

Unit 9

Target Language

Modals for speculation and deduction, reported speech, reporting verbs

Give

1. Have you or anyone you know ever had a paranormal experience?

Sub-questions:

- What exactly happened or what did they claim happened?
- Do you believe their story, or do you think it might have been something else?
- What could have caused the experience in your opinion?
- Why do you think people are drawn to supernatural explanations?
- Have you ever regretted giving someone the benefit of the doubt in these cases?

2. What do you think about donations? Are they always helpful?

Sub-questions:

- Are there cases where giving donations might cause more harm than good?
- What do people usually assume when they donate to charity?
- Can you think of an example where donations were misused?
- Would you say people donate out of genuine care or social pressure?
- Have you ever heard someone argue against giving financial aid?

3. Is it always possible or appropriate for recipients to accept or use donations?

Sub-questions:

- Can donations ever be unwanted or unhelpful?
- What kinds of donations might be considered disrespectful or impractical?
- Do you think we should ask before giving, or is the act enough?
- Have you ever seen a donation campaign that seemed pointless or poorly thought-out?
- What would you suggest as a more sustainable alternative to just giving money?

4. Are all charitable actions equally valuable?

Sub-questions:

- Which kind of giving do you value more money, time, or skills?
- Can giving too much make people dependent?
- What would you say to someone who claims volunteering is more meaningful than donating money?
- Is there a form of giving that's usually overlooked in society?
- Has anyone ever told you about a time their life was changed by generosity?

5. What's one superstition that you've seen people strongly believe in?

Sub-questions:

- Do you think there's a logical explanation behind it?
- What might have led to its popularity?
- Have you ever followed one, even though you didn't really believe in it?
- How would you respond if someone insisted it was real?
- Why do some superstitions persist even in educated societies?

6. What's something that is commonly misunderstood or misrepresented?

Sub-questions:

- What do people tend to assume about it?
- Why do you think it's misunderstood?
- Have you ever tried to explain the truth to someone?
- What would you say to someone who believes the misconception?
- Can misinformation give rise to dangerous behavior?

7. If you had to choose between two global issues to support, how would you decide?

Sub-questions:

- For example: climate change vs. education, or refugee aid vs. disease prevention.
- Which one seems to need more attention right now?
- What kind of help do you think would be most effective?
- What would you advocate for if you had a public platform?
- Can you give an example of a time when resources should have been given differently?

8. What are the essential life skills that should be taught during childhood?

Sub-questions:

- Why do you think some of them are still ignored by education systems?
- What do you wish you'd been taught earlier in life?
- Have you ever heard someone say they learned more outside school than inside?
- Can schools really give children everything they need to thrive?
- What's one skill that might help children become more independent?

9. How well do you think schools prepare children for real life?

Sub-questions:

- Are academic subjects enough?
- What's one area schools tend to neglect?
- If you were in charge of education policy, what would you change?
- Can you name someone who has claimed school was useless for them?
- Is the system outdated, or just misused?

10. Do you think self-employment gives more room for personal growth than traditional jobs?

Sub-questions:

- What might be the risks or benefits of working for yourself?
- Is it true that people report feeling more fulfilled when they're independent?
- What are the challenges self-employed people usually face?
- Can freedom actually give rise to instability?
- Have you ever been told to take the safe route instead?

11. Should people be encouraged to give even when they're not in a strong position themselves?

Sub-questions:

- Can generosity be harmful when it's poorly timed?
- Have you ever felt pressured to help when you couldn't afford to?
- What would you say to someone who gives too much out of guilt?
- Does society expect too much from ordinary people?
- Should giving be a personal decision, or a civic duty?

Unit 10

Target Language

Passives, infinitives after passives

Crime and punishment, paraphrasing and recording, phrasal verbs with out and up

1. Let's talk about modern crimes, internet piracy, identity fraud, vandalism.

Sub-questions:

- Which one do you think is the most dangerous in the long run?
- Why do you think some of them are taken less seriously than others?
- Should all of them be punished the same way?
- Do you think digital crimes should be treated like physical crimes?
- Which of them could be considered "victimless," and do you agree with that term?

2. Why is true crime content becoming so popular?

Sub-questions:

- What psychological needs does it seem to satisfy?
- Does constant exposure to crime-related content desensitize people?
- Can this trend be harmful or even dangerous?
- Do you think criminals are sometimes glorified in the media?
- Have you heard of any real-life crimes that were inspired by media?

3. What does it mean to be a good citizen today?

Sub-questions:

- Do you think following the law is enough?
- Can civil disobedience ever be part of being a “good citizen”?
- What are small things citizens are expected to do but often ignore?
- Who should be held accountable for promoting civic responsibility — schools, media, families?

4. Is it ever justifiable to lie or honesty should be prioritized at all costs?

Sub-questions:

- Can a lie ever be justified to protect someone?
- What’s the difference between withholding information and lying?
- Has there ever been a time when telling the truth would have caused more harm?
- What kind of lies do people tend to overlook or accept socially?

5. Is it always worth telling the truth, no matter the cost?

Sub-questions:

- Can honesty ever be selfish?
- Who gets to decide which truths should be revealed?
- What’s a situation where you would rather not be told the full truth?
- Have you ever been put in a position where honesty backfired?

6. What types of punishment do you think are most effective?

Sub-questions:

- Is prison always the best option?
- What alternatives to prison could be more useful?
- Should punishment be about deterrence, rehabilitation, or revenge?
- Should children or teenagers be punished the same way as adults?

7. How do you feel about the concept of justice in your country?

Sub-questions:

- Do you think justice is equally applied to everyone?
- What's a recent example that felt unfair to you?
- Who do you think benefits most from the current system?
- Should criminals always be named publicly?

8. Some criminals become famous or admired. What do you think about that?

Sub-questions:

- Can being infamous be considered a form of success?
- Do you think media has a responsibility in this?
- Have you heard of anyone who was turned into a celebrity simply because of a crime?
- What should be done to stop this kind of attention?

9. How much responsibility does someone have if they unintentionally help a criminal?

Sub-questions:

- For example, letting a friend hide something illegal, without knowing.
- Should ignorance be considered a defense?
- Where is the line between helping and being an accomplice?
- Have you ever heard of a case where someone was punished just for association?

10. How has the idea of crime changed over the last 50 years?

Sub-questions:

- What used to be criminal that now isn't, or vice versa?
- Are laws always updated to reflect modern values?
- What's a behavior you think should be criminalized but isn't?
- Can the legal system keep up with technological advances?

11. Should people be punished for crimes they committed many years ago?

Sub-questions:

- What if the person has changed dramatically?
- Can justice still be served decades later?
- Should people be held accountable for actions taken in a different social context?
- What do you think about public apologies made years after the crime?