

# 1. Describe something that was broken in your home and then repaired

- You should say
- What it is
- How it was broken
- How you got it repaired
- And how you felt about it

- Nowadays, I normally buy a newer model rather than getting old things repaired.
- However, recently our washing machine broke down and as it was under warranty, we decided to get it repaired.
- The machine just stopped working.
- When we switched it, the lights didn't come on.
- At first, we thought that there might be a problem with the socket.
- However, when we plugged another electronic device into the socket it worked.
- That's when we knew the machine was broken for sure.
- I am not sure of the reason but I think it was voltage fluctuation.
- It rained pretty heavily and due to the rain, there was a voltage fluctuation in our area.
- The fluctuation probably caused burned one of the electronic circuits in the machine.
- We had purchased the machine just a few months before that incident, so it was under warranty.
- We called the company and they scheduled a technician visit to our house.
- The repairman told us that the main circuit was burnt, but he was also not sure what caused that.
- He said that the part was made to order, so ordered the part and told us that when he receives the part, he will come again and replace it.
- I thought it would be quick but it took a whole week.
- Due to corona, there were shipment delays.
- Electronic equipments do break down.
- So, it wasn't a big deal.
- But the time we had to wait to get it repaired was much more than we had anticipated.
- The repairman had warned us that it might take some time, but even he didn't think it would take a whole week.
- The laundry just piled up and we just waited.
- However, one good thing that happened was that I took out some clothes that I hadn't worn in a long time.
- My favourite clothes were sitting in the laundry and I had no option.
- Two days after the repairman came and fixed it, we got an apology email from the company.
- We all really appreciated that. I don't think the company was at fault and yet they apologised.

### **Part 3 - Follow-up Questions**

#### **1. Are IT-related jobs valued more by society?**

I don't think they are valued more or less than other jobs. But yes the significance of IT jobs has increased in recent years as our dependence on technology has increased.

#### **2. Is the quality of products worse than before?**

I definitely think the quality has fallen in recent years. This is based on my personal experience. The first refrigerator my parents bought still works fine but the ones we bought after that broke down after three-four years and this is true for nearly every electronic product. I think the technology is becoming more and more complex but that has taken a toll on product durability.

#### **3. What kinds of things do people like to repair by themselves?**

I think YouTube and Google have made it possible to repair anything and everything. Recently my mom fixed her sewing machine by watching a YouTube video. I have fixed my mobile phone and laptop many a times by just searching on google.

#### **4. Why do people like to get their mobile phones repaired in specialised stores?**

I think the main reason is that they don't want to void the phone's warranty. I think most companies mention that if the phone is opened by non-registered technician or store, the warranty would not be applicable. I think it is a tactic by companies to ensure that they can charge people heavily for parts, which can be repaired cheaply.

## 2. Describe an ambition that you haven't achieved

- **You should say:**
  - **What it is**
  - **Why you haven't achieved it**
  - **What you did**
  - **And how you felt about it**
- I have many ambitions in my life.
  - But the one ambition that I am working on right now is to go for higher education in Canada.
  - Earlier I didn't have any plans to go abroad, but a conversation with a friend who went to Canada changed my opinion.
  - He told me about the difference in the quality of education and the work opportunities available there.
  - So after completing my senior secondary education, I decided that it would be the best opportunity for me.
  - There are two main requisites to get admission in a good Canadian college.
  - The first is good grades in senior secondary education.
  - My grades are pretty satisfactory. So, I didn't have to worry about that.
  - The second is a good score in English language tests like IELTS or TOEFL.
  - I learned that Canadian colleges give preference to IELTS and hence I am taking the IELTS exam.
  - For the past two-three months, I have been practicing for the exam.
  - I ordered the Cambridge books and started my preparation from them.
  - There is a lot of free material available on the internet.
  - So, I used that to prepare myself.
  - I used to practice for about 8 hours every day.
  - I used to try to cover every IELTS module twice.
  - For listening and reading, I didn't need much help.
  - I just practised the test papers and looked at my mistakes after that, so I don't repeat them.
  - For speaking and writing, I joined a coaching institute and their teachers helped me a lot.
  - I hope to get good bands, so I can move ahead to the next step, which is to apply for an offer letter from a Canadian College.
  - I don't think it has been an easy journey.
  - English is not my first language and I have had to practise really hard.
  - But I hope the fruits of the efforts will definitely be worth the struggle.

