

APPENDIX 1: FULL TRANSCRIPTS

First interview: Anthony

- Alice Hi, how are you Anthony?
- Anthony How are you?
- Alice I am studying for a PhD... Let me introduce myself, I am Alice and I am studying part time for a PhD program. I graduated in Hong Kong and studied BBA at the Chinese University. But I am much older than you. I studied in CUHK a long time ago, but I was a bit lazy at that time, so I picked up studying again after graduation. I have a full-time job in the marketing field, and this study is my interest. I am in the 5th year of my PhD study, with a few iterations and changes to the topic and methodology of my thesis, it's related to smoking.
- Anthony Mm.
- Alice I am interested in my respondents' smoking experience, but this interview ... Anthony, you are also studying BBA, right?
- Anthony Err... (pause), yes, sort of...
- Alice Yeah, you study at the Baptist University, right? Ok, I think you also study research in your BBA. It's either quantitative or qualitative. Qualitative is more about focus group discussion, but this is a one-on-one interview and not a focus group. Right now, I am probably speaking too much. Later on, I will let you speak more, because I am interested to know your story.
- Anthony Ok ok ok ok!
- Alice Sometimes I may ask you a question or two, but you can say whatever you like, whatever that comes to your mind or any associations you have.
- Anthony Ok.
- Alice So, this is a different approach. It's called a narrative interview. It's different from a focus group which normally has a discussion guide to follow. We don't have that in a narrative interview. Ok, I think we can start now. Anthony, can you tell me your story? Or just introduce yourself and tell me anything you feel appropriate.
- Anthony Oh, I... (pause) study at the Baptist University, from an associate degree course (transferred) to a degree one. I am studying marketing and am in my final year. Um... do I need to talk about smoking related matters?
- Alice You can, or you can talk about something else. Anything you believe is a good introduction of yourself would be ok; anything relevant.
- Anthony Yes ... err... um... I live in Tuen Mun, yeah.
- Alice It's quite far!
- Anthony It's very far, yeah, especially when I go to school, yeah, and then if... hmm... smoking... err... hmm... I started from Form 5... after the open exam... I tried it for the first time after the open exam.
- Alice Mm.
- Anthony And then hmm... after I started...hmm... and then... hmm... I didn't

smoke, yeah, and then I didn't do well in the open exam... so I went to... hmm... hmm... study an Associate Degree Foundation course ... yeah... hmm... I only started smoking after I went to study for the Foundation degree, yeah.

Alice Oh! Foundation! I am very out of touch....

Anthony (Interrupted) Yes! It's like an Associate Degree Foundation course.

Alice Ah!

Anthony Because... hmm... usually an Associate Degree... in the past you have to finish Form 7 and then you can go to the Associate Degree course directly. If you don't do well in the open exam, then you need to go for an Associate Degree first, and then you will see whether you can upgrade to a degree program later. I only... hmm... barely made it, haha, yeah, and then hmm... I started smoking more when I was doing the Foundation course. I was influenced by my peers.

Alice Mm, so it means your friends also smoke.

Anthony Yeah! Because... (cough)... sorry, I am not feeling very well.

Alice No problem.

Anthony Yeah... because of my friends... there are all sorts of people on Foundation and Associate degree courses, right? Some friends have tried it (smoking) before, so I started when we hung out together.

Alice Those are full time courses, not part time, right?

Anthony Yeah, full time, full time, one year for Foundation, and two years for the Associate Degree.

Alice Oh, and then you have to take an exam again?

Anthony Hmm... after you finish your Associate Degree course, you can start a degree course, depending on your CGPA, yeah.

Alice Oh! Why choose BBA?

Anthony Err... because I majored in Marketing in the Associate Degree course, so it makes sense to do the same programme, ha.

Alice Did you have arts or science streams in your high school?

Anthony I had it in my time but I don't know about now.

Alice Ah...

Anthony (Interrupted) I was taking the last HKCEE open exams ... the last one, and at that time, there were arts and science streams, and I studied in the art stream.

Alice So, you studied in the arts stream, with subjects like economics?

Anthony Err... economics, hmm... geography, Chinese and western history.

Alice Ah, Ok! I studied science subjects in high school, so it was very difficult for me to study BBA in university, because my economics was very bad, especially macroeconomics.

Anthony I am ok; I barely made it, not very good grades, yeah.

Alice Have you thought of what to do after graduation?

Anthony Hmm... yeah, about... haha... I am about to graduate...

Alice Is the market difficult now?

Anthony Quite difficult, yeah.

Alice To find a job?

Anthony I have already started, yeah.

Alice Wow! So quick!

Anthony I have to! Exams are around the corner and I will graduate after the exams, yeah.

Alice Which month is that?

Anthony Exams in May.

Alice Final exams?

Anthony Yeah, final exams.

Alice And then you will graduate, or study for another year?

Anthony Graduate, graduate! Yeah! Hmm...

Alice Do they still have career talks these days?

Anthony Err... yeah, still have.

Alice Yes.

Anthony They invite guest speakers to come over, yeah; you need to attend some of them. They record your attendance.

Alice Ah! Do they have management trainee positions these days?

Anthony Err... on the Internet yes, but it depends on what kind of management trainee.

Alice Big companies?

Anthony Of course it's better to get into big companies, but it's difficult to get in! Companies like HSBC is definitely good; haha, but they have very high requirements!

Alice I thought the banking industry is declining.

Anthony They pay good salaries so there are still lots of people competing for the positions. But they set very high targets and you may not be able to meet their target requirements.

Alice Would you like to be a management trainee or work for an advertising agency?

Anthony Err... not really! I am thinking about P to P sales in marketing.

Alice Mm... mmm...

Anthony Or, see if there are any opportunities ... I have an internship at the moment, yeah, it's helping an NGO... do something for them... something related to marketing.

Alice Ah! That's pretty good....

Anthony (Interrupted) Coz this is a position, like helping social enterprises, and perhaps there might be... some sponsors there who could introduce some jobs to us.

Alice Mm... how long have you been doing that?

Anthony (Interrupted) only for a while, only one semester.

Alice Ah, only one semester, and then you can build your network and...

Anthony Something like that ... see if they can help introduce something, and of course I also need to keep looking myself, yeah.

Alice How many interviews have you attended so far?

Anthony haha... none. I only sent out two applications, hahahaha.

Alice That's not bad, it's only April, and you've already sent two applications.

Anthony No interviews yet ... hahaha, it shouldn't be so quick. I don't know ... my classmates haven't got any interviews either.

Alice Mm... mmm... will you continue to study or look for a job?

Anthony Hmm... won't study anymore, hahahaha.

Alice You'll look for a job immediately.

Anthony Yeah!

Alice And then see how it goes.

Anthony Look for a job first, yeah... Because... there's nothing special even if I continue to study, yeah.

Alice It's true that marketing is very different from Finance and Accounting. You need a lot of practical experience.

Anthony Yeah, it's more general.

Alice Yes.

Anthony Yes! It would be more useful to continue with studies if you are in medical school.

Alice That's right, that's right! Err... just to share my experience, when I graduated, the stock market hadn't crashed, so the economy in Hong Kong was much better. I didn't want to work after graduation and there was no financial pressure from home, so I decided to get an MBA from CUHK. But after all these years I realised doing an MBA without any work experience wasn't a good idea, as the real world is very different from textbooks, so... hmm... if I had a chance to choose again, I probably wouldn't do an MBA straight away. I didn't spend much time studying in those two years anyway, and it was kind of like delaying my graduation for two years.

Anthony It's ok. It's much better to have one more certificate.

Alice Is a master's degree mandatory these days? Not really, right?

Anthony Not really, it should be ok if you have a degree, yeah; I think... it is of course better if you have a master's degree.

Alice It shouldn't be that difficult, right? You can go for part time study.

Anthony I don't know, I haven't thought about it, haha. I should be able to go abroad to study for that ... but none of my friends are continuing with their studies.

Alice Mm... mmm...

Anthony Like most people, we should work instead. My friends are going to look for jobs.

Alice Mm... that's right, especially for marketing majors.

Anthony Exactly.

Alice Ok, now... hmm... I want to talk less... let's talk about smoking.

Anthony Yes, yes yes yes yes yes.

Alice Just now I wanted to understand you a bit more... now we are going to talk about smoking ... You started when you were in Form 5?

Anthony Yes, the open exam ... when I was on study leave before the open exam, during the open exam, after the open exam, around that period.

Alice How did you feel when you first started smoking?

Anthony Err... nothing much ... just my friends... friends... hmm... (we smoked) after all of us finished dinner, yeah.

Alice And then you tried!

Anthony Something like that... you asked me a question before, whether my parents smoke.

Alice Yes.

Anthony My parents don't smoke.

Alice Mm... mmm...

Anthony My brother smokes.

Alice Mm...

Anthony Haha, my parents don't smoke, but my brother smokes, so... hmm... hmm... I came into contact with smoking before, and many of my classmates smoked when I was younger, yeah, in high school, it's unreal!

Alice Really? They smoked?

Anthony But I didn't. I was still a good boy at that time haha, but then my classmates in primary and high schools... yeah... some of my classmates smoked, so I was not unfamiliar with smoking.

Alice Does smoking make people think that you are not a good boy?

Anthony Err... it's an image thing ... generally speaking, people don't regard it as a good thing, yeah... it's like your parents wouldn't want that to happen, even if they themselves smoke. They wouldn't want their kids to smoke.

Alice Your elder brother is how many years older than you?

Anthony He is six years older than me.

Alice Oh, that's quite a gap. He is working now?

Anthony He's been working for quite a while now, yeah. We've always been very close, since we were little, yeah.

Alice Two brothers.

Anthony Two brothers, yes! Hmm... it's like this, and then... so... I didn't reject it (smoking) at first ... it's like... mm... I felt that I had to try it anyway, it doesn't really matter, but it's not something particularly special after the first try.

Alice Didn't it taste bad?

Anthony I didn't reject it, but I didn't love it either. That's why I didn't (pick up the habit) until afterwards. And then... and then... hmm... when I was studying on the Foundation course, yeah! Because I had a lot of spare time, and there were a few hours' gap in between each class, and then... Hmm... the friends you met are from that circle, and then... hmm... we went out for chats... yeah, and then I got in touch (with cigarettes) more... and then I have kept it (the smoking habit) until now.

Alice Mm!

Anthony There are always different classmates who smoke around me; in fact, there is usually a group of people.

Alice Do you remember what your first cigarette was like, and how did you feel when you smoked it?

Anthony I remember! Haha.

Alice You don't remember?

Anthony I remember! I remember! I remember!

Alice Ah! Can you tell me about your first cigarette?

Anthony Hahahaha, yes, it was Ice Blast! It's from Marlboro, Marlboro, with

a capsule inside.

Alice Oh, ok.

Anthony Yeah, it was a new launch at that time, so my friend... hmm ... let me try. I didn't know how to smoke it at first, but I felt the cooling sensation, because of the menthol ... (it was a) menthol cigarette. That's why I didn't... I didn't cough. Some people say you would cough badly when you smoke your first cigarette, and it will make you very sick.

Alice Yes, did it make you very sick?

Anthony Maybe I knew menthol cigarettes are cool without much tobacco flavour, so it was ok. But I didn't smoke much afterwards, yeah. It was only after I got into my Foundation course... I started, err... more frequently, hmm... yeah, and then the frequency increased after one or two semesters.

Alice Did you crush the capsule at that time when you smoked the cigarette?

Anthony Err... yeah, because it was something new.

Alice I heard many people don't crush the capsules. They just smoke it like a normal cigarette.

Anthony So those people you interviewed earlier didn't crush the capsules?

Alice Yeah, even though I don't smoke, I have a lot of friends who do. Half of them wouldn't crush the capsule, but would just smoke the cigarette as it is. But you do, right?

Anthony Yes, I do. It's part of the cigarette, right? You just have to try it the first time, right? Haha.

Alice Did you smoke the same brand again after you stopped smoking for a while?

Anthony Err... afterwards, I tried many different brands, coz I only smoked casually back then.

Alice Um...

Anthony And then friends would (offer them to me) ... and I would buy them myself. They weren't that expensive back then. Now, they're a lot more expensive.

Alice How much is it?

Anthony Hmm... HK\$55, yeah.

Alice HK\$55, um....

Anthony HK\$55, yeah, and it was... err... hmm... HK\$28-30, maybe HK\$30 odd, I can't remember, HK\$30 odd, and then....

Alice When did it increase to HK\$50 something? From HK\$30 something to HK\$50 something?

Anthony Err... hmm... from HK\$30 odd to HK\$50, HK\$50 to HK\$55?

Alice I heard they are going to increase the price again.

Anthony They said that a while ago, but they haven't yet.

Alice No, they haven't.

Anthony Yeah, and then sometimes it doesn't matter, my friends are quite generous, and they let me "bum" a smoke (draw a puff) from them. That's why I have tried many different kinds of cigarettes.

Alice That means you've tried non-menthol cigarettes.

