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A world inside

Janet comes to work in London

Thanks for the dance

Learn about a hobby which helps you to relax

Are you driven?

Listen to a conversation about ambition

The seven ages of man

Learn what we achieve during the different stages of life



A world inside

Unit overview

Inside view

Conversation 1

In C1 Janet, one of the regular characters in the course material, tells us about her plans for the summer vacation. She is going to work for a London entertainment information website. She introduces us to the men, Joe and Andy, whom she is going to work with.

Conversation 2

In C2, Janet asks Andy to explain what he does and how the website works.

Outside view

The video clip takes us to a dance club specializing in the tango. A woman talks about what the club means to her, why she attends, and what it is like to dance the tango.

Listening in

Short conversations

We listen to a series of short conversations on topics related to career decisions. These illustrate the use of such phrases as: *go far*, *if I'd known what I know now*, and *settle down*.

Conversation

Two friends work on a questionnaire which tells you how ambitious you are.

Interview

The interview is with someone who has written a book about the different phases we go through as we grow older.

Presentation skills

Students are given suggestions about making their anecdote about someone who has made a positive change in their life an interesting one. A structure is suggested and instructions are given on how it should be delivered.

Starting point

1 Do the questionnaire.

- 1 You are at a party where you don't know anyone. Do you _____?**
 - (a) talk to someone who is alone, like you
 - (b) wait for someone to talk to you
 - (c) leave
- 2 You have to decide where to go on holiday. Do you _____?**
 - (a) do a lot of research before you make a decision
 - (b) spend an evening on the Internet looking at different places
 - (c) choose a place that a friend has said is nice
- 3 A friend invites you to take part in a dangerous sport. Do you _____?**
 - (a) say that you would love to and feel excited
 - (b) ask a lot of questions about safety and then agree
 - (c) say that it's the last thing you would ever do
- 4 You unexpectedly find that you have nothing to do in the evening. Do you _____?**
 - (a) pick up the phone and organize a party
 - (b) spend the evening with a friend
 - (c) read a good book or watch TV alone quite happily
- 5 You are with a group of people and no one seems to know what to do. Do you _____?**
 - (a) act as leader and make a decision
 - (b) discuss with other people what the group should do
 - (c) hope that someone will decide what the group should do
- 6 You are with a group of people and you see that someone is very shy. Do you _____?**
 - (a) chat with them and invite them for a coffee
 - (b) chat with them
 - (c) hope that someone else will look after them

2 Work in pairs and discuss your answers to the questionnaire in Activity 1. Decide what the questions are trying to discover and what they reveal about you.

Inside view

Conversation 1

1 Work in pairs. Look at the photos on Page 3 and answer the questions.

- 1 Who is Janet Li?
- 2 Where does she study?
- 3 Where is Janet now?
- 4 What do you think Janet is doing there?
- 5 What famous landmark can you see in the photo?
- 6 Who do you think she's talking to?

2 Watch Conversation 1 and correct the sentences according to the conversation.

- 1 Janet is going back home to China.
- 2 It's the beginning of summer.
- 3 Janet is going to work for a radio programme.
- 4 Andy is Janet's boss.
- 5 Janet is going to be a reporter.
- 6 Joe and Andy agree that New York is the greatest city.

3 Watch Conversation 1 again and check (✓) the answers in the table.

	Janet	Andy	Joe
1 Who wants to find out more about London?			
2 Who works for a website?			
3 Who is a reporter?			
4 Who doesn't know what their job is yet?			
5 Who is American?			
6 Who doesn't want anyone else's opinion?			
7 Who argues with Andy?			
8 Who tries not to get involved in an argument?			

Starting point

①

TEACHING STEPS 教学步骤

- Read out the first question and ask Ss to show their answers by raising their hands. Ask for adjectives which describe the different types of people.
- Tell Ss to continue in pairs.
- Walk round and encourage discussion.
- Gather overall results by a show of hands.

②

Example answer

- A** Overall, the questionnaire tries to find out whether you are an outgoing, rather rash person or a quiet, organized type.
- B** Yes, in the second question the first person is rather nervous and slow to make a decision, the second one a bit more moderate, and the third doesn't care – they will enjoy any holiday I think.

