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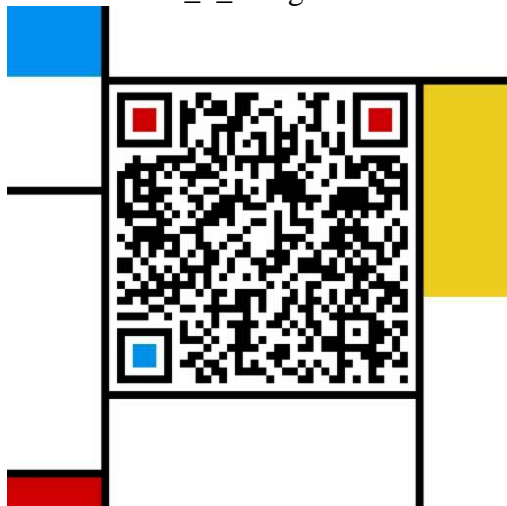
## IELTS BAND 7+ SPEAKING GUIDE

*To be used in conjunction with:*

*Cambridge IELTS 11*

Presented by Abe Wong

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## Introducing the Tutor

Mr Abe Wong

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Abe Wong was educated in Western Australia from a young age. After completing his Western Australian Certificate of Education, he went on to study at Murdoch University in Perth and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies. Since moving to Sydney after graduation, Abe has gained over ten years' experience in the Australian workforce, working in various customer support and IT roles within the insurance and not-for-profit sectors.

In 2013 he obtained a Graduate Certificate in TESOL from University of Technology, Sydney and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. He then went on to become a foreign teacher in the School of Foreign Languages at East China Jiaotong University in Nanchang, China. At the same time he worked for a training centre specialising in Oral English, Business English, English for young learners and IELTS preparation. Since returning to Australia in early 2015, he has been working as a SEE Trainer with MTC Australia, assisting clients to improve their English language proficiency and gain valuable skills that will help increase chances of getting an ideal job. He has personally taken the IELTS test and PTE and achieved a high overall band score for both tests.

Abe uses the latest teaching pedagogy to help students attain a near-native level of English. Not only is he passionate about teaching and sharing his skills, he also has a special interest in the experience of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and a sense of responsibility for the success of all students.

### 导师介绍

Abe 从小在澳大利亚接受英语教育，并于澳大利亚珀斯莫道克大学本科毕业。在澳大利亚有超过十年的工作经验。2013 年获得悉尼科技大学国际英语教师资格证（TESOL），2014-15 年曾在中国南昌华东交通大学担任外语外教，也同时在某英语培训机构的南昌和广州分校，担任英语口语，商务英语，儿童英语，雅思写作及雅思口语等课程导师，硕果累累。曾亲自参加雅思和 PTE 考试，并轻易获得高分。自 2015 以来，Abe 在澳大利亚政府的教育和就业技能课程(SEE Program)担任培训师，帮助学生通过本课程提高英语水平，获得实用技能，从而增加找到理想工作的机会。

Abe 结合用多种最新的教学法，比如运用口语式教学，以便让学生理解老外是如何说话和思考的，运用翻译方式教导学生如何用英语写作。他不仅对英语教学充满着热情，也对中国学生的英语水平的提高有着浓厚的兴趣。

## Bands and Marking Criteria

### Bands

9 = Expert User

8 = Very Good User

7 = Good User

6 = Competent User

5 = Modest User

### Marking Criteria

- Fluency and coherence (25%)
- Lexical resource (25%)
- Grammatical range and accuracy (25%)
- Pronunciation (25%)

For details on how IELTS examiners mark your essay, download and study the detailed band descriptors from the following links. When writing your essay, keep in mind these descriptors.

<https://www.ielts.org/~media/pdfs/speaking-band-descriptors.ashx>

### Score Calculation

For each part you will be awarded a band score from 1 to 9. You can score a whole band (e.g. 6.0) or half band (e.g. 6.5). Your overall band score is the average of the four. It is reported to the nearest half or whole band. For a score ending in .25 it is rounded up to the next half band. For a score ending in .75 it is rounded up to the next whole band.

#### Examples:

Rounded down:  $(7.5+7.5+7.5+8.0)/4=7.625$  (Overall band = 7.5)

Rounded up:  $(6.5+6.5+5.0+7.0)/4=6.25$  (Overall band = 6.5)

## **Test Format**

**11 to 14 minutes**

### **Part 1 (4 to 5 minutes)**

The Examiner will ask you general questions about yourself and a range of familiar topics, such as home, family, work, studies and interests. This part lasts between four and five minutes.

