I would like to talk about the festival area in my hometown, İzmir. It is a huge place located at the very center of the city. It hosts all the big events in the city. This ranges from fairs to concerts. The place gets extremely crowded especially during summer events.

I visited this place at the end of last summer. At this time of the year, the independence of the city is celebrated with many events. It lasts almost a week. It is fun for people of all ages.

Like many others, I went there to join the concert of a famous music band. But, I did not think that it would be this crowded. It felt as if the whole city flocked there. It may be because the concert was free of charge.

Half an hour after the concert started, I felt overwhelmed because of the crowd. And I decided to leave the concert area. Yet, it took so much time. I could hardly walk in any direction. People were too close to each other. Almost an hour later, I was able to get out of the festival zone. And promised myself not to join free concerts ever again. I have never seen so many people together.

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#7 Describe a uniform you used to wear at school or work.

You should say when you wore it, who bought it for you, what it looked like, how you felt about it.

I would like to talk about my first uniform. As a primary school student, I had to wear a uniform like all other students. Back then, this rule applied to all schools in the country. But, it is no longer the case. These days, students are free to dress up freely.

As a 7-year-old child, there was no way I could afford to buy a uniform. It was my parents that bought it for me. I still have no idea about its price. The only thing I know is that nothing was cheap those days. So, it must have been a little costly.

The uniform could not have been more plain. It was a long shirt that consisted of only one colour: blue. It had to be worn with a white collar. We all looked like smurfs. A few years before us, the primary colour was black.

Frankly, I liked the uniform. These days, children stress about what to wear at school. They want to look as trendy as possible. None of us had similar concerns. We did not care about how we looked. We just could focus on how to have more fun. I believe uniforms created a sense of equality.

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#8 Describe a small but successful company.

You should say which company it is, what it produces or what services it offers, how you heard about it, why it is successful.

I would like to talk about a blogging application called WordPress. It was released in 2003. Its goal was to provide an easy-to-use blogging platform for all people. Back then, it was too hard to create even a basic website, and WordPress has changed the entire industry. Thanks to WordPress, coding skills were no longer required for building a website.

Today, it is estimated that almost half of all websites use WordPress. The company makes money by offering backup services or security features. They also may charge a little fee for hosting your website. They manage millions of websites with the help of only around 100 employees. This is a huge accomplishment for them. Their portfolio includes reputable customers, such as CNN and Spotify.

I heard about them many years ago. I was looking for a way to build a simple website. People were mentioning about WordPress all over the internet. Then, I contacted them for help. They offered me a great solution, and I have not looked back since then. It has been a stress-free experience for me so far.

I think their success originates from offering a flexible service. Developers can customize the WordPress application with extra plugins. By installing an appropriate plugin, you can start running an e-commerce store in under a minute. Or, you can build a news service just the same way. WordPress can be turned into anything with ease.

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#9 Describe a job that you would not like to do in the future.

You should say what it is, when you noticed it, if you know anyone who does it, why you would not like to do it.

I would like to talk about working as an accountant. Members of this profession are usually stuck to a room. They spend all their time around a desk. They are always busy with papers or excel documents. This seems too disturbing to me. It feels like a prison sentence. You are in fact free, but you just cannot go anywhere.

I noticed this long time ago. I visited a friend of mine in his accounting office. I needed his help on a legal matter. I had no idea about the taxation system of my country. I thought he would be of great help. He had been running his own job for more than 5 years, and he could answer all my questions in an understandable way.

During my visit, I could not help observing the accountants in the office. They all looked overwhelmed. I think it is because they should be alert all the time. They have no chance to make a mistake. If not, their customers would be fined by the government.

I would not like to have such a job. I would not even care about the salary or the benefits. I like to be on the move. Walking is a routine that I repeat many times a day. Being continuously alert is not a good idea, either. It is much more demanding than physical work. After realizing all this, I consider accountants as heroes, but I do not want to work like them.

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#10 Describe an article you read about healthy living.

You should say what it was about, where you read it (the source), what you have learnt from the article, if it was useful.

I would like to talk about an article on vegan diets. The article provided information about the long term benefits of a vegan lifestyle. It claimed that vegans would have more energy throughout the day. At that time, it sounded impossible to me.

I guess it was written by an academic, not an internet influencer. I read it on a website called The Conversation. As far as I know, in order to write there, you must be associated with a university. So, I trusted the author of the article and gave it a try.

The author suggested that digesting meat tires the body. Up to him, if you eat vegetables, fruits and nuts only, you will spend little power for digestion. As a result, you will have all the power for other activities.

After not eating meat or dairy for a month, I understood that it did not work for me. I felt much less powerful during the day. It became harder to concentrate anything. So, I have eventually given up eating vegan foods only.

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#11 Describe an interesting animal / bird you have seen in its natural habitat.

You should say what it was, when and where you saw it, why you found it interesting, if you would like to see it again.

I would like to talk about the gorilla I saw on a safari tour back in 2018. It was a huge one. It probably weighed around 200 kgs. Even bigger than what I always imagined. I was fascinated by his glory.

I saw it on a safari tour in Uganda. This region of Africa shelters the majority of gorillas in the continent. Gorilla tourism is quite popular in this country. I had the chance to join one of the tours in the summer of 2018. I think it is possible to join safaris all year long, but I did not want to be there in a rainy month.

Seeing a silverback gorilla was an amazing experience for me. Until then, I only saw them in documentaries or YouTube videos. Being only a few meters away from a real gorilla was breathtaking. I had never seen such a huge ape in my life. He was leading his group to another location. No idea where. They were just like humans, just much bigger.

I would definitely like to see another one in the future. I have already started saving money for another tour. Next time, I would like to take more photos. Without irritating the gorillas, of course. They are magnificent creatures.

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#12 Describe a time when you visited a park or a garden.

You should say where the park is, when you visited it, what you did there, why you visited it.

I would like to talk about the park located at the very heart of my birthplace. It covers a large area in Kardjali. One of the smallest cities of Bulgaria. It is more like a forest. You will see trees wherever you look. The place is vibrant. Always full of visitors.

I was 16 when I first visited this park. I had to live in another country all this time. This park was one of the first places my parents wanted me to see. That's why I ended up in this park as early as possible. Probably in the second day of my trip.

The first thing I did over there was to walk as much as possible. It took me more than two hours to cross it. I wanted to see every part of it. In the meantime, I stopped at a cafe to get refreshments. There were so many of them. This park must be the major gathering spot of the entire city. I also took dozens of pictures. They all look beautiful.

I visited this park because it was strongly recommended by my parents. That's where they grew up. I wanted to see what they were up to as teenagers. And I think that they were quite lucky. Not many people can live and study around such a beautiful park. My parents must have formed memories in every single corner of it. That's a place to remember forever.

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#13 Talk about a problem you solved through the internet.

You should say what the problem was, how you found out a solution, how long it took you to find a solution, how you felt about it.

I would like to talk about learning how to make beer at home. I wanted to start a new hobby. My goal was to make different kinds of beer. I heard about the idea from a friend of mine. And I decided to give it a go. Needless to say, I messed it up the first time I tried.

I was very disappointed, because the taste of my first beer was horrible. I thought the instructions on the beer-making kit would be enough. But, obviously they did not. So, as most other people, I started watching the tutorials on YouTube. There were many options. Luckily, one of them worked well for me.

I tried different recipes every day for almost a week. Until I got the taste I wanted. I spent more or less three hours every single evening. I was almost about to give up trying. I am so glad that I watched the last tutorial. It was prepared by an old man. Clearly, he knew what he was doing.

All this happened a year ago. I have brewed beer many times so far. I am so glad that I did not give up trying. It is thanks to that old man who generously shared his ideas on YouTube. I am sure he has inspired many others like me.

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#14 Describe an accomplishment (achievement) that you have celebrated.

You should say what you accomplished, when you celebrated it, with whom you celebrated it, why you celebrated it.

I would like to talk about one of the hardest challenges in my life. Within a year, I lost more than 90 kilograms. It was a huge accomplishment for me. All my previous attempts failed. But, this last time, I insisted and finally lost all the excess weight. I dieted very strictly and exercised almost every day.

When I started the process, I had a goal of dropping under 80 kgs. I made a promise on my own. I would gather all my friends in a luxurious hotel for a long party if I could realize this goal. Finally, after months of hard work, my dream came true. So, I kept my promise and took them to a wonderful destination. This happened at the end of last summer.

I made the invitation on my Instagram page. Until that time, nobody knew of such a promise. Only me. Back then, I had a very limited social network, but many of my friends responded positively. We arrived at the hotel with over 10 people and celebrated my accomplishment. Needless to say, I paid for everything.

I became a whole new person after losing a lot of weight. I regained my confidence. But, more importantly, I was able to keep my promise. That was the thing worth celebrating.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

#15 Describe a person who has encouraged you to achieve a goal recently.

