

1 Friends

Vocabulary | friends

- 1** Complete the sentences with the words and phrases from the box.

a good sense of humour best friend colleagues
ex-girlfriend friend of a friend get to know her
have a lot in common keep in touch
lost touch on the same wavelength

- It has been really nice seeing you again. Let's try and _____. Shall I call you next week?
- She always makes me laugh. She has _____.
- Our relationship has finished so she's my _____ now. I think she's got a new boyfriend.
- I've met him once or twice at parties. He's a _____.
- I'd like to _____ better because she seems very friendly. But I don't know her very well.
- I'm going out on Friday with a few _____ from work.
- Mario and I have a good relationship because we like the same things. We _____.
- Luis and I really understand each other very well. We're _____.
- I speak to Lucy every day on the phone. She's my _____.
- Unfortunately we _____ when we left university. I haven't seen him for years.

- 2** Complete the adverts with the correct prepositions.

Are you interested ⁽¹⁾ _____ books?

Would you like to spend time with friends talking ⁽²⁾ _____ books you have read?

Join us at the **BOOK CLUB** every Friday.

• Do you worry ⁽³⁾ _____ your weight?

• Are you keen ⁽⁴⁾ _____ exercise but not good ⁽⁵⁾ _____ team sports?

Join **Solutions Fitness Centre** and we'll help you feel better.

Grammar | auxiliary verbs (do, be, have)

- 3 a** Put the words in the correct order to make questions.

- Are/sports?/at/good/you
- brothers/any/got/or/Has/sisters?/he
- are/How/they?/old
- you/German?/Do/like/studying
- America?/been/Have/you/to
- today?/you/seen/Have/boss/your
- you/shops/Did/go/yesterday?/the/to

- b** Write short answers to the questions in exercise 3a. Use auxiliary verbs where possible.

- 4 a** Make questions from the prompts.

- What/sports/you/interested in?
- You/been/skiing/recently?
- She/like/listening to/music?
- Mozart/play/the violin?
- Your parents/enjoy/the concert/last night?
- Clara/had/her baby yet?
- You/born/in Turin?
- You/speak to Frances/yesterday?



- b** Match the answers (a–h) with the questions (1–8) in exercise 4a.

- Yes, she does. She's really keen on Mozart.
- No, I wasn't. I was born in Rome.
- Yes, I did. She called me last night.
- Yes, they did. They loved it.
- Yes, he did. He taught himself when he was five years old.
- I love skiing and watching football.
- Yes, she has. He's called Jack.
- Yes, I have. I went to Switzerland last week.

Want to be fluent ⁽⁶⁾ _____ English, but don't want to spend all your money ⁽⁷⁾ _____ a language course?

ELC

Join the **English Language Club**.

Pronunciation | intonation in echo questions

5 a Match the statements (1–8) with the replies (a–h).

- 1 Jenny and I are getting married.
- 2 I've just seen someone famous.
- 3 Bob's just a friend of a friend.
- 4 I don't want any dessert after that big meal.
- 5 My grandfather once played professional football.
- 6 My mobile phone has broken again.
- 7 It's my stepmother's birthday next week.
- 8 I fell out with my boss last year.

- a Did he? That's amazing!
- b Have you? Who was it?
- c Did you? And how do you get on now?
- d Has it? Do you want to use mine?
- e Is he? I thought you knew him really well.
- f Don't you? But I made it especially for you!
- g Is it? What are you going to get her?
- h Are you? Fantastic – when is the big day?

b 2 Listen and check.

c Listen to the eight dialogues in exercise 5a again. In which dialogue does the second speaker sound ...

- friendly and interested (F)?
- bored (B)?
- annoyed (A)?

1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6 ___ 7 ___ 8 ___

Reading

6 Read the article and choose the best title, 1, 2 or 3.

- 1 Young people – are they big spenders?
- 2 China – the richest country in the world?
- 3 Shenzhen – a changing city: how people spend their money

7 Read the article again. Mark the sentences true (T) or false (F).

- 1 How you spend your money does not depend on how old you are.
- 2 The city of Shenzhen has become richer because professional people have moved there for work.
- 3 People now spend twice as much money on education as before.
- 4 Most families in Shenzhen have a mobile phone.

8 What do the words in **bold** in the article mean?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 This (line 13) | 2 They (line 20) |
| a China | a houses |
| b education | b people |
| c 1,000 yuan | c apartments |



It's no surprise that what you spend your money on depends on your age, where you live, how big your family is, and how much money you earn. But have you ever thought about how people change their 5 spending when a whole city starts to get richer?

Shenzhen, in China, has attracted lots of talented professionals in the last few years, and the average man or woman there now earns more than in any other medium-sized city in China. So what do these 10 Shenzhen residents tend to spend their money on?

The first thing is education. This is very expensive in China, and professional people generally spend more than 1,000 yuan each on education. **This** is one and a half times more money than they spent 15 in 1995. They also spend four times as much on communications and telephones. In every one hundred households there are now ninety-three mobile phones and fifty-four home computers. People have started to buy bigger houses.

20 **They** now usually have an average five square metres more space in their apartments, and some have even bought second houses too.

The biggest change, however, has been in the number of people buying cars. In 1995 only four or 25 five families in every one hundred owned a car. Now this number has shot up, and there are well over one million cars in Shenzhen.

Vocabulary | personality

- 1** Choose the correct word in *italics* to complete the sentences.
- She's really *kind-hearted/sulky* – she'll do anything to help anyone.
 - Once when I was a child, my twin brother got better birthday presents than me. I was so *dependable/jealous*, and didn't speak to him for days!
 - My piano teacher is very *encouraging/mean*. She tells me I will be really good if I practise.
 - He's a very *upbeat/generous* person, and is always in a good mood.
 - After we had that argument, she became really *encouraging/sulky*, and didn't speak to me.
 - She said she forgot my birthday, but I think she's just too *kind-hearted/mean* to buy a present!
 - We are looking for a hardworking, *dependable/selfish* person to join our team of nurses at Free United Hospital.
 - My work colleague Paul is very *pleasant/jealous*, and always fun to be around.

