Core questions	S-1 Thanh	S-2 Andrio	S-3 Haya
FRIENDS (Fluency Strategy: be authentic, be will to share personal info Conversation Strategy: repeat question) Do you have a lot of friends?	C0258 0;00-;39 Do I have a lot of friends? I don't have a lot of friends... because of my personality. I'm a shy person, so I don't just come up to someone and say, "Hi, let's be friends!" or begin very casual conversations like I know them. It takes a while because I guess I'm very picky and I have high expectations, when you call someone friends.	C0001. Take 2 Do I have a lot of friends? I do actually. I love making friends. I love meeting new people. That's one of my favorite things to do.	C0010 (take 2) (-6:35) Do I have a lot? Um, I can say… Generally speaking, I think I can say, I do. I had a lot of friends growing up back in Syria, and I grew up with them. After I moved here, I did meet a lot of people that I consider my friends. I. Everybody here is super super nice, so it was really really easy. And I do consider myself a social person. So that made it easier to make friends, certainly. So yeah, I do have a lot of friends. But only a few that I consider like "close circle." So, yeah.
How often do you see your friends?	1:30 - 1:47 How often do I see my friends? Most of the time would be during school time, or we have school clubs together, so that's the two only times I see my friends. After school, I usually just go home, after hanging out with them. ,	How often? Every. Single. Day. I can't live my life without seeing my friends. I love being around people, especially friends. So it's how I like to start my day, and how I like to end it.	How often ? I really don't see the friends that I made back home – that's kind of impossible here but I do try to text them and FaceTime them whenever I can. But for my friends here, I'm really like a "social butterfly" , so I do try to see them at least once a week. So yeah, being with my friends is kind of a top priority for me. but we do text all the time, and sometimes we FaceTime each other. For my friends here, I'm really a socialite, so I try to see at least one of my friends every day. Being with friends is kind of like my top priority.
Who is your best friend?	2:25 - Well, I have three significant … best friends. Their names are Han, Thi, and Ni. The four of us have been best friends for ten years. I live in the United States now, but I'm still in contact with them.	There is one person I can name who comes off the top of my head. I Her name is Alissa. She lives in Manila. I haven't seen her for a while, but we still stay very close to each other. And she'll always be my dear friend.	Who's my best friend? o, I think I have two best friends. My first friend is Maya…Maya still lives in Saudi Arabia, which is where I moved after I was in Syria. We kind of grew up together, so I've known her forever. And I still talk to her whenver I can, and it's like one of the strongest friendship I have. And my other best friend is Camille. I met her when I moved to the States. And we connected right away. And she's always been there for me, and I've always been there for her. And we have the same dreams, and goals about life, I think you'd say, so we always talk about future together. So

			yeah, that's another one of the strong relationships I have. So yes, I think I can say I have two best friends.
When did you two meet?	3:01 (Take 1, not 2) When did we meet? During our middle school. It's about ten years as I said. And we still have our friendship until now… In Vietnam we call that a "diamond relationship" because it's more than ten years. It's like lasting forever.	(take 2) (=02:16) We actually met in school. I remember, in fifth grade, I used to site beside her. And she used to hate me — she thought I was too talkative and annoying. And up until now she'll still tell me I'm incredibly annoying, but until seventh grade I hung out with her again, and she decided I wasn't so bad. And there our friendship grew on.	I met Maya when I was still in Saudi Arabia. I don't really have an exact date, but I know we met sometime early in elementary school. And we've just stayed in each other's lives since then. And even our parents are friends, which is really really cool. And Camille,on the other hand, I met her my sophomore year of high school. And we both were in the choir class together, because we both love singing. So that's where I met her, and we instantly connected, because we had so much in common.
Tell me about him.	C0261 Use Take 1 Well, I can tell you about them – They're all girls. And they're very supportive. Of course, we have our differences. Different interests. Like I lean toward studying anything language. Anything higher ed. That I'm very into. Han is very into sales. Thi is probably very into language as well, but more food. Ni is into agriculture things. But we all come together and find the same things to love and the same things to talk about all the time.	(first take (=-0:34) How would I describe her? Well, I could describe her many way, but I could tell you: she's cold, she's a loner, and she knows what she wants. And you know, these are all the opposites of me. So, I guess opposits do attract each other!	I think I'll tell you more about Maya. Maya is like a sister to me. We grew up together – my house was her house. her house was my house She was really good at cooking,and I… like she was naturally good at it, but I didn't like anything in the kitchen, so whenever we hung out together at her house, we'd always cook, whatever it might be, and I'd always mess it up, and she was like super-super-patient, and we'd laugh it off sometimes. And we used to make a lot of YouTube videos and but never actually post them. And I went through a really rough patch in middle school, because people were really mean, and she always stood up for me, and she is literally one of the most loyal people ever. And so yeah we're really really close, even though I've moved away, you know we are really close friends And even our names are really close – Maya and Haya – so we'd call each other "M" or "H". It was kind of like our secret code.