You should say who this person is, what s/he encouraged you for, how s/he encouraged you, why it was important for you.

I would like to talk about my father. He has always supported my ideas. He believes that we should learn from our mistakes. So, when I wanted to start my own business, he was the first one to encourage me. I was planning to take photographs in exotic locations and sell them online. I have always liked to travel. I have a collection of thousands of photos from at least 10 different countries.

Everybody thought it would be very dangerous. They tried to discourage me. My mother got too scared. I would travel everywhere. Deserts, tropical forests, mountains ... She thought I would get lost. But, my father had full faith in me. He even helped me buy a much better camera. He also offered to buy my first plane ticket. Thanks to his positive approach, I gained enough confidence.

Without my father's support, I may not have started this project. Everybody was doubting me. I started to believe that they were right. But, eventually, my father's opinion mattered more to me. He was also a risk taker in his youth. He bankrupted 3 companies until he established a successful one. In the end, I decided to follow his footsteps. I travelled for 6 months and made enough money to cover my expenses, but not more.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

#16 Describe an incident / situation when someone apologized to you.

You should say what happened, when this happened, who apologized to you, why there was an apology.

I would like to talk about an unfortunate event that occurred before a flight. I was flying back home after a tiring business trip. I spent more than 2 weeks driving across China. I was craving for a very long rest. Unluckily, I was informed that my flight was delayed for 8 hours.

I wanted to understand why this happened and started a conversation with the person in charge at the airport. But, the attitude towards me was quite rude. None of my questions were answered properly. I was even ordered to shut up and go wait in the lounge for the flight. There was something unusual. No employee would have the right to talk in such a rude manner.

I immediately filed a complaint to the customer service page on Twitter. They asked for the flight number as well as my contact details. I got a phone call from a company representative only half an hour later. She was truly sorry for the inconvenience and the rude attitude of the employee at the airport. She sincerely apologized to me. She also promised to look into the issue as soon as possible.

I was not expecting an apology. It did not matter to me. But, such kind of acts are important for the reputation of businesses. It means they care about customer satisfaction. That's why they must have apologized to me.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

#17 Describe a picture or photograph in your home that you like.

You should say what it includes, where it is in the house, how you got it, why you like it.

I would like to talk about a photograph I took in my father's village. The photo overlooks the entire village, because I took it up the hill. You could see every single house all at once. The lighting was also perfect when I took the shot. That's why it looks quite professional.

Because it looked great even on the camera, I decided to get it framed. I got more than one copy and gifted one of them to my father. He was more than delighted to see his birth place in such great detail. He was so excited to have a photo like that. We hanged it in the living room so that he could see it whenever he wants.

I took the shot with a professional camera. Even though I do not have much idea about photography, I luckily was able to take a very nice photo. It was pure luck. The other photos look nowhere near as good as that one.

I like this photo only for one reason. It made my father's day. It reminds him of the good old days. That's where he spent his entire childhood. It brings back what he wants to remember.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

#18 Describe an interesting conversation you had.

You should say what it was about, when and where you had it, with whom you had it, why it was interesting.

I would like to talk about the conversation between me and my girlfriend. We were planning to have a holiday. It would be our first one. But, we were not sure about where to go. She surprised me with her ideas. Before then, I thought she did not like walking for long. But, she offered a trekking holiday in the Himalayas.

This happened long time ago. We had been dating only for a few months. It has been almost two years since then. We had the talk at a dinner in a restaurant. But, it was not a spontaneous meeting. We came together to discuss about our first holiday. It was a planned meeting. And I'm glad that we had it. Only a week after this talk, we were walking in the Himalayas. We visited many Sherpa villages and Buddhist monasteries along the way.

I consider this talk to be a game changer in our relationship. For long-lasting relationships, every couple needs common hobbies. Trekking became our own. Until that time, I did not think that she would be into it. She looked so gentle, but proved otherwise. She was much tougher than I was. During our hikes, I had to catch up with her in many occasions. I'm so proud of her.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

IELTS Speaking Part 3

Is there a difference between indoor games and games on mobile devices?

They surely differ. Indoor games encourage you to socialize in a real way. You develop a relationship with others. It is a primary need for humans. But, while playing on your phone, you interact with (look at) the screen only. Even if you play with others online, that is still not real. It gets boring after a while.

Why does this generation of young people stay away from outdoor games?

It is not their fault. They have no place to play outside. There are buildings everywhere. Also, only few of them can join clubs. It costs a lot of money. Not everyone can pay for clubs.

Which indoor game is the most popular among the youth in your country?

Card games, I guess. They cost no money to play. They can be carried everywhere. You might not even need to have your own set, because there must be at least one in every single house.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

Why do you think some people spend hours playing video games?

It must be related to their brain. In video games, when you win, your brain releases happiness hormones. If you get used to being happy this way, you will keep doing the same.

What are the disadvantages that can be associated with playing digital games?

They are no different than other games, I believe. But, they may result in posture problems. They force you to sit all the time. It is too bad for your spine. Also, if you keep playing video games all the time, you may have trouble meeting new people in real life. You may end up with no real friends.

Do you think that parents should encourage their children to compete in international tournaments?

I cannot see why not. Competing with friends is a great motivator. International opponents will even be better. We all want to feel special. If we can defeat all others in the world, that will surely feel great.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

Do you think that technology impacts the performance of athletes?

I think today it is all about technology. In the past, good genetics and strict training would be enough to win. But, today, you need technology on your side. For example, sensors show what should be improved. I mean the things that you cannot see with the naked eye. No wonder, athletes from developed nations almost always win.

Why do some people prefer private cars to public transportation?

Private vehicles offer flexibility. If you own a vehicle, you can set out whenever you want. They are also much more comfortable. You have plenty of space for yourself and the seats are quite soft.

Do you think that people rely more on cars today than in the past?

No doubt. Almost everybody owns a car anymore. It is no longer a privilege. It has become a necessity, because cities have grown dramatically. You may have to work many kilometers away from home. In such a case, it is best to drive than take a bus.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

Do you think there are too many cars on the roads?

I do. I do not like it. They may be convenient, but we should care about the air quality, as well. They release too many harmful gases. I am not happy to breath smoggy air wherever I go.

Are public transport vehicles comfortable in your country?

In most places, no. They are usually too crowded. You can hardly move inside, let alone sit while travelling. What's worse, some are disgustingly dirty. I sometimes doubt if they are ever cleaned.

What can be done to improve public transport?

They should run more often. People should not have to wait for long. And, they should be sanitized every day. Maybe, a few times a day.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

Do you think that different generations of the same family can live together?

This was the case for almost everyone. So, it was possible at some time in the past. This is still widespread in rural areas. If you do need a job in the city, then the only option for most people is to live with other family members.

What are the advantages of living in a large family?

Socially, you can have a more satisfying life. You will always be surrounded by others. There will be communication all the time. There will not be any chance to get bored.

What are the disadvantages of living in a large family?

In large families, personal space is too limited. You will probably not have your own room. Also, if you are an introvert, you will feel overwhelmed all the time. You will always be bothered by someone.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

What are the responsibilities of parents for their children?

Parents must feed their children with proper food. This is crucial for a healthy body. Also, children should be loved unconditionally, regardless of their flaws. Finally, parents should ensure a good education for the children. They should use all their resources to ensure a better future.

Is it important to visit family members?

It depends on your family bonds. No one should be forced to do anything. There is no point in doing things we do not like. Some have fun with their relatives, while others do not.

Do you think that it is a good idea to work in a family business?

No way. They are not managed professionally. In business life, emotional bonds usually harm the way things work. In family businesses, mistakes are ignored, and unfortunately all the best positions are offered to relatives.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

Should family businesses hire outsiders?

If necessary, of course. If the family members are not qualified enough to do the work, then there will be a need for external help. For example, if you want to penetrate into a new market, you may need someone that can speak the local language.

What are the challenges that family businesses face?

Employees are laid off when they cannot handle their duties. But, this is not the case with family members in your business. Firing them is usually not possible because it may hurt your relationship in the long run. Inevitably, this reduces productivity.

Do you think that social media has benefited small companies?

Of course. In the past, a company would need a huge budget to promote its products or services. But, today it can be done for free or for a small fee. If your post goes viral as a company, you could reach thousands of customers. Or, you could use the advertising service of social media networks. Unlike TV or billboard ads, they can be run even with a few dollars.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

Do you think that the state should own companies?

No. State-owned companies are slow to adapt to changes. But, business life requires fast adaptations. If you fall behind once, it becomes harder to recover. It is not a surprise that the biggest companies are run privately.

Why do some businesses fail?

This is too hard to answer. There must be many interconnected factors. But, the most important reason should be having an incompetent team. One way or another, it comes down to your human capital.

Do you think that globalization of industry and commerce benefits all?