- 2** Choose the correct answer, a or b.
- If someone is *sulky*, what does this mean?
 - They are in a bad mood, and might not speak to you.
 - They want to help people.
 - Someone who is *upbeat* is ...
 - helpful and kind.
 - cheerful and positive about life.
 - Two words with opposite meanings are ...
 - generous* and *mean*.
 - upbeat* and *dependable*.
 - Someone who thinks of themselves before they think of someone else is ...
 - selfish*.
 - jealous*.
 - A person who helps someone else to feel more confident is ...
 - encouraging*.
 - dependable*.

Pronunciation | sounds and spelling: ea

- 3** **a** Each sentence has four words with 'ea'. Three of them have the same sound, and one of them has a different sound. Circle the one with the different sound. *She only buys cheap meat – she's really mean.*
- The teacher was upbeat about her heart disease.
 - I'm fearful that it will take a year to clear this frozen meat.
 - I'm jealous, because each day you have a healthier breakfast than me.
 - My colleague realised she had ear problems when she was in the theatre.
 - I've read that the weather is very pleasant every season in the Canary Isles.

b **3** Listen and check.

c Complete the table with the 'ea' words in exercise 3a according to their sounds. Listen again and check.

/i:/	/e/	/ɪə/	/a:/
<i>cheap</i>		<i>really</i>	
<i>meat</i>			
<i>mean</i>			

How to... | start a conversation with a stranger

4 Complete the conversation starters with a word from the box.

are couldn't Do do Have haven't

- Hello, we ____ met, have we? I'm Anthony.
- So ____ you enjoying the party?
- ____ you tried these snacks?
- Sorry, I ____ help overhearing. You said you've just been to Delhi?
- ____ you know many people here?
- So what ____ you think of this music?



- 5** Match the conversation starters (1–6) in exercise 4 with the replies (a–f).
- To be honest, I think it's a bit too loud!
 - Yes, I am. There's a great buffet, isn't there?
 - No, I don't think we have. My name's Ivan.
 - No, I haven't actually. But they look delicious – what are they?
 - Not really. Just the hosts, and a couple of their friends. What about you?
 - Yes, that's right. I was there on holiday. It's an amazing place. Have you been?

Grammar | Present Simple and Present Continuous

6 Find and correct the mistakes in four of the sentences.

- 1 I'm not understanding you – can you say it again, please?
- 2 Are you wanting to go home yet?
- 3 What do you mean?
- 4 He's having a very good job.
- 5 Excuse me, do you know the time?
- 6 They want to get married.
- 7 Do you have a large family?
- 8 I'm knowing a lot of people through Facebook.

7 Complete the sentences with the Present Simple or Present Continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 A: How is your English?
B: Not bad. It _____ (get) better.
- 2 I usually _____ (finish) work at six o'clock, and it _____ (take) me ten minutes to walk home.
- 3 You should turn your lights on. It _____ (get) dark.
- 4 _____ you always _____ (listen) to music in the car?
- 5 I _____ (live) with my parents until I can find an apartment to buy.
- 6 A: Shall we go out for a walk?
B: Not now. It _____ (rain).



Listening

8 a **4** Cover the audioscript. Listen to the psychologist. What is she talking about?

- 1 girlfriends and boyfriends
- 2 online relationships
- 3 work relationships

AUDIOSCRIPT

The friends you have on a social networking site can help you enjoy your day at work, but don't expect too much from them as many of these 'online friends' prefer to stay online only.

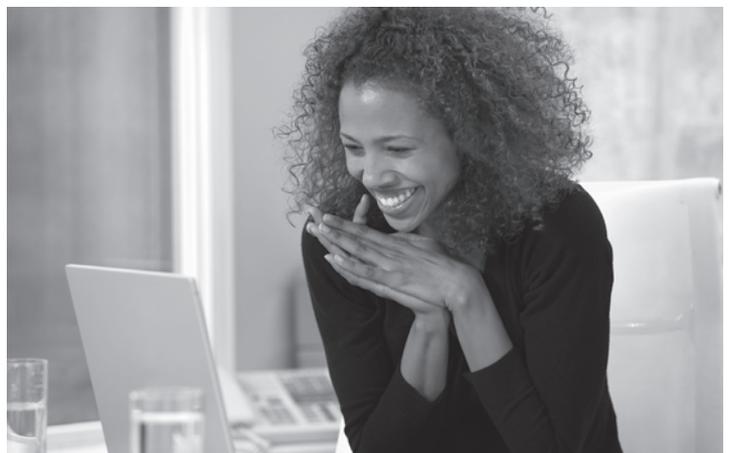
My friend Patricia, met a friend of a friend, Howard, at a conference. They got on really well and started an online relationship. They found that they had a lot in common. They shared memories, and talked about their workmates. Sometimes they swapped more than twelve messages a day. Patricia looked forward to receiving Howard's messages when she arrived at work.

After a few weeks, however, Patricia asked Howard if he wanted to meet up after work, but he always found an excuse not to. Then she received a really strange message from him explaining how he didn't want to have a relationship and how he had decided to stop contacting her. That was the end of the story, and she never heard from him again.

You see, an online relationship takes a lot less energy than a face-to-face relationship. So a lot of people who don't really want the responsibility will try online friends instead. It's easier and, if you have an argument, you can always just shut down your computer!

b Listen again. Choose the correct answer, a or b.

- 1 Online friends are good for ...
a going out with after work.
b spending time with while you are at work.
- 2 Patricia and Howard ...
a were old friends. b met at a conference.
- 3 They talked about ...
a their colleagues. b their problems.
- 4 They usually sent ...
a lots of messages every day.
b one or two messages a day.
- 5 Patricia asked Howard to ...
a meet her after work. b stop contacting her.
- 6 Howard ...
a wanted to go to the cinema with Patricia.
b didn't want to meet her in person.
- 7 Online relationships use ...
a more energy than face-to-face relationships.
b less energy than face-to-face relationships.
- 8 The advantage of an online relationship is that if you argue, you can ...
a switch off your computer. b meet for a coffee.