### **Part 2 (3 to 4 minutes including 1 minute preparation)**

You will be given a card which asks you to talk about a particular topic. You will have one minute to prepare before **speaking for up to two minutes**. The examiner may then ask one or two questions on the same topic to finish this part of the test.

### **Part 3 (3 to 4 minutes)**

You will be asked further questions connected to the topic in Part 2. These questions will give you the opportunity to discuss more abstract ideas and issue. The part of the test lasts between four and five minutes.

## Speaking Tips

Don't think too much. Just have a normal conversation as if the examiner is your friend.

### Part 1

Make your part 1 answers short and simple. Just give a direct answer, followed by a reason or one extra piece of information. Don't think too much about the question and answer quickly. Focus on fluency.

### Part 2

Use your 1 minute preparation time wisely and make notes of the points you'd like to make.

The card will help you with the structure of your talk. You don't have to talk about everything that is on the card (remember it only says you 'should'), but you must talk about the topic.

Try to avoid giving a very dry, unimaginative introduction such as 'The special toy I'm going to describe is ....'. Get your talk off to a memorable start with something along the lines of: 'I had a number of toys that meant a lot to me in my childhood but the one that really stood out was my ...'

If you're concerned about not having enough to talk about for 1 to 2 minutes or running out of time before you've finished, the answer is to practise as often as possible. Time yourself and ask a friend for feedback.

Focus on ideas and vocabulary to impress the examiner.

### Part 3

Part 3 of the speaking test is similar to a paragraph in Part 2 of the writing test. Give long, detailed answers. A suggested structure is as follows:

Sentence 1 Topic Sentence

Sentence 2 Explanation

Sentence 3 Example

Sentence 4 Opposite.

#### 玩具

Describe a special toy you had in your childhood.

You should say:  
what it was;  
who gave it to you;  
how often you played it;  
and explain why it was special to you.



#### Part3

- Compared with the toys that children play nowadays, is there any toy you didn't have when you were young?
- Do you think children should play with hi-tech toys?

## Common Pronunciation Difficulties for Chinese Speakers

1. Adding an extra vowel after the final consonant of a word or between consonants in a cluster:
  - past => *pasta*
  - worked => *work it.*
2. Not producing the final consonant at all, especially with words ending with /l/, /n/ or /v/.
  - *feel*
  - *learn*
  - *love.*
3. Diminishing consonant cluster.
  - *world* ending with a /d/ instead of /ld/.
4. Saying the /θ/ sound as a /s/ sound.
  - thank you => *sank you.*
5. Saying the /v/ sound as a /w/ sound.
  - vine => wine
6. Saying the /ð/ sound as a /z/ or /d/ sound.
  - this => *diss* or *ziss*
7. Confusion with /l/ and /n/
  - light => night
  - night => light
8. Challenging vowel sounds /æ/, /ɪ/ and /e/
9. Challenging diphthongs /eɪ/ and /aɪ/
10. Difficulties with two similar vowel sounds:
  - /i:/ and /ɪ/;
  - /æ/ and /e/



## Examples of Common Grammar Mistakes Made by Chinese Speakers

Chang (2001):

### Parts of speech 词性, 词类

- She likes walk.
- I have not son.
- He is not doubt about the correct of his argument.
- It is very difficulty to convince him.

### Sentence structure 句子结构

- Old people must respect (meaning Old people – we must respect them)

### Verbs 动词

- Everybody are here.
- Belong and Baoying has a shared kitchen.
- Hurted
- Flied
- The window was breaking by the wind.
- He married with a charming girl.
- I suggest to come earlier.
- The grass smells sweetly.
- I busy.
- She very happy.

### Auxiliaries and Modals 助动词和情态动词

- How many brothers you have?

- I did not finished my work yesterday.
- He liked it, is it?
- You don't read that sort of books, isn't it?
- Please read this article => You may like to read this article.
- You come and sit here, please => Would you come and sit here, please?
- Can you do me a favour? => Could you do me a favour?

### **Tense 时态**

- I have seen her two days ago.
- I found that the room is empty.
- My brother left home since nine o'clock.
- She will go by the time you get here.

### **Relatives 关系词**

- There are many people have that idea.
- That's the shop I told you about it.
- It was a society which its rulers held absolute power.