I do not think so. It has allowed big corporations to dominate local markets. In most cases, it has become impossible for a local entrepreneur to compete with them. This is modern slavery, in my opinion. You play by the rules of corporations.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

Do you think that all countries should be able to produce what they need or import them?

In the short run, I see no harm in importing anything. but, for a sustainable country, dependency on others should be eradicated. Otherwise, you cannot call yourself a sovereign nation.

What kind of jobs do people prefer in your country?

People are after well-paid jobs in Turkey. I do not think they care much about the working conditions. We are not an affluent nation. Our primary goal is to earn as much as possible.

What jobs do young people in your country want to do?

They are after popularity anymore. They expect to make money as influencers. YouTube and Instagram are full of success stories. That's a lot of money for relatively easy work. That's why they are envied by the younger generation.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

Would you prefer an interesting job over a well-paid one?

If I had no financial concerns, I would. But, unfortunately that's not the case. Being able to meet essential needs is more important than having an interesting job.

Do you think hard work eventually pays off?

Not in most cases. By hard work, you can achieve a certain level of success. But, talent matters more than hard work. A popular singer makes more money in a concert than a teacher does in a year.

Why are some people more hardworking than others?

Some people have the potential to maintain their focus. It must be partially genetic. Also, some others get satisfied when they produce something. They do not want to waste their time.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

What can employers do to motivate their employees?

The first step is to know what they want. While some demand a payrise, others may want to be respected. And yet, the rest may be after a social network only. Without knowing what they want, it is not possible to motivate them. Not everybody wants the same kind of rewards.

Do you think that technology has prompted us to rely less on physical power?

Of course. Technology has radically altered all aspects of our life. We have machines to clean our homes or lift heavy objects. Almost no one walks to school or work anymore. We have become completely dependent on technology.

Do you think that artificial intelligence will replace all human workers?

It seems this way. I think humans will only do the jobs that require emotional connection and creativity. For example, teachers, nurses and artists may keep working. But, other professions risk losing their jobs. I believe that society is on the verge of a massive change.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

Is money the best motivator for employees?

Not necessarily. It of course motivates those who urgently need money. But, for others, it may not be enough. For example, most scientists do not care about how much they earn. They like the idea of helping people.

What methods can managers employ to motivate their subordinates?

Positive feedback may be the best way. We need praise for our accomplishments. A pay rise or a bonus may also be motivating.

Should wild animals be protected?

I do not think they need our protection. They have all the skills to survive. We only must stop destroying their habitats. That would be more than enough for them.

Do you feel any pity for the animals kept at zoos?

Of course, I do. It is cruel to limit their freedom. They must be under extreme levels of stress. Especially those living in a cage. Poor animals.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

Should hunting animals be legal?

I believe it should be forbidden. Just like us, they have the right to live. They should be used for the entertainment of gun holders.

Do you think children should grow up with animals around?

I would certainly agree with that. We are part of the nature. We should develop bonds as early as possible. The earlier, the better.

Why do some people like to have pets?

I guess, they like the company of animals. We can develop emotional bonds with animals. Obviously, it takes less effort to bond with animals than with humans. They have far fewer expectations.

What kind of animals can people keep in their homes?

It depends on the size. Most houses are suitable for cats and birds only. But, it is possible to shelter dogs, as well. As long as you walk them regularly, of course. They need much more space and activity than other domestic animals.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

Why are more people becoming vegetarian?

They do not want to be part of the exploitation. They wish to end all the suffering animals undergo.

Why do you think some animals are going extinct?

Humans are the primary cause of this. We destroy their habitats and this eventually results in the collapse of local ecosystems. This leads to food shortages, and extinction becomes inevitable for some of them.

What can we do to preserve wildlife?

Governments should somehow prevent wildlife trade. Those who are busted should be severely punished. We should also do our best to not harm the habitats of animals. We are not the only species that has the right to live freely.

Do you think that people of all age groups like to visit parks?

Of course. Especially in urban areas, most of us have no chance to feel part of the nature. Parks give us the opportunity to spend time around trees. They allow us to let go of negative thoughts.

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How important are parks or gardens in your country?

My country has fallen prey to capitalism. The entire public seems to care only about financial gains. Instead of building new ones, they try to replace the current ones with malls.

Do you think people should grow up their own vegetables and fruits?

If they have a chance, of course. What we already eat cannot be healthy. Anything produced for masses poses a threat to our health.

Should the school curriculum include lessons on environmental awareness?

Of course. The earlier, the better. That should be a priority for all schools. If children grow up this way, they will be more likely to protect the environment.

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What should governments do to improve environmental awareness?

There should be a dedicated ministry for environmental efforts. They should raise campaigns every now and then. They should also fund people or organizations to plant new trees.

Does your country import any food from other countries?

It does. While there is no need to import any fruits or vegetables, the opposite is true for meat. It is too expensive to produce meat in my country. That's why thousands of livestock are brought to the country every year.

Is there any harm in importing food from other countries?

I think yes. I believe that a country must be self-sufficient when it comes to food. Relying on some other source for such a basic need looks scary to me. When a conflict occurs, you will be denied food. That's not nice at all.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

What types of foods are produced in your country?

Thanks to the climate, almost any fruit or vegetable can be grown in Turkey. Except for exotic fruits, such as mango. Turkey has long been an agrarian society.

On what occasions should people wear uniforms?

I believe that all students and employees should have uniforms. They should not be mistaken with others. It will prevent strangers from entering the school without a permission.

Do you think that it is important for students to wear uniforms?

I think it is. It will create a sense of equality. Not all students can afford to buy trendy clothes. If their friends dress up more stylishly, they will feel inferior. This is bad for their development.

Also, without uniforms, most teenagers will waste a lot of time thinking what to wear. That should not be the concern of their age. They should focus on their studies only.

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Should companies ask for the opinions of the employees when it comes to uniform design?

Definitely. Employees are the ones who spend all that time with the uniform. They should be free to express their opinions about colour, size or even the style.

Can the clothes tell a lot about the person?

This is possible, but only to a certain extent. What people wear is usually determined by the fashion of the day. Ordinary folks envy the celebrities and imitate them to a large extent. This does not tell much about them.

Why are some people obsessed with branded clothes?

I think they want to feel special. They need to stand out in the crowd. We all do. And we all have different ways of expressing this desire. Some do this with clothes, while others rely on cars or sth. else.

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Do you think that expensive brands ensure high quality?

Not necessarily. They do not always last long. Most do not look the same after getting washed. But, I do not think that people are after such qualities. They want the design.

Do you think that science lessons are important?

Of course, they are. Without our curiosity for science, we would still be a primitive species. Our curiosity for the unknown develops us.

Should science lessons be compulsory for all students?

I do not think so. Not all students like to think of the world in a rational way. No one should be forced to do anything. That usually backfires.

Do you think that intrinsic motivation is necessary for success?

It is. We cannot always rely on others for motivation. It would be short-lived. But, if we can learn how to motivate ourselves, we will never give up.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

Why do some people have no trouble motivating themselves?

They know what they want. Because they have clear goals, they keep trying. When people struggle for something they want, they are not troubled by difficulties.

How can younger children be motivated?

They like praise. They love to be endorsed by the adults. It is a part of moral development. Also, they like gifts. If they are offered an appropriate gift, they will try harder than usual to get it. This may range from a game console to a pair of shoes.

What kind of challenges does the world currently face?

Global warming must be the toughest one. The climate is changing everywhere. And I think it will have serious consequences. For example, there will be water shortages in Africa. This probably spark wars and cause mass migrations.

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Do you think that science can help overcome global challenges?

I believe that science is the only option. I'm not sure if we will be able to prevent global warming or climate change. But, there is no other way. If we ignore the warnings of scientists, then the human king will surely suffer.

Do you think that parents should expose their children to challenges?

Of course. The best way to develop a skill is by doing it. In order to solve problems, children should be a part of the solution. They should have a platform to test what they learn.

What kind of challenges do the current generation of children face?

They cannot play outside. So, they cannot learn how to socialize properly. They are stuck to smart devices. They waste much time on social media, but they fail to develop healthy relationships in real life. It's not their fault, though.

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Do you think that it is necessary to get out of the comfort zone?

Definitely. If we keep doing the same things, we cannot expect different outcomes. We all have a huge potential, but most of us die without using it. We need to take risks for success. For example, Amazon was founded when the e-commerce industry was very small. Now, it is bigger than many countries. This would not be possible without leaving the comfort zone.

IELTS Writing Task 2

#1 Some people think that reducing income inequality is critical to ensuring a happier society. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is argued by some people that the society will be happier if income inequality is eradicated to a large extent. I completely agree with this opinion for the following reasons.

To begin with, people with financial concerns remain constantly stressed. This takes a toll on both their physical and mental health. If they have a decent income, they will eventually turn out to be happier. In India, for example, the poor make up the vast majority of the population. This means that over a billion people are subject to negative thoughts most of the time. With a few more dollars a day, all these people could cherish.