Vocabulary | arguing

1 a Match the beginning of the phrases (1–7) with the end of the phrases (a–g).

- 1 get
- 2 see
- 3 fall
- 4 have an
- 5 not be in
- 6 not speak
- 7 lose your

- a red
- b argument
- c angry with someone
- d to someone for years
- e temper with someone
- f touch with someone any more
- g out with someone over money

b Read the text. Who are the people in the photo?



José was my best friend at school. But one day we had an argument about money. I remember I got really angry with him. I said some horrible things to him. He lost his temper and shouted at me. We completely fell out, and didn't speak to each other for years after that. That was all many years ago now.

And now? Well, believe it or not, my son has just married José's daughter! And José and I are touching every day, just like before.

c There are six words missing in the text. Add the words in the correct places.

Grammar | Present Perfect Simple and Past Simple

2 Complete the text with the verbs from the box.

finished has lived have always admired
 have been married have just bought have never been
 looked after met moved spent

I (1) _____ my older brother – he's a really dependable person. He often (2) _____ me when I was little, because my parents were away a lot. Since he (3) _____ university, he (4) _____ in six different countries. He (5) _____ four years in Russia, where he (6) _____ a Russian lady called Tatiana. They (7) _____ for two years now. Last month he and Tatiana (8) _____ to Thailand. I (9) _____ there, but I've always wanted to go. And I'm really excited – I (10) _____ my plane ticket!

3 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use the verbs in brackets. Make sure you use the correct tense.

He became a lawyer in 2009.

He has been a lawyer since 2009. (be)

- 1 My parents keep dogs. They started when I was six years old.
My parents _____ I was six years old. (keep)
- 2 Joan is in Paris. She went a week ago.
Joan _____ a week. (be)
- 3 I met them two years ago.
I _____ two years. (know)
- 4 She bought that car five years ago.
She _____ five years. (have)
- 5 Alice moved to the countryside in 2010.
Alice _____ 2010. (live).

4 Some sentences below have mistakes. Correct the mistakes and tick (✓) the correct sentences.

- 1 I haven't seen Maria for a couple of months.
- 2 I've had a headache since lunchtime.
- 3 I haven't had a cigarette since three weeks!
- 4 I've known Julia for we went to university.
- 5 I've lived here since ten years.
- 6 I have studied English since I was at school.
- 7 Have you been here since a long time?

5 Choose the correct word in *italics* to complete the sentences.

- 1 My daughter is just one year old, but she's *already/yet* learned to say 'hello'.
- 2 Oh no! I've *just/since* cut myself.
- 3 When I was a child I lived in China *already/for* a year.
- 4 Have you finished *yet/ago*?
- 5 We've been close friends *just/since* we were children.
- 6 My grandfather founded the firm fifty years *ago/for*.

Vocabulary | phrasal verbs

- 6** Complete the sentences with words from the box.

after (x2) brought got looked
on told up

- I was _____ up to enjoy music. My parents were very musical.
- I take _____ my mother – she's a pianist, and so am I.
- He was a professional musician, so I _____ up to him for that.
- When I left home, I carried _____ playing.
- I sometimes looked _____ his dog when he had a concert.
- I _____ on well with Joey, the singer, who lived next door.
- My mother always _____ me off for not practising the piano enough.
- I grew _____ in New Orleans.

Reading

- 7** Read the article about the Radwanska sisters, then tick (✓) the correct summary, 1, 2 or 3.

- The sisters often fall out because they are too competitive.
- The sisters get on extremely well, even when they play against each other.
- The sisters' relationship has got worse since they became professional.

- 8** Read the article again. Mark the sentences true (T), false (F) or not given (NG).

- The Radwanska sisters are now more famous around the world than the Williams sisters.
- Agnieszka is older than Ula.
- The girls' parents are closely involved in their tennis careers.
- The Radwanska sisters have often played against the Williams sisters.
- The girls make all their own travel arrangements.
- The girls became professional players at the age of fifteen.
- Agnieszka doesn't enjoy being famous.

Sisterly love?

If you hear the words 'tennis' and 'sisters', you probably think of Venus and Serena Williams. But now we're hearing more and more about Poland's tennis superstars, the Radwanska sisters, Agnieszka and Ula.

Agnieszka has beaten some of the top players in the world, including Venus Williams and Martina Hingis. She has won professional competitions in Sweden, Thailand, Turkey and the UK.

Ula, her younger sister, is also a rising star. She was ranked as the world's number one junior player when she was sixteen.

Like the Williams sisters, the Radwanskas have their father as their coach. He is proud of his daughters' success, but says that it is only just beginning. He's brought the girls up to play tennis. And their mother helps them by dealing with their paperwork and booking flights.

During the tennis season, which lasts from January to October, the family travel round the world together. Wherever in the world they are, they try to rent a house together. They're obviously on the same wavelength. But does spending so much time together ever get a bit too much?

According to Ula, they get on really well, and hardly ever argue. Agnieszka is also very upbeat, and says that as they live together, they do everything together. They have been playing tennis together since they were in their teens, and there's only an age gap of one year between them. But whoever wins on the tennis court, they remain close.

For those few months when they're not playing tennis, they enjoy normal life back in Krakow. But they're big celebrities in Poland, and people really look up to them because of their success. So how do they deal with all the attention?

Ula says they often get recognised in taxis and so on. Agnieszka says that very often, when someone recognises them, they just look, but don't say anything. Perhaps they're too scared!



Auxiliary verbs (*do, be, have*)

1 Write questions from the prompts.

1 you/live/in Thailand?

Yes, I do.

2 you/see/the James Bond film/last night?

No, we didn't.

3 When/Sal/go/on holiday?

Next week.