### **Passives 动词被动形式; 被动语态**

- Both the burglars captured by the police.
- We were inviting to the party.
- A new hotel is building in the centre.
- Tomorrow's meeting has cancelled.

### **Articles 冠词**

- Let's make fire.

- He finished the school last year.
- He was in a pain.
- Xiao Ying is a tallest girl in the class.
- He smashed the vase in the rage.

### **Gender 性别**

- He is my sister.
- He is my girlfriend.
- She is my boyfriend.

### **Plurality 多数**

- I have visited some place in New York.
- I've seen a lot of play lately.

### **Countable/Uncountable 可数/不可数**

- Let me tell you an interesting news.
- She's brought many luggages with her.

### **Conjunctions 连词**

- Although she was tired, but she went on working.
- Because I didn't know him, so I didn't say anything.

### **Prepositions 介词**

- I go York in May.
- The text is too difficult to me.

## **Intonation**

Tone 1 [Falling]: Statement; Wh questions

Tone 2 [High-Rising]: Yes/No questions

Tone 3 [Low-Rising or Level]: Incompleteness

Tone 4 [Falling-Rising]: Doubts

Tone 5 [Rising-Falling]: Assertiveness

## Cambridge IELTS 11 Academic, Test 1 (Cambridge English 2016, p.32)

### Part 1

#### **What sorts of food do you like eating most?**

I'm a big fan of Chinese food. In particular, I really like Sichuan cuisine because it has a spicy flavour.

#### **Who normally does the cooking in your home?**

I live alone so I always do the cooking. And I really enjoy it because it takes my mind off other things.

#### **Do you watch cookery programmes on TV?**

I do watch cookery shows, but not on TV. I watch them on YouTube. Whenever I want to make a new dish I would search on YouTube, find a clip on how to make that dish and learn from it.

#### **In general, do you prefer eating out or eating at home?**

I prefer eating out because it's so convenient. I lead a very busy life so there's not much time for me to cook and wash up afterwards. Eating out saves a lot of time and I can relax at the restaurant too.

## Part 2

Describe a house/apartment that someone you know lives in.

You should say:

Whose house/apartment it is

Where the house/apartment is

What it looks like inside

And explain what you like or dislike about this person's house/apartment.

I've been to a number of houses before and one that is most memorable is my aunt's townhouse. It's a townhouse situated in the New Territories in Hong Kong where she has been living for the past ten years. It's got four stories and a white exterior. There's a garage at the front of the house for two cars. On the ground floor there is a lounge room with parquet floors that leads to the outside courtyard. On the second floor there is a kitchen and a dining room. The next floor up is where the three bedrooms are located and there is an ensuite in the master bedroom. The highest floor is the open-air roof top.

I really love staying at my aunt's house every time I visit Hong Kong. It brings back a lot of wonderful memories of my childhood. As a child I used to visit my aunt every weekend. Nowadays when I visit her I stay in my late grandma's bedroom and I'm sure she would be happy to see me stay in her room.

## Vocabulary 词汇

- Memorable 难忘
- Townhouse 城市住房；连栋房屋；联排别墅
- Exterior 外部；外面；外貌
- Garage 车库
- Lounge room 客厅
- Parquetry 镶花地板
- Courtyard 庭院；院子
- Ensuite 套房
- Master bedroom 主卧
- Open-air rooftop 露天屋顶

### Part 3

#### What kinds of home are most popular in your country?

I live in Australia and houses are the most popular type of home in my country. Australia has a wide open space with a low *population density* (人口密度) which allows for most people to live in houses. For instance, in the *suburb* (地区) that I grew up in people still live in big houses with multiple bedrooms and garages. But an increasing number of apartments are being built because of population growth.

#### What do you think are the advantages of living in a house rather than an apartment?

Living in a house gives you privacy. You don't have to share a common wall with your neighbour and it gives you *wide open spaces* (无垠空间; 空旷地带). For instance, in my house there is a big *backyard* (后院) with a *fence* (围墙) all around and we can relax in our own space without bothering others. Living in an apartment, on the other hand, has many disadvantages like the lack of private *courtyards* (庭院; 院子) and the inconvenience of *shared facilities* (共用设施).