In addition, criminal acts are much more common in impoverished areas. Most people revert to crime when they cannot maintain their lives in a normal way. For example, in Latin America, due to poverty, most males are recruited by drug lords or the mafia. This becomes the only option for most to survive. All this trouble would be prevented if they had better opportunities. We all need hope for the future. This is easier if we do not have money issues.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

Finally, all human beings need a purpose to live happily. We feel important when we work for a goal. This can range from buying a car to having a holiday in the Bahamas. But, rich members of society have no such obstacles. They do not have to wait or struggle to realize such dreams. They can just get what they want. After a while, this may result in an emotional void. We all need some kind of a fight to feel important. For most, happiness is not about the reward, but about the process.

In conclusion, I believe that eradicating income inequality would be beneficial for all people. This way, the poor will be able to raise their living standards, while the rich will experience the satisfaction of fighting for a goal.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

#2 Some students find certain subjects, such as maths and philosophy, difficult. So, some people argue that these subjects should not be compulsory for all. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is argued by some people that students should be free to choose what they will study. They think that they should have the chance to stay away from difficult subjects such as mathematics or philosophy. I completely disagree with this opinion for the following reasons.

To begin with, younger people are too focused on fun and entertainment because of their nature. If given the chance, they may not even want to go to school. So, there is no point in asking for their opinion in such cases. Their ideas may be used for designing the school or activities, but the framework must be created by adults, particularly scientists.

In addition, at least a basic understanding mathematics is critical in our age. We deal with numbers in all aspects of modern life, from making investments to setting up a family budget. If we lack sufficient mathematical knowledge as adults, we may be deceived more often than usual. It may be hard to believe, but there are still people who cannot make easy calculations. This is because of skipping math lessons or failing them.

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Finally, philosophy may be difficult, but it teaches us to question life properly. We all need to find meaning in life. This is where philosophy steps in. It allows us to compare former beliefs with our own. In the end, we come up with a synthesis and live up to it. For example, many people have found peace in Buddhism although there was not even a single Buddhist around them. This is all thanks to philosophy. So, the earlier students learn about philosophy, the closer they will be to finding meaning in life.

In conclusion, I believe that difficult lessons should be integrated into the curriculum, regardless of the opinion of the students. They will be beneficial in the long run.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

#3 Every year many languages disappear. Some people believe that life will be easier with fewer languages. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

It is true that some languages are dying because no one speaks them. But, up to some people, this will not cause any problems. I completely agree with this opinion for the following reasons.

To begin with, scientific cooperation will rise because scientists will have to spend less time for mastering a language. Obviously, an ordinary person can communicate in a language after studying for almost 2 years, but it is not this easy for researchers. Scientific ideas are too complex and you need to spend many years to express them in a different language. In developing countries, for example, researchers allocate plenty of time to learning different languages. Without such an obstacle, they will be able to focus completely on their studies. This will benefit both themselves and the scientific community.

In addition, without a language barrier, international trade opportunities will become more widespread. Currently, many people stay away from international sales as they cannot communicate with foreigners. For instance, a Chinese person must be able to use more than 10 languages to sell something in different parts of Europe. Or, they may need to hire a new person for each country. This would be too costly. But, if minor languages are no longer used, this problem will be eliminated. In such a case, even people without a good education can start trading with other countries.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

In conclusion, I have the belief that fewer languages will benefit most of us, especially scientists and businessmen. Without a language problem, they will be able to spend more time on their own work.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

#4 Some people claim that public museums and art galleries are no longer necessary as historical objects and art works can now be displayed online. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Some people argue that there is no point in having museums or art galleries because everything can be displayed on the internet. I completely disagree with this opinion for the following reasons.

To begin with, exhibitions allow like-minded people to build a social network. Take someone interested in WWII, for example. If this person ends up in a WWII museum, s/he will most likely meet people with a common interest. This will allow them to develop a profound relationship with little effort. All they should do is to be present at the same location.

In addition, the human eye offers a far superior viewing experience compared to screens. For example, when we look at a painting with naked eyes, colours appear more vibrant. Or imagine observing a statue. It looks far more real because our eyes offer a three-dimensional view. We should not ignore the size factor, either. There is a huge difference between standing by a dinosaur fossil and checking it on the screen. You need to see one to understand how small you are.

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Finally, museums and art galleries contribute to the local economy by attracting tourists. Particularly, museums with a good reputation are visited by thousands of people in a typical day. For instance, France has become a popular destination for many art lovers thanks to the Louvre museum. All these people spend a little fortune to stay in the hotels in the neighbourhood, let alone the entrance fee and daily expenses.

In conclusion, I believe that art galleries and museums should never be closed. They do more than hosting certain objects. They contribute to the economy, offer a realistic experience to the visitors and encourage similar people to develop bonds.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

#5 Films are no longer exclusively produced by big companies. Digital technology has enabled everybody to create their own videos and films. Is it a positive or a negative development?

In the past, only companies could produce films. Ordinary people did not have the necessary tools and knowledge to imitate them. However, all this has changed with the rise of technology. Nowadays, anybody can publish a film online. I think it has been beneficial for all of us for the following reasons.

To begin with, people from all walks of life can now monetize their ideas and lifestyle thanks to digital videos or movies. This opportunity is no longer restricted to big companies only. For instance, many channel owners on Instagram and YouTube usually begin with simple videos. They are usually recorded with smartphones only. If the videos are interesting enough, they gain many followers and start making money. For example, they promote products on their channel or sign sponsorship deals. Their videos are nothing like professional movies, but they still grab attention. Many people, including children, have become famous this way. Unsurprisingly, this is considered as a full-time profession by many anymore.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

In addition, the smartphone industry has been able to improve its sales because of the demand by amateur film / video producers. Nowadays, many people pay a lot of extra money for phones with a good camera. In the past, it was difficult for new companies to become popular, but today, if you offer a high-quality camera to consumers, your brand will have a decent market share without difficulty.

Chinese companies like Xioami and Oppo have had no trouble convincing new customers thanks to great camera phones. The whole smartphone industry has developed just because people, especially the young, can shoot their own videos.

In conclusion, people can now record their own videos or movies, and I believe that this has made positive contributions to the society. Some of them can earn a good amount of money via their videos, and the smartphone industry can effortlessly keep selling new models to consumers.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

#6 Increasingly more people have relied on cosmetic surgery for the sake of enhancing their appearance. Is it a positive or negative development?

It is true that more and more people pay for cosmetic surgeries to have a charming appearance. I believe that the outcomes of this trend have been satisfactory so far. In this essay, I will try to elaborate why I think so.

To begin with, many people have been able to gain more confidence thanks to cosmetic surgeries. Due to our nature, we all like the company of good-looking people. We tend to ignore their mistakes. We try to satisfy their needs. As a result, they feel loved, which boosts their confidence. Cosmetic surgeries have made this possible not only for beautiful people but also for everybody. Nowadays, anybody can look much better with operations, such as a nose job or a jaw line surgery.

In addition, talented surgeons have made a fortune through their patients. Most people are willing to pay generously for a better look. They want to work with the very best for a charming appearance. This has eventually inflated the fees of aestheticians. For instance, a friend of mine saved money for almost 2 years to change some parts of her face. In the meantime, she did not waste even a dime. She dedicated 2 years of her life to look like a celebrity. Because there are thousands of people like her, prominent surgeons have significantly prospered.

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Finally, clinics in developing countries have begun to serve international customers. The cost of operations remains fairly lower in countries such as Turkey or Brazil. Yet, their surgeons are no worse than their counterparts in richer countries. Currently, thousands of Arab customers flock to Turkey to have hair implants. This benefits both parties. While patients pay far less for a high-quality surgery, local clinics profit more with each customer.

In conclusion, I believe that plastic surgery has yielded positive results. It has allowed people to overcome confidence problems while prospering surgeons.

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#7 Widespread use of languages such as English, Spanish or Chinese has sparked fears that minority languages may die out. Some people suggest that these languages should be protected at all costs, while others do not see any point in doing so. What is your opinion?

It is true that some languages may disappear forever due to the huge rise in the number of English, Spanish or Chinese speakers. But, whether they should be preserved has been a matter of debate. As for me, there is no need to waste resources for this. In this essay, I will try to elaborate why I think so.

To begin with, there are so many languages that are about to die. There may not be enough manpower to protect them all. For example, linguists cannot keep track of all local languages in Africa. In some regions, each tribe has its own language. The African continent is probably home to thousands of different languages. Unfortunately, most African governments cannot even meet the essential needs of their citizens. They will just ignore the death of local culture. They have more urgent problems, such as hunger or droughts.