Anthony Yes! I have tried many different types and different brands before.

Alice Ah, can you tell me about that? What is the most unforgettable experience, good or bad?

Anthony Ah, some of them are really strong. The most unforgettable experience was... (when I tried) those... err... mainland Chinese cigarettes.

Alice Ah.

Anthony Chung Hua, something like that ... those with high (tar) content ...um... yeah, it made me very sick. I won't smoke those; those are probably for those men ... only those older men would like that kind of cigarettes.

Alice You meant those "uncles"?

Anthony Haha, yes, only old men would like that heavy smoke. Maybe only that heavy smoke could satisfy the deep addictions of those old men. But I don't like that kind of cigarettes. They smell very bad.

Alice Smell very bad...

Anthony I will have a headache after smoking it. I'm just not used to it. Because suddenly you taste something so strong ... like you won't be able to sleep if you suddenly drink very strong tea, right?

Alice Um...

Anthony That's why you would feel that the cigarette smells bad if you are not used to it, haha.

Alice Um... um....

Anthony A bad smell... it's like those construction workers, who smell bad even if they are not smoking ... because... they... they've smoked too much, right?

Alice Oh, yes, yes, maybe the entire body smells like cigarettes.

Anthony And even if they are not smoking, they will still have that bad smell.

Alice I remember when I was little, my dad also smoked. But he smoked Kent which was not too smelly.

Anthony Yes.

Alice I have seen people smoking that brand... Hilton, is it still available now?

Anthony Err... very rare.

Alice That smells really bad, the smell of Hilton. Do you prefer menthol or lights cigarettes?

Anthony I usually smoke menthol cigarettes, yeah. I rarely smoke lights cigarettes ... because... err... there are many different types of flavours these days!

Alice Um...

Anthony Blueberry... and menthol... and lemon flavour!

Alice Wow, they even have blueberry flavour!

Anthony They have any flavour you want!

Alice Do you like them?

Anthony They are ok! Acceptable! I smoke them too.

Alice Um... um...

Anthony I smoke Lamborghini!

Alice Is Lamborghini a Korean brand?

Anthony Err... I don't know if it's a Korean brand! But I saw quite a few when I went to Korea!

Alice Really?

Anthony I bought some when I saw them.

Alice Are they regular sized or Slims type cigarettes?

Anthony Err... regular sized.

Alice Regular?

Anthony Not slims.

Alice Ah! I may have seen it before, Lamborghini!

Anthony It's blue in colour!

Alice I've seen it in Korea, not in Hong Kong. There is only one variant, right?

Anthony There are three colours, blue, red and yellow!

Alice I think I must have seen the yellow one!

Anthony Yes! Those from Korea taste better. Maybe because they're made in Korea. I haven't thought about it much!

Alice I've noticed that you are pretty fashionable, so I thought you might be working in a creative agency.

Anthony Haha, I wish! Haha, yeah. But I don't know what job to look for in future! I wish I could find a job that allows me to have long hair, haha.

Alice Ah! There are many places that accept people with long hair these days, even in the corporate world!

Anthony Really?

Alice Yes, yes, no problem at all.

Anthony Those jobs that I interviewed for were all non-marketing ones. Maybe there is a problem of image for those kinds of jobs. I don't really want that.

Alice Why can't you have long hair?

Anthony When I interviewed for those sales job in the past.

Alice Oh.

Anthony Those big brand names are probably a bit reluctant (to hire people with long hair like me), yeah.

Alice Ah, how long have you had long hair?

Anthony Hahahaha, around two to three years!

Alice Did you have your head shaved in an extreme way like skin heads before that?

Anthony Not really, not so dramatic, hmm... it was short in the past, yeah.

Alice Um... um... is there any reason why you suddenly wanted long hair?

Anthony Err... because... I saw people like that on the Internet. Also, there is this owner of a brand that I love and he also has long hair ... hahahaha ... very stylish and trendy!

Alice Ah.

Anthony So, I decided to bite the bullet, yeah! And also, I don't like to gel my hair. I really hate it, yeah! Really uncomfortable. But long hair doesn't require any gel.

Alice Pretty good. You actually look a bit Japanese.

Anthony Haha, really?

Alice From a distance, if you don't speak Cantonese, I would have thought that you are an exchange student from Japan!

Anthony Hahahaha, hahahaha, not really, yeah.

Alice Ok, yesterday... oh, how many cigarettes do you smoke every day now?

Anthony Err... err... I would smoke more if I go to school, hmm... perhaps around six, seven sticks, seven, eight sticks.

Alice Can you smoke on campus?

Anthony Err... supposed to be ok, hahaha, it's not allowed inside the campus area, but once you go to the street level you are free!

Alice And that's no problem?

Anthony Nobody really minds when you are in university, yeah, yeah... you also had some classmates who smoked back in your university days, correct?

Alice Not so many at that time.

Anthony Really?

Alice And then I didn't show up on campus frequently. Um... I didn't skip class, I did go to classes. That was many years ago, but I didn't see many people smoke. I saw more smokers after I started working or maybe because they just hid in the corner when they smoked!

Anthony Yeah, they must have been hiding. Or they smoked in the hall!

Alice Yeah, probably.

Anthony They went out for a smoke when they took a break perhaps, and they just hid.

Alice Yes, yes, maybe they just didn't want to let other people know, and they just hid (when they were smoking).

Anthony Yes, they just didn't tell you.

Alice And maybe because I only lived in the dorm for one year, so I had fewer opportunities to see my classmates and other students.

Anthony Yeah.

Alice Do you live in the dorm?

Anthony Err... no, not really! Strictly speaking my degree is also from the Baptist University, but it is not an honours degree, so I don't go to their Kowloon Tong campus. I only go to their branch campus, as mine is like a top up degree.

Alice Can you not study for a bit longer and get a degree with Hons?

Anthony Hmm... perhaps they would have that later, but they haven't announced such a system yet.

Alice What's the difference honestly? Why do they split them into two degrees if the contents are the same?

Anthony In fact, the contents ... are more or less the same.

Alice Exactly.

Anthony The subjects we study are also very similar, but we don't need to do Hons project, because ours is not an Hons. degree.

Alice What kind of project is that?

Anthony I don't really know.

Alice I didn't have that in the past, I only took the exams.

Anthony Maybe it's different depending on the subject. There should be a project, hmm... yeah... hmm... involving a group of students, because I will have Hons. next year, but not this year. Some teachers said perhaps if I studied for half a year more they would give me an

Hons. degree.

Alice Does that make any difference? With or without Hons when it comes to finding a job?

Anthony Maybe big companies would look at that.

Alice Oh.

Anthony This kind of thing... really, those big companies would look at whether you have Hons or not, but the good thing about my top up degree is that there is no indication of whether you have Hons or not in the certificate.

Alice Oh.

Anthony I mean... the certificate... is the same.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony But maybe there is no Hons. wording... or... but it's still from Baptist University... yeah... the certificate of other top up degrees that I am aware of, such as those distant learning degrees would be different.

Alice Ah, I see. Wow! I need to re-acquaint myself with all these new developments.

Anthony Yeah.

Alice It wasn't like that in the past. They looked at your GPA, and then they decided whether you got a First Hons, Second Upper Hons, Second Lower Hons, Third Hons or no Hons.

Anthony They are like that now too... the only difference is nowadays they have a lot of other programmes, giving more people the entrance ticket to get a degree.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony It's just giving people more opportunities.

Alice Mmm... when do you normally smoke?

Anthony Err... when I take a break.

Alice Take a break means?

Anthony Take a break could be after class, after meals, um... leaving the school, before class in the morning. I mean I would be with my friends if they are around, yeah!

Alice Mmm... would you... I know some friends would smoke a cigarette when they wake up, or before they sleep.

Anthony Oh... no, because my family... doesn't like it ... they won't like it ... they don't want me to smoke right? I wouldn't smoke at home, and um... only when I am out.

Alice Do your parents know you smoke?

Anthony They don't know.

Alice Your brother? Do they know your brother smokes?

Anthony Um... maybe, but they won't mention it.

Alice But your brother lives with you and your parents?

Anthony No, he doesn't. He used to live with us but not anymore.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony My brother knows about me and I know about him too.

Alice It's like that all the time ... two brothers conspire to hide... hide things from dad and mum. You wouldn't let them know ...

Anthony Hahahaha, it's ok, yeah, we are brothers.

Alice And he wouldn't ask you specifically, and you wouldn't mention it.

Anthony Yeah... he didn't know when I started smoking. Once we were together, and we smoked together, and then he wasn't surprised, haha.

Alice You are a grown up, right?

Anthony I feel... it's normal... I may not smoke for my whole life, right? Hahahaha, yeah... maybe I wouldn't smoke anymore once I have my own family ... only when I need to comfort myself.

Alice Maybe there is too much pressure when you have a family, therefore you need to smoke even more?

Anthony Hahahaha, I really don't know, I am not at that stage yet, haha.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yeah.

Alice Can you describe your feelings towards smoking a cigarette, any cigarette that you smoked yesterday?

Anthony Feelings...

Alice I mean what feeling does smoking give you? You should be able to remember that.

Anthony Feelings...

Alice For example, your first cigarette of the day...

Anthony I mean sometimes... err... There isn't any feeling in particular, and I feel that my addiction is not so serious that I must smoke... feeling satisfied... trembling hands ... things like that, it's not that. Only sometimes before school, or at night I have nothing to do, or when I take a break and have nothing to do, and then there is a group of friends together, and... it just gives us an opportunity to congregate together, and I would smoke after meals, because... maybe I am used to it, or maybe my body has this need regularly on a long term basis... you keep getting in touch with things like that, and then... it becomes a habit, yeah, the feeling is okay, I mean... but I won't die without cigarettes ... it won't be like that, but I would want to, I mean you would want to do it (smoke), I mean, I buy them, right? Or your classmates have them, so that's it, I'll smoke.

Alice Would you smoke by yourself? Or would you normally smoke with your friends?

Anthony I usually smoke with my friends when I am at school. I also smoke by myself, yeah, sometimes when I leave (school) by myself I would smoke by myself, but of course it is better if I have friends with me ... we can chitchat, and get together when we have time, but I do it (smoke) by myself too. But if... I do it (smoke) by myself, I wouldn't want it that much. Let's say if I've just finished the pack, sigh! Forget it, I'll just go home. I wouldn't go and buy another pack by myself just like that. Maybe I would buy it the next morning, haha, haha.

Alice Mmm... so if you are alone...

Anthony There is less temptation when I am alone. If... if there is... there is a friend chatting with me, then I would tend to smoke more.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Some friends smoke a lot too, yeah.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Sometimes they won't smoke just one cigarette. They'd smoke two, three cigarettes, one after another. Yeah, some of my friends are over the top.

Alice There is something that non-smokers would never understand. For example, I don't smoke, so I will never understand what smoking does to you. I mean maybe it is like drinking coffee ... sometimes you just want to drink it when you suddenly think of it. What kind of feelings does smoking give you?

Anthony In fact, I think it's very similar to all your other interests. I mean maybe you... all habits are similar, err... I mean it's like drinking coffee. It won't be good for your body in the long run, yeah? Maybe you drink it after your meal, and again when it's tea time. So it's really a kind of habit, I think. It's like when you like to play video games. You'd play when you are home. Like I am a smoker, I will definitely smoke after meals... it's for a similar reason. But... sometimes there are moments you feel that... I mean maybe after exam, or when I feel exhausted after finishing some work, or um... when I feel exhausted after finishing a project, I would want to... but it's not really to wake me up, but you would want to ... that smoking moment is quite relaxing, like... like... hmm... that feeling is... relaxing, hmm... something I wouldn't understand if I didn't smoke, yeah.

Alice Mm... so you have to smoke in order to know it?

Anthony Yes! Sometimes... you need to smoke in order to feel it.

Alice Comfortable... is it physically or...

Anthony Hmm... shouldn't be physically, hee hee, hahahaha, hahaha, haha, ha.

Alice Oh, ok, so it's not physical comfort...

Anthony No, it should be emotional comfort, or... yeah, I don't know what ingredients it contains, hahaha.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Should be... hmm... nicotine should give some effect.

Alice Emotionally comfortable.

Anthony Sometimes... yeah, my brother and I would say... well, yeah... why do we smoke when our parents don't smoke? But we all know why, because we both... we both are not influenced by them, yeah, and then... but... yeah, it's difficult to understand if you don't smoke, because you don't have that habit. It's like I don't like coffee. I also don't understand why drinking coffee is so comfortable (good), and people just keep drinking and drinking, right? Maybe you feel good after drinking coffee, but I wouldn't feel like that. There are some things that you will never know until you try them, yeah... yeah... there are so many drug addicts, should I also take drugs?

Alice What other habits do you have apart from smoking?

Anthony Habits?

Alice Something that makes you feel comfortable, similar to how smoking

makes you feel.

Anthony No, not really, ... habits ... I just listen to music and play video games, haha, these are my other habits.