#### Do you think that everyone would like to live in a larger home?

I think most people would like to live in a bigger home because it gives people space for a growing family. For instance, there are many families who build *extensions* (伸展) to their existing home when children become teenagers and need more space. On the other hand, I think there are some *empty nesters* (空巢老人) who might like to *downsize* (缩小) and live in a smaller home.

#### How easy is it to find a place to live in your country?



Generally Australia has a small population so it is very easy to find a place to live. For instance, every weekend there are numerous open homes for rent that people can *inspect* (进行检查) and apply for. *Having said that* (话虽如此), there are some areas especially in the *CBD* (中央商务区) or *city fringe* (城市边缘区) where it is harder to find a place because of the high population density of those areas.

**Do you think it is better to rent or to buy a place to live in?**

I think it is better to rent. I've chosen not to live in the *apartment* (公寓) that I own because I wouldn't earn any income from it if I lived there. *That being said* (话虽如此), I think if a young couple was starting a family then they would be better off living in a place they bought because that would give them the *stability* (稳定性) to raise a family.

**Do you agree that there is a right age for young adults to stop living with their parents?**

I don't think there is a right age for young people to leave their parents. I think they should leave when they're ready *financially and emotionally* (在经济上和情感上的). And that time may be 18 years old for one person or 30 for another individual. For instance, I left home when I was 18 to live with my *partner* (伴侣), but some of my friends didn't leave home until they were well into their 30s. But I think in certain cultures, parents encourage their children to be independent when they turn 18 and some even ask them to leave.

## Cambridge IELTS 11 Academic, Test 2 (Cambridge English 2016, p. 56)

### Part 1

#### **How often do you go out with friends?**

I usually go out with my friends once a week. We go shopping in the city or have a meal together.

#### **Tell me about your best friend at school.**

My best friend when I was at school comes from Malaysia. Like me, he also moved to Australia with his parents. We *hung out together* (与某人呆在一起) and helped each other with homework.

#### **How friendly are you with your neighbours?**

Well, I have to admit that I'm not very friendly with my neighbours. We don't talk to each other often and get on with our own lives.

#### **Which is more important to you, friends or family?**

Definitely family. Your friends may leave you one day but your family will be with you forever.

## Part 2

Describe a writer you would like to meet.

You should say:

Who the writer is

What you know about this writer already

What you would like to find out about him/her

And explain why you would like to meet this writer.

Being a avid reader, I would like to meet a number of writers, but one who I really want to meet is Graham Paterson. He is an author of several Oral English textbooks for Chinese university students which he generously gave to me. He taught in China back in 2002 and the experience left such a memorable impression on him that he began to write textbooks to cater for the subject. He's now in his 80s and retired and spends most of his time playing golf.

When I was teaching Oral English in China I often conversed with him via email and he often gave me valuable advice on teaching. That was my first teaching position and had he not helped me I probably would struggle in my job.

I would love to meet Graham for several reasons. The first is that I would like to ask him questions about his experience in China and share with him about mine. The second is that I would like to make contact with some of his associates because it might be beneficial for my future if I decide to teach in China again.

## Vocabulary 词汇

- Avid 狂热的
- Generous 慷慨地；大方地
- Impression 印象
- Cater 印象
- Converse 交谈；谈话
- Valuable 有价值的
- Struggle 斗争
- Associates 同事；朋友

### Part 3

#### What kinds of book are most popular with children in your country?

The most popular books with children in my country are books that also appear as television series. For instance, children are big fans of *Peppa Pig* (粉红猪小妹) and there are all sorts of Peppa Pig books on the market. I think the kinds of books that are not so popular are those that have a lot of words in it.

#### Why do you think some children do not read books very often?

Well, because it's hard for them. Some children prefer to play outdoors than to read books. For instance, some children are more active than others and they are the ones who are less likely to read books. The ones who do read are usually kids who are quiet and *keep to themselves* (保持自我).

#### How do you think children can be encouraged to read more?

I think a reward program can motivate kids to read more. They would read more if they knew there is some kind of rewards for reading however many books *within a timeframe* (一个时间范围内). For instance, when I was in year 8 there was a program called RIBIT (Read in Bed is Terrific) and we would get a prize for completing a book within a set time. If children didn't develop their interest in reading at an early age, they probably would *struggle* (斗争) at school in their later lives.

#### Are there any occasions when reading at speed is a useful skill to have?

I think speed reading is useful when taking the IELTS reading exam. The test is really based on getting the right answers as quickly as possible. If *candidates* (报考者) didn't read quickly, they wouldn't be able to finish the test.