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In addition, artificial solutions are not sustainable in the long run. It may be possible to delay the bitter end, but sooner or later the weak will disappear. This rule applies to not only animals but also cultures and languages. For instance, my grandparents tried to teach their native language, Altai, to my parents and they succeeded to a certain extent. But my parents failed to do the same. We simply rejected to learn it. We did not feel any need for that. Shortly, there is now almost nobody who can speak the Altai language fluently. In a few decades, there will be none.

In conclusion, people have no consensus on the protection of minority languages, but I believe that we should let them disappear. There is no point in trying to stop the inevitable.

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#8 Some people believe that women and men possess different traits, making them unsuitable for certain jobs. Is it right to exclude males or females from certain professions because of their gender?

It is argued that people should select jobs suitable for their own gender because they have different qualities. But, I disagree with this opinion for the following reasons.

To begin with, we should all be free to choose our work freely. Restrictions oppress our desires and result in unhappiness. Unfortunately, companies all over the world are full of discontent people who wanted some other job. Thus, if a girl wishes to work as a truck driver, she should be allowed to do so. There is no point in trying to stop a man who wants to be a kindergarten teacher. In our minds, we are all free beings. What matters is how good we are for the duty, not our gender.

In addition, not all members of the same gender are alike. In theory, men are stronger than women, but in reality it is not true for all men. Genetics play a crucial role in strength. For instance, a typical Nordic girl may overpower a typical Asian man without spending much effort. They are quite well-built. This kind of diversity applies to men, as well. There are many who are quite empathetic. They already serve in traditionally feminine roles, such as nursing. They are simply as good as women.

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Finally, the human body has the ability to adapt to new circumstances, regardless of gender. Our genetic makeup allows us to become a whole new person thanks to gradual adaptations. For instance, unlike their urban counterparts, most rural women can carry a heavy load for kilometers. This did not happen over night for them. They all start small and at one point they can even be stronger than some other men. This proves that both men and women can learn to handle tasks foreign to them.

In conclusion, I have the belief that gender does not play an important role in job selection. With enough effort and willingness, we can adapt to anything.

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#9 Some people claim that governments should be responsible for taking care of the essential needs of the elderly, while others argue that it should be the elderly that should do so. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Some people suggest that governments have the duty to help the elderly, whereas others argue that older people should do it themselves. In my opinion, the state should be responsible for this task, regardless of being a pensioner.

On the one hand, all citizens pay a lot of money as taxes to their own government, whether directly or indirectly. For example, some of them pay a higher income tax because they earn more money, but in fact all products and services are already taxed. Whether we work or not, we contribute to the financial system of our country. Because of this, we all deserve to be cared in old age. Expectedly, some may be paid a bigger pension because of their former contributions, but at least the essential needs of the rest should be met by the state.

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On the other hand, the average lifespan of human beings is growing at an increasingly fast rate. Advances in health care and nutrition allow us to live much longer. But, this poses a threat to the government budget. For instance, in the past, the proportion of pensioners and the elderly made up a tiny part of the population even in developed nations. But, today, especially in rich European countries, they make up more than 30% of the total. It seems that the percentage of the working members will be lower than the rest. Such a system is not sustainable in the long run. So, in the future, all the elderly may have to take care of themselves.

In my opinion, governments should have the responsibility to look after the elderly. If taxpayers will be ignored when they need help the most, then there is no point in contributing to the state budget. It is illogical and unfair to support a system that will eventually ditch you. Yet, I also think that everybody should save some money for the future. In a few decades, it will not be possible for all governments to provide a decent pension.

In conclusion, not all people agree about the role of governments in helping the elderly. But, I believe that both parties play a crucial role in this issue.

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#10 Despite being aware of the potential harm of smoking, not many people are willing to quit it. Why is this the case? What can be done to encourage people to quit smoking?

It is true that people are well informed about the ill effects of smoking, yet the vast majority of smokers seem to ignore these threats. It must be because they are addicted to the pleasure of smoking. But, if they get medical help and start exercising, I believe they will be able to quit it.

It is obvious that people cannot give up smoking easily. Like other addictions, it gives pleasure in an effortless way. All you should do is light another cigarette. You get immediate satisfaction. No wonder people keep smoking even after they experience severe health problems. Even those who had a heart surgery may have trouble getting rid of this dangerous addiction. Like all other human beings, they are sticking to what gives them joy. For some, it may be a bar of chocolate, but for others it is a pack of cigarette.

Thus, in most cases, it may be critical to provide medical assistance. Unfortunately, most smokers do not have a strong will. They fail no matter how hard they try. Products such as nicotine bands or injections can help them to suppress their desire to smoke. In addition, physical activity may also be very helpful. When we do sports, our body releases happiness hormones. Whenever the need for smoking arises, doing a short circuit will probably give enough joy. After all, nobody cares about the method. All we want is pleasure from life.

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In conclusion, most people keep smoking because it makes them happy in an effortless way, but they can quit it by using effective drugs and exercising on a regular basis.

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#11 Nowadays, many people are willing to give a chance to other cuisines instead of sticking to their own. Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the disadvantages?

In today's societies, many people are eager to try the dishes of other cultures. This may contribute to the tourism industry and create job opportunities across the world, but in the meantime it may harm the local food industry and inflate the price of some ingredients. It may also drive some species into extinction. As for me, the drawbacks are severe, so I consider it as a negative trend.

The primary advantage of this trend is that it encourages people to travel for food. It helps develop the tourism industry and prospers locals. In certain parts of Turkey, many people rely on gastronomic tourists. Take Gaziantep, for example. Without the variety of food, it may receive far fewer tourists. In addition, it has become possible for all entrepreneurs to run a food business in other cities or countries. For instance, many Turks own Döner shops abroad. They offer a meat-based Turkish delicacy and many of them have made much money this way.

Nevertheless, not everybody benefits from these. Primarily, local food dealers will experience a drop in sales. This will also negatively impact the farmers, as well. For instance, because of global brands, Turkish restaurants suffer from low demand. Particularly in urban areas, they remain behind their foreign counterparts. Also, demand from other nations increases the price of some foods. Not all ingredients can be found easily. For example, shark fin soup has become quite popular in China. Initially, it was cheap enough, but excessive demand has significantly reduced the number of sharks in the country. Now, only the rich can afford it.

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In my opinion, the trend of trying other cuisines is mostly negative. Some people may profit from this, but in the long run many local species may go extinct. Financial gains are not more important than the survival of sharks, for example. Once such a thing happens, it is impossible to reverse it. We should not sacrifice animals so that we can satisfy ourselves.

In conclusion, globalisation of cuisines have both positive and negative outcomes, but I believe that drawbacks outweigh its benefits.

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#12 As countries have prospered financially, increasingly more people have owned a vehicle of their own. Do the advantages of this trend outweigh its disadvantages?

It is true that financial prosperity has allowed many people to buy a car. This offers flexibility and comfort to the owners, but it leads into air pollution and congestion. But, in my opinion, the drawbacks are too challenging. I believe that society's needs should come before the individual's needs.

The primary advantage of having a car is that you can travel whenever you want. You do not have to wait for a bus or follow the public transport schedule. In a typical day, this may save 2-3 hours for anyone that has to commute. All this time could be used for sleeping more or socializing with beloved ones. Another advantage has a lot to do with comfort. Unlike in buses or trains, the seats in most cars are quite comfortable and there is plenty of space for each passenger. You do not end up with neck or back pain even if you have to drive for hours.

Nevertheless, with so many people owning a car, air pollution has evolved into a major concern. The majority of cars still run on fossil fuels and they release harmful gases. This pollutes the air especially in congested areas. For instance, in certain parts of China, citizens are warned against going out because the air becomes almost unbreathable. In addition, with everyone driving their own car, traffic jams have become inevitable, particularly in city centers. In İstanbul, for example, some citizens end up losing a few hours every day due to congestion. This gets increasingly worse as the population is rising on and on.

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In my opinion, it may be convenient for all people to have a car, but this trend damages our health in a severe way. It is extremely harmful to breathe dangerous gases all day long. Especially in cities, we have to live with many cars around. We keep breathing car fumes even when we are inside the house. This is especially unfair for those who do not drive at all. As a society, we should not risk the health of citizens, regardless of the benefits of private vehicles.

In conclusion, owning a car allows us to save time and travel comfortably, but it also reduces air quality and causes traffic jams. As for me, the negative impacts are too dangerous to ignore, and that's why only select few people should own one.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

#13 In some countries, criminal trials are broadcast on TV to inform the public. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

It is true that some countries see no harm in broadcasting criminal trials on TV. In this essay, I will try to elaborate the outcomes and express my own point of view.

Criminal trials can be watched by all kinds of people, including potential criminals. Hopefully, by watching these, some of them may reconsider committing a crime. They will have the chance to observe regretful criminals and public shame. This may change the mind of some and prevent future crimes. In addition, thanks to trials on TV; the public will have the opportunity to observe important cases. Some people are naturally curious. They are willing to learn about the consequences of serious crimes. For example, in Britain, there was once a TV show called X-files. It was about past criminal acts. It had thousands of fans all over the world. This proves that ordinary folks want to be informed about organized crime. They want to see the bad guys being punished.