Inside view

Conversation 1

①

Example answers

- 1 She is a Chinese student in the UK.
- 2 She studies at the University of Oxford.
- 3 She is in London.
- 4 Probably she is visiting her friends or doing a tour around London. / She has taken a summer job.
- 5 We can see the Houses of Parliament, also called the Palace of Westminster.
- 6 She might be talking to her friends or the people she is going to work with.

②

Culture points

long vacation: At Oxford there are three terms a year: Michaelmas from October to December, Hilary from January to March, and Trinity from April to June. The period between Trinity and Michaelmas terms is the long vacation, or long summer break.

Big Ben: It is the name often given to the famous four-faced clock on the tallest tower of the Houses of Parliament. In fact, Big Ben is the bell inside the clock that strikes each hour. All large bells are traditionally given names.

Tower Bridge: It's a famous London landmark, a bridge near the tower of London whose lower road level lifts to allow ships to pass through.

double-decker bus: These two-level buses are particularly associated with London where they were first used. In London they are painted red.

Language points

Don't make me laugh: used when we think someone is saying something silly

Answers

- 1 Janet is not going back home to China.
- 2 It's the middle of summer.
- 3 Janet is going to work for a website.
- 4 Joe is Janet's boss. / Andy is a reporter.
- 5 Janet is going to be helping Andy.
- 6 Joe and Andy do not agree that New York is the greatest city.

③

Answers

- 1 Janet
- 2 Janet, Andy, Joe
- 3 Andy
- 4 Janet
- 5 Joe (we assume this from his strong feelings about it)
- 6 Joe
- 7 Joe
- 8 Janet



Language and culture

Parliament (议会, 国会) is an officially elected group of people in some countries who meet to make the laws of the country and discuss national issues. **The Houses of Parliament** ([英国的] 议会大厦) are where the English parliament have met for almost 1,000 years. They are also known, more simply, as Parliament.

The tube ([伦敦] 地铁) is the name often used for the London Underground train system.



Conversation 1

parliament /'pɑːləmənt/ *n.* 议会, 国会

double-decker /ˌdʌbl 'dekə/ *bus n.* 双层公共汽车

shadow /'ʃædəʊ/ *v.* (在工作或学习中) 跟随 (某人)

Conversation 2

upload /'ʌp,ləʊd/ *v.* 上载, 上传 (文档或程序)

listings /'lɪstɪŋz/ *n. (pl)*

(电影、戏剧和展览会等情况的) 一览表, 目录

the tube /tjuːb/ (伦敦) 地铁

Conversation 2

4 Work in pairs and number the events in the order you expect to hear them.

- Andy explains the process of putting information on the website.
- Janet asks what they are going to do next.
- Andy talks about why he likes his job.
- Janet asks Andy to explain his job to her.
- Andy tells Janet what Joe is doing.
- Andy explains their plans for the day.
- Andy tells Janet what the website does.
- Janet asks Andy if he likes his job.

Now watch Conversation 2 and check your answers.

Conversation 2

4

Language points

don't mind my asking: a very polite way of asking as it is a personal question

cool: wonderful

the last thing: the lowest on a list of choices

check out: gather information on

hit: a visit to the website

Answers

The correct order is 5-6-2-3-8-7-4-1.

HAVE YOU HEARD ...?

Around 15 million tourists visit London every year. The city is about 2,000 years old and is first known to history as the Roman city of Londinium. Some of the most popular places to visit in London:

- British Museum, with a huge collection of ancient objects from all over the world
- Buckingham Palace, the London home of the monarch
- London Eye, a giant wheel offering fine views of the River Thames
- Tate Modern, a huge power station on the south bank of the River Thames, turned into a gallery of modern art
- Tower of London, with its bloody history and the Crown Jewels
- Trafalgar Square, celebrating the defeat of Napoleon and containing the National Gallery with one of the world's best collections of Western paintings
- Westminster, with the Abbey where many famous people are buried, and the Houses of Parliament

Can you name any other attractions in London?