FOOD	(thumbs up) My favorite food is noodles, (hands wave) all kind of noodles. We have a lot	(smile) Oh, gosh, I don't even know where to start! I mean, I'm a kind of …how do you say	(smile) Sushi has to be my favorite food, 100 per cent! It has to be THE BEST food in the

(Fluency Strategy: express opinions fully and clearly, Conversation Strategy: be expressive with body language – gestures and facial expressions and voice) What's your favorite food?	of varieties of noodles in Vietnamese cuisine – (counting on fingers) like rice noodles, ad egg noodles, and clear rice noodles, maybe 9 or 10 different types, and with all kinds of soup styles and toppings. I basically love them all! (smile, hands wave)	it?... omnivore…I will eat almost anything. And I really appreciate good food, all kinds of good food. But if I had to choose just one food, I would say, a good steak, cooked kind of medium rare, is my favorite food.	entire world, and it's visually so pleasing. I mean, whenever I see sushi, I think, OK, I want to get you in my tummy, right away. And you have two basic types, the (makes gesture of how to make it) "nigiri sushi" (puzzled look) I think they call it that, and then the roll type (gesture of how to make a roll), like California roll, which I could eat, just that, for the rest of my life. So, hands down, sushi is my favorite food.
Is there any food you dislike?	Well, basically I don't like bitter tasting foods like certain kinds of melon or greens. In fact, I really don't like greens. I mean, I try, I know they're good for you, but mostly they're just too bitter for me. My friends say, Oh, Thanh, try this, it's so yummy, but when I try it, I'm like, oh, no, that's too bitter.	Any food I dislike? Well, yes, I know some people are going to be shocked by this, but I hate carbs: specifically bread and pasta. You can slap me later. I think I just realized that I felt too heavy after I ate carbs, any kind of carbs, so I just came to dislike them.	Mmm, (smile) have a funny story actually about this. (raise finger) The one food that I currently dislike is a food that I grew up loving a lot. And it's bananas. Now I just don't like bananas. I don't like the smell and the texture is just weird. And then when they get, what's the word, too ripe, they get brownish and they're so soft and squishy, and yuck, I don't like that at all. So like the funny thing is when I was a kid, I loved bananas and sometimes I'd wake up and tell my mom or my grandma, I want a banana, and I wouldn't go back to sleep until I had a banana. And one night, we didn't have any bananas, and it was the middle of the night, so my grandma had to knock on the door of our neighbor's house to ask to borrow a banana. And yeah, my mom reminds me of this all the time. But now, for some reason, I just can't stand bananas. Sorry.
How important is diet to your health?	I would say now, it's very important. Right now, I know it's important, because I can feel my energy level going down, and I feel I'm getting chubbier by not eating healthier foods. I know by dieting, it's good for your health. I know that if you don't cut out some of the carbs and the sugar, it would affect you negatively. But it's difficult to do it. Maybe it's because my brain is trained a certain way. Like I want to eat what tastes good.	It's very important. Yes, very important. As a dancer, and as someone who wants to be a professional dancer, I have to be really healthy. I have to feel light and mobile, so I only eat foods that I feel good about. To tell the truth, though, it's just kind of an automatic program for me, I never really even think about it.	I think a healthy diet is very important for your overall (hand gesture "overall") health, but I should say that I don't (wave finger "no") support strict diets, unless (finger point up) there is some medical reason to avoid certain foods, to avoid complications in your body, especially if your doctor says you have to… But generally, I think you need to listen (gesture for "listen") to your body – and if you want a burger or a milk shake occasionally, sure, (wave hand) I'll go and get those. But yeah, I do think that eating healthy puts you on track for life. When you eat healthy, you feel healthy, you look healthy, you have more energy, more

			concentration. Good nutrition will do that for you. So yes, important!
What are some popular foods for visitors to your country?	Popular foods? Well, like I was describing before, it's pho – or noodles in English. As I mentioned, there are at least 10 different types, and you can go crazy just eating noodles, with all the different kinds of broth. You'll never get tired of pho. But beyond that, there are all kinds of steamed and grilled dishes in Vietnamese cuisine. It's a very diverse culture with all kinds of foods. I encourage you to give them a try!	Visitors to my country rave about two foods in particular: Lumpia and Adobo. They just love those two foods. I personally don't eat them anymore – I grew up eating them all the time, but I guess I just got sick of them. Lumpia is a fried spring roll and you serve it with a spicy chili sauce. Adobo is a spicy, marinated dish — with meat or seafood and vegetables – that you serve over rice.	Popular foods? Well, many of the popular foods in my country have also been exported widely – because many of them are either very healthy or very delicious. Like we have hummus, which is originally a Levantine dish – that comes from my part of the world. It's a kind of mashed (gesture) chickpeas. Blended (gesture) with tahini, olive oil and lemon juice mainly. Tahini – oh that's a sauce made from …what do you call it …we say *samsam* in Arabic…oh yeah, sesame. And then there's tabbouleh, we pronounce it *tabula*, which is an Arab salad of cracked wheat with finely chopped up (gesture) vegetables like tomato and onions and parsley. (eyes open wide) And then there's baklava, which we consider a native dish, which is a sweet pastry. Yeah, most visitors loves those three dishes: hummus, tabbouleh and baklava.