Alice Do these activities make you feel comfortable too?

Anthony I mean it's something... something I want to do, yeah, but if it's something that makes me feel comfortable... Sometimes, there isn't anything else to do apart from smoking. It's like when I may have some free time while I'm waiting for others, hmm... I'd feel the moment is right to smoke a cigarette. But for non-smokers, they would probably... well, what would they do... maybe they would wander around. But... I mean when you are waiting for someone, or it's not time yet, it feels good to have a smoke, hahaha.

Alice But you can also play video games, right?

Anthony I guess so, you could also find other substitutes, hahahahaha, but... but... this is my... my choice, right? And... hmm... this is... well, after I smoke, but... I'm not sure if I would continue to smoke in future, hahaha, I am not thinking about quitting yet. I am not smoking that much yeah, I would only smoke more when I go out drinking with friends, or attending birthday parties, or going to Karaoke, yeah.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yeah, because these are things that involve a big group of people. I drink when there is a big group of people... and, you smoke one stick and I smoke one stick. Moments like these happen more frequently.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yeah, I smoke more when I go out and have fun. Other than that, I am quite normal. I will not smoke if I stay home for one or two days without going out, yeah. I won't make a special trip to the streets to smoke.

Alice You will definitely not smoke at home?

Anthony I won't.

Alice Not even when your parents aren't home?

Anthony My friends would ... they smoke quietly when they shower.

Alice Yeah! The bathroom is one of those places!

Anthony Yeah, when they are taking showers. My friends said they will smoke after they finish showering, or while they are showering ... they just turn on the ventilation fan. Wow... I won't go down that path. Some friends smoke even when they in the toilet! There are so many different places to smoke! I won't smoke at home. Firstly I don't want my parents to know, yeah. They haven't known it for so many years so I want to leave it like that. I just don't have a habit of smoking at home. It's like you would speak foul language with your friends when you are out, but you won't swear in front of your parents at home. It's for the same reason. There are things that you haven't done at home since you were a kid, so, you won't do it now.

Alice Mmm! So, your relationship with your brother has been good since childhood?

Anthony Yeah, quite good, quite good.

Alice Did your brother study BBA too?

Anthony No, my brother didn't go to university, he studied design.

Alice Ah! Design ... Does he have long hair like you?

Anthony No, no.

Alice No, not like you?

Anthony No, No, not like me. Hahahahahaha. We are of two different styles. We both like to shop for clothes, but we have different styles. I am just being stubborn to have long hair, hahahahaha.

Alice It's quite rare. We do have guys with long hair in our company, but not many.

Anthony Yeah, but it's getting more popular these days, especially in the last year or two, I think. I am not sure ... maybe it's me paying more attention to other people since I started having long hair.

Alice That's possible.

Anthony Yeah, I feel that there are more (people with long hair). I didn't pay much attention in the past, but now that I have long hair, I would pay more attention. I feel that there are more people with long hair now, guys, I mean. It's really not a big deal but it's quite hard work (keeping hair long). You've grown it for so long, hahahaha, you have feelings and attachment to it, right? Hahahaha.

Alice So, you don't want to cut it short?

Anthony No, I don't! The process (of growing long hair) is very painful. I mean once it gets to the stage when it's neither long and or short, you have to bear with it and not cut it short.

Alice Now it's the most ideal stage.

Anthony Haha, could be shorter ... now it's really long, I tie it up.

Alice Do your parents have any opinion about your long hair?

Anthony Yes, they do. But I have grown it for so long, they can't just make me cut it short. They also didn't like it when I had my ear piercing, hahahahahaha.

Alice They don't like earrings either?

Anthony Haha, they don't like earrings either. It's really nothing, it's ok once you get used to it, haha. I mean they wouldn't reject it outright ... they didn't say they didn't like it. Once they got used to it, everything seemed ok. They don't mind too much. But smoking is hazardous to your health, so it's better not to let them know about it. And it also costs a lot of money.

Alice Have you ever worried about the impact of smoking on health?

Anthony I keep on exercising, hahahahaha. I love to exercise; it's my habit, like football.

Alice With a group of friends?

Anthony Yeah, I keep doing that... quite frequently, once every week, yeah, gather a group of friends to play in football competitions.

Alice You go to competitions? That's quite impressive!

Anthony Yeah, we go to some league competitions, with a group of friends, yeah. I have liked football since childhood. Sometimes I do other exercises and running.

Alice Do you run by yourself?
Anthony Err... yes, run by myself, yeah, haha.
Alice How frequently do you run?
Anthony Once every two to three weeks. I play football more frequently. I won't run if I play football that week. Sometimes if I have nothing to do at home, and there is no part time job, like when I have no part time job when I was doing my degree, then I would go running since I have nothing else to do. I won't be stuck at home all the time and get bored.

Alice Have you done any part time work before?
Anthony Yes, as a sales representative, when I was doing my Associate Degree. I was a salesman then, and there were many smokers at work.

Alice How many hours per day did you have to work?
Anthony Eight to nine hours.
Alice Eight to nine hours!
Anthony I have done it full-time before. I was also a sales assistant in I.T. and Chocolate.

Alice You sold chocolates?
Anthony No, they sell clothing.
Alice Oh! Chocolate shop! I know.
Anthony They always have cross-over items. They sell Coca-Cola and Hello Kitty items.

Alice Ah! It's actually quite good to have the experience of being a waiter or waitress.

Anthony Yeah! I used to work at McDonald's when I was younger.
Alice Oh really? Child labour?
Anthony No, Seventeen, you could work at sixteen.
Alice Oh, really? You could work at sixteen in Hong Kong.
Anthony Yeah! Yes, I worked at MacDonald's for a few months when I was seventeen, I went with a few friends, just for fun.

Alice So, you've been doing part time jobs all along, including at McDonald's, I.T. and then Chocolate.

Anthony Yea, but I stopped after I started my Degree programme.
Alice You must be busy!
Anthony No, haha, I am just lazy, haha, don't want to. Sigh, no matter how much you hate studying, I've only got two more years to study. I just don't want to work so hard, haha.

Alice Yeah, since you will be working soon anyway.
Anthony Yeah, I don't want to be so tired since I will be working full time soon, running here and there, yeah. And... there are lots of people who smoke when you work, even more, especially people in sales ... office workers should be better. People tend to smoke more once they start working, probably due to the pressure. They have higher consumption. They chain smoke right after working hours, especially people in sales. There are lots of them, eight or nine out of ten people in the entire shop, both men and women. Men used to smoke more in the past, but nowadays, there are likely to be more female than male smokers!

Alice But you started smoking with your other friends instead of the people in sales, right?

Anthony Yeah, high school friends ... there was one high school friend, hahaha, a bad friend, hahaha.

Alice Bad friend!

Anthony Yes, she's a girl, hahahahaha.

Alice A girl! And she was the one who gave you the black Marlboro Ice Blast?

Anthony Yes, yes, but I see a lot more (people smoking) since I started working.

Alice Huh.

Anthony I feel that it's quite normal. In fact everybody feels that it's normal, yeah... maybe my dad knows that I smoke, but he wouldn't mention it. He knows that many people smoke at work.

Alice Do both of your parents work?

Anthony Not my mum. Maybe that's why my mum is more conservative. My dad is more closely connected to the outside world ... (he may think) it's really no big deal.

Alice So, your mum has been a housewife at home taking care of you and your brother since birth?

Anthony Yeah.

Alice You are so lucky.

Anthony Middle class family, hahaha.

Alice Most of the mothers would go back to work even before they finish their maternity leave!

Anthony Yeah! She hasn't worked for a long time, since she was twenty or twenty-one ... right after marriage.

Alice She took care of the two kids full time.

Anthony Yes! Being a housewife, yeah! Mum has been home since my childhood, so I just wouldn't smoke at home all of a sudden.

Alice That's true.

Anthony It's quite strange to suddenly have an additional hobby, or a cigarette smell at home. You don't want your home to smell of cigarettes smoke, right? You won't smoke at home, but you would when you are outside, or at work, or playing football, haha.

Alice Huh!

Anthony I mean apart from in my home, I would smoke at other moments.

Alice Mmm. Do you remember the most disappointing cigarette in your life? What cigarette was that and how did you feel about it?

Anthony Disappointing?

Alice It's like, why is it like that?

Anthony Yeah, sometimes I would get some cigarettes with a strange taste. The taste and smell of my regular brand are sometimes different because the cigarettes were purchased from a different place. You really don't know how long the cigarettes have been stored there, yeah! Maybe the stock of certain brands is slow-moving and they were stored for quite a long time in that shop. Even though the pack is unopened, the smell and taste are completely off; it feels like the taste is gone.

Alice Huh.

Anthony And then as soon as you smoke it, oh my goodness, it's so terrible! And the whole pack is like that. I've purchased a pack of cigarettes and immediately threw it away after only smoking half a stick!

Alice Wow! That was quite expensive!

Anthony It was HK\$30 something per pack at that time. The pack of cigarettes is different, you can smell it (the difference); as soon as you open the pack.

Alice Huh.

Anthony You may not realise it at first, but then after a few puffs, wow! How come the taste is like that! And then I smelled the rest of the other cigarettes and found that all the rest were like that too! Maybe there were some problems with that pack, and of course I threw the pack away immediately!

Alice Would that be counterfeit?

Anthony Shouldn't be, I bought it from 7-11.

Alice Oh!

Anthony Yeah! On the contrary ... when I smoked those... illicit ones ... some of my classmates smoked those illicit cigarettes...

Alice Like those....

Anthony Illicit cigarettes.

Alice Oh! "leakage" from Duty Free.

Anthony Yeah! "leakage" from Duty Free. I feel that those haven't disappointed me.

Alice Not those...

Anthony Yeah! Those are normal cigarettes! But I won't buy them myself.

Alice So that means those disappointing ones you bought last time....

Anthony Yeah! The taste was off or there was a quality problem. It was a different taste, completely different! And then that day when I smoked those full flavoured cigarettes, I was also disappointed. I had a headache afterwards, and I felt very uncomfortable.

Alice After that bad experience, did you avoid going to 7-11 to buy cigarettes?

Anthony Not really, it's nearby and convenient. I don't really have a choice, hahaha.

Alice So, you continued to go back to that same shop to buy the same brand?

Anthony Yeah, ha, it's near the school, hahaha, maybe it was just bad luck, haha, yeah.

Alice Only that time, right?

Anthony Yeah, only that time. The truly disappointing cigarettes are those full flavoured ones like Chung Hwa, Marlboro Red, those are... maybe we are not used to its taste, because I started off smoking menthol cigarettes. I also tried Lights cigarettes for a while ... they are ok and acceptable, but menthol cigarettes are more suitable for kids like us, for younger people.

Alice Huh!

Anthony Perhaps there weren't any menthol cigarettes available when the older people started smoking, and they have smoked that kind of flavour since they were younger. So, they are more receptive to those flavours. For me, since I started off with menthol cigarettes, Lights are not suitable for me, and when I smoke those full flavoured ones, I feel really uncomfortable. So, why smoke them, right?

Alice Huh!

Anthony And also, the menthol cigarettes I regularly smoke are different. I feel good after smoking menthol cigarettes as they give me the expected effect, hahahaha. I don't know exactly what effect that is, haha ... anyway it's just my expected feeling. Why bother to smoke those full flavoured cigarettes? No, I'd rather not!

Alice Are you smoking the menthol version of Lamborghini?

Anthony Yes! It's even lower (tar), so it's healthier, ha ... it's lower than those low (tar) ones.

Alice You mean the menthol content?

Anthony No, the nicotine content is lower. Because this one has a good taste even though it has a low (tar) level, haha, so I buy it, but it's not available everywhere.

Alice Oh!

Anthony Only available in Circle K... Circle K and Vango, and not in 7-11.

Alice The listing fee is expensive, because 7-11 is the biggest convenience store chain in Hong Kong. It could cost tens of thousands of HK\$ for each store every month. You can imagine the total listing fee for so many stores given that they wouldn't allow you to list in specific stores. So, we are talking about HK\$5-6 million per year for listing fees, and then there is also a product display fee, promotional fees etc. So, it's tough for 7-11.

Anthony Yeah, it's ok. It's just less convenient ... I will still go and buy it if I like it. You really have no choice that it's only available in certain shops, yeah. I feel better with that brand because its flavour is less thick, but at the same time it gives me the kick I want, the expected effect I want.

Alice What is that effect, can you explain that a bit more?

Anthony Haha, perhaps you need to try it yourself to find out, hahaha.

Alice I've tried smoking before, when I was a child.

Anthony Oh really?

Alice I coughed. My dad smoked, and he gave me a Kent cigarette to try. Mum didn't know about that, otherwise she would have hit him! I felt disgusted after drawing the first puff, and then I coughed non-stop. After that, I never smoked again.

Anthony Perhaps it was a bad experience. I might not smoke if I had a similar experience in childhood either.

Alice Did anyone give you a cigarette to try when you were a child?