What would you like to see and do in London?

5 Watch Conversation 2 again and complete the sentences.

Janet So when did you start working at London Time Off?

Andy About a year ago.

Janet And I hope you (1) _____, but do you like working here?

Andy Yes, I love it. I mean, Joe and I get along quite well. (2) _____ sometimes, because he's my boss, and I wish I earned a bit more money, but ... I think my job is really cool, because I get to see everything that's happening in London. And I didn't want to join the rat race.

Janet (3) _____ the rat race?

Andy You know, doing the same thing day in day out, and not doing anything creative, or having any time to enjoy life. (4) _____ I want to do.

Janet So do you mind telling me what you do exactly?

Andy Basically, (5) _____ on the London music scene, you know, new clubs, the latest plays and films, as well as exhibitions in galleries and museums. Then we go and film interviews with (6) _____, or anyone who has anything to do with the event.

Janet OK, then what happens?

Andy We edit the interviews, and then we upload it all onto the website. We get 200,000 hits a week. We're London's biggest listings site.

Janet (7) _____?

Andy Fire away.

Janet What are we going to do now?

Andy I need to go back to my flat, and get my research. Then (8) _____. Let's get the tube back to my place.

Janet And what about Joe?

Andy Well, he's (9) _____ to the National Theatre, to do an interview with the director of a new play. But I kind of hope he gets lost on the way. Then he'll discover what a great place London is.

Janet I don't understand.

Andy I'm joking! Come on, let's go!

Everyday English

believe it or not

It's a fact.

Dream on!

day in day out

Fire away.

I'm joking!

6 Work in pairs and answer the questions about Everyday English.

- 1 *believe it or not* Does this mean (a) you won't believe this is true, or (b) you might think this is quite surprising?
- 2 *It's a fact.* Is this expression used to emphasize a statement (a) that you believe to be true, or (b) that it is something everyone knows to be true?
- 3 *Dream on!* Does this mean (a) you must have dreamt about this, or (b) this is unlikely to happen?
- 4 *day in day out* Does this mean (a) one day after another, or (b) every day and every night?
- 5 *Fire away.* Is this used to tell someone (a) to start asking a question, or (b) to go away, because you don't want to talk?
- 6 *I'm joking!* Does this mean (a) I'm telling a funny story, or (b) what I said wasn't serious?

7 Work in pairs and act out the conversation.

Student A Tell Student B about a personal matter such as a friendship or part-time job.

Student B Ask Student A if they mind you asking something about it.

Student A Answer Student B's question.

Student B Ask if you can ask something else.

Student A Answer the question and express annoyance about something.

Student B Ask for clarification.

Student A Clarify what you mean.

5

Answers

- (1) don't mind my asking
- (2) He drives me crazy
- (3) What do you mean by
- (4) It's the last thing
- (5) we check out new events
- (6) the musicians or the actors
- (7) Can I ask you something else
- (8) we've got an interview to do
- (9) supposed to be on his way

Everyday English

6

TEACHING TIPS 教学建议

Ask pairs of Ss to prepare short dialogues using the phrases in Everyday English.

Select a few to perform them for the class.

A *How did you do in the test?*

B *Believe it or not, I got full marks!*

Answers

- 1 (b) 2 (b) 3 (b) 4 (a) 5 (a) 6 (b)

7

TEACHING TIPS 教学建议

Ask Ss to prepare their dialogues as homework. Remind Ss to include some of the phrases they have just learnt.

If there is time, you can hear all the dialogues in class, or if that is not possible, give numbers to pairs and select a few by means of a lottery to perform before their classmates. If you wish to discover the standard of the others, you can tell them to hand in recordings of their dialogues. Warn them to use written scripts very carefully. Of course, they can help but they can also lead to very wooden and unnatural conversations.