What is one very popular dish in your country? Tell me about it.	I'll say rice cake. I see lots of people, visitors, eating steamed rice cakes. Some people would call it Cow Cake, Sponge Cake. It's slightly sweet and has coconut flavor. This dessert also has very colorful look. It's always helpful to have gorgeous looking dessert so that visitors would give it a try.	Adobo is a kind of soup stock for meat or seafood or vegetables. The stock itself is what's delicious – it's composed of paprika, oregano, salt, garlic, and vinegar. And maybe some other spices I don't know about. And when you add meat or seafood and cook it long enough, it really enhances the flavor. I believe this type of cuisine came to our country from Portugal or maybe Spain. We have a lot of hybrid cooking styles in our cuisine, and a lot of it comes from Spain and Portugal.	One popular dish in our country, but is kind of underrated outside of the country is kibbeh. So you have dough, you start with a little ball of dough, and inside that you put (gesture) some ground meat, with walnuts, and then you deep fry it. It's really good, especially if you eat it right after it's been deep fried. You usually serve it with taziki sauce, which is a sauce made of yoghurt and mint and chopped up cucumber. You can also serve it on skewers (gesture) , like a kebab, and you serve it with the same sauce. And there's a vegetarian version as well, where you use quinoa instead of meat, and for that version, you don't even need to deep fry it. So yes, kibbeh is a great dish.

FAMILY Fluency Strategy: Give expanded reasons and examples Conversation Strategy: Pause, use hesitation markers and fillers Is family important in your country?	Yes, absolutely. *How can I put this?* Generally, we believe that families are the building blocks of society. *In my case, um,* my parents and grandparents taught me that from a very young age. And we're also taught that when you reach a certain age, you have to get married…have to start your own family. *Um, and another thing,* People continually ask you, Do you have a boyfriend? Are you getting married soon? *Arrgh!* It gets annoying sometimes. But weddings are always, always a big deal because family building is so important.	From where I come from, family is a huge thing. It's very important in my culture, and in my country. And in my religion as well. It's what I've seen growing up: keeping family ties, being there for our family members – which is a big big network of relatives. We tend to have large families, at least larger than what you have here in the U.S. My mom is one of five kids, and my dad is one of four. We're used to having a lot of people around, we're used to big family gatherings. And I've always been taught, yeah, that that's your life, family is your life, so you have to be there for one another.	Yes, one hundred per cent! In my culture, you're expected to live together – in the same house – as long as possible. Like my oldest sister, (Analyn), is 28 now, and she still lives at home. It's kind of expected that you stay with your immediate family, at least until you're married. And extended family – oh, wow – in my country, your extended family may be 30 or 40 or more people – and this kind of mixes with your close friends, that you consider them like family. So yes, family is super important for us.
What are the activities that you like to do together as a family?	This may sound kind of boring, but watching TV is the main activity my family does together, or did together. In the evening, we'd sit around the TV and watch games shows or dramas – you know, those situation dramas, comedies, or sometimes movies. Every day, every day. It was like an everyday activity. *Let's see, what else?* Sometimes, we'd go together as a family to the beach. My country is full of lots of beautiful beaches, so we'd often go together as a family. And do some activities, swimming, or hiking, or kayaking. Fun.	We are one busy family, so we don't have that much time together, but when we do have time together – and my mom insists that we find time to spend together – we watch movies. Nothing crazy. We just sit and watch – no talking. And another thing is bowling. We never had that back home, and somehow we all like it. And we're all very competitive so we like competing against each other.	Activities with my family? Well, you may find this a little unusual, but my family is very artistic, and we all love to dance -- My mother was actually a professional ballerina -- so one activity we love to do together is go dancing. I mean, we will go disco dancing or ballroom dancing or samba dancing. Any kind of dance. Another sporting activity we like – and maybe this is a national custom – is playing badminton. We're actually all pretty good, and we like competing in different teams – like me and my mom versus my dad and my brother, or my brother and I versus mom and dad. It's a lot of fun.
Do you get along well with your family?	*Do I get along well with my family?* By "get along well", *do you mean* "have a harmonious relationship"? Then, *in that case,* I'd say it depends on the stage in my life. When I was a kid, me and my siblings, everything was simple, nothing complicated. But as we got older, teenage years, I think my parents wanted to know too much, like "Where are you going?" "Who are you going to be with?" "When are you coming back?" *So I would say*, at that point in my life, I just felt: Too much interference, so too much frustrated.	My family and I, do we get along well? Yes, I think we do. We do get along well. Of course, we do have our ups and downs, every family has them, and believe me, we definitely have a lot of those. But we …how do you say this…we value each other, we care for each other, so we always make an effort to work things out when some kind of conflict or disagreement comes up. And yeah, um, especially after moving here, we don't have our extended family around, just our immediate family, so we know we have to take care of each other.	Do I get along with my family? I do. Since we all grew up in close quarters — a really small house – I remember I had to sleep with five people in the same room for about five or six years, and we were all pretty much okay with it. We learned to just accept each other, quirks and all. You really have to be accepting and tolerant to get along in a big family.

How do you think the family will change in the future?	How do I think the family will change in the future? Well, *for one thing*, my family will shrink in size, for sure. Like my siblings, my two brothers and my sister, we have different views on how we should spend our lives. *And it seems that* in the future we'll all be separated, start pursuing our own careers. *And you know what I think?* A lot of families are like ours – *you know*, the children go off to have their own careers. Maybe they come back together, maybe not. *Who knows?*	I feel like in the future…I hope …and I'm guessing that our family might just grow closer together, because we do have the same values and family is a big thing for all of us. So after my brother and I are out of those awkward ages…you know, after we become more mature, more adult, more settled, we might sit down and realize that yes, we do need to spend more time with our parents. And hope that we can reunite with our other family members back in Syria sometime soon. You know, maybe have some adventures together. And if we can't do that, maybe just spend time, and talk, you know, heart to heart type things. I hope that we keep getting closer because family is important, and families are here to stay. And life is uncertain and short. So yes, make the most of your relationships that you know are going to stay with you.	Well, families change all the time. My family is changing right now, as we speak. My sister just announced that she's pregnant and she and her boyfriend are going to get married. We're all so proud. She will be the first child to actually move out of the house. I think this is how families change, when one person moves out, it's a big change. But I guess this is way of all life, you know, "leaving the nest", and going out on your own, flying on your own wings.
