

The cue card

Talk about an interesting conversation you had or a speech you heard.

You should say:

Who the speaker was

When you heard him or heard/talked with him or her

What the speech or conversation was about

And why it was interesting to you

Truth to be told, I don't think I can **1.come up with** an interesting conversation or a speech that I heard that **2.knocked me out of my senses** and made me realize that there is much more to this world than I was imagining at that time. However, when I was surfing the net, I got to this video of the most **3.inspirational** pieces of advice from Steve Jobs that **4.caught my attention**, so I started watching it to see what can come out of it, and what's worth mentioning is that I was not a fan back then. He was simply just **5.not my cup of tea**, but after further consideration, I guess **6.I had a change of heart**. I was incredibly **7.mesmerized** by his **8.searingly** intense personality, his static genius, furious drive. I mean this might have revolutionized industries, so I guess the reason he was one of the most influential people in my life could be the fact that he was the example of hard-work and **9.diligence**; someone that would give us hope knowing that despite all hardship we are going through in life, if we **10.set our mind to** something, at the end of the day we can do it. One of the quotations that caught my attention was him saying that you have to trust in something whether it's your **11.gut**, your destiny, life, karma whatever. Believing that the **12.dots will connect down the road** will give you the confidence you need to follow your heart. But the one that actually **13.triggered** the major **14.turning point** in my life was the one that he was talking about him looking in a mirror every single morning thinking if today were the last day of his life, would he want to do what he was about to do that day and whenever the answer had been no for too many days **15.in a row**, he knew that he needed to change something. That moment was the **16.epiphany** of my life. I started **17.pondering**, thinking if what I was doing at that very moment was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life and the answer was no, so I guess if I were to choose an interesting speech, I would go with this one.

Collocations and useful phrases

1. To come up with something:

To suggest or think of an idea or plan

E.g. She's come up with some amazing scheme to double her income.

2. To knock somebody out of their senses

To impress somebody

3. inspirational (adj)

making you feel hopeful or encouraged

E.g., He gave an inspirational reading of his own poems.

4. Catch someone's attention/imagination/interest, etc.

To make you notice something and feel interested

E.g. A ship out at sea caught his attention.

E.g. Her pictures caught my imagination.

5. not be somebody's cup of tea

If something or someone is not your cup of tea, they are not the type of thing or person that you like

e.g. Thanks for inviting me, but ballet isn't really my cup of tea.

6. To have a change of heart

If someone has a change of heart, they change their opinion or the way they feel about something

E.g. She was going to sell her house but had a change of heart at the last minute.

7. Mesmerize

[T often passive] to have someone's attention completely so that they cannot think of anything else

E.g. I was completely mesmerized by the performance.

8. searingly (adv)

In a way that is very powerful

E.g. a searingly realistic drama

9. Diligent

1. approving careful and using a lot of effort

E.g. a diligent student

E.g. Leo is very diligent **in/about** his work.

E.g. Their lawyer was extremely diligent in preparing their case

2. Done in a careful and detailed way

E.g. The discovery was made after years of diligent research

Diligence noun [U]

She hoped that her diligence would be noticed at work.

10. set/put your mind to something

To decide you are going to do something and to put a lot of effort into doing it

E.g. If you'd just put your mind to it, I'm sure you could do it.

11. Gut feeling/reaction informal

A strong belief about someone or something which cannot completely be explained and does not have to be decided by reasoning

E.g. I have a gut feeling that the relationship won't last.

12. The dots will connect down the road

This means that your life is like **connect the dots**, each prominent event that happens whether good or bad happens for a reason, and **eventually all the dots will connect** to your future. It is up to you whether you want to make each **dot** worth it and to give each event of your life a **meaning!**

13. Trigger something (off)

To make something happen suddenly

E.g. nuts can trigger off a violent allergic reaction.

14. Turning point

The time at which a situation starts to change in an important way.

E.g. The turning point in her political career came when she was chosen to fight a crucial by-election.

15. in a row

One after another without a break

E.g. She has been voted Best Actress three years in a row.

16. Epiphany

When you suddenly feel that you understand, or suddenly become conscious of, something that is very important to you or a powerful religious experience

17. To ponder

To think carefully about something, especially for a noticeable length of time

E.g. She sat back for a minute to ponder her next move in the game.