4 What/sports/you/interested in?

Tennis and basketball.

5 You/enjoy/study?

Yes, I do.

6 You/forget/your books?

Yes, I have.

7 Tim/like/working for IBM?

Yes, he does.

8 You/happy/in/your new flat?

Yes, I am.

9 George/have a good time/party yesterday?

Yes, he did.

10 You/pass/all your exams?

Yes, I have!

7 I'm trying/have tried/is trying to get fit, so I cycle to work every day.

8 I've always enjoyed/'m always enjoying/'ve always enjoy painting.

9 She works in the sales department, but I can't remember/'m not remembering/haven't remembered her name.

3 Complete the dialogues with the verbs in brackets. Make sure you use the correct tense.

A: (1) _____ you ever _____ to San Francisco? (be)

B: Yes, I (2) _____ there a few years ago. (go)

A: (3) _____ you _____ it? (enjoy)

B: I (4) _____ it was fantastic! (think)

A: (5) _____ you _____ squash regularly? (play)

B: Yes. I (6) _____ quite good at it. (be)

A: How long (7) _____ you _____ for? (play)

B: I (8) _____ about six years ago. (start)

A: (9) _____ you _____ to play on Sunday? (want)

B: That (10) _____ like a great idea! (sound)

4 Complete the sentences with *for* or *since*.

1 I haven't heard from him _____ ages.

2 We've been touring _____ last month.

3 They've been gone _____ yesterday.

4 Have you been waiting _____ long?

5 I've played the guitar _____ I was sixteen years old.

6 She's staying there _____ a few weeks.

7 We haven't seen Horace _____ he left home.

8 We lived in Spain _____ fifteen years.

9 He's been crying _____ this morning.

10 We've wanted to tell you _____ the weekend.

5 There is a mistake in each sentence. Correct the mistakes.

1 We went to school together, so I've know her for a long time.

2 Have you spoke to the manager?

3 When have they got married?

4 We haven't been in touch since a long time.

5 When did you started working together?

6 I've never did see that programme.

7 It's the funniest book I've never read.

8 She have had a hair cut.

9 I've just start to learn Tai Kwando.

10 I haven't did sign the contract yet.

Present tenses

2 Choose the correct words in *italics*.

1 We *flying/fly/have flown* from Heathrow airport at 9:30 a.m.

2 What *are/have/do* you enjoy spending your money on?

3 Private schools *are/are being/have been* very expensive in China nowadays.

4 It isn't *seeming/hasn't seemed/doesn't seem* like a good idea to me.

5 Do you want to borrow this book? I *am just finishing/'ve just finished/just finish* it, and it was brilliant!

6 I'm afraid she's busy at the moment. She *talks/has talked/'s talking* to someone on the other line.

Vocabulary

6 Match the sentence beginnings (1–8) with the sentence endings (a–h).

- 1 My friend John is the life and soul
 - 2 She fell out with her brother
 - 3 I'm not very good
 - 4 Sarah and I understand each other perfectly – we're really
 - 5 I love bikes, so I belong
 - 6 She's really kind – she would do anything
 - 7 Ali's just started learning Russian, and he's already fluent
 - 8 I'm not enjoying work – I don't get on well
- a) for her friends.
 - b) in six languages!
 - c) on the same wavelength.
 - d) at tennis, but I'm having lessons.
 - e) over money, and they don't speak any more.
 - f) of the party – he's always making people laugh.
 - g) with my boss. But my other colleagues are nice.
 - h) to a cycling club, and we go out most weekends.

7 Complete the text with the words in the box.

get got (x 2) had (x 4)

Some people think that a good friend is someone you never fall out with. I disagree. Let me tell you about one of my closest friends, Alberto.

I first (1) _____ to know him when we were at school. We were soon best friends. We (2) _____ the same sense of humour, and laughed at the same things. But when we were about ten, everything changed. Alberto and I (3) _____ an argument – I can't even remember what it was about now, but it made me see red at the time. We both (4) _____ angry. I didn't get in touch with him again.

About fifteen years later, I met a stranger on a train. We started talking, and I found we (5) _____ a lot in common. He (6) _____ an opinion about everything, and he was great fun to be around. I asked his name, and he said, 'Don't you remember? It's me, Alberto!' (He had a beard now, and I didn't recognise him.)

So now we're friends again. And I think we (7) _____ on even better now than when we were children!

8 Put the letters in the correct order to make words to complete the sentences.

- 1 It was very _____ (slehslif) of you to take that last piece of cake!
- 2 I was often _____ (jeusola) when my brother got better Christmas presents than me.
- 3 Ali's really _____ (deapbnleed), and you can always go to him for help.
- 4 She's quite a _____ (eapstlna) lady, who's always happy to have a chat.
- 5 I can't stand _____ (name) people who never buy drinks for other people.
- 6 My driving instructor has been very _____ (eounigrncga), and helped me feel more confident.

9 Choose the correct word in *italics*.

- 1 He *told/took/said* me off for being late.
- 2 The factory was taken *in/up/over* by a German business.
- 3 I have always looked *over/down/up* to my older brother.
- 4 My mother looks *up to/after/on* my baby son when I am at work.
- 5 He has used *over/up/by* all the paper.
- 6 We were brought *on/in/up* to eat everything on our plates, and never to waste food.
- 7 I *grew/belong/take* up in the countryside, but moved to the city when I got my first job.
- 8 I generally get *off/on/to* well with people at work.
- 9 I don't see him very often but we keep *in/off/on* touch by email.
- 10 I'm very organised. I take *on/off/after* my mother.

How to...

10 Put the words in the correct order to make questions.

1 always/crowded?/this/Is/it

2 how/So,/do/you/Sara?/know

3 these/Have/tried/sandwiches?/you

4 time?/Excuse/tell/me/me,/could/you/the

Vocabulary | lifestyle/home

- 1 a** Match the definitions (1–7) with the words and phrases in the box.

attic cellar drive outskirts playground
public transport studio flat

- 1 parts of a town that are not close to the centre
- 2 private road or parking space between the street and a building
- 3 room or space (often with no windows) under a building
- 4 buses, trams, trains etc
- 5 room or space just below the roof of a house
- 6 one-room flat
- 7 an outdoor area for children to enjoy themselves, especially in a park

b Complete the sentences with the words and phrases in the box in exercise 1a.