Who do you think should be responsible for the care of the elderly, the family or the government?	Who should be responsible? Both. Traditionally, in my country, it was always "family first." You have to take care of your own family. But times are changing, you know. I think the government should take part in this too. People work hard to make a better society, so when they're old they deserve to get some care from the society. That makes sense, right? Like in my case, my parents both worked very hard to raise four kids, and their kids are working for the society too, so some benefit needs to come back to them in their old age.	I think because of the way I was brought up, and the things I have seen in my culture, I would say, it's the family. The family should be responsible for taking care of one another, and especially the elders. You grew up with them, they raised you. And this is not so much a way to pay them back, just you kind of have to be there for them. Family is very important. So if my parents get to that age, I could never put my parents in a senior center, ah, no I just could not do that. That would go against everything I've been taught. Oh, OK, yes, there might be certain circumstances where you cannot take care of them yourself, then yes, there should be an option for the government to help you out. I'm an open person, and I realize there are different circumstances for different people.	Well, for sure, this should be us…the children. In my case, my mom and dad, they really don't want to force us to…to do anything that will interfere with our lives. They don't…or wouldn't force us to take care of them when they're older. They would say, If you can't support us financially, that's all right, we'll find another way. But for us, we feel endeavored…is that the right word? …indebted…to them, because they gave us everything. So we in return need to return the favor, we need to take care of them when they're older.

HOMETOWN (Fluency: provide same idea in multiple ways; Conversation: confirm understanding) Where were you born? Where is your hometown?	I'm from Vietnam. I was born in Ho Chi Minh, which is called Ho Chi Minh City in English. It's the biggest city in the country, probably close to 10 million people by now. So you could say I'm a city girl. I'm used to urban type living.	Well, this is a really hard question for me – and I may get kind of emotional if I have to go into this. But I'm Syrian, from Damascus, the capital, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, that's where I was born, and where my grandparents live, both sets of my grandparents still live there. But then later my parents and brother and I moved to Saudi Arabia, (to kind of escape the war in my country) in a city called Al Khobar, on the Persian Gulf. So I have kind of two hometowns. But I consider Damascus my hometown.	I was born in Manila, the capital of the Philippines. It's the capital city, a very vibrant, even hyperactive city. But yes, I consider Manila to be my hometown. I lived there my whole life, until I came to the U.S. for college.
Do you like your hometown? What do you like about it?	I do actually miss it a lot lately. Now that I've been away for a while. That is where I grew up, so all of my childhood memories are there – so I can't separate my childhood from the place. Ho Chi Minh is a crowded and busy city – crazy busy. I like that it has a diverse cuisine from every part of the country, and also international cuisines. And the city is open all the time, 24/7, so you can do whatever you want, anytime you want. So it's a complicated question for me – but yes, I do like it, really like it.	Oh, what do I like about Damascus? Well, all people from Damascus – all "Damascenes" – and all Syrians generally, are very proud of Damascus. It's one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world — like for 6000 years or more. And we consider it one of the richest cities in the world as well – not from a money point of view, but from a cultural perspective. It's so rich in history and culture and diversity. Just walking around, you can see all kinds of priceless historical ruins and remnants of old buildings and temples and castles. It's just spectacular to live there.	Of course, I like Manila. It's where I grew up, so it's really an integral part of me, part of my identity. Oh, what do I like about it? Oh, a lot of things. For one thing, it's very rich in history. Manila was "settled" (quote, unquote) by the Spanish in the 16th century, so there is still a lot of Spanish architecture. But the history of the Philippines goes way back before that, and so there is a lot of island culture everywhere too. It's crowded, but I actually love the crowds — people are friendly and always willing to help you. And the cost of living is still very low in Manila. You can actually get by on very little, public transit is cheap, rents are low, street food is also very inexpensive. So that's all a plus.
What would you recommend that a visitor do or see in your hometown?	What would I recommend a visitor see and do while they're in my city? Well, I mean the food choices are endless, so of course, sample a lot of the foods. Food stalls line the city's streets, especially around bustling Bến Thành Market. And then there are a ton of historical sites in the center of the city. The city, which was formerly called Saigon, is known for its French colonial landmarks, including Notre-Dame Cathedral, made entirely of materials imported from France, and the 19th-century Central Post Office. Oh, and of course, if you're there, you really have to visit The War Remnants Museum. It's kind of a solemn place realy, it is one of the most moving sights in Ho Chi Minh City and is dedicated to educating visitors about the	I think if a person would visit Damascus, they should visit the older parts of it. Of course, you'd have to be sure it's safe to visit, but when it's safe, you should definitely visit the old city, which is on the south bank of the River Barada, and it's enclosed by walls. If you walk around the old city, you can really pick up a lot of history. The old city is really enchanting, just walking seeing the markets and old buildings — like houses in the old days didn't even have roofs – and museums and castles, and the clothing that people wear and these beautiful carved doors is priceless. You can a really great historical perspective.	What would I recommend? Well in Manila itself, I'd recommend that you wander around and see the street life – to me, that's a really valuable part of visiting the city. But I'd also recommend – highly recommend that you visit the beaches around Manila. There are at least a dozen beaches you can easily access from Manila, and our beaches are known for their powdery yellow sand. Yes, definitely you want to hit the beach!