Anthony Yeah! Some primary school classmates did, when we were little, but I didn't have that thought back then, so I refused it.

Alice Oh, ok.

Anthony Haha, I was a good boy in the past, but now it doesn't matter anymore,

the... the effect... effect is...

Alice How is it different from chewing gum. They are both menthol flavour, right?

Anthony Err... this question is really... you are right in a sense, hahaha. Chewing gum and smoking cigarettes ... some people would find a substitute when they try to quit. That could be chewing gum.

Alice Ah, I've seen that before.

Anthony Yeah, or nicotine patches, to have the same kick, or find other hobbies, like eating biscuits...

Alice And get fatter and fatter, and then...

Anthony Yeah! In fact, it's just a habit. They can find something else to achieve the same kick (as cigarettes) when they want to quit. It's like you are used to performing an action after meals, and my action would be smoking. Other people may have other actions. It's just like that, and if it's smoking, then it feels most satisfying to smoke after meals!

Alice Huh!

Anthony Many people have said the same thing, yeah, so it's true.

Alice Don't you feel full after eating? Why do you still want to smoke?

Anthony Smoking won't make you full, right? It won't.

Alice So, smoking won't make you full...

Anthony Right, you won't feel full.

Alice Smoking is...

Anthony It's just air!

Alice Yes.

Anthony Have you tried shisha before?

Alice Not really.

Anthony Yes, it's the same, similar, not much taste, but it feels... more comfortable (relaxing), yeah, and also, I want to smoke when I am unhappy.

Alice Huh!

Anthony I feel like there is a partner with me when I smoke, yeah, it's like when you are unhappy, as a non-smoker you would weep sitting by the waterfront, but as a smoker like me, I would smoke a cigarette and weep sitting by the waterfront.

Alice Is it like having one more friend with you?

Anthony Not to the extent of a friend I guess, but it's like... when you are waiting for someone, what would you do if you don't smoke? I would have one more action if I smoke. It's like when you are free ... when you are busy perhaps you wouldn't smoke. Perhaps you would be focusing on playing a video game, and you wouldn't light a cigarette and let it dangle at the corner of your mouth, right? Of course, some people in the video games arcade would do that. When you are very focused on doing one thing, you wouldn't be free (to smoke), you wouldn't... I wouldn't ... I am not that deeply addicted. Perhaps smoking to me is a moment for me to take a break, when I am free and have nothing else to do, hmm... or perhaps when I am having a drink and have nothing else to do, or when I am chitchatting with my friends and have nothing else to do, I would go and have a smoke. I kind of use it as a filler to fill

the free time. It's an action ... it's like whenever you are free, or when you are walking towards to bus stop, something you want to do whenever you are free, I may want to... perhaps that's what people call addiction. I wouldn't want to smoke another cigarette right after finishing one. After a while, I might want to smoke again.

Alice When I listen more to what you said, is it something ... I am just trying to understand more about smoking... is it something you want to do when you feel a bit lonely....

Anthony (Interrupted) Yes, you can say so.

Alice And then it seems to be an (extra) action...

Anthony (Interrupted) Yes! There is an action!

Alice With you...

Anthony (Interrupted) In fact... hmm... it's not really about pretending to be stylish, really, but hmm... there might be some who are influenced by that thought. It really seems quite stylish to have a cigarette dangling at the corner of your mouth ... you really may think you appear to be more mature, but for me I don't think like that anymore. I certainly felt quite stylish to smoke when I first started in high school, but I'm not like that now; it's been so many years. Sometimes it's not about showing other people that I smoke. I feel that smoking in itself is quite good; it's a habit. Perhaps if I am with my friends then I would smoke. Some of my friends may not smoke, but if I smoke in front of them, I may be able to get them to smoke as well, it's just like that.

Alice Do you remember your experience of smoking your ideal cigarette? Can you tell me about your experience?

Anthony Yes, there are many times. Sometimes when I am unhappy, like after breaking up with my girlfriends ... these things happen all the time. I've seen some friends who are really depressed during that period, or if something happens in your family, or you're dumped by girlfriends. I used to have a non-smoker friend who was always asking me to quit. We are good friends, and she's a girl. But when she was unhappy, she wanted to try smoking when we met. I guess when you are really affected by your emotions (you may want to try smoking) ... but then she quit after that time, but smoked again when she was unhappy, yeah, it's really strange.

Alice So, when you feel unhappy...

Anthony Sometimes, sometimes, you would want to try other things, indulge yourself a bit; you are more courageous after drinking yeah, it's the same logic. My ideal cigarette, right?

Alice Any unforgettable experience?

Anthony Perfect...

Alice Yes, you still remember it until now.

Anthony Perfect cigarette... hmm...

Alice It may not be the taste, it could be the feeling, or perhaps something just happened which caused a different feeling when you smoked...

Anthony After an exam! I remember there was this last exam of my Associate Degree. I finished the two year course and I also got an offer to further

my studies, so it was a big relief. I didn't need to worry about it anymore, and then I also finished the last exam and felt that I should be able to pass, and then there would be term break and holidays afterwards. Before the term break I left the campus for dinner with my friend nearby. We had just finished our exam and after three hours of hard work and studying for so long, the moment we finished our exams ... we were of course happy. At that moment... in fact it's really highly influenced by your psychological state at that time. It would be a very memorable moment when you are feeling unhappy and there is a friend who accompanies you to smoke. That's why there are people like my friend, who would only smoke when she's unhappy, and she wouldn't smoke under normal circumstances. She doesn't think that smoking is a good thing, but she just wants to do something else when she's unhappy.

Alice She would smoke...

Anthony Yes, those really mild ones, they have the full flavoured ones and the lights ones. It's really affected by the circumstances and emotional state. Like when people go for a drink when they are unhappy. For those people who smoke regularly, sometimes they feel that they must smoke at some moments, or they would feel more comfortable and less pressured when they smoke at those particular moments.

Alice Some of my friends told me that when you see the exhaled smoke, it feels like you are in a different world, and you don't have to worry about the unhappy things, or what's happening around you, because in those few minutes, the world belongs to you and there is nobody else there. Do you have that similar feeling?

Anthony Yes, I do! It's like when you are super busy, or when you feel exhausted after work or study, and when you walk downstairs for a smoke ... you don't really have to think about anything during those few minutes. It's only about having a cigarette, and you feel refreshed afterwards, like you have taken a break. If you take a break and you don't smoke, you might be doing other things like drinking a cup of tea or eating a piece of bread, and you may still be thinking about those unresolved problems. But if you smoke, you don't need to think about anything during those few minutes. It has an effect like that. That's why sometimes it's very difficult for non-smokers to understand smokers. But smokers can understand non-smokers because they were once non-smokers!

Alice That's right! So that means smokers understand more!

Anthony Yes, that's how I feel! Because they have experiences in both worlds. It's impossible for anyone to start smoking since birth! And you can still say that even if you haven't smoked for more than ten years! I feel more relaxed after smoking. Sometimes I told my brother that I don't know why but it seems that there are things that non-smokers would never understand, like when you smoke after meals, non-smokers wouldn't understand why we want to smoke after meals. It's very difficult to describe that feeling; it's not something that helps you

digest, but you feel fantastic afterwards!

Alice Is it like eating ice-cream? Like having dessert after meals? Do guys like desserts?

Anthony I'm ok with dessert. But does it feel like eating dessert? I don't think so. It's a different feeling, very difficult to describe. Really! It's like when people say they feel happy when they smoke grass. I haven't tried it, so I don't know, right? It really depends on whether it's worth trying. Apparently, smoking grass may be less harmful than drinking alcohol. You have to make a choice as an adult. You wouldn't take drugs even if taking drugs feels fantastic, right? So, you have to weigh the pros and cons. And I feel that I am still young, so I can afford to smoke, haha, I just need to exercise more, hahaha. I do feel a little bit guilty at times, haha. When I exercise, I feel that I ran faster in high school when I was still a non-smoker. I don't know whether they are related or not, perhaps to a certain degree, so I feel a bit guilty in those moments, haha, but I don't think about it that much nowadays. I might smoke my whole life, ha.

Alice Ok! It's about time for today! My last question is... do you remember... if I asked you, in your entire life... you are twenty-one, right?

Anthony Twenty-one, twenty-one.

Alice Twenty-one is very short! In the past twenty-one years, do you remember the unhappiest moment in your life? How did you feel, and what did you do to resolve it to make yourself happier?

Anthony Hmm... it was when I was breaking up with my girlfriend, when we had fights, like those separations and getting back together again. I wasn't really extremely unhappy, but... hmm... I smoked, I smoked and talked to friends, and I really smoked more at that moment, yeah, because that moment was like "Sigh, just have a smoke!", because I was more depressed at that time. I mean when you are unhappy, you tend to want to smoke, to indulge yourself a bit, and I don't enjoy drinking that much, maybe people who like to drink would drink, but I don't enjoy drinking, and I have no other hobbies, so I just smoke, or do something that I normally wouldn't do, like exercising more! Of course, there were other unhappy times, but I hadn't started smoking at that time, like when I had really bad results in my HKCEE exam, hahahaha, hahahaha.

Alice What did you do at that time?

Anthony I hadn't started smoking... so, I was frozen for a while, didn't have any action. I played more video games, tried to forget those things, tried to find solutions, talked to my friends.

Alice Smoking gives you one more action, an action for you to choose from, an opportunity for you to choose.

Second interview: Anthony

Alice Hi Anthony! I have reviewed our first interview and have a couple of questions to follow up with you today, so I will be asking more questions.

Anthony Ok.

Alice There may be questions that require your imagination ...

Anthony Ok, ok, ok.

Alice You may need some time to think about these questions, and I will try not to interrupt you. Last time we spoke about the moments of smoking, and that you usually smoke after school, waiting for buses or waiting for people.

Anthony Mmm....

Alice When you have some free time.

Anthony Yes!

Alice So, smoking gives you one more action. With cigarettes you feel like you have a partner beside you.

Anthony Yes!

Alice So, you won't feel there is nothing to do, or be bored. Last time we didn't talk much about this 'partner', so this time I would like to know a bit more about this 'partner'. Is it a human or something else?

Anthony Heh heh.

Alice Describe what feelings this partner give you, and if it were a person, what kind of person would he be? Or if it is not a person, then what is it? Try to use your imagination.

Anthony Hmm... well I don't think it's a person, I mean it's like a... hmm... like when you play with your mobile phone, yeah, I mean... I mean it's like when you are on a bus, then you would play on your mobile phone, right?

Alice Um...

Anthony Yeah! So, when you take public transportation to go to work or go home from work, the mobile phone is like a toy.

Alice Um...

Anthony So that a (smoking) moment is like another hobby to accompany you, it's not a human, I mean you can't describe it as having a life or soul, yeah, but it's an object, yeah! Something you can use to do things, something you can rely upon.

Alice Rely upon?

Anthony Hmm... can I say it's something that can be relied on? Maybe I've exaggerated a bit by referring to something that can be depended upon...

Alice Um...

Anthony I mean, it's like, it's like a... hmm... it's like ... like chewing gum, I mean there is something for you to do.

Alice Um....

Anthony If it were a person, then what kind of a person would it be

Alice Yes, see if you can use your imagination a bit?

Anthony If it's not a person, perhaps it is an animal, yes! Like those cats and dogs, your pets.

Alice Oh, so it's like a pet!

Anthony More than a person! It's very difficult to describe what it is, it is like a partner, or friend, but maybe not a very good friend.

Alice Um...

Anthony More like an animal, I mean, yeah... it's not as important as a human. You probably wouldn't know what your pet is thinking, but it's not important enough to be regarded as human.

Alice Um...

Anthony I mean it's like... maybe it's like a pet, if you need me to regard it as a living creature.

Alice Do you have pets at home?

Anthony Yes.

Alice Ah, what do you have?

Anthony Turtles!

Alice How many?

Anthony Two, I've had them for many years.

Alice How big are they?

Anthony Yes, they're this big (gestures).

Alice Have you had them since they were born?

Anthony This small... this small...

Alice So, you've been raising them to the current size?

Anthony Yeah, they are this big now (gestures).

Alice What colour are they?

Anthony They're just the usual Brazilian turtles.

Alice Ah, do you need to put them in a cage or something?

Anthony In a water tank, and there are spot lights beaming on them.

Alice Oh, so they won't crawl to other places of your home?

Anthony I used to let them do that, and then they got sick because of that...

Alice So, they got sick because of crawling everywhere on the floor?

Anthony Coz their arms are legs were cut and wounded!

Alice Um...

Anthony Took them to the vet.

Alice Wow, turtles also need the vet?

Anthony Yes of course! They refused to eat, and... lives were at risk!

Alice Um... of course, what do they eat?

Anthony Turtle food, small fishes and things like that.

Alice They don't crawl on the streets outside?

Anthony Before their injuries and wounds, they crawled everywhere on the floor at home, yeah, and we thought they were very happy.

Alice Yeah.

Anthony But they weren't. They would only be happy when they are put in water. I mean they would be healthier! Yeah!