- 1 I often take my kids to the local _____, where they play with their friends.
- 2 I live in a tiny _____, but I'm looking for a bigger place.
- 3 I live on the _____ of the city, quite close to the countryside. It's 20 minutes by bus to the centre.
- 4 I've put all the old furniture (which I don't need) up in the _____.
- 5 We keep the wine in the _____ because it is very cool down there.
- 6 My flat is great for _____: the station's five minutes away, and the bus stops in front of my house.
- 7 You can park the car outside the house, on the _____.

Grammar | future plans

- 2** Complete the sentences with the *will* or *going to* form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 **A:** Why are you reading all those books?
B: _____ an English course in September. (I/start)
- 2 **A:** What would you like to drink?
B: _____ some mineral water, please. (I/have)
- 3 **A:** I don't know how to work this computer programme.
B: Don't worry. _____ you. (I/show)
- 4 **A:** Have you decided where to go on your birthday?
B: Yes, it's all planned. _____ that new restaurant I told you about. (We/try)

- 3** Add one word to complete each sentence.

- 1 I need some fresh air. I think I go for a walk.
- 2 you seeing Jack at the weekend?
- 3 What time Susannah coming?
- 4 We going to Berlin at the end of the month.
- 5 Are you coming to the concert too? Great – we see you there then.

How to... | complain politely

- 4 a** Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

about apologise isn't to (x2) you

- 1 I don't like _____ complain, but these chips are cold.
- 2 You're an hour late! I think _____ should get here on time next time.
- 3 I still haven't received your payment. I'm sorry, but it just _____ good enough.
- a I do _____ for that. You'll have the money by tomorrow.
- b Oh, I'm sorry _____ hear that. I'll bring you some hot ones.
- c Yes, I know, I must apologise _____ that. I was stuck in traffic.

- b** Match the sentences (1–3) with the sentences (a–c) in exercise 4a to make dialogues.



Reading

5 a Read the article and complete the table.

	Jean-Marc, Felicity and Abrielle	Pat, John and Sally
Where is their house?		
How many bedrooms are there?		
Other features of the house/area		
How much money does the hotel/bed and breakfast make per year?		
How do they spend their time?		
What do they want to get from the house swap?		

b What is different about this house swap?

HOUSE SWAP WITH A DIFFERENCE

Swapping your house with another family is one thing. But would you be happy to swap not just your house, but also your business? This is exactly what the following two families decided to do.

Jean-Marc, Felicity and Abrielle (sixteen) live in a huge villa in the south of France. The house has six guest bedrooms, a swimming pool, vineyards and extensive gardens. They run a hotel from the house, earning more than €50,000 per year. They employ two full-time staff so that they can take time off work to swim, eat good food, play golf and generally enjoy the Mediterranean lifestyle.

They decided to swap lives with John, Pat and Sally for one month. They hoped that the swap would be useful work experience for their daughter Abrielle.

John, Pat and their daughter Sally live in Bongor, a seaside town in the north of England, famous for its fish and chips. They run a bed and breakfast, which has ten bedrooms, and earns €20,000 in the high season, and about €10,000 during the rest of the year. They work hard. John manages the finances and serves food and drinks to the guests. Sally works as a waitress and helps Pat in the kitchen. Pat does the shopping, cooking, cleaning the bedrooms, and anything else that needs to be done. Pat is exhausted and wants to spend a month in France, to see how different life could be.

We spoke to the couples after their swap to ask them how it went.



Listening

6 a 9 Cover the audioscript. Listen to Pat and Jean-Marc describing the house swap.

- 1 Was the swap a success for Pat?
- 2 Was the swap a success for Jean-Marc?

b Listen again and answer the questions about Pat.

- 1 Why was the house swap like a honeymoon?
- 2 What job did she have to do in the mornings?
- 3 What did they do with their free time?

c Now answer the questions about Jean-Marc.

- 1 Where did the English family live when they were at home?
- 2 Why didn't Jean-Marc like the traditional English breakfast?
- 3 Was the trip a success for Abrielle?
- 4 Would they like to repeat the experience?

AUDIOSCRIPT

Pat: It was wonderful. It was probably the best thing I've ever done. When we arrived at this beautiful villa it was like being on honeymoon. There was hardly any work to do. There was a cleaner for the rooms, and the only cooking I had to do was to make coffee in the morning! We had lots of free time, so we travelled around the area and went sailing. It didn't feel like work at all – it was a wonderful holiday.

Jean-Marc: Well, we were very surprised to see how the English family lived. They had two very small rooms in the basement, underground, and all the nice bedrooms were used for the guests. Also I think they work too hard, because nobody helps them. They are always cooking and cleaning. I had to cook a traditional English breakfast, but it was terrible. I can't eat food like that because I think it is very bad for you. In France we have fresh bread, with jam and coffee. It is healthier, and easier to prepare too! It was an interesting experience, but I was very happy to come home, and I don't think Abrielle learnt anything very useful. We wouldn't do it again.

Vocabulary | adjectives for describing places

1 a Match the adjectives (1–8) with their definitions (a–h) to make complete sentences.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1 tiny | a busy and full of people and traffic |
| 2 dull | b popular with visitors |
| 3 touristy | c dirty and unhealthy because of carbon emissions |
| 4 bustling | d boring |
| 5 polluted | e attractive |
| 6 enormous | f very large |
| 7 picturesque | g unfriendly |
| 8 unwelcoming | h very small |

b Complete the sentences with the adjectives (1–8) from exercise 1a.