	atrocities of the Vietnam War. And like it or not, that war was really the defining experience for our whole country, even today.		
Has your hometown changed much since you were a child?	**Oh, gosh yes, I mean a lot of improvements really. For example, the Sông Sài Gòn, the Saigon River, goes through the neighborhood where I grew up. And when I was a kid, it was dirty and smelled really bad. But now, it's been cleaned up, and you can even go canoeing there. So I think this is one example, one of many examples, of how the government has really cleaned up the city and promoted more healthful … healthy? Healthful? … living for the residents.**	Oh, yes. My hometown has completely changed. It's sad to say this, but it's because of the war in my country, in Syria. It just flipped everything upside down. It's sad to say so, but it's the truth, it's what happened, and we have to accept this tragedy. It's just a tragedy that we have to accept. But the city itself, Damascus, has an old city and a modern city. The city has kept its culture in the older part, but it's become more modern in the modern part of the city.	Has it changed? This may surprise you, but no, it hasn't! It's still the same intimate, compacted city that I grew up in. Things don't change so rapidly there. But one thing that has changed is that the traffic is much much worse. Metro Manila has now grown to a sprawl of something like 15 small cities fused together, and people in all of these small cities and areas and commuting all the time, and I have to admit, the infrastructure – the roads and the train tracks – are all outdated, so frankly traffic is a mess, pretty much non-stop.
Do you think that the place where you grew up is important?	I like this question. I believe the place where a person grows up really has a major influence on a person in your future life. But not just the place, the whole opportunity in your family and community, has a big influence. Like in my case, I grew up in a working class neighborhood, where everyone was busy with manual labor jobs, and we valued hard work, and we were also in a kind of church-oriented neighborhood, so that influenced my life as well. I feel really really lucky that I had the upbringing…bringing up?...upbringing that I had. I am so grateful for the place I grew up.	Oh, yes, I mean I can't separate me – my person – from the place that I grew up. It is what shaped me as a person, my viewpoints, my opinions on things – were all formed based on where I grew up. I think in my case because Damascus, my hometown, has these two contrasting cultures – the old city with its traditions and the new city with its modern features – has also created contrasts within me. For better or for worse, that's who I am now, I'm a person who has to resolve all of these contrasts.	Yes, it's very important. That's where I'm from. My hometown represents my origins, it represents me. A lot of people I meet here don't know I'm Filipino, and frankly, they don't much about the Philippines, I'm still very proud to be Filipino. I'm very proud of my background and my origins.
SPORTS (Fluency Strategy: make comparisons and analogies/develop topic, Conversation Strategy: State and reformulate topic Do you like sports?	Sure, I like sports. For fun, for a kind of release from serious activities in life. Like I love swimming, it's fun, relaxing, almost like a meditation, you know. I also sometimes play table tennis with my friends. Sports helps you feel like a kid again, like you have no cares or worries.	Sports, do I like sports? Well, I don't mind sports, like I'm not a sports hater. But I didn't grow up really playing sports actively. It was more like a passive thing, like something you just watch. And most of the sports, I felt, were like something foreign. They'd show American or European sports on TV, and it always felt kind of distant to me.	Do I like sports? Actually, I don't. If you mean organized competitive sports, no, it's not really my thing. But I am active. I'm a dancer, I love to dance. And dancing is becoming a sport. So if you include dance as a sport, yes, I like sports. But if you just consider traditional team sports, no.
What's your favorite sport? Why do you like it?	I like swimming. *I like how my body feels in the water*, it feels like floating in space. I feel like a different person when I'm swimming. It's good	Oh, gosh, these questions about sports are really going to get to me. This is kind of difficult for me to answer. But I think my favorite sport,	My favorite sport would have to be…dance. I know a lot of people may not consider it a sport, but I do! When you dance, it's very

	exercise too, but I like it for its kind of "healing effect."	is, maybe soccer? Because back where I grew up, in Syria, and just in general, in the Middle East, soccer is super popular, especially for boys. And because my older brother played soccer, I really got into soccer through him. I played it for fun in the neighborhood, with the neighborhood kids, and my brother, but that's about it. I mean, I really get excited when I watch soccer, like a live match or on TV, I'm like "Come on, come on!" It gives me a kind of anxiety, but not a bad anxiety. And I remember when I was a little kid, maybe just 5 or 6, my cousin took me to a live soccer match at a stadium, and it was a really cool experience.	therapeutic. You feel so alive and healthy and energetic. And I think a lot of athletes, in all different sports, feel this same way. They find their favorite sport to be therapeutic: it creates balance and pleasure in their lives.
What is the most popular sport in your country?	Soccer. The King's Sport. I mean, like if Vietnam wins any kind of international competition in soccer, the whole country becomes like a huge festival. Everyone celebrating. Yes, so soccer is by far the most popular sport in the country. And right now, some famous soccer players, like Nguyen Quang Hai are like gods in the country. Everyone worships him!	Soccer is the most popular sport in Syria, and in the Middle East generally, I'd say. You can also see some basketball and tennis, and of course swimming, but soccer is the main sport in schools and in neighborhoods. In a sense, soccer is almost like a glue that holds people together – it's kind of a common bond among people.	Popular sport – oh, without a doubt, it's basketball. People love basketball. They love to play it. They love to watch it. There's a very popular basketball league in my country – the Philippine Basketball Association, with 12 teams in it – and virtually everyone has their favorite team. Like my favorite team is called the Magnolia Hotshots. And when someone's team has a big game, you will literally see people praying for their team to win. It's a little crazy.