Alice Hmm...

Anthony This kind of water turtles are like that.

Alice Ah! When did you realise you had to put them in water?

Anthony When they got sick... hahahahaha.

Alice That means when they refused to eat, and then...

Anthony I only found out when the vet told me.

Alice Ah! Cut hands and feet... Are all turtles like that (easily hurt), or was it just yours?

Anthony I don't know if other turtles are like that, but one of the two that I raised was like that.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony Yeah.

Alice So, you put both into the water tank?

Anthony Yes! Because of that incident there had to be change!

Alice And then you felt that they were happier!

Anthony Ah, maybe not extremely happy, but at least healthier!

Alice Hmm...

Anthony Maybe they were happier before! Hahaha.

Alice So, when you smoke, you handle the cigarette in a way that is similar to how you handle a pet?

Anthony Yes! They are not as important as humans, yeah! it's more like an animal than a person, it's not as important as a person... like a pet, you only play with it when you need it, you wouldn't normally play with it when you have something else to do.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony You won't touch them during the normal course of events.

Alice That means you don't have time to deal with them?

Anthony Yeah! You won't deal with them when you don't have time, yeah! But you would look for them when you need them.

Alice Hmm.... Those pets, do you think those pets would like to play with you?

Anthony Hmm... cats and dogs maybe, probably not turtles. Cats and dogs may welcome you, but not turtles! Yeah! Cigarettes won't welcome me either!

Alice So, cigarettes won't like you?

Anthony Yes! Only I welcome them!

Alice Hmm...

Anthony I need to go and buy them. They won't come to my place automatically.

Alice Its mission is to be smoked by you.

Anthony The mission is for me to buy them.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony Cigarettes of a certain brand.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony I can describe it like that!

Alice What's your view on fire? Some people feel that fire is mysterious, and it symbolises life! So, when I talked to some of my friends, they told me that it's interesting that one needs fire to light up a cigarette in order to smoke it, so it gives them a very special feeling. What do you think about fire?

Anthony Nothing much! It's just fire, and you just have to light a cigarette with fire.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony I feel that it isn't anything special. I mean there isn't any mission related to it. Because fire... we need fire to cook anyway, it's just that we use fire for many different things, yeah! It's necessary; it just happens that you also need fire when you smoke, because you need to light the cigarette. But sometimes it can be troublesome, because you won't always remember to bring it, or maybe you left it at home and forgot to bring it, and then you have to borrow it from other people, or go buy a new one! To me, I don't have much impression on fire, because it's just fire, something I use to light a cigarette. It's separate from the cigarette. It's only the beginning of an entire process, yeah.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony But I wouldn't want to smoke merely because of the action of lighting a cigarette. It's like I wouldn't become happy because I have lit a fire.

Alice Would you play with fire and candles during the mid-autumn festival? I like that.

Anthony Ah! Yes, I would play with candles, yeah! But I only play with candles at most.

Alice So, you won't take the opportunity to burn other stuff and get high?

Anthony Yes, I would! But it's not comparable to and it's separate from smoking, yeah. It's like you have to turn on the fire when you cook, and you have to light the cigarette with fire when you smoke, yeah.

Alice Sometimes I wonder if you get scared when you light your cigarette ... Who knows where the fire would end up!

Anthony Ah! I've had that experience before!

Alice Was it an accident?

Anthony Sometimes, err... sometimes when the weather is so dry, and then you have to put the cigarette in between your lips, like this, and you need to hold it with your fingers, and then you light it.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony And then you have to pull it out from mouth, as you can't really leave it in between your lips all the time. Since the weather is so dry, your lips are dry too, and the cigarette gets stuck on your lips when you try to pull it out, you burn your fingers!

Alice So, you can't pull it out anymore?

Anthony Because the cigarette is stuck to your lips, you can't remove it (as you intend to), and then your fingers would naturally slide down (the cigarette) ... right down to the end that is lit! Then they get burnt!

Alice Wow! Does that happen frequently?

Anthony Yes! It's unavoidable, especially in winter. I guess many people have that experience before, ha.

Alice Especially in winter.

Anthony Yes! I guess this has happened to many people before.

Alice Does smoking keep you warm?

Anthony Ah! I don't think so, haha.

Alice No? So, it won't keep you warm in winter?

Anthony Not to the extent of keeping your warm. I guess it's not related to

keeping you warm, but you feel more satisfied (when you're smoking) in winter.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony I mean at least there is some heat, but not to the extent of keeping me warm, but I feel happier smoking in winter. It's so hot in summer, and you get irritable easily when it's hot.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony And then you eat something hot in summer, so it's not as satisfying as in winter.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony Because the feeling of winter is better.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony When it's gloomy and dark, the environment is very important, yeah! You are more in the mood (to smoke) when it's gloomy and dark. It's very different from the scorching summer days when it's so hot and you have to hold the cigarette in your lips, light it and watch the fire!

Alice That's true. You can't smoke indoors, right?

Anthony Not anymore, not anymore, hmm... perhaps when you are in a karaoke bar.

Alice Can you smoke there?

Anthony When you are in a karaoke bar?

Alice Would they allow you to?

Anthony Yeah! Nobody would bother you, haha.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony They even give you an ashtray in the room!

Alice Hmm... hmm... ah, yeah, I've seen that too.

Anthony Yes! I think they just ignore it. There can't be anyone checking on their license. The authorities would know if they check, but I haven't experienced that before. So, you can smoke when you are in a karaoke bar.

Alice Right, usually the whole building belongs to that karaoke bar owner, so it should be ok...

Anthony Several levels at least, I guess.

Alice Ah! Unless the smoke gets into the ventilation system next door, or to floors above or below, and then you get complaints from other tenants.

Anthony Yeah, but there shouldn't be a problem.

Alice Probably not.

Anthony Is there anywhere else you can smoke indoors? Probably not, right?

Alice You won't smoke at home!

Anthony Right, or you can go to those clubs.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony Maybe you can smoke there.

Alice Are those places for drinking?

Anthony Yeah, those places where people hang out, and dance.

Alice Like those in Lan Kwai Fong?

Anthony Yes! Maybe you can smoke in those places indoors.

Alice Hmm...

Anthony Yeah!

Alice Would you feel annoyed when the ashes fly all over the place when you smoke?

Anthony Err... it could be troublesome at times! But it hasn't gone to a stage where it affects other people.

Alice Would it be everywhere when it's windy?

Anthony Yes! They get blown back and stuck on my own clothes during those times.

Alice Blown back to your own clothes!

Anthony It's possible, due to the wind direction.

Alice Would they be caught on fire?

Anthony They won't! It's small fire after all, but I do feel irritated, second hand smoke is even more irritating! I mean when I am walking on the street and there's somebody smoking in front of me, or when I am waiting to cross the street, you get irritated when you smell all that second-hand smoke!

Alice Oh, you too? Do you hate second hand smoke?

Anthony I don't like it, because it's a completely different thing, man! It's like I have to smell what you exhale, and then the smell is disgusting. It's completely different from smoking. When I smoke, I wouldn't smoke on a crowded street. Instead, I would normally move to the side to smoke!

Alice Hmm...

Anthony Yeah! I won't be one of those irritating people!

Alice I've smelled that before too, even from a very faraway place, and I just had to leave immediately.

Anthony Yeah! It's like the man in front of you ... when you are in crowded place like Sai Yeung Choi Street in Mongkok, what can you do? You can't escape it! And if you are standing at the wrong place, you just catch everything!

Alice Hmm...

Anthony You don't feel happy when you catch everything! Maybe I'm more forgiving since I am a smoker, but for those non-smokers like kids and aunties, and you... yeah! Must be unbearable!

Alice Hmm...

Anthony Yeah, it (cigarette smoke) affects other people too! It depends on whether you can get around that.

Alice Mmm.. Err... some people bite the filter when they smoke. Does that happen to you too?

Anthony No, not to me, I just put in between my lips!

Alice That means the filter stays rounded after you've finished smoking the cigarette?

Anthony Yes.

Alice And it won't be flattened!

Anthony Yeah, some of my friends' are flattened!

Alice Yeah, many people's filters are flattened.

Anthony Yeah, but not me.

Alice No.

Anthony Maybe I drag really deeply ... my friends smoke very quickly, I mean they finish the whole cigarette when I'm not even half done.

Alice They finished that already!

Anthony They finished the whole cigarette! Because I looked at them and noticed that they dragged really hard, like 'shh... shh...' and one big part is gone, and 'shh... shh...' again and another big part is gone.

Alice Wow, that's pretty deep inhalation.

Anthony Yeah! No kidding ... my mainland Chinese friends, those friends who came from mainland China to study.

Alice Ah! Do you have many friends like that in your school?

Anthony There are a couple of them! These mainland Chinese friends smoke really fast. They said they were not allowed to smoke in high school back then, so they had to smoke very quickly in hidden places, and now they are used to smoking very quickly.

Alice Ah.

Anthony Sometimes they finished smoking almost right after they lit the cigarette!

Alice Wow! Finished the whole stick? How much of each cigarette do you usually consume?

Anthony I would normally leave a little bit! A tiny bit, yeah! A few lines, because some cigarettes have verge lines on the cigarette paper, yeah, I normally leave a few lines at the end without finishing the entire stick.

Alice Mm...

Anthony I wouldn't drag till the end of the cigarette!

Alice Is there any difference in terms of feelings between the first and the last puff of each cigarette?

Anthony I feel that there is a difference.

Alice What is that feeling?

Anthony Before you smoke, you wouldn't have a cigarette smell in your mouth, right? And then you go "Wow!" in your first puff! The first puff... the first few puffs are the best! I mean you feel less... in the last few puffs, perhaps because you are already satisfied.

Alice Mmm...

Anthony I mean the last few puffs are not as satisfying as the first few puffs.

Alice Ah, I see.

Anthony Yeah! There should be some differences I think, in terms of the taste difference. I think there should be some differences when you drag to the last few puffs, because it's closer to the filter, and hmm... the taste would be different.

Alice Mmm... what taste is that?

Anthony Perhaps you are getting close to the filter, so yeah, yeah, and it should be ok if you leave some at the end.

Alice Mmm...

Anthony Yeah, but perhaps you would feel that the first few puffs are more enjoyable ... really more satisfying, the first few puffs vs. the last few puffs, and if you are still unsatisfied after you've dragged to the end, you would smoke more... one more stick, yeah, that's the difference.

Alice And you also mentioned the most disappointing cigarette you've ever had, and you said that there was a cigarette with a completely off and different taste, and that you threw it away after smoking half a stick and you were very angry about it!

Anthony Yes.

Alice Do you remember when that was?

Anthony Wow! It was almost two to three years ago.

Alice Two to three years ago.

Anthony Yeah!

Alice What brand of cigarettes was that?

Anthony It was green Lucky Strike.

Alice Green Lucky Strike... oh, green Lucky!

Anthony Yes, green Lucky.

Alice Green Lucky. Do you remember your feelings when you realised that the taste was off after the first two puffs?

Anthony Spit it out, spit it out! Hahahaha. I immediately stopped smoking!

Alice Were you angry?

Anthony Not really angry, I guess. I just felt cheated that I've wasted some money.

Alice Mmm...

Anthony Just buy another pack, haha, I wasn't really that angry. Perhaps I was... it was only HK\$20+ in those days and I could afford it, yeah, and I was only angry for a while ... just don't buy that brand anymore. That brand is actually quite strange; I feel that it always tastes different.

Alice Oh, really?

Anthony Not sure if it's something to do with its formula.

Alice But it's the same pack...

Anthony Same brand same pack, sometimes you would find it very good, but after you've smoked a few packs, you realised the taste seemed to be different, and then after a while it went back to the normal taste again. It's really strange, so I rarely smoke it, but it's ok; I used to smoke that one. There are some cigarettes I used to love, but no longer smoke nowadays.

Alice Mmm...

Anthony There was this Marlboro Black, its packaging was in black and green. I used to smoke it regularly, my classmates also bought it all the time, but now... really... I wouldn't smoke it even if it was free!

Alice Why is that?

Anthony Because I felt that the taste is different... maybe they changed the taste after market research!

Alice Oh, tell me more!

Anthony Yeah! They gave you those new flavours to try. I mean they may ask about your regular brand, and perhaps they would only ask you to participate if you smoke menthol cigarettes regularly. Then you are given new flavours to try and they would observe your reactions. Of course, they would... would mask all the packing on the brands, and you just try.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony And then... hmm... where was I? Yeah, they would ask you a lot of questions ... like what do you think of this one ... what's the difference between this and the last one ... hmm... is the taste smooth? How's the taste? Does it have enough tobacco taste? Does it have enough menthol taste or fruity taste? Does the capsule work well? They have lots of varieties, and they may have conducted surveys on ten focus groups. So, I guess if they are serious about market research. They may adjust or fine tune the taste a bit, because maybe... you would want some changes, yeah. Coca Cola on the mainland has different tastes as opposed to those in Hong Kong, yeah, so you need to adapt to the market needs. I guess it's because of that, because I used to think that Marlboro Black was really tasty, and gradually I felt that... oh how come it seems to taste more and more disgusting? And then... yeah, I just stopped smoking it!