- It's an absolutely _____ city, with over 20 million residents.
- My home town is so _____. There's nothing to do, and nowhere to go.
- Hassop is a _____ village – it's only got three houses and a postbox!
- From the top of the hill, the town looks very _____, so remember to take your camera.
- Big cities are often very _____, and it's hard to meet people when you move there.
- When you go to Kengtung, you must visit the _____ market, which is full even at 6 o'clock in the morning.
- Seatown is pretty, but very very _____. The town is full of coaches and people taking photographs and buying ice creams.
- Unfortunately, Sinston is badly _____ because of all the factories in the area.

Grammar | comparatives and superlatives

2 Complete the sentences with the comparative form of the adjectives in the box.

expensive heavy modern near peaceful small

- It's very noisy in here. Shall we go somewhere _____?
- The meal was cheap. I expected it to be _____.
- Your suitcase feels light. Mine is much _____.
- The style is a bit old-fashioned. I was looking for something _____.
- That hotel is a long way from the centre. Can't you find anything _____?
- This table is enormous. Have you got anything _____?

3 Complete the sentences with the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.

- They say London is the most interesting city in the world to visit. But I don't think it's the _____ place to live. (good)
- Going out to eat in Milan was _____ than we expected. (expensive)
- Delhi is the _____ city I have ever been to. (hot)
- Madrid is a big, bustling city. The atmosphere in Salamanca is _____. (relaxed)
- Ravenna has some of the _____ mosaics in the world. (beautiful)
- Istanbul is one of the _____ cities I know. (lively)

Reading

4 Read the information about a new book. Tick (✓) the statements which are correct.

The book ...

- provides information about different cities in the US.
- is a fictional description of life in New York.
- tells you which are the best and the worst cities to live in.
- describes twelve of the best European cities.
- might be useful for someone who is planning to move to the US.

Think your city is best?

See the latest rankings.

The latest issue of *Cities Ranked and Rated* is just out. This book describes the top cities in the US. But what is it that makes a metropolis great (or bad)?

Are you thinking about relocating, or just curious how your city compares with others across the nation? Well, the answers to your questions are here, as featured in the annually updated book *Cities Ranked and Rated*. The book's authors, Bert Sterling and Peter Sander, talked to us about their findings.

5 Read the article below and match the questions (1–6) with the answers (a–f).

- 1 If I'm young and single, just starting out, what places would I find attractive?
- 2 And what if I have a family with kids? Is that different?
- 3 In general, what places make it to the top of the list?
- 4 How did you decide who makes it to the top?
- 5 Were there any surprises in your findings?
- 6 And what about the bad news? Why does a city end up at the bottom of your list?

a We look at over a hundred pieces of information about each place. We group those into nine categories including: economy and jobs, cost of living, climate, education, arts and culture. Then we press a button on the computer, and that's how we get the top ten.

b Cities with a university do especially well. They have plenty to do, nice city centres, pleasant surroundings and usually they aren't too crowded. The strength in higher education tends to affect all levels of education and most have excellent health care facilities. Then there are the state capitals, which tend to be clean, have a good economic situation and lots of cultural facilities – these are also good.

c Yes, quite a few. For instance, highly ranked cities are found all across the country, not just on the sunny coastlines like everybody thinks. There are a few interesting cities that we call the 'Big City Bargains'. These are big cities with a low cost of living, like Pittsburgh and Indianapolis.

d Areas at the bottom typically have high levels of unemployment and crime and a high cost of living combined with low levels of education, few facilities and not much to do. However, most of these cities recognise that there are problems and they are actively working to improve.

e Younger single people are interested in places with jobs where they can build their careers and make money. They want lively cities with lots to do, and of course lots of other single people too! Of course, the top ten cities would all be good places to live, but for singles in particular we would choose the Norfolk area in Virginia and San Antonio, Texas.

f Yes. Families look for many things, including good and affordable housing, quality education and more daytime facilities like parks, museums and outdoor recreation.

6 Choose the best answers, a, b or c.

- 1 The authors decided on the top cities by ...
 - a asking people about their favourite cities.
 - b looking at the population of each city.
 - c comparing statistics about each city.
- 2 According to the book, university cities ...
 - a have a lot of crime.
 - b are nice cities to live in.
 - c usually have too many people.
- 3 Cities with lots of people in higher education also tend to ...
 - a have a low cost of living.
 - b have good hospitals and doctors.
 - c come near the bottom of the list.
- 4 The top cities ...
 - a are found on the coasts.
 - b are cheap to live in.
 - c are spread across the country.
- 5 'Big City Bargains' are cities which ...
 - a are cheap to live in.
 - b are expensive to live in.
 - c have a low standard of living.
- 6 Cities at the bottom of the list ...
 - a don't realise that there is a problem.
 - b have a lot of people who do not work.
 - c are cheap to live in.
- 7 Young single people look for cities ...
 - a where they can get good jobs.
 - b where there are a lot of parks and museums.
 - c which are cheap to live in.



Grammar | future possibility

- 1** Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.
- at/probably/party./you/'ll/the/see/We
 - not/He/want/might/come./to
 - airport/us/may/They/at/meet/the.
 - call/Simmons/the/Mrs/about/contract/might.
 - for/you/table/eight/book/please?/o'clock,/Could/a
 - you/buy/Do/house?/think/you/the/might/
 - to/won't/I/definitely/go/restaurant/that/again.
 - this/We/win/definitely/game./will

Vocabulary | compound nouns

- 2 a** Match the compound nouns in the box with the definitions (1–8).

air conditioning bunk bed
 central heating fish tank
 household waste sofa bed solar panels
 washing machine

- rubbish
- for pets to swim in
- something for cleaning clothes
- these get energy from the sun
- a system to keep your home warm
- a system for keeping a building cool
- a bed for two people, especially children
- a piece of furniture that can be a seat or a bed

b Complete the sentences with the compound nouns from the box in exercise 2a.