What is the role of exercise in staying healthy?	Exercise is a must-do thing. You can't stay healthy without exercise. Exercise is like the gasoline, the fuel for our life. Anything can be exercise, like walking or jogging or biking or swimming. It doesn't have to be a competitive sport. My definition of exercise is getting your heart rate up, sweat a little bit, focus on your movement and your breathing. Nothing else. If you're reading or even talking while you're exercising, that's not good.	I would restate this question as: What is the role of activity in staying healthy? Activity is what we do, it's what humans do. We have to stay active – with our bodies and with our minds and with our relationships. So yes, activity is important for staying healthy. I don't think you have to do sports or belong to a health club to be active and healthy.	For me, I think of exercise as any physical activity — walking, biking, playing basketball, or in my case, dancing! I noticed a real tipping point in my health after I started taking dance classes – I was feeling much healthier. So I think health is a combination of finding some activity that you are passionate about – and doing it, all out, really getting involved in it.
Do you think the Olympics are important? Why or why not?	The importance of the Olympics? Hmm, To tell the truth, I don't follow the Olympics too closely. But I do think the Olympics are important. Watching the Olympics is like watching a motivational video. It makes you	I think the Olympics are important. Just as actors and musicians get a chance to showcase their talents, the Olympics give athletes a chance to showcase their athletic talents and hard work and determination in the sports they	Are the Olympics important? Yes, to me, they are. I mean for me, I'm particularly interested in the gymnastics – just some amazing feats of athleticism and grace – awe-inspiring, really. And overall, the Olympics is a great way to

	feel…it lets you feel that you can do more. You can achieve more. I think sports in general is a kind of metaphor for our life. It shows us that we can push harder, we can do more. And I also think the Olympics are kind of like the United Nations for the countries of the world – showing that we can cooperate and make each other better.	play. And of course, not just for the athletes, but for the audience, you can see the highest level of performance and the highest level of competition, and whoosh! It's really entertaining and engaging. Nothing quite like it. So, are the Olympics important? Yes, absolutely.	bring all of the countries in the world together to play the same sports, to participate in the same ceremonies – that's just awesome.
WORK (Fluency Strategy: analyze and speculate/ Conversation Strategy: Sum up, end with key statement Do you have a job? What is your job? (or if you don't have a job now, what was your last job?)	My job? Well, right now I'm more or less a full-time student, but I still do have a part-time job. And that is I'm a staging assistant. Our company is a real estate company and we stage houses and condos when they're going on sale. Do you know what I mean by "staging"? It's kind of a total presentation, including lighting, color, art, furniture, positioning. It's kind of like designing spaces. We want to make the house look enticing…inviting…attractive for a prospective buyer.	I don't have a job, at least I don't have a fulltime job. I'm still a high school student. I'm a senior. But I do have a part-time job on weekends. I'm a waitress at a Lebanese restaurant – nothing too crazy to imagine: a Middle Eastern girl working at a Middle Eastern restaurant. So I work there two times a week, four hours each time. It kind of keeps me on my toes. I've gained a lot of social skills – like speaking skills in English, communication skills, even some cooking skills, learning how food is prepared. So that's the most important thing: learning from the job.	I'm a student right now, full time, but my part-time job is a photographer. I take photos for the school online newsmagazine, go to different events and performances.
]Why did you choose that job?	Why did I choose that job? You mean, why this particular part-time job? (Oh, OK.) Well, my major is interior design and I thought it would be a good fit for me. It's really important to get good work experiences if you can. So I have a chance to practice designing real spaces, and connecting with real clients, and solving real problems. Also a big advantage is that I get to do a lot of work from home. We use a 3-D design program and I can share my ideas with my colleagues that way. And last but not least, I need a source of income. It pays pretty well, so I'm happy with it.	To be honest, this is my first real job ever. So I actually chose it because it was the easiest to get to. And it's an Arab cuisine, so with my background it was really easy to get a job there. And I knew I would get along with the management and the customers – it's interesting, you form these really shallow friendships, kind of, so it's an easy job to carry out. So in a way I chose that job because it feels like, every time I enter the restaurant, I'm walking back into my hometown in a way, and that's a good feeling.	Why did I choose this job? Because I love it! That's why. I really think that creating art is the best job in the world. So I love being in the visual arts and performing arts. So doing what I love and getting paid for it? Sign me up!
Do you get along well with your colleagues? / What is the key to getting along well with your colleagues?	Colleagues? What does that mean? Oh, the people I work with? Do I get along with them? I would say that "get along" means "be polite". I don't like it when my colleagues ignore me or avoid me or are disrespectful with me, so I try to be polite to everyone. And I know since English isn't my native language, sometimes they misunderstand me, or I misunderstand them, so I try to be careful to avoid unnecessary conflicts. The keys to get along?	Do I get along with my colleagues in the restaurant? Well, yes, I think so, even though I'm the youngest, and my colleagues need to help me a lot. You know, it's a Lebanese restaurant, and the owner and the cooks and all of the workers speak Arabic, so that's a kind of bond for you. And what's the key to getting along? Well, I think it's really helping each other. Paying attention to each other and seeing what you need and how can I help out.	Do I get along with my colleagues? I absolutely do. As you may have guessed, I'm very sociable, and I make friends easily. And I just assume that my colleagues are my friends, and I try to get along with them, treat them in a friendly way, chat with them, learn about their lives, and so on. So, yes, I do get along with my colleagues. I

	To tell the truth, I really don't know. I think in life you just need to be polite first. Then just use your mind, you know, to decide if you want to develop the relationship with that person. I don't think you have to get along with everyone, just be polite to everyone. That's my take on it.	That attitude, desiring to help each other, teach each other, is really vital to getting along well.	