Example answer

- A** Hi, guess what, I've started to date a girl. She is really good-looking and attractive. You know many boys on the campus are interested in her. Did I tell you she is an English major? Sometimes she drives me crazy by correcting my English!
- B** I hope you don't mind my asking how you met her.
- A** Well, my good friend, this is really a secret, but if you really want to know I'll tell you. You know I was having trouble improving my English, so I decided to find someone in the English Department who could help me. I asked around and she was recommended to me so I was brave to approach her and asked her for English practice and advice. She was really nice and told me to ask her any questions about English. So I fired away and we started meeting regularly.
- B** That's a really interesting story. Do you mind if I ask you something else? Do you think you can ask her to get me a girlfriend in her class?
- A** You must be joking! That's the last thing I want to ask my girlfriend to do. I am not some sort of agent or matchmaker and I do not want her to be either!
- B** What do you mean by agent?
- A** You are asking me and my girlfriend to be dating agents for you. If you like someone, you should be brave enough to go and speak to them yourself. I was and look at me – I was successful – so don't be shy!

Asking and responding to sensitive questions

I hope you don't mind my asking, but ...

Do you mind telling me ...?

Can I ask you something else?

Expressing annoyance

He drives me crazy.

It's the last thing I want to do.

Asking for clarification and clarifying

And your point is ...?

Are you serious?

What do you mean by ...?

What I mean is ...

Talking point

1 Work in pairs and play a word association game.

Student A Say the word the teacher writes on the board.

Student B Write down a word you associate with this word and say it aloud.

Student A Write down a word you associate with the second word. Now say it aloud.

Continue the game, and take turns until you reach 30 words.

2 Discuss the questions.

1 What do word association games reveal about you?

2 Might they be used by psychological tests by psychologists?



Talking point

2

Example answers

- 1 I suppose word association games might give clues about personality. For example, *motor racing* could make you think of *fun* or *accidents*. Different types of people might react differently to a word like *alone* – *sad*, *safe*, *independent*, *lost* and so on. In addition to personality, associations can certainly tell you something about who people are. The word *oil* might mean *money* to a Saudi Arabian, *olives* to an Italian cook, *pollution* to an environmental activist and *a small can* to a mechanic. Our daily experience will control our reactions.
- 2 Perhaps, if they are carefully planned, you might be able to find mental patterns that reveal qualities. I think they would work best with a relaxed patient willing to cooperate.

Outside view

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words and expressions in the box.

atmosphere controlled dress up
improvise make a turn respond
sole tango

- 1 Women often like parties because it gives them an opportunity to _____ and look their best.
- 2 In a dance, the woman usually _____ to the man's movements.
- 3 Take five steps forward, and then _____, then take five steps back.
- 4 In some types of dance you need to be very _____ and in other types you dance in a very free way.
- 5 In some dances you have steps to follow, and in other dances you are free to _____ and make up your own steps.
- 6 We danced so much that the _____ of my favourite shoes are worn out.
- 7 People love the _____ because it's a very dramatic type of dance.
- 8 There's a club we love going to that has a great _____ and great music – what more do you need?

Rosie /'rəʊzi/ 罗斯

tango /'tæŋɡəʊ/ *n.* 探戈舞

improvise /'ɪmprəˌvaɪz/ *v.* 即兴演出

respond /rɪ'spɒnd/ *v.* 回应

sole /səʊl/ *n.* 鞋底

restorer /rɪ'stɔːrə/ *n.* (残损文物等的) 修复者

opportunity /ɒpə'tjuːnəti/ *n.* 机会

2 Work in pairs. Look at the photo and answer the questions.

- 1 Is the tango a dance that is well known in China?
- 2 Which country does the tango come from?
- 3 What's special about the tango?
- 4 Do you go to dance classes or clubs?

3 Watch the video clip and number the questions that you think Rosie answers in the correct order.

- 1 What shoes or clothes do you need for dancing the tango?
- 2 How did you come to learn the tango?
- 3 Can you tell us something about yourself?
- 4 What do you like best about Carablanca?
- 5 What do you have to do to learn the tango?
- 6 Why do you like dancing the tango in the evening?
- 7 What do you think about when you're dancing?