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yeah! Because it used to taste quite mild, and then I felt that the smoke smelt worse every day, like it's penetrated into your body, you feel like an old and seriously addicted chain smoker after smoking it!

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Your whole body is contaminated by that smell, and it never goes away! So, I didn't want to smoke it anymore after finishing one stick, and I could still smell the bad taste even after walking outside for a long time!

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Your entire head and your whole body were soaked in that smell, so I don't smoke it anymore.

Alice Does that happen to most of Marlboro's cigarettes?

Anthony Yes, for Marlboro.

Alice It's like your whole body is soaked in that smell...

Anthony Yeah, some of them. One or two of them are like that.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony They tend to have stronger tastes as well.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Maybe I don't smoke such a strong cigarette.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yeah, so I ignored that one and I smoke Marlboro less, yeah!

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Sometimes I may smoke one or two types of those.

Alice By the way, this has got nothing to do with smoking, but what do you think of your own temper?

Anthony I have a very good temper.

Alice Oh! You feel that you have a very good temper?

Anthony Yes.

Alice You...

Anthony I rarely get angry.

Alice Mmm... good temper.

Anthony Yes.

Alice Have you always been like that? Since you were little?

Anthony Very good temper, since I was little, I mean hmm... when waiters forget to place my order, or when they have bad attitudes, I wouldn't be...

Alice Oh, and...

Anthony I mean, I would definitely be fine if it's a small matter, yeah, just forget it; it's ok, as I am an easy-going person. Of course if they attack me full on then I would protect myself, yeah. Because sometimes my girlfriend gets angry when we go out. She gets angry when she is pushed by someone on the street, like by those old men, or being stepped on by those mainland Chinese tourists. There were lots of mainland Chinese people before, but now there is less, and she gets very angry when her feet get run over by those suitcases.

Alice Oh, those suitcases!

Anthony Yes, many of them, and it's very crowded on the underground, right? And then she gets really pissed off, but I am ok with that, yeah, so I have a pretty good and calm temper.

Alice Since you were little?

Anthony Mmm.

Alice Is your brother like that too?

Anthony Less so for my brother, hahaha.

Alice So, for some unknown reason you have an unusually good temper.

Anthony Yes, I don't know why, but my family didn't spoil me ... I am very easy-going, I can't be bothered (getting angry / arguing).

Alice Mmm.

Anthony I'm not being taken advantage of, right? Just small matters, I don't want to make trouble.

Alice Do you remember a time when you threw the biggest tantrum?

Anthony The biggest tantrum?

Alice Yeah, as far as you remember...

Anthony It wasn't the biggest that time, but it was the most vigorous.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony It went something like this... I was with a group of friends at the Tsimshatsui underground station. My girlfriend was in front of them when we rode the escalator up.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony And then there was one or two men in between me and my friends, who were at the back. And then, I turned my head down to talk to my friends, and when I turned my head, coz we were approaching the end of the escalator, I saw one of the mainland Chinese men extending his hand as if he wanted to touch my girlfriend's bottom. I stared at him at first, trying to figure out what he was up to, right?

Alice Mmm.

Anthony To see if there was any misunderstanding. It doesn't make sense to just pull a punch, right? So, the escalator continued to go up and was approaching the top ... my girlfriend used to have this iPhone case which looked like a sling bag you carry on your side, with a Chanel chain...

Alice Oh, I have seen that before.

Anthony But it looks like a sling bag you carry on your side.

Alice The one that looks like a sling bag!

Anthony Like a small sling bag, and there is a button to hold the iPhone in, and then you carry it on your back, and then, I thought he was going to touch her. I was a bit pissed off, and I was thinking this is really outrageous, and then I realised the reason why he got so close to my girlfriend was because he wanted to unbutton the iPhone case!

Alice Oh, he wanted to steal the iPhone!

Anthony Yes, he wanted to steal the iPhone. And then the minute my girlfriend stepped off the escalator at the top, I gave him a hard kick, and he tripped over and fell down. I asked him what he wanted and if he actually wanted to steal the iPhone. He denied and played the innocent. He actually worked together with a few accomplices, all from mainland China, and they tried to give him cover. It so happened that I saw them.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Three men, yeah, and then my friends and I just scolded them non-stop, and then we called the police.

Alice Called the police!

Anthony Yes, even though he failed, but he intended to steal. I saw it and my friends also saw it. They got scared and wanted to escape. Three of them grouped together to discuss how to escape, but we didn't dare touch them or hold them and hand them to the police, because they each had a black bag with them.

Alice Oh, you don't know what's inside!

Anthony Haha, those black bags with dirty money, just like those in movies, yeah, but I didn't know what's inside.

Alice Oh, those that you slip under your armpit?

Anthony Like those carry-on bags ... the whole thing was black, and it contained something, wow. I wouldn't know if there was a knife inside, right? So of course, I didn't try to catch him. He was big and fat, yeah, and they were also scared, because we were fierce!

Alice How many of you were there?

Anthony There were three or four guys in our group. They also have three to four people, but we had other girls, yeah. It was ok! We shouted at them ... the guys on our side shouted at them really loudly and fiercely. They did the same to us, but they tried to escape and really ran away. We didn't try to follow or stop them. Then they passed something to each other and then they immediately ran away.

Alice Oh.

Anthony Since we had called the police, there were a few police cars driving us around trying to locate those men. Then I went to the police station to record some statements. It so happened that my friend was still around Tsimshatsui, and then he saw that guy again!

Alice Wow!

Anthony Yes, my friend ran into the thief face to face, and he ran and was trying to escape again because he recognized my friend. My friend gave chase and there was a policeman, who managed to arrest the thief.

Alice Oh, that's great! Finally!

Anthony Yes, I was most emotional that time, because I couldn't really beat people up in public, so I just kicked him really hard, haha.

Alice You had to kick really hard to knock him down.

Anthony Because I play football.

Alice Oh, of course!

Anthony I am very confident with my legs; I didn't use my arms but I used my legs instead, yeah, and it would also catch him by surprise. He thought I didn't know how to react, and that's why he tried to steal things from my girlfriend. There were two people between us, and he thought I didn't know how to deal with them. And he thought there was only one girl there.

Alice And also, you were behind him.

Anthony Yes!

Alice He couldn't see you.

Anthony Couldn't! So, I just kicked him really hard when he was stealing, yeah, and then he failed!

Alice You were really angry at that time.

Anthony I was very angry at that time, yeah. I haven't had any really major temper tantrums afterwards. During my high school era, things were very normal, yeah, and I never really got very emotional and shouted at people. That time was a big one for me out in the public. Well, I had to do that.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yes, one shouldn't tolerate those mainland Chinese people! I can't just let them steal things! He really went to the jail for ten months afterwards ... ten months!

Alice Ten months in jail in Hong Kong?

Anthony Yeah, I also think it was slightly too much, but perhaps he committed other crimes before and escaped, hence the long sentence.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony And then the policeman sent me a letter and informed me that the thief was sentenced to 10 months, yeah.

Alice Mm... but it seems that he would continue to commit crimes even after 10 months' imprisonment.

Anthony Yes, but there is a record. He was caught at least once and that left him with a criminal record.

Alice And he shouldn't come to Hong Kong anymore in future.

Anthony Maybe they wouldn't allow him to come to Hong Kong anymore, at least for the another ten years.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yes, I was most angry in that incident ... that was the most memorable one.

Alice It takes something really serious to make you angry.

Anthony Oh, those really small ones are ok, I would get grumpy by myself for a while, then I would be fine, so it's ok. I won't get angry over those things, yeah. There aren't many things that would get me angry.

Alice So, you were irritated by the off-taste cigarette. Have you ever felt cheated before when buying some other things?

Anthony Cheated... cheated... oh I wasn't too angry, but I was grumpy. There was a time... when... apart from buying cigarettes, my friend asked me to join some pyramid selling scheme. I knew that thing was bad, and then he dragged me to that centre... and then he got me to buy something. I was a bit irritated that time, yeah.

Alice Oh, so he made you buy something!

Anthony Something like that, yeah, it's like... they created a seemingly perfect atmosphere. They didn't ask you to buy things; they asked you to join their plan, and then you can somehow make money in some way. I already ignored him, and then he... two of them forced me to take cash from the ATM machine. Since my friend was there, I just let them and didn't say no. Well, perhaps I was still too young at that time.

Alice How old were you?

Anthony Eighteen, nineteen.

Alice So that means if you buy the plan that is worth HK\$10,000 or something, you can then make money...

Anthony Yes, they give you something, and then you introduce another person to them, like a pyramid selling scheme.

Alice And then they asked you to take cash from the ATM machine so that you can join the plan.

Anthony Yeah, and of course there were more things. They were good salesmen, and maybe I was too young at that time, and totally outnumbered, and also, I had a friend there, so I just did as requested. It wasn't a lot of money anyway.

Alice How much was that?

Anthony Two thousand Hong Kong dollars.

Alice That's not small.

Anthony Yeah! It was quite a lot of money at that time. Luckily, I had a part time job, and then... well I just ignored it. That was quite a good friend whom I am still in contact with, but he's given me a bad impression.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony I was quite irritated that time.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony But it's ok, I can't really blame anyone for that. It doesn't make sense to call the police either.

Alice Were you more irritated that time, or when you bought the pack of cigarettes that had gone bad?

Anthony Of course, it was that time! It involved money, yeah. Luckily, it wasn't a really big amount, but then it was quite a big sum at that time.

Alice Exactly, two thousand Hong Kong dollars is quite a sum of money even now. You lost it just like that without getting anything for your money.

Anthony Yeah! It was a real shame! Really shameful. I remember it was more than two thousand dollars!

Alice Mmm... more than two thousand!

Anthony I was really quite irritated! I didn't scold my friend. I guess my friend

was also a victim. He didn't seem to be the cunning type, yeah, and he didn't do that (pyramid selling) anymore afterwards.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yeah, he probably realised it.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Maybe he was too young and was fooled, yeah.

Alice Mmm, you are mainly smoking Lamborghini at the moment, right?

Anthony Yes!

Alice How long have you been smoking Lamborghini?

Anthony Around one year.

Alice One year?

Anthony Because my friend introduced this brand to me a year ago, when I happened to bum a smoke from him, wow! What's that brand? I really didn't know. He usually goes for big brands. I mean he wouldn't buy small brands, especially those that not many people smoke. I rarely see people smoking this brand.

Alice I haven't seen it much in Hong Kong, not really.

Anthony Mmm.

Alice Not even in South Korea.

Anthony Mmm! Very rare!

Alice In fact, is it related to the Lamborghini car?

Anthony The logo is the same ... I guess they're from the same company. They have cars, clothes, shoes, yeah, risk diversification.

Alice Do you feel any difference in taste when you first started smoking it a year ago compared to now?

Anthony No, not really, I still think it's very good. It's very rare for me to smoke a brand for so long and still think it's good, because sometimes you just want to change to another brand when you smoke one brand for too long. Of course, sometimes you would even try other brands for just one or two packs.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony I smoke mostly this brand. I had three or four other occasional brands I would switch to when I smoked my previous brands. Sometimes, I would just get these occasional brands when I have time.

Alice Mmm, when you said it's 'good' you mean there is no change? What do you mean by 'good'?

Anthony Good (quality of cigarettes) means... the taste is the same with the first time I smoked it! Hmm... the smell won't make me stinky, yeah, I've introduced that brand to many friends.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Many friends said they don't smell bad after smoking it.

Alice Mmm... let me put it this way, have you smoked any cigarette that changes for the better? I mean the more it changes, the more you like it?

Anthony No.

Alice No...

Anthony I feel that this is the most satisfying one.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony I probably wouldn't change this time ... if I change... it's because I sometimes would buy another brand if there is no Circle K or Vango, and I am forced to go to 7-11. It would be right after dinner and I can't find my brand, so, sigh, forget it ... I will just buy another brand.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yeah, but it doesn't mean that I am not satisfied with other brands. I am just more satisfied with this one. I've never liked a brand more and more as I smoke it, but I keep liking this one, and I feel that it tastes better and better as I continue to smoke it. I've never had this experience before, haha.

Alice So, can I say that any change is a bad thing for cigarettes? Or once you feel that it's different, then it's a bad thing?

Anthony For me, yes. That's my experience, but you can never be too sure!

Alice So, it's better not to change anything.

Anthony If an old man smokes Marlboro Red regularly, and it's the same taste for twenty years, why bother to suddenly change its taste? Nobody would get used to that.

Alice Even if they change to a better tasting formula?

Anthony Sometimes it could just be a habit ... like I used to smoke Marlboro Black, and I had been smoking regular menthol cigarettes, but then suddenly I find them more and more stinky.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Maybe they want to differentiate, because there is a black and green one, and there is another black and blue one. The black and blue one is a capsule type.