- It's hot. Shall I put the _____ on?
- My flat is very cold because the _____ isn't working.
- Can you put all the dirty clothes in the _____ please?
- I'm going to put _____ on my roof, to make my own electricity.
- I bought a cheap _____ online. So now I need some goldfish to put in it.
- My brother and I shared a small bedroom, and slept in a _____. I had the top one.
- The council collect _____ on Wednesdays, but only if we leave it outside in a black sack.
- We have a _____ in the living room. It's great – guests sleep on it, as we don't have a spare bedroom.

Pronunciation | word stress in compound nouns

- 3 a** Look at the compound nouns in box A, and tick (✓) the correct sentence, a or b.

A

birdsong computer screen DVD player fireplace
 nightlife skylight swimming pool

- The compounds in box A consist of: [ADJECTIVE + NOUN].
- The compounds in box A consist of: [NOUN + NOUN].

b ¹⁰ Listen and mark the stress on the compounds in box A.

c Now look at the compound nouns in box B, and tick (✓) the correct sentence, a or b.

B

central heating household waste mobile phone
 public transport terraced house

- The compounds in box B consist of: [ADJECTIVE + NOUN].
- The compounds in box B consist of: [NOUN + NOUN].

d ¹¹ Listen and mark the stress on the compounds in box B.

Vocabulary | prefixes and suffixes

- 4** Complete the words in the dialogues with prefixes and suffixes.

- A: Is the coast full of hotels and bars?
 B: Not at all, it's totally _____spoilt.
- A: I haven't seen your girlfriend for a long time.
 How is she?
 B: I don't know. She's my _____-girlfriend now.
- A: I'm afraid I can't make the meeting tomorrow.
 B: That's not a problem. We can _____arrange it.
- A: Do you get on with your new flat-mate?
 B: He's OK, but he's very mess_____. .
- A: I paid over £5,000 for the insurance.
 B: That's unbeliev_____ !
- A: I love it here. It's so quiet.
 B: Yes. It's very peace_____.
- A: Where is Saskia?
 B: I don't know. It's _____usual for her to be late.
- A: This is a table for six people, but we booked for twelve.
 B: I think there's been a _____understanding.

Reading

5 a Read the article and match the paragraph headings (a–d) with the paragraphs (1–4).

- a The 'smart' home of the future
- b Things your clothes might be able to do
- c Predictions that were wrong
- d Changes in information technology

1 _____

People have always been interested in how things will change in the future. But we should remember that people have often got things wrong. I'll just give you two examples. In 1943, Thomas Watson, the founder of IBM (who make computers) was asked what he thought about the future of technology. And he said that one day there might be a worldwide market 'for maybe five computers'. Just five computers – can you imagine that?! And H.G. Wells, the writer, said that one day **public transport** would be moving walkways, like moving pavements, and you'd just step on and off to go anywhere you wanted.

2 _____

Well, of course now we know that these predictions weren't **accurate**. But we can be fairly sure that developments in IT today will become the changes in our lifestyles tomorrow. And a lot of that will involve microchips. It's possible that by 2025, anything small enough to contain a microchip will have one.

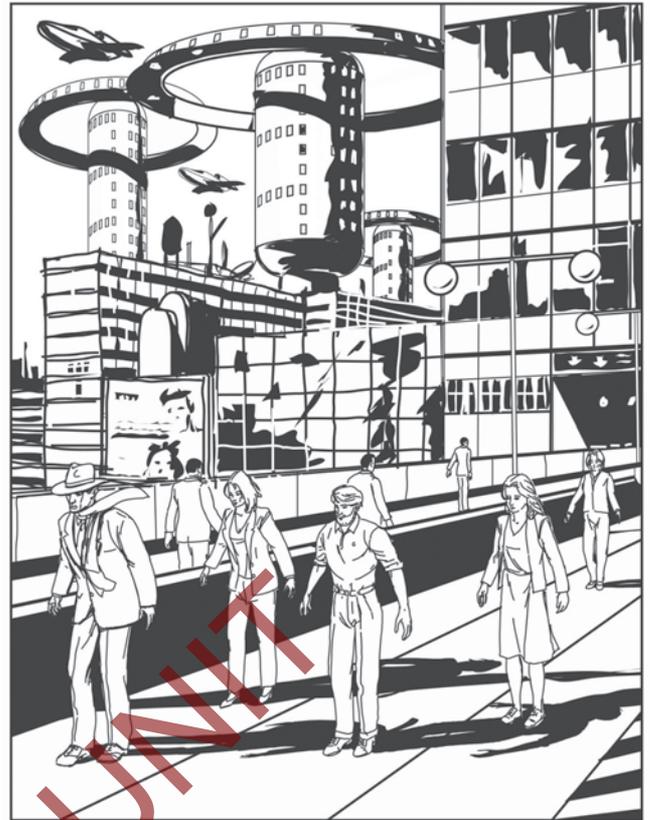
3 _____

So, for example, **household** technology might be very different. We could have fridges that can read the **use-by date** on your milk, and then place an order for more when you need it. Or our washing machines could be so smart that when something goes wrong, they send a message to a service engineer about the problem.

4 _____

And even the things you wear could be connected to this technology. For example, a device could change your mobile to different **settings**, depending on whether you're in your work or casual clothes. No more annoying work calls when you're in the pub! And no more embarrassing football text messages when you're in a meeting!

But if you don't like the sound of all this, don't worry. Even H.G. Wells got the future wrong!



b Read the article again. Mark the sentences true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Thomas Watson thought that in the future, everyone would have a computer.
- 2 More things will have microchips in them.
- 3 Fridges will order your milk.
- 4 People will probably wear the same clothes at work and when they go out.

c Complete the sentences with the words and phrases in **bold** from the article.

- 1 I need to change the _____ on my mobile, because it's too quiet.
- 2 Where can I buy _____ objects – kettles, radios, an iron, that sort of thing?
- 3 My GPS isn't very _____, so I often get lost on the road.
- 4 Check the _____ on that cheese – it's been in the fridge for ages!
- 5 Lisbon has great _____, and it's so easy to get around.