Outside view

1

Answers

- 1 dress up
- 2 responds
- 3 make a turn
- 4 controlled
- 5 improvise
- 6 soles
- 7 tango
- 8 atmosphere

2

Example answers

- 1 Yes, ballroom dancing has many fans in China and the tango is quite well known.
- 2 I have seen a TV documentary on the tango – it came from somewhere in South America.
- 3 It's very stylish. The dancers look so elegant and it's exciting when the woman throws herself back into the arms of the lead dancer. It's romantic. Sometimes the woman has a rose between her teeth. That's quite sexy.
- 4
 - Not very much, but I have taken part in dancing classes for exercise.
 - Yes, I have done quite a lot of Chinese folk dancing. I have even been in competitions.

3

TEACHING TIPS 教学建议

Ask Ss to suggest what an answer to each question would have to contain.

- Details about shoes and clothes
- A short history of what happened about learning the tango
- Possibly a name, a job etc
- Some details about the club and why it is good
- Skills and knowledge you need to be able to dance well
- References to the evening, some comparison with earlier parts of the day
- Thoughts and feelings

This will help them identify which answer fits which question.

Culture points

the tango: It is a stylish South American dance which became extremely popular towards the end of the 19th century and became a craze in Europe in the early 20th century and then in America. The dance involves very close contact and cooperation between the dancers. One style of the dance has become a popular ballroom dance which features in many dance competitions. The male leader wears formal clothes and the female partner a tight-fitting dress.

Carablanca: It is a London dance club. "Carablanca" means *white face* in Spanish.

Answers

The correct order is 4-2-1-7-3-5-6.

4 Watch the video clip again and complete the sentences.

I'm Rosie and I'm here tonight to dance tango at Carablanca Tango Club. I've been learning tango for (1) _____ so I'm quite new to the dance. I try and come as often as I can, to get better.

I came to tango, um, through enjoying the music and watching people dance, and I didn't think that I could learn myself, but now I have learnt, um, I get to (2) _____ and listen to the music and dance.

If you, if you want to learn tango, you really have to learn firstly how to (3) _____ the person that you're dancing with, because it's an improvised dance, you, you don't know what you're going to be led, so you have to, um, learn to feel and respond to who you're dancing with.

For, for tango you really need (4) _____, um, but other than that people, people dress up or they decide not to dress up – I think it's fun to dress up because I think you (5) _____ – people enjoy dancing with you more. Um, but really just the shoes, because they have a special sole that, that helps you to, to make turns.

In my day job I do very close work as a (6) _____ restorer, um, which means I have to stay very still and be very controlled, so I like coming to dance in the evening and it helps me (7) _____ and it helps me to use my body in a way that I don't in the day.

When the dance is going very well, you, you don't think about dancing – you, you go to another place. It's, it's wonderfully relaxing, it's very hard to describe but you don't worry about anything – it's a nice feeling.

I think the ... What I like best about coming to Carablanca (8) _____ is, uh, the opportunity to dance with people that I don't know, um, to (9) _____, and to really enjoy the atmosphere of music – with other people.



Developing critical thinking

5 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 Why is dancing popular among all age groups?
- 2 Why do people enjoy dressing up?
- 3 What other art forms help you relax when you practise them?
- 4 How does dance help you connect better with people?

4

Answers

- (1) about six months
- (2) wear the clothes
- (3) connect with
- (4) tango shoes
- (5) get more dances
- (6) painting
- (7) to relax
- (8) on Friday
- (9) meet new people

Developing critical thinking

5

Example answers

- 1 Dancing is a great exercise just like a sport, but while it can be very energetic it can also be slow and elegant. Dancing involves music, something almost all humans love. Rhythmic movement creates all sorts of emotions. Dancing can be exciting, romantic, gentle or elegant. Dancing helps us learn how to move gracefully. Dance groups are a good way of meeting people. Dancing is a part of art and culture.
- 2 I am not sure everyone does, but those who do are probably rather romantic. They love films and imagine themselves as stars, beauties and heroes. When you dress up you put aside your daily self and become a new dream person whom others will admire. Good clothes bring out the best in us and make other people admire us.
- 3
 - Sitting playing the guitar is very relaxing. Singing can take your mind off your troubles and help you express your emotions. Moving the pen across the paper in calligraphy makes you feel relaxed and graceful.
 - I find writing a poem is difficult – I am not sure it is relaxing, but it shuts out everything else while I am doing it and that is refreshing.

