

TOPICS FOR MONOLOGUES (Unit 1)

Personality, Personal relationships, Family, Parenthood and Childhood

1. **Identity.** Identity defines who a person is, or the qualities of a person or group which make them different from others. What do you think shapes identity? Is it constructed by family or school or is our personality rooted in our own biological nature? What role does the environment play in shaping our personality?
2. **Individuality.** In a society one is expected to conform to the masses, where maintaining an individuality becomes an onerous task. There is a type of people who merely follow the crowd and there are also people (individuals) who strive to lead the way, never following the beaten track and to be their own person. <https://www.quora.com/What-is-individuality-and-why-is-it-important>

What makes you unique? Have you ever felt like a square peg in a round hole? What are some things you do to blend in?

3. **First impressions.** For some people, the first impression is the one that counts. The first seven seconds of meeting people for the first time can be the difference between success and failure. What elements cause a first impression? Can we rely on them? Have you ever been tricked by a wrong first impression about somebody or yourself? What consequences do they have regarding job seeking, law or education?
4. **Embarrassing situations.** Everybody has faced awkward situations throughout life. Describe the most embarrassing situation in your life. What happened? Who were you with? How did you feel? Has that ever happened to you before?
5. **Inspiring person.** Talk about an inspiring person who has influenced your life in some way. It could be a well-known person or just a friend or a person from your family. Talk about this person's background, the important things they have done in their life, why you find them so inspiring and how they changed or influenced your life.

6. **Friendship.** Talk about friendship and what it means to you. What makes a good friend? What differentiates a true, lasting friendship from temporary social bonds? Have you ever been betrayed by a friend?

7. **Relationships.** Human relationships are complex , especially those we have at work and at home. You are going to talk about typical issues around relationships at work and in the family. Express your ideas and use arguments and examples to justify your opinion. Use the following questions as a help to prepare your monologue, but do not answer them directly:
 1. Could you give a brief summary of typical conflicts people might have at home and at work?
 2. How could the different character traits influence human relationships?
 3. Could you give some advice about how to deal with conflicts and how to reduce stress-in relationships?

8. **Dating.** Dating has changed enormously in the past decades. Talk about dating, expressing your ideas and use arguments and examples to justify your opinion. Use the following questions as a help to prepare your monologue, but do not answer them directly:
 1. Talk about why First Date style TV programmes have become so popular.
 2. How do different age groups date?
 3. What might the pitfalls and upsides of online dating be?

9. **New technologies and social relationships.** Talk about the influence of new technologies on social relationships nowadays. Explain how the former have affected the latter both positively and negatively. Provide arguments to support your opinion.

10. **Pregnancy at an old age.** Cameron Diaz has announced the birth of her first child. The 47-year-old actress announced the news on Instagram. The trend toward older parenthood looks set to continue, with more women in their 30s having babies now than women in their 20s. You are going to talk about pregnancy at an advanced age. Express your ideas and use arguments and examples to justify your opinion. Use the following questions as a help to prepare your monologue, but do not answer them directly:

1. What do you think the reason could be for such an increase in the number of older couples having babies?
2. Are there more risks involved with pregnancy and birth as maternal age rises?
3. What role does science play in this issue?

11. **Gestational surrogacy.** One of the latest trends in reproduction is surrogacy, in which a couple (or single person) who, for whatever reason, cannot have children, hire a woman to carry their offspring. Although there are certainly moral questions that have been raised, some people believe it has a positive impact on people all over the world: not only does it bring the miracle of life, but it also injects much-needed cash into impoverished areas. Do you think that the benefits surpass the disadvantages? Who could benefit from this new trend? Do you think that women's rights are respected?
12. **Being a parent these days.** It is commonly accepted that being a parent nowadays can result in a harder task than it used to be only a few years ago. Parents are now faced with questions about how to limit screen time, when to give children phones and how to protect them from cyber threats, issues that today's parents cannot get advice on from their own parents. How has parenting changed over the last 40 years? Do you think society has accepted the new types of parenting that have appeared in recent years? What qualities do you think the best parents should possess?
13. **Toys representing society.** 'If you want to learn about society, look at its toys.' Take the case of Barbie, a teenager who appeared a few years after that term was popularised, and He-Man, a raging symbol of the US's post-Vietnam. Talk about the evolution of toys since you were a child until now. Do you consider that toys represent somehow our society, traditions and culture? Suggest which toys are the most and least advisable for the education of children.
14. **Forever young.** Growing up and growing old are two of the most significant experiences and achievements of human consciousness that become more challenging as the aging process gets underway. What is the best age in one's life? Are there different types of age? Is reaching an elderly age

something to be thankful for? Do you think that being forever young is something we should have in our minds as a goal?