However, many people will be negatively affected by exposure to trials. For instance, a few years back, the Turkish media paid too much attention to a girl killed by a family. It was a brutal act. Both the father and the son were involved. This created a trauma, particularly on young girls. They had trouble walking or travelling alone. They felt much fear. Besides, when criminals get a lot of attention, some other people begin to envy them. Whether good or bad, they dream about being the center of attention. Oddly, serial killers have a huge fanbase. They are treated like heroes. With trials on TV, this will likely be the case again and again. It will increase the prevalence of crime.

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In my opinion, there is no point in inspiring potential criminals. Dangerous people should be ignored by the media. In business life, advertisement of any kind is considered beneficial. Even a bad reputation helps improve the sales for some companies. The same is true for criminals. If you remind people of crime, it will just happen more often. Unfortunately, some people crave attention and they are ready to do anything to achieve it. With criminals on TV, we may be setting a bad example.

In conclusion, broadcasting trials on TV may result in both positive and negative consequences. But, I believe that its drawbacks are too dangerous to ignore. They should be stopped as soon as possible.

ERGİN HOCA IELTS

#14 In today's world, many people spend increasingly less time in their homes. What are the reasons for this? What are the effects of this trend on individuals and society?

It is true that most citizens usually stay outside their homes. This is because we spend more time at school or work. We also travel more. As a result, we generally experience more stress, but our societies become more connected.

The primary reason is that we compete with more people than ever. The population of all countries has grown significantly, but the opportunities are still limited. So, we all have to struggle more to have a better career, whether at school or work. For example, in the past, you could earn a decent income with a high school diploma only, but today you may need a PHD for the same impact.

Another reason is that we can travel with little effort. For instance, plane tickets have become much cheaper, while it is no longer difficult to buy a private vehicle. Thanks to these developments, even people with a limited income began to travel in a regular way. For example, in the past, only the rich could travel freely, but today even students can do the same.

Consequently, we have become more fatigued in general. Studying all the time or working hard requires much effort. This raises the level of stress. Over time, it causes depression or similar problems. Unfortunately, there is now too much competition, and only few of us can stay away from it.

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But, the effects on society have become fairly positive. In the past, most of us lived in an isolated way. Interaction between us was limited. But, we are no longer stuck in our homes. We are together everywhere. We have the chance to meet new people all the time. This has created a richer culture.

In conclusion, we spend less time at home, because we have to improve ourselves, yet this has resulted in both positive and negative effects.

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#15 Many people, including adults, find it overwhelming to speak or make a presentation in front of an audience. It is therefore argued that this skill should be taught in school. Why is this skill important? To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Even adults have problems talking comfortably in front of others. They feel stressed when they are expected to make a presentation. Some people argue that this skill should be part of the school curriculum. In my opinion, we cannot obtain a decent career without good presentation skills, so we should have presentation lessons as early as possible.

I believe that speaking in front of others in a confident way is crucial to success. If we cannot express our ideas and thoughts clearly, we will not be able to achieve much. Whether you want a good score for your school project or you want to convince your customers, you should address them in an effective way. If you hesitate or look stressed, failure will be inevitable. No one would like to do business with incompetent people.

Thus, I have the belief that presentation skills should be taught in schools. The earlier it begins, the better it will be. If we begin to practise these at early ages, we will have more time to master them. We do not necessarily have to wait till our internship to start talking in front of an audience. It may be initially hard, but with enough practice, we can all improve to a large extent.

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In addition, we can all learn to talk comfortably in front of others, but this will take much time. It will be based on trial and error. But, if teachers are involved in this process, they can spot our mistakes and give constructive feedback. In the long run, this will save us a lot of time. In fact, we will spare significantly less time to become proficient speakers.

In conclusion, I believe that speaking in front others with confidence is important for our future. I also think that if this skill is taught at schools, we will become better at it because we will start practising it much earlier than usual, and teachers' feedback will correct our mistakes.

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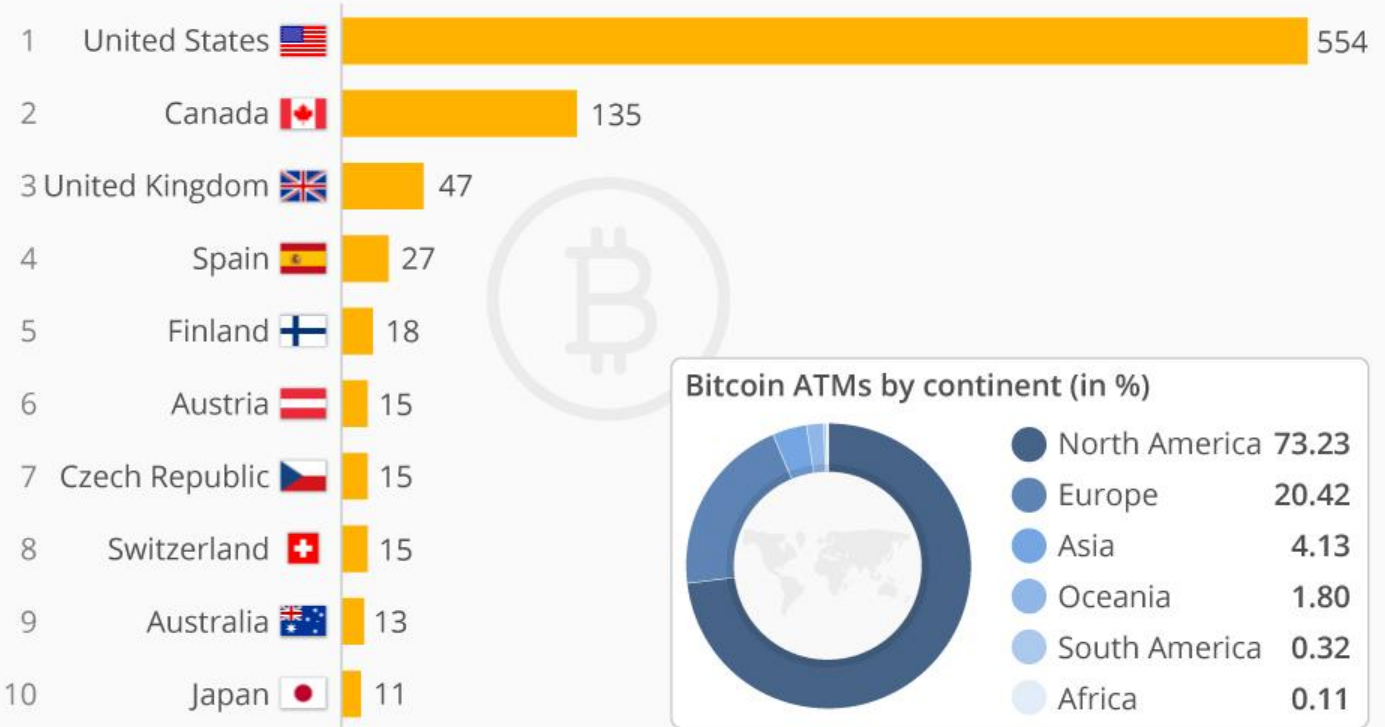
IELTS Writing Task 1

Academic

#1 Bitcoin ATM sayısı

Bits & Cash: Number of Bitcoin ATMs by Country

Top ten countries with most Bitcoin ATMs installed



@StatistaCharts Source: Coin ATM Radar

statista

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Neleri yorumlayacağız?

Amerika'da ATM sayısının diğer ülkelerden çok daha fazla olduğunu, Kanada harici ülkelerde Bitcoin ATM sayısının iyice azaldığını, Kuzey Amerika ve Avrupa kıtalarının neredeyse tüm ATM'lere sahip olduğunu.

The bar chart compares the number of Bitcoin ATMs in 10 different countries, while the pie chart illustrates their distribution by continent.

The US remains far ahead of the competition at 554 ATMs, slightly more than four times the number in the runner-up, Canada (135). This figure drops much further among the rest. While the UK owns 47 ATMs, almost twice higher than in Spain, no other country is home to more than 20 ATMs. This falls even below 15 in Australia and Japan. It should also be highlighted that the US possesses more or less 50 times more ATMS than Japan, the country with the lowest number of ATMs at 11.

Looking at the continental distribution in detail, we can see that North America contains almost three quarters of all ATMs at 73.23%, remaining significantly ahead of its closest counterpart, Europe (20.42%). In other words, even Europe owns more Bitcoin ATMs than all other continents combined. Whereas less than 5% of all ATMS are present in Asia, it drops to less than 2% in Oceania. Yet, South America and Africa lag far behind at 0.32% and 0.11%, respectively.

