Welcome!
What’s on today?
What’s on today?

Graduation traditions around the English-speaking world.
Meet Ella, from Iowa, USA.
US TRADITION #1
DRESSING UP!

Ella & Ania on graduation day
US TRADITION #1
DRESSING UP!

Ella on graduation day

cap
tassels
US TRADITION #1
DRESSING UP!

Ella on graduation day

cap

tassels

gown

National Honor Society medal

stole

honor cords
US TRADITION #2
SPEAKING IN PUBLIC

Ella reading a poem on graduation day
Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

From "Desiderata," by Max Ehrmann, 1927.
Meet Natalie Nova, from Cape Town, South Africa.
Why is it called a "matric dance"?
Because it celebrates "matriculation", which is what graduation is called in South Africa.

What happens?
A photo shoot at home
A fancy dinner
A dance

How important is it?
It is very important as it is a rite of passage, from adolescence to adulthood.
Let's ask someone who is graduating this year, in another country...
A yearbook

3 pictures: you, you and your friends, you holding up a message

3 words that best describe you

Your favourite quote

In houses:
"Most likely to..."
"Where will they be in 10 years?"

3 paragraphs about you, by your friends

Meet Emily, from London, UK.
I have known Em for almost 11 years now, and we were fast friends from the start. She is a fantastic singer and was way back then, and her voice suits both classical and pop music perfectly, so we grew up singing harmonies together.

From Thorpe Park rides to Google personality tests and creating our own vocabulary, along with playing games like Risk and word association, Em and I have had near-constant fun over the years; she is also a hardcore philosopher, and our fascinating logic discussions on the home commute always leave me thinking for a long while afterwards. Her knowledge of literature is also not to be underestimated (she is an astoundingly fast reader), and perhaps this is why she is an eloquent writer too, not only in the many essays with which she has to deal, but also in her own short stories and song lyrics.

Overall, she is just an incredible person. Not only is Em an amazing singer, skier and philosopher, but she is kind, loyal, caring, sharp, funny, and always up for a debate about pretty much anything! She’s practically a sister to me at this point, and I couldn’t have asked for a better best friend.  

Sarah
I have known Em for almost 11 years now, and we were fast friends from the start. She is a fantastic singer and was way back then, and her voice suits both classical and pop music perfectly, so we grew up singing harmonies together.

 HAVE + Past participle

PRESENT PERFECT

11 years before

FOR + duration, length of time

SINCE + precise moment that is the starting point of the period
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Writing about my friends for the yearbook was a very fun activity and yet it was also quite an intimidating task... I wanted to find the right words, and the right tone to describe how I felt about them! I found satisfaction and pleasure in searching for the correct terms to try and define them but also to just show that they were much more than just a single paragraph. And for that, this yearbook was great. Not only will it be an eternal memory but it will also be a treasure, a little secret between the one who wrote your page and yourself. Finally, one word to describe this yearbook in the future is, I think and I hope for all of us: a memorabilia.
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Students' impressions on writing yearbook pages

I think the yearbook can be very meaningful in the long term, for example when you just want to remember good times, or when you're having tough times and you read these lines, I think it can cheer you up, make you remember that you have amazing friends, and make you more confident about yourself.

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I really enjoyed writing my friends' pages, and I couldn't wait for them to see what we had written. I was very moved when I discovered my page and that made me think this yearbook truly is a very meaningful way of telling your friends what you wouldn't tell them on a daily basis.
Final words...
Congratulations!

Stay connected with English & stay safe!