

### PART 3

What are the advantages of travelling by plane?

Oh, there are **multiple**, but I guess the main one is speed.

Travelling to anywhere is 24 hours at most whereas to get to the other side of the world by boat could take roughly a month - **I'm guessing here so don't quote me**.

As flights are **a time-saver**, then you have much more time at your destination to do sightseeing, visiting relatives or whatever.

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Should children learn about the stars?

**Oh yes, absolutely**, but they shouldn't just know about stars, they should know about **planets** as well.

Sadly, nowadays, the only stars kids seem interested in are **reality TV stars**.

It should be on **the national curriculum**\* in every country so that the younger generation understands our planet and the importance of water.

We are the only planet known to have water and the only planet known to be **inhabited**, therefore we need to take care of **the water supply** we have.

\* **the national curriculum** = a set of subjects and standards used by primary and secondary schools so children learn the same things. It covers what subjects are taught and the standards children should reach in every subject

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Do you think there is equality for men and women in the workplace nowadays?

**Oh no, absolutely not**. Despite the fact that in many countries there are **anti-discrimination laws**, you just have to look at sport to see that **inequality** exists.

In the Top 100 highest paid athletes list, there is not a single woman on the list.

The same is true of politics, the number of female MPs and PMs is miniscule and in the world of business, there are far fewer female CEOs than male. There is a glass ceiling\* for women in all walks of life.

\* A glass ceiling is an upper limit to professional advancement that is imposed upon women, minorities, and other nondominant groups and is not openly perceived or acknowledged:

It's more difficult for women of colour to break through the glass ceiling.

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Why are people less interested in reading books nowadays?

I'm not sure that it is the case that people are less interested, I strongly believe that this is a time issue.

On the whole, we are working longer hours, we are more stressed, and we have very little downtime compared to our ancestors.

The 9 to 5 job is a thing of the past so I think the fact that we all have less time, we are shattered/exhausted and fall asleep as soon as our heads hit the pillow\* is the major factor in the decline in reading.

\* to fall asleep as soon as your head hits the pillow = to fall asleep very quickly

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What measures should be taken to deal with damage to public facilities?

Nowadays, damage or vandalism on any public property or private property is not taken as seriously as it should be.

Sadly, the police are snowed under with work and are dealing with more serious crimes so vandalism often gets overlooked.

I feel that we should have a **zero-tolerance policy** and the costs of any repairs should be paid by **the perpetrator** of the damage.

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What's the difference between facilities in the countryside and the ones in the cities?

Obviously, the major difference is that there are very few facilities **in rural areas**.

Public facilities are not built in villages because there is not enough **footfall\*** and it would be a waste of money.

In a major city, you can find everything from swimming pools to libraries, but such places are **non-existent** outside of **urban areas**.

\* **footfall** = the number of people entering a business, shop or shopping area in a given time

What are the differences between old facilities and new facilities?

**Well**, newer facilities are more modern and are likely to have **the latest equipment**.

The cost of **maintaining** old buildings and equipment is **astronomical**, **therefore**, they tend to **get run down** very quickly.

What facilities do young people and old people like in your country?

**In the main**, **the old** like public libraries because they don't have **tablets or kindles** and **tend to still read** books and newspapers. **The young** access everything on their **gadgets** and **don't tend to frequent** such places. **The younger generation** are more into gyms and fitness places because **they are obsessed with** keeping fit.

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How will artificial intelligence affect our lives in the future?

Oh, I'm not entirely sure, because I'm no expert, but I guess it's going to become more prevalent in our daily lives.

Computer scientists are coming up with new developments all the time.

The next big thing is driverless cars. The AI systems controlling driverless cars are being trained to prepare the vehicle for nearly every event on the road. I'm not sure if they'll be commonplace in my lifetime, but rapid progress has been made, I think.

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Will instant messaging replace email?

My gut reaction is no, but who knows, it is hard to predict the future.

My reasoning for saying no is that with emails, you can attach documents, images etc, oh, having said that though, you can do that with messaging.

All the same, emails are more formal than messages and in certain situations, a bit of formality is a must.

For example, if you were contacting your boss on a weekend about a work matter, then an instant message might feel a bit intrusive\*.

\* To be/feel intrusive = Something that is intrusive disturbs your mood or your life in a way you do not like

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Which is more important reading or writing?

This is a massively complex question that I cannot answer in a few sentences.

So I'm going to think about **one aspect and that is connected with memory.**

**Many, myself included, do not have photographic memories\***, therefore, writing is essential to remember.

**For the lucky few** who can look at something and remember it word for word, writing is unnecessary, but **for the majority writing things down is vital**

\* **To have a photographic memory (to have an eidetic memory) = the ability to remember information or visual images in great detail after seeing them once**