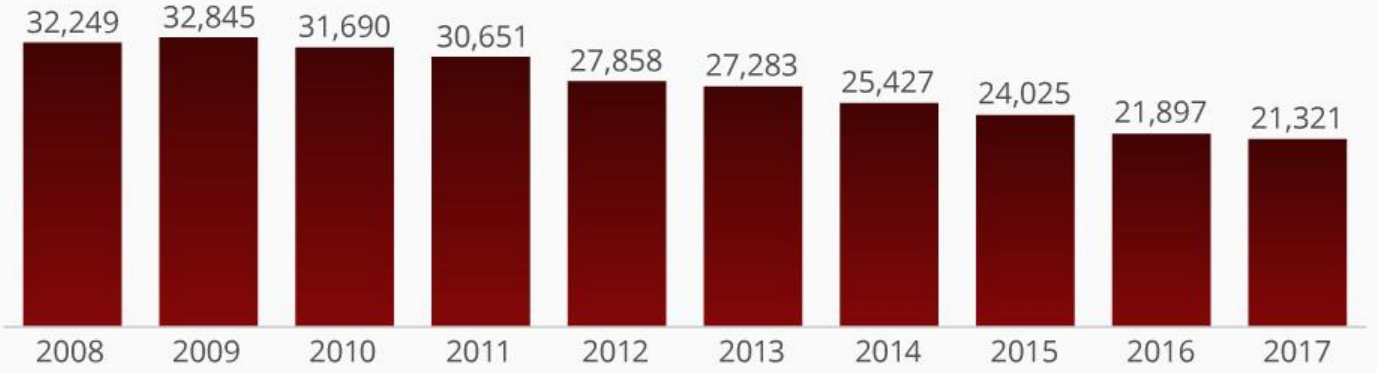
Overall, it is clear that the vast majority of Bitcoin ATMs are available for use in the US and Canada, which make up North America.

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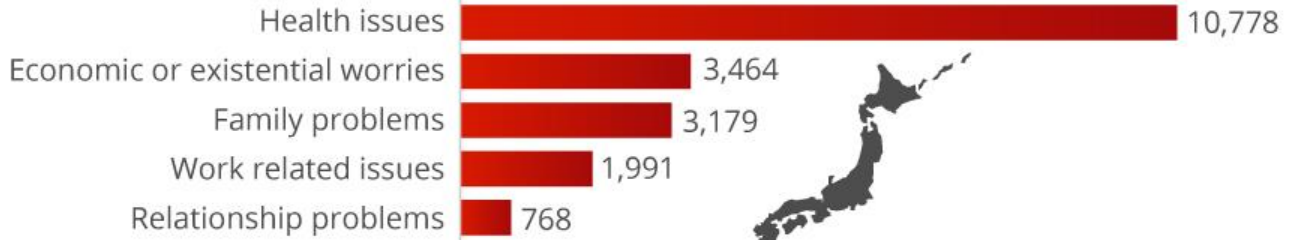
#2 Japonya intihar verileri

Suicide in Japan reaches 25-year low

Number of suicides committed in Japan from 2008 to 2017



Leading reasons for committing suicide among Japanese in 2017



@StatistaCharts Source: National Police Agency of Japan

statista

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Hangi ayrıntılar dikkat çekiyor?

2009 yılında intihar sayısı zirve yapmış, ama sonraki yıllarda düzenli azalış var. Başlangıç ve bitiş yılları arasında 10,000 civarı fark var. Sağlık problemleri sebebiyle intihar edenlerin sayısı diğerlerinin toplamından fazla. İş ve ilişki sebepli meselelerin etkisi görece düşük.

The bar chart illustrates the changes in the number number of suicides in Japan over a period of 10 years, while the line graph compares the causes of suicide among the Japanese in 2017.

As for the annual figures, we can see that suicides peaked in 2009 at 32,845, slightly lower than in 2008, the very beginning of the 10-year-period. In subsequent years, there was a gradual decline, with the figures declining below 30,000 for the first time in 2012. The drop in 2012 compared to 2011 amounted to almost 3,000, the greatest yearly fall throughout the entire period. In 2015, the total number of suicides remained below 25,000, yet the lowest number was recorded in 2017 at 21,321, much fewer than the peak point, 2009.

In terms of the major reasons for suicide in 2017, it should be noted that health issues accounted for the vast majority of all reasons at over 10,000, a figure greater than the sum of all others illustrated in the line graph. Economic or existential worries ranked second at 3,464, just above family problems. By contrast, the figure for work-related issues dropped slightly below 2,000, much greater than the one for relationship problems, 768.

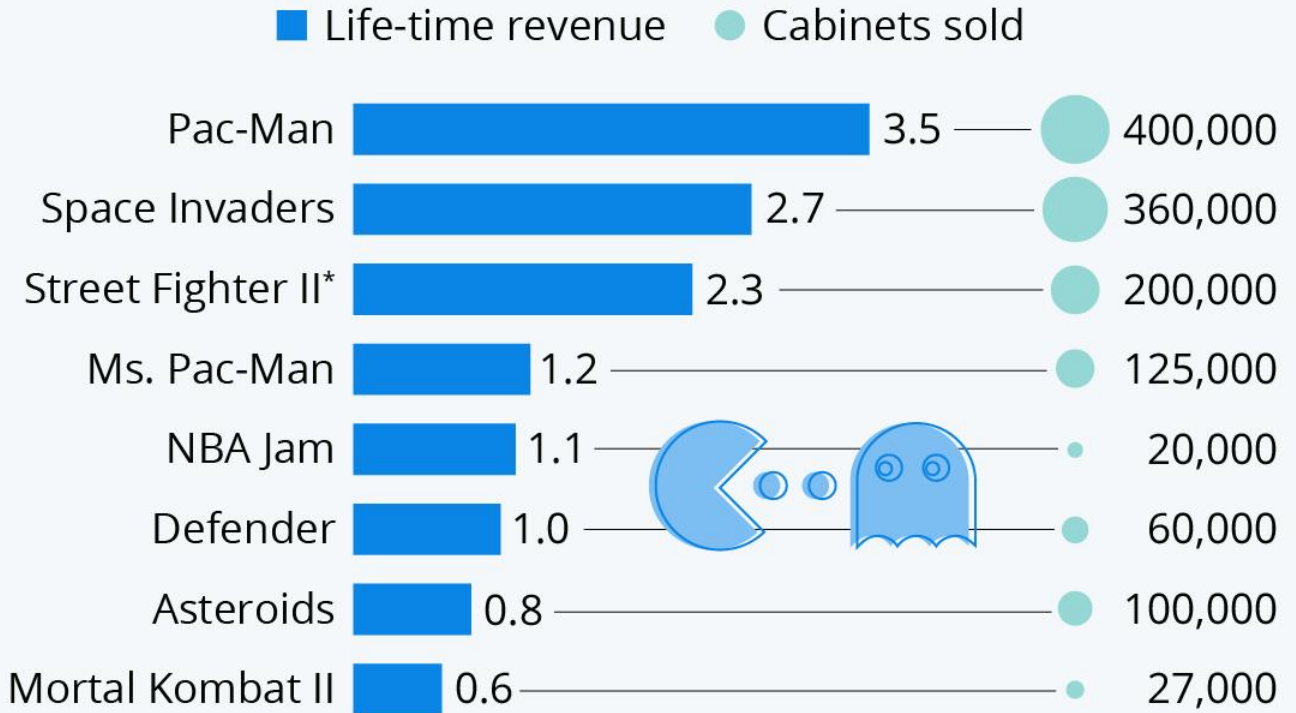
Overall, it is clear that suicides became increasingly less common in Japan, excluding 2009, while health issues were responsible for most of the suicides in Japan within 2017.

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#3 Atari oyunları

The Best-Selling Arcade Games of All Time

Best-selling arcade games in the world by revenue (in billion U.S. dollars) and cabinets sold



* includes Street Fighter Champion Edition

Source: U.S. Gamer



statista

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Kabaca nelerden bahsedeceğiz?

Pac-Man, satış sayısı ve gelir açısından diğerlerini geride bırakmış. Space Invaders ve Street Fighter II de başarısız sayılmaz. Asteroids, görece çok satmış ve orantısız olarak az kazanmış.

The bar chart compares the lifetime revenue of most popular Arcade games with the number of cabinets sold for each one.

When we look at the overall income in detail, we can see that Pac-Man has generated a revenue of 3.5 billion dollars, exactly 800 million dollars more than the runner-up, Space Invaders. Street Fighter II ranks just behind Space Invaders at 2.3 billion, remaining significantly ahead of the rest. Of all the others, Ms. Pac-Man has earned the most, generating 1.2 billion dollars, only 100 million dollars greater than NBA Jam. This figure drops to 1 billion dollars for the game called Defender, and even lower for Asteroids and Mortal Combat, 800 million and 600 million dollars, respectively.