**Are there any jobs where people need to read a lot?**

There are a number of *occupations* (职业) that need reading skills but one that comes to my mind is academia. A *researcher* (研究者) needs to read a lot in order to write *papers* (文章) for publication. For instance, a university academic is required to publish a certain number of *articles* (文章) per year. If they didn't meet the requirement they wouldn't have a job.

**Do you think reading novels is more interesting than reading factual books?**

*As far as I'm concerned* (就我来说; 就我而言) reading novels is far more interesting than reading *non-fiction* (非小说类文学作品) books. A novel is a piece of creative writing and a good novel can grip the reader's attention. For instance, I couldn't put the book down when I read *Holdings the Man* by Timothy Conigrave. On the other hand, I normally wouldn't even read any of the readings that I'm supposed to do for university.

## Cambridge IELTS Academic 11, Test 3 (Cambridge English 2016, p. 79)

### Part 1

#### What types of photos do you like taking?

I love taking photos with people in them because they remind us of our good times together.

For instance, I took many photos during my year in China and when I look back on them, *a sense of nostalgia* (一种怀念的情调) *overwhelms* (压倒) me.

#### What do you do with the photos you take?

I put them on Facebook for all to see. I also make some commentary about what's in the photos.

#### When you visit other places, do you take photos or buy postcards?

I almost always take photos. Postcards don't tell as much as photos can.

#### Do you like people taking photos of you?

Yes I love it. I feel a *sense of honour* (荣誉感) when I'm asked to have my photos taken.

## Part 2

Describe a day when you thought the weather was perfect.

You should say:

Where you were on this day

What the weather was like on this day

What you did during the day

And explain why you thought the weather was perfect on this day.

I remember Boxing Day in 2015 when I went on an outing to Lake Macquarie on the New South Wales north coast with my family. The weather was just beautiful, not too warm and not too cold. I think the temperature was in the high 20's. There was sunshine throughout the day. We packed the car with our picnic basket full of food and went on a relaxing long drive up the coast. Along the way we could see clear blue sky and beautiful sceneries. We sunbaked in the park while having lunch; and then went for a long walk afterwards around the lake. We finished the day watching *The Good Dinosaurs* when we came back to the city.

We couldn't have chosen a more perfect day to go on an excursion. Had the weather been overcast, we wouldn't have enjoyed the trip as much. And had the weather been too hot, our picnic would have been very uncomfortable.



## Vocabulary 词汇

- Up the coast 沿着海岸
- Sunbake 晒黑
- Excursion 短途旅行
- Overcast 天阴的；多云的

### Part 3

#### What types of weather do people in your country dislike most?

People in my country dislike the cold most because Australians love the sun and the outdoors. If the weather was cold and wet, they wouldn't be able to do any outdoors activities.

#### What jobs can be affected by different weather conditions?

There are many jobs that can be affected by weather conditions and one that comes to mind is *gardening* (园艺). *Gardeners* (园艺家) wouldn't be able to work if there were *rain and hail* (大雨和冰雹). For instance, my friend, who is a *landscaper* (庭园设计家), once said that he takes a day off if it is raining. Jobs that don't get affected are people who work indoors such as office work.

#### Are there any important festivals in your country that celebrate a season or a type of weather?

One important but *unofficial* (非官方的) festival is Christmas in July, which is celebrated during winter. The reason why we have Christmas in July is that traditionally Christmas has always been during winter, but not so in Australia. Our real Christmas is always during the heat when eggs can cook on the *pavement* (路面).

#### How important do you think it is for everyone to check what the next day's weather will be?

I think it depends on what sort of activities you are having the next day. For instance, if you had an *excursion* (短途旅行) or an *outing* (郊游) the next day, you would want to check the *weather forecast* (天气预报) and hope for a sunny day. Not checking the weather may result in a lot of disappointment if the weather turns out to be rainy.

**What is the best way to get accurate information about the weather?**

The best way is to check the weather forecast on the *Bureau of Meteorology's* (气象局) website. It contains accurate information about the weather. You could check it on other sites like Google too but the information won't be accurate.

**How easy or difficult is it to predict the weather in your country?**

I think it is quite easy to *predict* (预测) the weather in Australia. Our Bureau of Meteorology uses *modern equipment* (现代化的设备) like *rain radars* (雨雷达) and *satellite images* (卫星图像) to tell us what's happening with the weather. Weather in some *mountainous regions* (山区) in the US, however, is hard to predict because of their *natural landscapes* (自然景观).