If you had the chance, would you change your job? Do you plan to continue in the same job in the future?	Well, for now, I want to purse my career in interior design. I know I'm starting at the bottom, so I have to be patient. For me, I try to analyze my value. If I feel I'm adding value to the company or to my colleagues and to the client, I'm happy. And at the same time, the company and my colleagues don't add any value to me, then I guess it's time to move on.	Um, what I want to do in life is very different from the job I have right now. I mean, I am a student, so the job I have right now is definitely 100% temporary. But it's a good job for right now, and that's how I treat it. It's a great environment to work in. I feel like I'm with "my people", so right now, I wouldn't change it. But in the long term, sure, I'll be doing something else.	If I had the chance to change my job, would I? Well, no, I wouldn't. I intend to stay involved in the performing arts for my whole life. To tell the truth, my family was hoping that I would take a degree in business and become a businessman, but I think they love me just the same because I want to be in the performing arts. So I'll continue and hope I'll be able to make a good living at it.
How is technology affecting the way people work?	I like this question! I think the way we do our design work, it helps a lot. We can visualize our design in advance, and we can try different combinations of things … you know,we can have a kind of mental model of the world. That lets us do more work with our minds. But at the same time, this technology lets AI – artificial intelligence – do some of our work for us. And I think technology is really changing the way people communicate and interact. Like doctors can even diagnose their patients, and even do some surgeries from a distance. So those two areas: mental models and communications.	Oh, gosh, I have mixed feelings about technology. You see, technology in my opinion, has both harmful and helpful aspect. It really depends on how you use it, how you allow technology to enter your work life. In one way, technology, when used passively, makes people lazier — that's harmful. In another way, technology allows you to have access to all kinds of information that can help you in your work. I mean, you effectively have a working library in your phone, at all times. So you can easily look up, say, how to answer questions in an interview, or stuff like that.	I think technology is affecting the way people work in a good way. We really have to embrace technology for how much it helps us do our jobs. Like I am a part-time photographer, and I can take better photos because of tech, like AI adjustments to my shot, and I can easily upload photos for people to review and comment on, and I have really cool software for editing, so in a sense technology has made me a better photographer. Yes, I mean it is possible that in the future AI – artificial intelligence – will take over a lot of jobs, including photography, but I think that's something we need to adapt to, and embrace.
EDUCATION Fluency Strategy: include personal stories and insights Conversation Strategy: Use paratactic (time and sequence) markers and hypotactic (logical connection) markers What is education like for a typical person in your country like?	7.1.3 C0001.MP4 That's an important question. Thank you for asking. Well, the Vietnamese government has really put a ...stress on the educaiton system. And so we have...our standard education system goes from like kindergartent to elementary school to middle school, for four years. Then you go to high school for three years. And after that you will have to pass a national test, just to finish the K-12. So you have a diploma that you have completed K-12. Then you have to have another test to get into the university that you want. So the high school	In my country, education is very important, but it has some problems. You can't really choose your major, so the first ten years of schooling everyone does the same…curriculum, and then you go to two years of high school where you have to work really really really hard – like you have to work your butt off, and then depending on what scores you get, the government decides your major. So it's not based on what you want, it's based on your scores in the subject areas. So people with the highest scores go into biomedical fields, and as your score decreases, you get to major in psychology or philosophy or art, and then	Hmm, let me think. I believe the Philippine education system is pretty much based on the American system: Primary (Paaralang Elementarya) is grades 1 to 6; and then Secondary (Paaralang Sekundarya) is grades 7 to 10, and then you can go into vocational school or onto tertiary – is that the right word? – University undergraduate, for 4 years, and then graduate and doctorate beyond that. As far as language goes, any Filipino who has completed secondary school and certainly University, will speak pretty good English. Under the official policy, both Filipino and English are taught as language subjects in

	is very...when you're in high school, it's very important. We have what is called a *Trường trung học phổ thông chuyên. . . RIght?* So what that means is it's very intense and very specialized. Like ...if you're really smart...like Harvard, right? Or Stanford. YOu get into there, and You study with other smart kids. And they're putting more and more information into your brains. You have to study days and nights. I'm talking days and nights. So that's really tough. So overall in my country, I would give a rate of about 7. It's a good education system, but I think they need to change the way they approach it. They just approach it in one way. Which is: Here's information, here's your brain. (Clap) B ut we want to do it differently because each brain functions differently. So yeah.	business is like between those two. But I'm now going to school in the U.S., so thankfully I'm not going through that, because it's really weird to me – the idea that you can't decide on your major, on your future job. Like in my mom's case, she really wanted to be an artist, but her score was too high so she had to go into business management, and never got to live her dream.	public schools. And then English being the sole language used in science, mathematics and technology courses.