As for the cabinet sales, we can observe that Pac-Man dominates this list, as well. It has sold 400,000 cabinets, only 10% more than its closest counterpart, Space Invaders. Yet, it should be noted that the gap between each in terms of revenue is proportionally much higher compared to the number of cabinets sold. In comparison, Street Fighter II has sold half as many as Pac-Man, corresponding to 200,000. While Asteroids could not generate a substantial amount, it overshadowed Defender, Mortal Kombat and NBA Jam in terms of cabinet sales at 100,000. Finally, Mortal Kombat is the game that has generated the lowest income, but as regards cabinet sales, it has been replaced by NBA Jam.

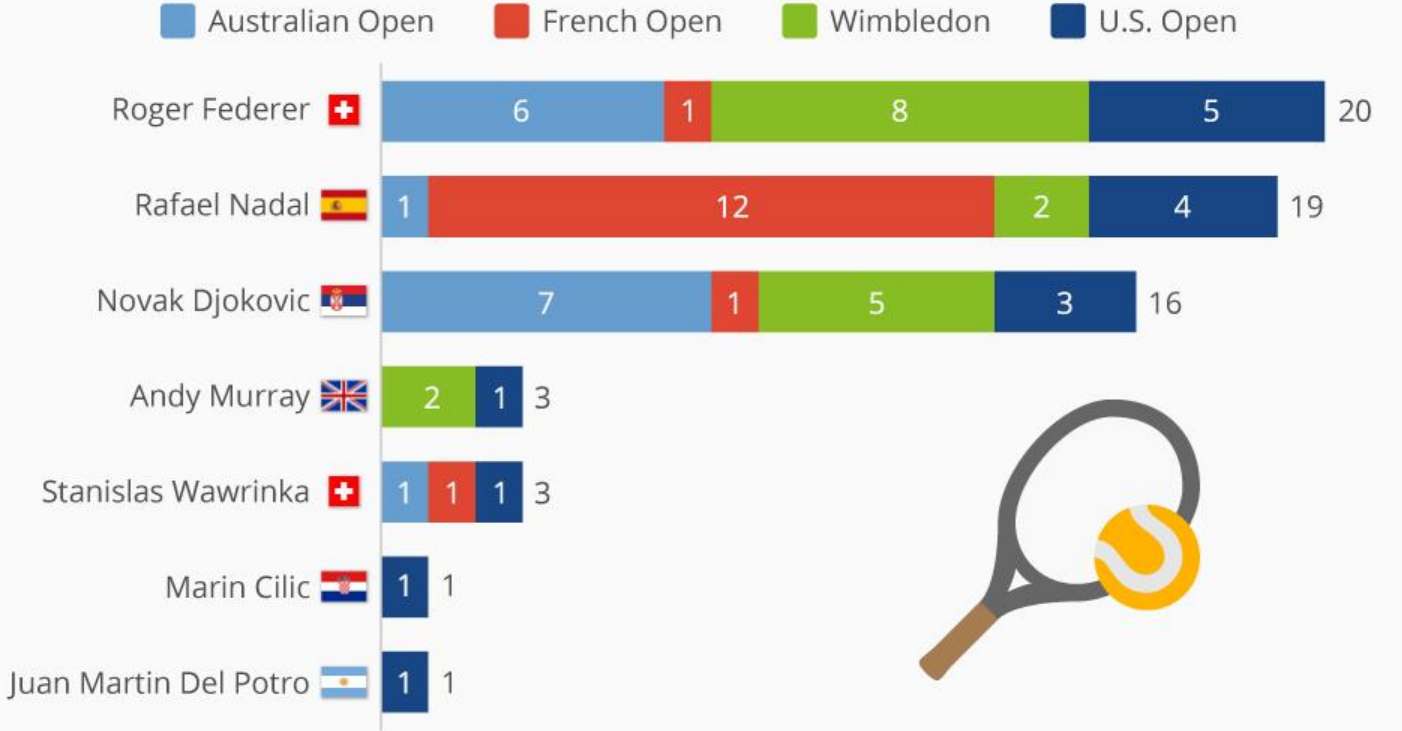
Overall, it is clear that the game of Pac-Man has outcompeted all others both in revenue and cabinet sales.

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#4 Tenis oyuncularını

Nadal Closing In On Federer's Grand Slam Record

Number of Grand Slam singles titles won by active male tennis players



As of September 9, 2019.
Source: ATP

statista

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Hangi ayrıntılar ön plana çıkıyor?

Federer, Wimbledon ve Amerika açık turnuvalarını domine ederken, Nadal Fransa'da ezici üstünlük sağlamış. Djokovic, Avustralya açık turnuvasında Federer'in ilerisinde. Diğer oyuncular pek varlık gösterememiş.

The bar chart compares the number of 4 different Grand Slam titles won by 7 active male tennis players.

As for the Wimbledon title, Roger Federer ranks first at 8 victories, 3 more than the runner-up, Novak Djokovic. Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray follow far behind at 2 Wimbledon titles, while no other player has been able to win the Wimbledon cup so far. When it comes to the French open, Rafael Nadal clearly dominates the list at 12 victories, winning the overwhelming majority of all French Open titles. Federer, Djokovic and Wawrinka have prevailed only once at French open, remaining far behind Nadal.

Looking at the Australian open in detail, we can see the formidable competition between Federer and Djokovic. While Djokovic has won this tournament 7 times so far, Federer remains right behind at 6 titles. Among the rest, nobody but Wawrinka could win a title at Australian open, yet he is far behind Djokovic and Federer at only 1 victory. By contrast, in US open, there is more of a balance between players. Just like in Wimbledon, Roger Federer remains ahead of the competition at 5 titles, only 1 more than his closest counterpart, Nadal. Djokovic ranks third at 3 titles, while each player among the rest secured only 1 title. US open is the only tournament in which each player in the list has won a title.

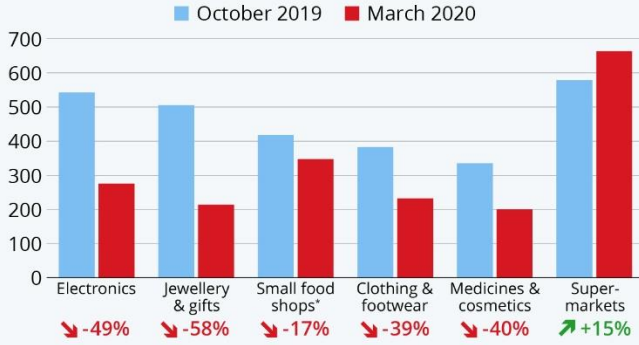
Overall, it is clear that Federer, Nadal and Djokovic have won far more Grand Slam singles titles, with Federer being the slightly more successful player.

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#5 Covid-19

Hong Kong Shops Lose out on Sales

Change in the revenue of Hong Kong shops from Oct 2019 to March 2020 (in million U.S. dollars)



* also selling alcohol, tobacco

Source: Census and Statistics Department Hong Kong



statista

Hong Kong Bars Ailing After Protests and COVID-19

Monthly revenue of Hong Kong bars (in million U.S. dollars)



Source: Census and Statistics Department Hong Kong



statista

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Nelerden bahsetsek iyi olur? Süpermarket sektörü haricinde herkes zarar etmiş. Elektronik ürünler ve mücevher satışında kayıp diğerlerinden daha fazla. Barlar, Aralık ayından sonra arada bir artış yaşansa da 2018 yılında göre fazlasıyla zarar etmiş.

The bar chart compares the change in the revenue of shops in Hong Kong from October 2019 to March 2020, while the line graph illustrates the differences in the monthly income of Hong Kong bars between 2018 and 2020.

Looking at the bar chart in detail, we can see that only supermarkets have increased their sales between October 2019 and March 2020, approaching almost 700 million dollars, a rise of nearly 100 million dollars. While the revenue of electronics shops remained over 500 million in October 2019, it fell down to less than 300 million dollars, a dramatic decline experienced by jewellery&gifts shops, as well (from 500 million to slightly over 200 million). Yet, the loss was not as high among the rest. Whereas the decline in revenue remained less than 100 million dollars for small food shops, it surpassed over 100 million for clothing&footwear and medicines&cosmetics shops.

As for the monthly bar revenue, we can clearly understand that it peaked at the beginning of 2019 at 21.5 million dollars, slightly more than the summer figures of 2018. As of January 2019, the revenue of the bars sharply declined, falling down to 15 million at the end of January. This figure fluctuated between 15 and 20 million until the end of the year; however, it plunged afterwards. By March 2020, it declined below 10 million dollars, a loss of more or less 11 million dollars compared to March 2019.

Overall, it is clear that, in Hong Kong, all type of shops but supermarkets underwent a significant revenue loss, while the damage was even greater for bars.