- 4
 - I guess you can dance on your own, but most dancing is social and involves everyone sharing the same rhythm and music. Of course, ballroom dancing involves working with others. As the woman in the video says, you need to be able to respond to your partner, to be in tune with their mood and possible moves.
 - Dancing can bring you into close physical proximity with others. Even if it doesn't, I think dancing with someone creates a special relationship, a shared excitement.
 - Some types of dancing need very close team work.
 - Dancing is a normal part of dating in many cultures.

Listening in

Short conversations

1 Listen to the five short conversations and choose the best answer to the questions.

- 1 (a) She thinks the student is a good driver.
 (b) She thinks the student will be very successful in her career.
 (c) She thinks the student will travel a lot.
 (d) She thinks the student will do well in her exams.
- 2 (a) Because the salary was quite good.
 (b) Because the salary was extremely good.
 (c) Because he needed work.
 (d) Because the job would be interesting.
- 3 (a) The man didn't realize it would be difficult.
 (b) He didn't know whether it would be easy or difficult.
 (c) He thought he would do really well.
 (d) He knew it would be difficult.
- 4 (a) He has a job in a university library and works hard.
 (b) He wishes he'd had the opportunity to go to university.
 (c) He wishes he'd worked harder at university.
 (d) He feels he should have enjoyed himself more at university.
- 5 (a) Why the man doesn't go travelling.
 (b) What the man wants to do as a career.
 (c) Where the man wants to go.
 (d) Who the man wants to meet.

Short conversations

despite /dɪ'spaɪt/ *prep.* 不管

Conversation

2 Work in pairs and read the questionnaire. Decide what the questionnaire is testing.

	Agree		Disagree		Not sure	
	You	Tom	You	Tom	You	Tom
1 I always put work out of my mind when I'm not working.						
2 Friends and family are more important than doing well at work.						
3 Owning a home is not important to me.						
4 I make daily lists of things to do.						
5 I prefer working with people I get on well with than someone who is highly competent.						
6 I have a tendency to put things off rather than do them immediately.						

3 Do the questionnaire in Activity 2. Check (✓) the correct answers labelled "You".

Conversation

ambitious /æm'bɪʃəs/ *a.* 雄心勃勃的

competent /kəm'pi:tənt/ *a.* 能干的

tendency /'tendənsi/ *n.* (性格上的) 倾向

Listening in

Short conversations

1

TEACHING STEPS 教学步骤

- Play the conversations one by one and let Ss attempt the questions.
- Then discuss some key phrases and let them hear the recordings again.
- Collect their answers and tell them the correct choices.

- Ask for some extra sentences using the phrases you think will be useful to them.
That was a really first-class meal.
We are looking for employees with drive and ambition.
With that sort of attitude I can tell you that you won't go far at all.
He's going to coach that hopeless team? They really must have made him an offer he couldn't refuse.
He's in his mid-thirties now. He really ought to settle down and stop behaving like a kid.

Language points

a first-class student: an excellent student

drive: energy and ambition

go far: be successful; achieve a lot, metaphor of life as a journey and the farther you travel, the more successful you are

an offer I couldn't refuse: despite some disadvantages and problems, the rewards were so great, I could not refuse the post

If I'd known (then), what I know now: It is used to express regret. I lacked awareness of the difficulties of earning a living from music; this led me to make the wrong career choice, which I am now sorry about.

settle down: lead a life with little change, not as free as when one is younger

Answers

1 (b) 2 (b) 3 (a) 4 (d) 5 (a)

Conversation

2

Example answer

It seems to be testing attitudes towards life. The one sort of personality likes things to be highly organized and gets anxious if they are not, and the other is far more relaxed and puts simple pleasures first.

3

TEACHING TIPS 教学建议

Ask pairs of Ss to explain their answers to each other.

