

I. Read these excerpts from Funny in Farsi and discuss in your group. Teachers: make sure the students understand the vocabulary.

Perhaps it's unfair to judge any place during spring break. After all, the students who flock to these resorts are generally not the brightest lights in the American galaxy. These are people for whom a vacation doesn't begin until they have thrown up a couple of times. It seems like such a waste for them to fly to the Bahamas, or anywhere else, since they can just as easily go to a motel in their own neck of the woods and simply pass out for a week. It would serve this country better if these types could have their passports stamped "Domestic Travel Only", thereby limiting the damage they do as national embarrassments.

1. Did you have "spring break" when you were in college? What did you usually do on spring break?
2. Did you study abroad?
3. What was your favorite entertainment while in college?

My father's favorite spot on Planet Earth is Las Vegas. As a child, I had to endure endless vacations to that den of sin in the desert. Whenever a three day weekend rolled around, my father would happily announce, "We're going to Las Vegas!" I hated it, but Las Vegas was cheap and so was my father.

1. Where was your favorite vacation spot as a kid?
2. Where is your favorite vacation spot now?
3. What does "cheap" mean as used to describe her father? Was your father "cheap"?

Once my father decides how to vote on all the issues, he then practices democracy with a dash of dictatorship thrown in for good measure. He tells my mother how she should vote.

1. Do you vote like your spouse?
2. Do you share political opinions with your parents?
3. Are political arguments common in your family?

Read the question , explain the meaning of the underlined phrase. Then answer the question.

1. What keeps you awake at night?
2. What do you do to keep your kids out of trouble?
3. What is one thing you have not mastered even though you keep on trying?
4. Do you keep up with your siblings and their children?
5. Do you keep a diary?
6. Have you ever kept the truth from your spouse about something?
7. What do you do to earn your keep?
8. In keeping with tradition, I always _____
9. Are you a person who keeps to himself?
10. What did your mother do to keep down fever?
11. How do you keep up with the news in your homeland?
12. Who keeps a close rein on expenses in your house?
13. Who keeps an eye on the children when you can't be there?
14. Would you handle a snake if it wasn't poisonous?
15. When was the last time you heard from your brother or sister?
16. Have you ever heard of hedgehogs?
17. Did your mother ever tell you to "hold your tongue"?
18. Do you hold a grudge when someone insults you?
19. What person from your past do you hold in high regard?
20. What kind of TV programs hold your attention the longest?
21. Did you ever talk back to your parents?

22. What's your favorite takeout food?

23. Describe a time when you stretched the truth.