Alice Oh.

Anthony The one with a black capsule ... I feel that Marlboro Black Menthol and Ice Blast tasted very similar before crushing the capsule.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony I guess they want, they feel that... sigh, it's the same market, why not make a Marlboro Black Menthol without capsule but with a stronger taste.

Alice Ah.

Anthony Marlboro Ice Blast is like the normal one, it's like that. I feel that it's like that.

Alice And, what were the reasons for changing brands?

Anthony Mmm! Sometimes it's, hmm... I can't deny that it has a certain influence, because you want to try it (something new) for yourself. Sometimes it's because... they launched a new blueberry flavour lately, perhaps you... a while ago Mild Seven launched a blueberry flavour, if you feel that it tastes good then it could be your second choice. Or you may feel that blueberry flavour is quite interesting. Or sometimes you may want to try something new because of the advertising ... those advertising inside Circle K and 7-11, so you just want to try this new blueberry flavour, and then you feel that it's quite interesting.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony I think only young people would try it, because I tried that blueberry flavour in the cigarette research I participated in earlier, and those people in older generations really hated it.

Alice Oh, they hated the blueberry flavour cigarettes?

Anthony Yeah, why would a cigarette have that kind of flavour? (They would ask)

Alice Mmm.

Anthony They still prefer their regular brand, yeah... I mean, cigarettes must have a very high brand loyalty level. Probably only younger people would want to switch brands.

Alice So, you were influenced by your peers when you switched brands?

Anthony Yes! Sometimes I would be affected by advertising. I mean when they talk about how special the taste it, I would just buy a pack and try them out.

Alice Or when your regular brand seems to have changed taste and it got worse.

Anthony Yes, or you feel you don't like the smell and taste anymore. My friends buy different kinds of cigarettes every day. Sometimes they roll their own, sometimes they buy other brands. It's because all of us always buy different brands that we get to try many different things, yeah. I have tried so many different types, because all of my friends buy different brands all the time. So, I can bum a smoke here and there, or they bum a smoke from me or the others, or we would exchange cigarettes if we haven't tried a particular brand. That way, we get try many different brands.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Maybe it's just me wanting to try different brands ... maybe the old uncles' friends all smoke the same brand for more than twenty years, so they haven't tried other flavours. Well it doesn't make sense to spend fifty odd dollars to try something completely new... hmm... and then it would be wasted if you don't like them.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony That's why I think they switch less, but for us young people, we like to try different brands, so we have more opportunities to switch brands.

Alice Have you tried those slimmer cigarettes?

Anthony Yes!

Alice What brand?

Anthony It doesn't look very good for me, because it's mostly smoked by women. They target the female market.

Alice You mean the super slim ones?

Anthony They target the female market. I feel that it doesn't look good on me when I smoke them ... I am more masculine.

Alice Mmm... mmm...

Anthony I am a macho man, and it (the cigarette) is so slim! In fact I don't think there is any problem with its taste, it's light... hmm... when I went to Macau in the past, she would force me... force me... there were only a couple of cigarette brands available at Duty Free. I would buy that brand when I went with my girlfriend. I have tried it before, but it was

very occasional, so it was ok.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony But I wouldn't do that if you ask me to buy it under normal circumstances.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony After all, it's... hmm... I mean... hmm... how should I put it, yeah, it's labelled as feminine cigarettes.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony And it does have an impact, and its taste is not particularly good, right?

Alice Mmm.

Anthony If I have no other cigarettes, then I would smoke it very occasionally. I've tried those; I have tried many other types, including Roll-Your-Own and cigars. I really don't know what cigars are all about.

Alice Does it taste good?

Anthony Because you can't inhale a cigar. I don't know how to smoke it.

Alice Suck it in, circle it around your mouth, and then puff it out.

Anthony Yeah, you suck it in, and kind of shake it in your mouth, you are just sucking it. But I heard from other people that some of them are quite aromatic.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Some of my brothers' friends smoke them. I've tried it (smoking a cigar) before, but I don't know what to do with it, because you tend to inhale the smoke into your lungs if you are used to smoking cigarettes, but if I just suck it in my mouth and I can't really talk, what do I do with it if I can't inhale it into my lungs? I don't understand the kind of enjoyment people get by sucking and shaking it in your mouth (without inhaling it into your body).

Alice Too strong.

Anthony It's this thick, this strong! Must be too strong, and pretty bad if you really inhale it down your lungs.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yeah, that's why I don't smoke them. If you only suck the smoke into your mouth without inhaling it into your lungs... what's the purpose of doing that?

Alice Why is the inhalation so important to you?

Anthony To me it is (so important). If you smoke and don't inhale to your lungs ... but just suck the smoke into your mouth, what's the purpose of doing that? You are just holding some gas in your mouth, I mean would you hold the air in your mouth when you breathe? If you do that, your mouth wouldn't be comfortable, and you also can't speak!

Alice Mmm.

Anthony And then when you suck and shake the smoke in your mouth, your mouth would get the smell.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony I don't know, they said red wine is very aromatic.

Alice I've heard about that too.

Anthony Yeah, I don't know what to eat to match the aromatic red wine. I don't exactly know which one is aromatic. I don't know much about red wine.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony So, I don't know how to appreciate it.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yeah, I feel that it's a complete process only when you inhale it into your lungs, because if you don't inhale, you... you simply... don't know how it tastes like! If you don't get it down to this position (point to the level of his lung) ... it doesn't get down, only your tongue would have the cigarette taste, and you also won't have that cooling sensation, the cooling sensation around that area when you smoke menthol cigarettes...

Alice So, it would be cool in this part?

Anthony Yes, it will be, to a certain extent.

Alice Will your lungs also get the cool sensation?

Anthony I don't feel (the cooling sensation) much in my lungs, only around the throat area, and there is another wave of sensation when you exhale...

Alice Ah! What is that like? Can you describe it?

Anthony After you inhale, you can exhale via your nose or your mouth. Yeah, and then when you exhale, you smoke (for real) ... because you have to exhale after inhaling, right?

Alice Mmm.

Anthony And when you exhale, it's... it's very important, this process!

Alice Mmm.

Anthony I mean you would... you would be able to taste it (the smoke). If you exhale with your nose, then its taste is even stronger!

Alice Mmm.

Anthony You will feel the taste of the cigarette...

Alice Oh, that means there is taste when you exhale?

Anthony Yes, there is taste when you exhale, and the taste is even stronger if you exhale via your nose.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Because I think my nose is more sensitive, perhaps.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yes, and then if you smoke menthol cigarettes, then your nose would have a menthol flavour.

Alice Oh.

Anthony Yes, it does, there is a stronger taste, but I wouldn't use my nose to exhale.

Alice Do you normally use your mouth or nose?

Anthony Mouth.

Alice Why wouldn't you use your nose?

Anthony Many friends use their noses.

Alice I have seen people used both.

Anthony Some of my friends use their noses.

Alice I have seen many people using their noses.

Anthony Nose and mouth together.

Alice Nose and mouth together, or nose first and followed by mouth.

Anthony I normally only use my mouth, and my brother does the same. But it doesn't matter, many people use both, yeah, some use their noses,

some only use their mouths.

Alice Are you afraid of the smoke getting into your nose, or what?

Anthony I sometimes use my nose too.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony But, I am not used to it. Maybe it's really a matter of habit. And also, it's better to contain your damage to one position (part of the body). Why bother to damage a second position, haha.

Alice Oh.

Anthony Because they (nasal passages) are apparently connected. When you breathe, you can inhale and exhale via your mouth or your nose. It doesn't really matter (as air is not harmful).

Alice Mmm.

Anthony But when you smoke, you usually inhale through your mouth only.

Alice Mmm...

Anthony So, if you exhale via your nose, then there is an additional position (harmed by the cigarette smoke).

Alice Mmm.

Anthony If there isn't much difference, why harm one more position?

Alice Might as well use one position only.

Anthony Yeah, it's good enough to just use one position. You wouldn't use your nose to inhale anyway.

Alice Mmm... that's right, even though you will still smell it.

Anthony I really haven't tried it before, it could be laborious.

Alice Very laborious.

Anthony I really haven't tried using my nose to smoke; I usually use my mouth, only use my mouth. Inhale and exhale through my mouth. I am usually like that, but the friends I know only use their noses (to exhale), but I feel they are crazy. It's like there are two pillars of smoke coming out from their noses!

Alice Oh yes, I've seen that before too.

Anthony Yeah, looks like it's really harmful.

Alice Are those people deeply addicted?

Anthony I don't know, some of them are even worse, they 'chase the smoke' like smoking heroin. They turn back and re-inhale, there are many different ways.

Alice That means you feel that it's more harmful when you exhale from your nose as opposed to from your mouth?

Anthony Yes, that's how I feel, yes. There is no reason to harm one more position, right? And yeah, I heard from my friends that if you use your nose to exhale too much, there is really something about it, something like... yeah, it should be quite uncomfortable. I have a friend who only uses his nose to exhale. I have asked him many times about it. I guess he's used to it and everyone has a habit. Perhaps he used his nose when he first started smoking, and then he just continues to smoke like that. I used my mouth to exhale when I first started smoking, because I wasn't able to switch to my nose ... I didn't know how to do it at first ... I didn't know it could go through so many openings, yeah.

Alice Some people exhale via their ears!

Anthony Yes, some of those foreigners. Some foreigners are really good, and they can get the smoke out via any opening, yeah.

Alice I'd like to ask if you remember if you had a small toy that you loved and must bring with you wherever you went when you were a little boy. And if you didn't bring it, would you cry? And if your mum snatched it from you, say, to wash, would you be angry at your mum and become very unhappy?

Anthony Oh, yes, it's still with me now!

Alice Oh! Can you tell me about it?

Anthony It was from the AIA carnival, yes, an International Carnival. We had that a while ago, right?

Alice Ah, yes, that one!

Anthony But it (the carnival) was there when I was a little boy! Five or six years old, six or seven years old they organized that once or twice.

Alice Really? In Hong Kong?

Anthony Hong Kong! It was also in Tamar Park.

Alice I didn't know that.

Anthony I was really little at that time, and I remember I won it by myself. I got a piglet! Hmm... a friend of Winnie the Pooh!

Alice Oh... that piglet, yes.

Anthony Yes, it was that piglet, and then... it was really big, and then I put it on my bed, until now... it's still there on my bed. My mum always said it's very dirty and I should just throw it away. That's stupid! It was my childhood memory!

Alice Childhood memory...

Anthony I am a very nostalgic person, yeah! Don't touch my childhood memory, and also those twisted egg toys are still with me!

Alice What kind of twisted egg toys?

Anthony They were really popular back then. When I was in primary school, there were those twisted egg toys, with monkeys etc inside! I still have those childhood memories with me.

Alice You still remember that piglet that you got when you were four to five years old?

Anthony Remember, remember!

Alice You keep it with you because you won it yourself?

Anthony Yes.

Alice Your brother should be there with you right?

Anthony Yes.

Alice So, you went to the carnival with your mum and dad and brother, the four of you together?

Anthony Yes! Together, yeah!

Alice What was so special about that carnival?

Anthony Nothing really special, just that I won the toy by myself at such a young age. There was a bell sound, and it was very memorable for me as I was very little. And then the girl gave me that toy, of course it was memorable. I had won it myself! Of course, I have to keep it, and also

since it's been on my bed for so long, I have an emotional attachment to it. Perhaps because I am very nostalgic, yeah, I love old stuff, so this is it.

Alice Mmm... that piglet...

Anthony This should be my personality I think.

Alice Do you see it every night when you sleep?

Anthony Yes, right beside me.

Alice Do you still cuddle it?

Anthony Yes, of course I would. It's very soft, yes, I would, but it's pretty worn out now.

Alice Is it this big?

Anthony This big! (gestures)

Alice Have you washed it before?

Anthony Yeah...

Alice You did it yourself or your family did it for you?

Anthony Just wiped it...

Alice Casually...

Anthony I put it in the washing machine once or twice, in these many years...

Alice But you didn't really want to wash it, right?

Anthony I didn't really want to wash it. I was afraid that the ears would be gone. It is very fragile, after so many years.

Alice How many years? More than ten years?

Anthony Yeah, 10+ years.

Alice Fifteen years!

Anthony It's still there. I would cry if it's damaged after washing ... the eyes, the ears, mouth and nose ... it's funny.

Alice It's quite cute.

Anthony But I would change brands if it's cigarettes! It's unrelated, sometimes it's possible! Maybe it's just specific to certain things.

Alice Yeah right. You are only nostalgic about dolls but not to cigarette brands.

Anthony Yes, I would change brands if it's cigarettes!

Alice You won't be nostalgic.

Anthony You won't get to that stage. There are better and better products out there, because some of the new flavours may suit you better. There wasn't a blueberry flavour in the past, right? There were only one or two types of flavours to choose from. Now they have lemon flavour, or any flavour you can imagine. They even have different flavours for Roll-Your-Own ... many different flavours and different brands. There are so many choices. I don't need to smoke those classic types. I used to smoke Marlboro but not anymore. It's better to smoke other brands, and some have even better quality.