What is one good memory you have about your education?	7.1.3 C0002.MP4 TAKE 2 Oh, OK. I wanted to share with you one memory I can't forge.tIt's a good question. And I also have a memory to share. I don't think it's a good thing, but it's a good memory for me. When I was in twelfth grade, I was selected to be Mmm, yes. Let me think about that. My gosh, the whole 12 years of my student life was a good memory, but you know, during my 12th year, I became very rebellious, and that actually is my best memory, becoming rebellious! My teacher made my mom come to school to discuss my attitude. It was kind of embarrassing, but to tell the truth, it was a great memory, because my parents started to take me seriously after that. So good memory doesn't always mean happy memory, just an important maybe life-changing memory.	Well, one memory, or one thing I'm really grateful for is that my family put me in a bilingual school — so I was able to learn both Arabic and English. I mean, I was able to take courses in my native language, Arabic, and then also learn some subjects in English, my second language. At first, I wasn't comfortable at all, but now that I'm getting older, I see the value in learning two languages. So I'm forever grateful to my parents for making this decision for me.	One good memory about my education. Well, it would be all of the friends I made in high school. These are the friends I will never forget for the rest of my life. In our culture, it's a given that you will bond with your high school friends for life. Like, even my mom, who's currently, what? 55 years old, she remembers every single person that she has grown up with, ever since she went to high school. Even though I don't remember so much about my high school education itself, I do remember all of the friends I made.
What makes a good student?	A good student? Hmm, that's an interesting question, because I think it varies. From my perspective, a good student is someone who finds a way to learn about himself or herself while they're learning in school. Do you know	Yes, that's a good question. I think what makes a good student is actually a combination of a lot of things. The first thing is interest – a good student shows interest. You have to be interested, or find a way to get interested in	This depends a bit on your point of view. I know a bunch of people would simply say, "A good student is someone who gets straight As." But to me, a good student is a person who wants to seek change. In other words, a good

	what I mean? The purpose of education is not to create robots but to create individuals, independent thinkers. You know, develop self-knowledge, not just ace tests, and ace all the subjects. If you don't develop self-knowledge, you might choose a major that doesn't really fit you, so I think it's vital to find your passion, to understand yourself. That's what makes a good student: a desire for self-knowledge.	the topic, if you want to focus and be a good student. The second thing is determination, you have to be able to push through. Like for me, I don't really like math, but I find a way to get interested, and to push through with the assignments and the tests. Third thing I would say is "ask questions." A good student is always asking questions to find out what they don't know. Because I think a good student is not just trying to learn a subject, but also trying to understand herself or himself. A good student wants to build self knowledge. So I'd say those are the three main attributes of a good student: interest, determination, and a desire for self-knowledge.	student is someone who takes their knowledge and does something positive with it. A good student wants to change the world for the better.
Do you think computers or robots will one day replace teachers in the classroom?	No, I don't think so. At least, not if we humans are able to control what computers and robots do! We really need human connection and human coaching and only teachers can provide that. Computers and robots can provide information and feedback and stuff like that, but they can't replace the human connection that we all need. When I think back, there were like 3 or 4 teachers in my life who have been very important to me – they gave me some very valuable lessons – and life perspectives – that have changed my life.	This is one of the scariest questions ever! I mean, I would hope not, absolutely hope not – to see computers and robots replace human teachers in the classroom. I mean, computers and robots are…perfect. And I think having them around makes you as a human being feel you're not good enough. And learning is not a perfect science you know, you have to learn through another human being, you need to grow to love something through a relationship with a teacher. So I don't even want to think about whether this is an actual possibility. I just sure hope it never happens.	Do I think computers or robots will one day replace teachers in the classroom? I think they're replacing them right now! I know a lot of my teachers right now keep giving me links to videos and online exercises. They must believe that this is more effective – at least for them – but I much prefer to be taught "hand in hand". So I think it is changing, but I don't like it.
What is the difference between the way children learn and the way adults learn?	Differences between children and adult learning style? Well, in a nutshell, I think children don't care what other people think, they're uninhibited, so they are able to learn more freely. Adults, on the other hand, tend to be more self-conscious and they really do care what other people think, and they don't want to look stupid, so they might pretend to understand something. But children will just keep asking questions: why? Why? Why? Adults might think they're wasting other people's time if they ask too many questions. I mean, I know there are other differences, but I think this is a key difference.	Differences, adults and children. Yeah, there are differences. For one thing, I think children are much more confident than adults are. I think children will normally just try to do something, they don't care what other people think and they care if they fail, they just do it, and they learn from the experience. But adults, on the other hand, they have too much experience, or knowledge, they've seen things or heard things, and as a result, they're very cautious, and they avoid things. I think this is called, in psychology, the "negativity bias". Their motivation from fear is stronger than their motivation from curiosity or a desire to learn. And children don't have that…that bias. So because of this natural state of curiosity,	What is the difference between the way children learn and the way adults learn? Why, I think there is one really significant difference. That would be that children learn knowledge primarily – they are given lessons and instruction by adults, and they learn somewhat passively, I believe. Oh, I know children are great learners – they can absorb a lot – and quickly – but I think they're absorbing – taking in, soaking up – knowledge. Adults, on the other hand, learn experience. As an adult, you have to throw your whole self into learning – your mind, your body, your emotions – you learn experiences, you learn through experiences. And I think that adult

		children are just like…like sponges, they just absorb things around them. Children will learn just for the sake of learning, but adults will only learn something if they think it's practical or necessary. So this is a major difference between the way that children and adults learn.	learning is much more valuable than children learning.