## Cambridge IELTS Academic 11, Test 4 (Cambridge English 2016, p.102)

### How did your parents choose your name?

My parents chose my name from the Bible. As committed Christians they wanted to give me a biblical name.

### Does your name have any special meaning?

Well, my Chinese name means that I'm a person of *strong willed* (坚强). That is probably true, considering how *opinionated* (自以为是) I am in some things.

### Is your name common or unusual in your country?

I think it's quite common in China. Many parents also give their baby boy the same name as mine.

### If you could change your name, would you?

I haven't thought of that actually, but even if I had the opportunity to change my name I wouldn't do so. I think it would be *disrespectful* (失礼的; 无礼的) to my parents who gave me my name.

## Part 2

Describe a TV documentary you watched that was particularly interesting.

You should say:

What the documentary was about

Why you decided to watch it

What you learnt during the documentary

And explain why the TV documentary was particularly interesting.

One of the most memorable TV documentaries that I have ever seen was a story about the relationship between two Asian gay men in Australia who wanted to get married. It was shown on SBS and their names are Ben and Nam. Ben is of Malaysian Chinese origin and Nam is from Vietnam. They took the audience through how they met; their struggles as they came out to their parents and extended families and their sense of shame within their respective cultures. I remember they said that achieving marriage equality in Australia meant a great deal to them because of the legal recognition that they would gain by being married.

I've learnt a lot from watching the documentary. The first is that one's sexuality isn't something to be ashamed of; rather it is something to be celebrated. Love is love and all love is equal. Another thing that surprised me was the enormous level of discrimination and ignorance that still goes on in some Asian cultures in this century, especially among the older generation.

As with all LGBT issues, I find this documentary particularly interesting because of the internalised homophobia of many LGBT people in Asian cultures, yet these two young gay

men were so brave to appear on national television to tell their story. Overall it was a really inspirational story that touched my heart.

### **Vocabulary** 词汇

- Audience 观众
- Struggle 斗争; 奋斗
- Come out (同性恋者的) 出柜
- Extended family 家族
- Sense of shame 羞耻感
- Respective 各自的
- Marriage equality 婚姻平等
- Legal recognition 法律认可
- Sexuality 性取向
- Enormous 巨大的
- Discrimination 歧视; 不公平的待遇
- Ignorance 无知
- Homophobia 对同性恋的憎恶
- Internalised homophobia 内化的同性恋恐惧; 对自己是同性恋的憎恶
- LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) 同性恋
- Inspirational 励志

### Part 3

#### **What are the most popular kinds of TV programmes in your country?**

In the past it was TV dramas that were popular, but nowadays the most popular TV programmes are *reality shows* (真人秀节目). They have real people in the shows. For instance, one of the most popular shows in my country is *My Kitchen Rules*. It's a cooking game show which has real life *participants* (参与者).

#### **Do you think there are too many game shows on TV nowadays?**

Yes I would say so. Most of the *prime time television shows* (黄金时段的电视节目) on weekday evenings are occupied by game shows. For instance, during *My Kitchen Rules* on Channel 7 there are other reality shows on other channels. I'd say that I miss *the good old days* (昔日的好时光) when there were TV dramas.

#### **Do you think TV is the main way for people to get the news in your country? What other ways are there?**

I wouldn't say TV is the main way. There are lots of other ways where people could get the news in Australia. For instance, I normally get the news from Facebook or online newspapers. *At one stage* (在某个阶段) I didn't even own a TV.

#### **What types of products are advertised most often on TV?**

Well during the morning shows a lot of household products are advertised. For instance, *vacuum cleaners* (吸尘器) are usually advertised in those shows. Things that are not usually advertised on TV are usually computers or *technology products* (科技产品).

#### **Do you think that people pay attention to adverts on TV?**

I don't think people pay much attention to adverts on TV these days, let alone watch TV. I think most people prefer to get information online. I suspect TV is on its way out and may become *old fashioned* (老式的) *in a few decades time* (几十年的时间后).

**How important are regulations on TV advertising?**

I think they are really important for people not to be *misled* (误导). *Regulations* (法规) are there to protect people from *false promises* (虚假的承诺). Without regulations people might fall victims of *unscrupulous advertising* (肆无忌惮的广告).



## References

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