

TASK I: MONOLOGUE

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EDUCATION

Students in secondary schools around Europe seem to get worse results every year.

Say **what you think** about this problem. Is it really as bad as people think?

Explain briefly **what you know** about the situation in Spanish schools.

What can be done **to improve the education system**?

Whose responsibility is it to provide children and teenagers with a good education?



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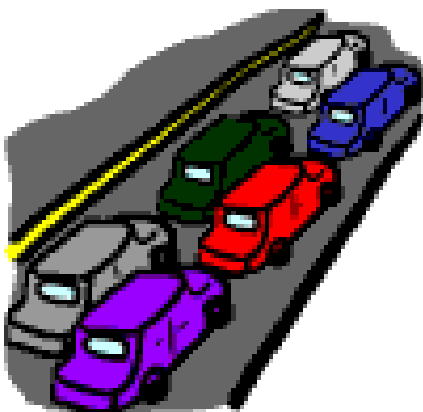
DRIVING

Are Spanish **roads** particularly dangerous?



Generally speaking, are **Spanish drivers** good or bad?

Explain some of the changes introduced recently to reduce the number of accidents and **say if you think they have been (or will be) effective or not.**



Do you think the penalties imposed on **drunk drivers** are fair?

Spanish people use **public transport less** than other European citizens. Why do you think this is so?

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TOPIC 3

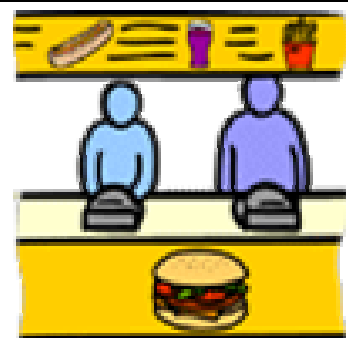
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EATING HABITS

The eating habits of Spanish people have changed over the last few years. Explain how.

Most experts agree that the **Mediterranean diet** is particularly beneficial. What are its main characteristics?

Fast food **restaurants are now offering "healthier" menus**. Are they admitting their normal menus are not so healthy?



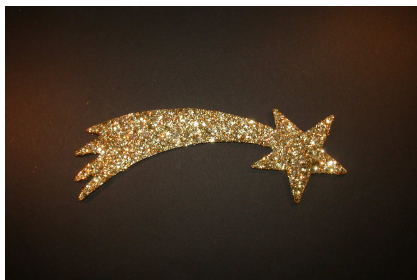
Doctors are especially worried about **what children and teenagers eat**. What can be done to solve this problem?

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CHRISTMAS



What do you and your friends / family usually do during the Christmas holiday?

What local traditions or customs do you think a foreigner would find unusual?

Has this holiday changed a lot in Spain over the last few years?

What traditions from other countries do you find interesting?



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HOLIDAYS

What **interesting places** would you recommend to someone who is going to spend a few days visiting the area where you live?



Package holidays do not usually allow tourists to appreciate the places they visit. Do you agree?



Are there any **alternatives to traditional holidays** in your area?

What are the **positive and negative aspects of tourism** in the area where you live?

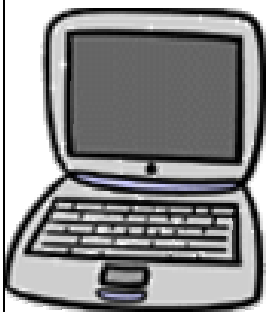
What kind of holidays do you prefer?

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THE INTERNET



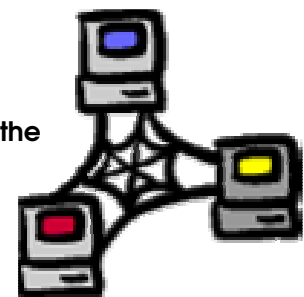
Has **the Internet** changed our lives? How?

What **problems** has the Internet created? What problems has it solved?

Should authorities be allowed to **control people's activity on the web**?

Do you think it will be possible to put an end to **Internet piracy**?

The development of the Internet has been very fast. What do you think **the next step** will be?



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ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

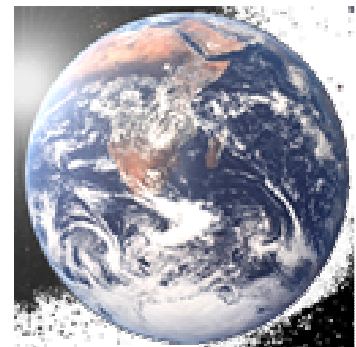


Mention **some important environmental problems** in the area where you live. What are people doing about it?

Has **people's attitude towards the environment** improved?

Celebrities often cooperate with campaigns for the protection of the environment. Give some examples. Do you think **this contributes to the success of these campaigns**?

Reports indicate that **the hole in the ozone layer has been reduced significantly** thanks, possibly, to years of campaigning against CFCs. Which other problems do you think **people will be able to solve** in the near future?



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SHOPPING



What can **traditional or "high street" shops** do to survive the competition of big shopping malls?

Where do you do most of your shopping?

What products would you **never buy on the Internet**?

Name some **advantages of**:

- traditional markets
- shopping centres
- Internet/catalogue shopping

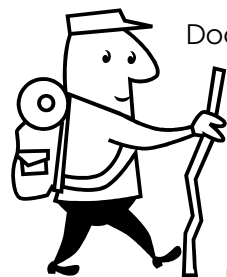


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PHYSICAL EXERCISE



Doctors agree that physical exercise is **part of a balanced and healthy lifestyle**. Do you do enough physical exercise?

What **sports facilities** are there near your home?

Do you do **more or less physical exercise** now than five years ago?



Some **schools** think it is necessary to dedicate **more time** to physical education. What do you think about this?



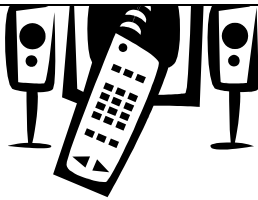
Do children have a different **attitude towards physical activity** nowadays?

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THE MEDIA



How important is it for you to **keep up with the news**?

What is the **role of newspapers** in society?

How are traditional media adapting to **new technologies**?

Do you think **competition between private and public TV stations** is helping to improve the quality of the programmes?

What makes a television programme popular?



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THE WAY WE LOOK



The reason why many young people suffer from **eating disorders** is the **obsession** of our society with **physical appearance**. Do you agree?

Advertisements are often **blamed** for this obsession. Do you think advertising firms are trying to change this?



What influence do **famous people** have on the way young people dress?



Some parents have given their teenage children **cosmetic surgery** as a **birthday present**. What do you think about this?

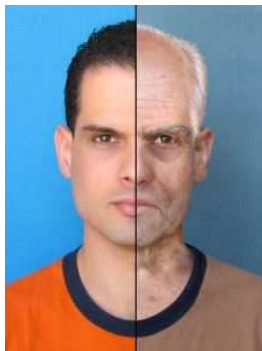
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THE ELDERLY IN OUR SOCIETY

People live longer nowadays and some think that **retirement age should be 70 or even 75** in some jobs. Do you agree?



Elderly people nowadays have a **more interesting life** than in the past. Do you agree with this statement?

Some people **prefer living on their own** to living with their families or in old people's homes. What do you think? What would you like for yourself?



Some scientists predict that soon it will be normal to **live up to 120 or even longer**. Is this as positive as it sounds? Can you think of any drawbacks?