

## AFARINESH IELTS Radio (Podcast 15)

### Describe something you did that was new or exciting.

You should say:

- what you did
- where and when you did this
- who you shared the activity with

and explain why this activity was new or exciting for you.

eYou know... I DO have a lot of friends and to be honest they're not really the most stable people to (1)**hang out with**. What I mean by this is that, they sort of live in the moment and (2)**spontaneity** is what (3)**makes them tick** of course. They have this habit of (4)**pushing the limits** all the time in order to discover (5)**uncharted** territories, (6)**metaphorically** speaking though. I remember once we were driving around in a kind of gloomy evening, well, if I'm not mixing up things given that (7)**I got a memory like a sieve**, anyhow there we were killing time (8)**shooting the breeze**.... We were sort of (9)**getting the blues** and suddenly someone (10)**came up with** trying paintball. It didn't really (11)**strike me as** a brilliant idea but since I'd been known to (12)**dabble** when it came to handling gun stuff, I wasn't (13)**reluctant** either to (14)**have a shot at it**. Uhh,,, we actually got to a spot in the back of beyond that was known to one of the guys... It was more of a field, looked pretty much like golf course with barriers situated here and there to somehow function as shelters. I knew from personal experience that when the game started there would have been the (15)**fusillade** of the balls aimed at us so I reckoned the whole area within the first few minutes.anyways, my expertise (16)**came in handy** we had a great time actually, and it's become such an amazing memory ever since I tried paintball for the very first time with my friends, as I said I had been to a couple of similar situation but this one was a whole new ball game . (17)**In a nutshell**, I gotta say it was way more than what I thought I'd get from that event. I mean, We decided to go for something (18)**off the cuff** and it turned out to be (19)**mesmerizing**.

#### Collocations and useful phrases

1. Hang out with someone  
informal to spend a lot of time in a particular place or with particular people  
hang out with

I don't really know who she hangs out with.  
Where do the youngsters hang out?

**2. Spontaneity**

the quality of being spontaneous

There is a lack of spontaneity in her performance.

the contrast between an adult's formality and a child's spontaneity

**3. Make someone tick**

The things that motivate someone; the reasons why a person behaves in a certain way. I'd love to sit you down for an interview and find out what makes you tick. Growing up hearing about her grandfather's heroic deeds in the war are a major part of what makes Janet tick.

**4. Push the limits**

Put additional hard work into your original hard work in order to achieve something, it's not easy to step out of your comfort zone but it's necessary to achieve something.

**5. Uncharted**

that has not been visited or investigated before; not familiar

They set off into the country's uncharted interior

(figurative) I was moving into uncharted territory

(= a completely new experience) with this relationship.

**6. Metaphorically**

in a way that uses or contains metaphors

I'll leave you in Robin's capable hands— metaphorically speaking, of course!

Metaphor : a word or phrase used to describe somebody/

something else, in a way that is different from its

normal use, in order to show that the two things have

the same qualities and to make the description more powerful

, for example She has a heart of stone;

**7. Have a memory like a sieve**

(informal) to have a very bad memory; to forget things easily

**8. Shoot the breeze**

(North American English, informal) to have a conversation in an informal way

→SYNONYM chat

We sat around in the bar, shooting the breeze.

**9. Get the blues**

the blues [plural] (informal) feelings of sadness

the Monday morning blues

- 10.** Come up with  
to think of an idea, answer etc:  
Is that the best excuse you can come up with?  
We've been asked to come up with some new ideas.
- 11.** strike somebody as (being) something to seem to have a particular quality or feature:  
His jokes didn't strike Jack as being very funny.  
it strikes somebody as strange/odd etc that  
It struck me as odd that the man didn't introduce himself before he spoke.
- 12.** Dabble(in/with something) to take part in a sport, an activity, etc. but not very seriously  
She is a talented musician but is content to just dabble.
- 13.** ▪ reluctant not willing to do something, although you may be persuaded after a while. Also used when someone does something after at first being unwilling to do it: He was reluctant to talk about his childhood. | She gave a reluctant smile. | the government's reluctant agreement to hold talks | a reluctant hero
- 14.** shot (at something/  
at doing something) (informal) the act of trying to do or achieve something  
The team are looking good for a shot at the title.
- 15.** Fusillade  
a quick series of shots fired from a gun, or a quick series of other objects that are thrown  
fusillade of  
a fusillade of bullets
- 16.** Come in handy  
(informal) to be useful  
The extra money came in very handy.
- 17.** (put something) in a nutshell  
(to say or express something) in a very clear way, using few words  
To put it in a nutshell, we're bankrupt.
- 18.** Off the cuff

of speaking, remarks, etc.) without previous thought or preparation  
I'm just speaking off the cuff here—I haven't seen the results yet

**19. Mesmerizing**

having such a strong effect on you that you cannot give your attention to anything else  
Her performance was mesmerizing