Alice So, whenever you change brands, you feel that its quality is bad.

Anthony Yes.

Alice So, at times you need to identify an alternative brand.

Anthony Yes, I'm lucky that I've found my regular brand. I wouldn't change much, even though I occasionally smoke a few other brands.

Alice So, eight to nine packs out of ten packs would be Lamborghini?
Anthony Yes, if I manage to find them. If I can't find them, then I would get the blueberry flavoured one. If not, I would go for another one called Boham Double Capsule.
Alice What brand is that?
Anthony It's also a Korean brand.
Alice Korean brand.
Anthony Yeah, they also have capsules, with a hint of lime flavour.
Alice Mmm.
Anthony Yes, they have had that for quite a long time. They've launched it a long time ago.
Alice Do you feel that crushing the capsule is troublesome? What do you think of the action of crushing the capsule?
Anthony Not too troublesome, yeah, because the blueberry flavoured cigarette also requires crushing a capsule. There's no need to do that for Lamborghini. It's ok, as long as the flavour is ok, then it's ok, crushing the capsule would make the taste more intense.
Alice Mmm.
Anthony I am ok with not crushing the capsule, only that the taste would be more intense if you crush the capsule.
Alice What kind of image does Lamborghini give you?
Anthony Image?
Alice Mmm.
Anthony Quite refreshing, for a cigarette.
Alice Do you have it with you now?
Anthony No, I didn't buy any today. I've been sick lately, so I've only been bumming cigarettes from my friends, yeah. I've been coughing these few days.
Alice Mmm.
Anthony I don't know. I am still not fully recovered yet, so I am still bumming cigarettes from my friends. Recently a new brand was launched and it tastes very bad ... well, maybe not that bad. It's also blueberry flavoured, but this one is 1mg only. The cigarette has no taste at all, only a tiny bit of blueberry flavour!
Alice Another Mild Seven?
Anthony Mild Seven, yes, but it's very long, very thick, same price but a much bigger stick.
Alice Very long? Longer than normal cigarettes?
Anthony Yes, longer and thicker.
Alice Even thicker!
Anthony Yeah!
Alice Oh, I haven't heard of it.
Anthony It's really good value for money, if you like it. But you won't be able to finish it. Basically, after you've smoked half of that cigarette, you feel like you've smoked a whole (normal) cigarette.
Alice Oh.
Anthony Yeah! It's like forcing you to quit smoking.

Alice Giving you a bigger cigarette feels like forcing you to quit?

Anthony Yes, my friend buys this one all the time, and he only finished it today.

Alice Same price?

Anthony Yes, same price, it's a good deal, yeah, Lamborghini was new... no, it felt novel to me.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony It was novel at the beginning, now that I feel ... if you smoke other brands, you would feel that your body is covered with cigarette smell, but not Lamborghini. You still smell ok after smoking it.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony I mean hmm... there isn't a stinky cigarette smell, because even though you enjoy the process of smoking, and you don't want the smell to attach to your body, right? But that one (Lamborghini) has less smell relatively; your hand won't get too smelly. Sometimes your hand is really stinky after you finish smoking a cigarette, especially when it's humid ... your hand would be even more smelly, yeah. Maybe it is because of the water content in the air, and it's more difficult for the smell to go away.

Alice Wow, I didn't know that...

Anthony My hand is very stinky in humid weather, yeah, so I wouldn't smoke that much at that time, yeah. But Lamborghini is good in every single aspect. It has a lower tar content ... it smells good, and has enough strength, yeah, and the smell is also very special.

Alice What is the colour of the filter? Is it white?

Anthony White.

Alice It's also white ... so the whole stick is white, and it looks completely different before and after you smoke it. How do you feel about a new stick of cigarette vs. a finished cigarette?

Anthony The difference...

Alice Mmm.

Anthony It's the same thing after all. You wouldn't have any emotional attachment after you finish smoking it, yeah ... it's disposable, haha. You dispose of it immediately. I mean, you won't find anything good about it, but during the process of smoking it... it's all about the process. You wouldn't (not smoke the cigarette) ... simply because it is beautiful. But I have actually smoked a really beautiful cigarette!

Alice Oh.

Anthony Yeah, some... hmm... of my friends bought this very expensive cigarette at HK\$100 - 200 per pack.

Alice Oh, what kind of cigarette is that?

Anthony Chinese cigarettes!

Alice Oh.

Anthony The stick is golden colour!

Alice The entire stick is golden colour?

Anthony No, the tipping is golden colour. It's not real gold, and there isn't any gold foil. But it's gold in colour, with a bit of blue.

Alice Oh.

Anthony I don't remember the brand name ... The were on sale at Circle K for about HK\$100 per pack.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yeah, I've tried that once ... one stick... I may have some emotional attachment to that particular cigarette, because I'd never tried that before, and it has embossing and everything there.

Alice Oh, so it has embossing on its tipping paper!

Anthony Yes, it seems to have a pattern on the entire stick!

Alice So... what kind of feeling did it give you?

Anthony I felt ... wow! I mean, it's like when you eat abalone, err... there's more of a premium feel to it. It was really beautiful, so for that cigarette, I savoured it slowly, trying to find out what it really tasted like ... and it tasted good, really good. It's worth the price, as it's really superior.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Very smooth, unlike other cigarettes. I mean ... it's silky smooth when you inhale it, and you wouldn't feel that the smoke is stuck in your throat. Menthol cigarettes are definitely not smooth ... I guess it's the chemical, yeah. It definitely won't be smooth. It causes some irritation, maybe because it needs to have the cooling effect.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony But that one is not a menthol cigarette. Usually expensive cigarettes won't be menthol, yeah, they are mostly lights cigarettes. Maybe they made it well, I don't know how they cured the leaf, but it has a really smooth ... extremely smooth sensation. When you inhale, it's very aromatic. It doesn't have the stinky smell of cigarettes. It's really like drinking (good) tea, when you feel that the leaves have a certain smell, a fragrant aroma, and then it's silky smooth. It's really tasty.

Alice Did you have any emotional attachment to the cigarette after smoking it? Or did you just throw it away?

Anthony I looked at the tipping paper before throwing it away. It's not as intense as an emotional attachment, but I looked at it for a little longer, just to see why the cigarette is so expensive.

Alice But you won't buy it, right?

Anthony No, I won't buy it. Wow it's almost HK\$200 for a pack! It only has 20 cigarettes. I really have to be rich to buy one pack occasionally.

Alice Would you buy a pack now?

Anthony No.

Alice Too expensive.

Anthony After all, it's a bit too expensive for me, haha.

Alice None of your friends smokes them?

Anthony None of them smokes them. They may only buy one or two packs at Circle K or 7-11 during promotions. Like in Circle K, occasionally, they would display a stand with a HK\$100 plus pack of cigarettes ... with beautiful packaging design, and maybe a friend would buy it out of curiosity, yeah, and then it just happened that I managed to bum one stick from him. And it's really different, yeah!

Alice Mmm.

Anthony They have premium and low-priced cigarettes.

Alice Wow! HK\$200 per pack is really quite expensive.

Anthony Almost HK\$200, I remember it was something like HK\$180 per pack.

Alice That's expensive! That means they're almost HK\$2,000 each carton!

Anthony Yes.

Alice There are many super premium cigarettes in China.

Anthony Yeah, many of them. I heard from my friends that there are some that are only a few dollars a pack!

Alice Loads of them.

Anthony RMB3 per pack, but I don't know what brand.

Alice But you won't know what you are smoking.

Anthony Yeah, and then there are some that are a few hundred RMB per pack.

Alice Right, ok, I think I have my last question.

Anthony Ok ok ok.

Alice It's a very open question. Can you tell me the most unforgettable thing that happened in your childhood?

Anthony The most unforgettable thing... hmm... not necessarily in my childhood, right?

Alice Not necessarily, maybe it happened recently. You are still a child, haha.

Anthony Yeah, I am still young.

Alice Yes, very young.

Anthony Twenty-one years old!

Alice Very young.

Anthony Yeah, when I was little, err... the most unforgettable thing ... there was a girl I really liked in high school.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yeah, and then it took a long before she was willing to go out with me.

Alice What year were you in?

Anthony Form 4 or 5, yeah, and she was in one form lower than me. I remember this girl very well, yeah, and then, yeah, I was in love with her for a long time, and then eventually, she was willing to go out with me.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony And when I took her home, I kissed her.

Alice Oh! That was good!

Anthony Yes! I was very happy at that time, I still remember it now, yeah, but nothing really happened after that.

Alice So, you only went out with her once? Or you were seeing each other for a while?

Anthony No, we didn't see each other. We only kissed once, and then, maybe I was really nice to her, yeah, at that time I was very nice to her, yeah, and then nothing happened after graduation.

Alice You didn't keep in touch with her?

Anthony Right, and then I had a new girlfriend, so I didn't contact her anymore.

Alice Oh.

Anthony Yeah, and then, I remember this incident very clearly, because it was winter, yeah, it felt good ... I still remember it vividly.

Alice Back then...

Anthony It was a relatively good thing.

Alice There was still winter in Hong Kong at that time. Nowadays, there is no more winter in Hong Kong!

Anthony Yeah, it was sweet at that time, haha, it was a very good memory.

Alice Did you smoke at that time?

Anthony Not yet, this happened at the beginning of Form 4 or Form 5. I don't remember smoking yet, but it should be near the time when I started smoking.

Alice Because of the open exam?

Anthony Yes, I still hadn't taken the HKCEE at that time.

Alice That incident has nothing to do with your decision to smoke?

Anthony No, no, it's only a beautiful memory.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yeah, very unforgettable.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony There is only this incident when it comes to unforgettable memories.

Alice Family?

Anthony Family...

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Unforgettable... it was also around the HKCEE open exam time. I got really bad results in the open exam, and then my mum... I thought my mum would be very angry. Both my dad and my mum love me very much ... they would give me a ride whenever they can, because my dad has had a car since I was a little boy, and I followed them around. When dad was on holiday, he would always ask me where I wanted to go. In fact, even if they didn't need to go out, they would still give me a ride.

Alice How old are your parents? 50 yet?

Anthony 50ish already.

Alice 50ish.

Anthony They treated me very well and they spoilt me. They would give me a ride even though my destination was not on their way, and they would wake up earlier for that... yeah. I kind of gave them an opportunity to date each other again! It was quite nice. At that time my parents really cared about me. They knew my grades were bad in high school, and they were quite anxious about that. But you know it was high school and I played too much. My grades were good in primary school, and then I didn't expect my HKCEE open exam results would be that bad. I thought I would get nine to ten marks, but I only got six, I passed 5 subjects, and I was very unhappy, very disappointed.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony And then I didn't know how to face my dad and mum. At that age, I felt like I had disappointed them, and of course I would only have that thought during those moments. There was a tipping point though. My dad took one day off specifically for me. My dad would normally leave me alone. He believes that I should be independent as a man, and there is no need for him to discipline me that much. My mum spoilt me, she

spoilt us. So my dad and my mum drove me to school (to get the results), and when I walked out, they knew I had failed. Then, I told them my score. I was also unhappy and I shed some tears. My mum was so understanding. She knew I was very upset, and she said, "Sigh, it's ok. Try to find some other things to study." I guessed she was hurt too. Maybe she was upset knowing that I was upset. She was so unhappy; she also cried.

Alice Oh, your mum cried too?

Anthony Yes, maybe she was really disappointed, but then she had to pacify me.

Alice She spoilt you.

Anthony Maybe she was upset herself too, even more upset than I was, and then she had to pacify me, and she had tears in her eyes.

Alice Oh.

Anthony It was quite funny.

Alice Have you been closer to your dad or mum since you were little?

Anthony I am close to both, but I talked to my mum more, because dad worked night shifts. He earned more money working night shifts, yeah, so I saw him less.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony But I still saw him a lot, and we talked a lot too. We are also close. But of course, dad talked less than mum, but dad is also nice, yeah. Mum nags more, yeah. Those small details in daily life, and she says the same things every day when she calls.

Alice Haha.

Anthony But I am closer to her. But then I am close to both, but when it comes to buying presents, I normally only give them to mum. There is no need to give presents to dad.

Alice Oh really?

Anthony He is ok with that; not as frequent, I guess. Back then when I worked part time, I liked to buy clothes and pants and shoes for him. But I have a closer relationship with mum.

Alice You are such a good boy. Were you looked after by a maid or your mum?

Anthony No maids. Mum didn't need to work, and it was only mum who looked after me, yeah. I've never had any experience with Filipino maids.

Alice Wow! That's great.

Anthony It was a good thing, although more tiring for her. I do have a good filial relationship with my mum. I know my family is good to me.

Alice Mmm.

Anthony Yeah!

Alice Thank you, I think that's about all the questions I have for you today.