### **Part 3 - Follow-up Questions**

#### **1 What ambitions do children usually have?**

Children have many ambitions. The first ambition is mainly about the profession- in childhood, everyone has an ambition to do something noble like becoming a doctor or do something exciting like becoming a pilot or an astronaut. Then, children also have an ambition of earning huge amountsof money.

#### **2 Why are some people very ambitious in their work?**

I think it's just a part of their nature. They are ambitious because they want to grow and achieve something in their life. They want to be known for their work.

#### **3 Why don't some people have dreams?**

I think everyone has certain dreams. It's just that some people are too lazy to work for their dreams. On the other hand, there are others who can do anything for their dreams and it shows.

#### **4 How do people balance work and life?**

I think everyone does it in their own way. My mother switches off her work mobile phone after 5 PM. Some people do it by taking regular breaks when they only focus on their family. I think it is something almost every person tries to do and fails. In recent years, even governments are taking steps like limiting work hours so people are able to do so.

### 3. Describe a time when you organized a happy event successfully

- You should say:
  - What the event was
  - How you prepared for it
  - Who helped you to organize it
  - And explain why you think it was a successful event
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- I love to organise events.
  - On July 16th last year, it was my mother's 50 birthday and I wanted to do something special for her.
  - However, due to the pandemic, most celebrations were forbidden.
  - We were all cooped up inside our houses.
  - I decided to give her a surprise online party.
  - I asked my sister for advice on how we can make it special.
  - We have a large family and we asked every one in the family, all our cousins, uncles, and aunt to record something for my mother.
  - It could be anything, there were no restrictions.
  - One of my cousins recorded a dance performance, an uncle wrote a beautiful poem, my grandpa sang a beautiful song in Gujarati.
  - After receiving all the videos, we combined them into one big video.
  - It was not easy though, we had to send reminders and message some of my aunts and uncles again and again.
  - Some even sent it one day before the birthday, but they all finally did it.
  - Moreover, It was all hard to remind them to keep it a secret.
  - We were sure one of our aunts or uncles would spill the beans.
  - Thankfully no one did.
  - Then, we organised a special get together on zoom for the family.
  - This was also hard because some of our relatives live in a different time zone.
  - We wanted to choose a time everyone could be available.
  - Here we failed to some extent, but some of our relatives couldn't be online at that time.
  - The birthday fell on a weekday, so it was just not possible.
  - On her birthday, I ordered her favourite- truffle cake.
  - And then when everyone joined the zoom meeting, I handed my mom the phone and told her someone wants to wish her a happy birthday.
  - She was shocked to see all the family on the meeting.
  - Then, she cut the cake, while I held the phone and everyone wished her happy birthday.
  - Finally, for the big reveal, we played the video on the TV and recorded her reactions while watching the video and we telecast it on the meeting on a split-screen.
  - One screen showing her reactions and the other showing the video.
  - My mother had happy tears in her eyes by the end of it all and I think that alone made it a successful event.
  - However, others told me it was such wonderfully organised and it was so nice meeting everyone online. Even after the video was over, everyone stayed on the meeting and we kept on talking and discussing everyday life.

### **Part 3 - Follow-up Questions**

#### **1 How can parents help children to be organized?**

I think parents should have a daily schedule for their children. They should also allot every task a fixed amount of time. For example, they can ask them to write each task on the calendar and write how much time they expect to give to it alongside it. Then, there should be rewards and punishments for finishing or not finishing the tasks.

#### **2 On what occasions do people need to be organized?**

I don't think people need an occasion to be organised. We should try to be organised all the time. When we are organised we tend to save time and do things faster. Also, being organised creates a good impression on others.

#### **3 Does everything need to be well prepared?**

I think all the important things should be well prepared, but the minor details can be left out. It's like a speech, we prepare the main ideas but we leave some liberty to make some changes with the minor details. Preparing everything in advance would be very exhausting if not impossible.

#### **4 Do people need others' help when organizing things?**

Well, it depends upon the task. If we are organising a big event, we definitely need help. For example, wedding planners have a whole team of 10-15 members because a single person cannot manage everything. But, if there are small things like a small family get together, I think a person can organise it on their own.