Future plans

1 Correct the mistakes in the following sentences.

- 1 We going to Mexico on holiday this year.
- 2 I don't think I go to the cinema tonight because I'm too tired.
- 3 Who is meet us at the airport?
- 4 We getting married in June.
- 5 Excuse me, I'll to have a cappuccino please.
- 6 We're going see Andrea tomorrow. Do you want to come with us?
- 7 **A:** I'm really hungry.
B: OK. I go to make us some lunch now.
- 8 **A:** What are you doing at the weekend?
B: We will go to visit my mother-in-law.
- 9 Do you will come with us to the office?
- 10 Can you tell Jonathan I see him later?
- 11 Do you coming to Madrid to watch the football?
- 12 Sue is leave for Brazil and I'm not going to see her any more.

comparatives/superlatives and adjectives describing places

2 Complete the sentences using comparative or superlative forms of the adjectives in brackets.

- 1 I love the Italian countryside. It's even _____ I expected. (picturesque)
- 2 Rio carnival is fantastic. It's probably _____ carnival in the world. (lively)
- 3 The tsunami hit some of the _____ beaches in Asia. (unspoilt)
- 4 Geneva is probably _____ place I've ever been to. (expensive)
- 5 Those old blocks of flats make the area look _____. (ugly)
- 6 It's a residential area with nothing to do there. It's _____ part of the city. (dull)
- 7 I think it would look better if it were _____. (modern)
- 8 They have stopped cars driving in the centre, so now it is much _____. (polluted)
- 9 My mother-in-law cleaned the house. It's _____ than it has ever been before! (clean)
- 10 The town was so busy. It's much _____ than it was a few years ago. (touristy)

3 Use the prompts in brackets to complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first.

- 1 My old mp3 player is better than my new one.
My new mp3 player _____. (as)
- 2 London is more expensive than New York.
New York _____. (cheap)
- 3 More tourists visit Glasgow now than they did ten years ago.
Glasgow _____ before. (touristy)
- 4 I have never seen a city which is more picturesque than Florence.
Florence _____. (most)
- 5 Los Angeles is more polluted than San Francisco.
San Francisco _____ . (not)
- 6 Most cities are dirtier than Singapore.
Singapore is _____. (one)
- 7 More things happen in Shanghai nowadays.
Shanghai _____ recently. (busier)
- 8 The west coast of the island has not had so many visitors.
The west coast _____. (unspoilt)

Future possibility

4 Write sentences using the prompts. Include the words in brackets.

- 1 We/see you/in the restaurant. (probably)

- 2 Do you think/she/say 'Yes'? (might)

- 3 I think/I/be late/for the lesson. (going)

- 4 You/need/to change money. (definitely not)

- 5 They/ask you/for your passport. (certainly)

- 6 We/not/get an answer/until tomorrow. (may)

- 7 I/call her again/in the morning. (definitely)

- 8 She/arrive/at any time. (could)

- 9 Helga/go/to Russia next year. (probably not)

- 10 He/accept/the job he was offered. (might not)

Vocabulary

5 Put the letters in the correct order to make words to complete the sentences.

- 1 She lives in a _____ of flats. (clobk)
- 2 It is a residential _____. (eara)
- 3 Look out of the window. What a fantastic _____! (wiev)
- 4 They live a long way from the centre, in the _____. (burssub)
- 5 There is a park near here, with a _____ for the children. (gorlandyup)
- 6 The office is on the _____ of town. (sutsorikt)
- 7 Shall we have breakfast on the _____? (clanybo)

6 Add seven words to the text where necessary.

I recently went to visit my cousin in Tokyo, one of the world's most bustling cities. He lives in a leafy residential area the outskirts of town. His block flats is actually not far the airport, and he came to pick me up when I arrived. In the car, he was apologising the fact that his flat wasn't as big people's homes in England. But in fact when we got there, I was surprised: his apartment was much bigger my studio flat in London!

7 Choose the correct words in *italics*.

Here is the news.

(1) *Waves/Flooding* has caused damage to the island of Samaro, but fortunately nobody has been killed.

Environmentalists say (2) *weather/climate* change is responsible.

New research says that houses with (3) *insulated/insulation* roofs are up to 45 percent cheaper to heat.

More people are now growing their own food than at any time in the last fifty years, a report says. The author of the report says that people want to be (4) *sufficient/self-sufficient* in order to save time and money. They also want to produce less (5) *house/household* waste. And she also claims that people who grow their own food are 50 percent more likely to use (6) *solar/sun* panels, or some other way of generating their own electricity.

More news in an hour.

8 The compound nouns in bold are in the wrong sentences. Rewrite the sentences putting the compound nouns in the correct sentences.

I have a ~~mobile phone~~ **sofa bed** in my sitting room, which guests sometimes sleep on.

- 1 It's cold in here. Let's turn on the **sofa bed**.
- 2 I don't have anything to wear because my clothes are all in the **central heating**.
- 3 Can I borrow your **bunk bed**? I need to call my office.
- 4 If I spend too long looking at a **washing machine**, I get headaches.
- 5 My brother and I shared a bedroom and slept in a **computer screen**.

9 Find and correct four mistakes in the prefixes and suffixes in the sentences.

- 1 I find it annoying when people dispronounce my name.
- 2 She's really creatile, and she's always got good ideas.
- 3 You're always making careless mistakes.
- 4 We had a really enjoyable evening.
- 5 I don't understand why you unlike him so much!
- 6 St Petersburg is a really attractive city.

How to...

10 There is a word order mistake in five of the sentences. Find and correct the mistakes.

~~I don't to like~~ complain, but ...

I don't like to complain, but ...

- 1 I'm to sorry hear that.
- 2 We must about that apologise.
- 3 My hope is to have three children.
- 4 I apologise do for the inconvenience.
- 5 I'm sorry, but it just isn't enough good.
- 6 My ambition is to become completely self-sufficient.
- 7 I have a dream lifelong of opening my own restaurant.