A *For number one, as you see, I have ticked disagree. I wish I could, but I am always thinking about assignments and what I should be doing. I cannot relax when I have unfinished work.*

Listening and understanding

4 Listen to the conversation and check (✓) Tom's answers to the questionnaire.

5 Listen to the conversation again and complete the sentences.

Tom What are you doing, Lisa?

Lisa Oh, just this questionnaire, Tom. How ambitious are you?

Tom Let's have a look. OK, I see.

Lisa I've done it and (1) _____.
Do you want to try it?

Tom OK. So that's (2) _____ if you agree with the statements, one point if you're not sure, and (3) _____ if you disagree.

Lisa I always put work out of my mind when I'm not working.

Tom Hm. Not sure. I (4) _____ work quite a lot.

Lisa OK, next one. Friends and family are more important than doing well at work.

Tom Yes, I agree with that. My social life and my family are the foundation of my work, and the reason I work is to (5) _____ with them.

Lisa OK, statement number three. Owning a home is not important to me.

Tom Oh, well, yes, I think it is important, because it's linked to statement two. It's where I want to (6) _____, with my family and friends. So, no, I don't agree.

Lisa Statement number four: I make daily lists of things to do.

Tom Well, I certainly make lists, but not daily lists. So I'm not sure I agree with that. I usually make a long list of things to do which I cross off when I've done them. And when the list (7) _____, I write it out again.

Lisa OK, next statement: I prefer working with people I get on well with than someone who is highly competent. Do you agree, disagree or don't know?

Tom Well, it's true that I like working with my friends, because we (8) _____.
_____. But when you work with someone who's really good, then you can (9) _____ as well. So I'm not sure.

Lisa And finally, I have a tendency to put things off rather than do them immediately.

Man That's true. That's actually the point of the lists (10) _____: to remind me to do them later, because I don't want to do them today.

Lisa OK, let's find out how ambitious you are.

6 Add up Tom's points and find out how ambitious he is.

Now do the same for yourself. Do you agree with what the questionnaire says about you?



Listening and understanding

4

Language points

put work out of my mind: forget about it

cross off: put a line through

highly competent: very good at the task

have a tendency to: do something quite frequently

put things off: delay doing tasks

Answers

- 1 Not sure.
- 2 Agree.
- 3 Disagree.
- 4 Not sure.
- 5 Not sure.
- 6 Agree.

5

Answers

- (1) got my score
- (2) two points
- (3) no points
- (4) worry about
- (5) spend time
- (6) feel at home
- (7) gets shorter
- (8) work better together
- (9) learn a lot
- (10) I make

6

TEACHING TIPS 教学建议

The first question shows how obsessed with work you are.

The second question is about your values and priorities.

The third question is about your preference for being settled or free.

The fourth question distinguishes the Type A personality who worries about details and being organized, and the Type B who has a relaxed attitude to life.

The fifth question concerns whether you put efficiency or personal relationships / sociability first.

The sixth question is similar to the fourth: Can you relax when there are unfinished tasks waiting for you?

Example answer

Tom gets seven points. You get only four points if you are really ambitious, so Tom is fairly relaxed about life.

Interview

7 Work in pairs and answer the questions.

In which decade of their life ...

- 1 do people think a lot about the meaning of life?
- 2 are people happiest?
- 3 do people have their closest friendships?
- 4 do most people get married in China?
- 5 do people become middle-aged?

Listening and understanding

8 Listen to the interview and match the ages with the statements.

- 1 The age of ten is when ...
- 2 In the US, the twenties are when ...
- 3 In their thirties, ...
- 4 At 40, ...
- 5 At 50, ...
- 6 At 60, ...
- 7 At 70, ...

- (a) people become middle-aged
- (b) people enjoy what they've done
- (c) many women get married
- (d) people think a lot about the meaning of life
- (e) people's old friendships grow closer and warmer
- (f) people can have the happiest time of their lives
- (g) people can have their closest friendships

How do your answers to Activity 7 compare with the statements?

Interview

Hornby /'hɔ:nbi/ 霍恩比

comedian /kə'mi:diən/ n. 喜剧演员

reflection /rɪ'flekʃn/ n. 深思熟虑, 仔细考虑

9 Listen to the interview again and choose the best way to complete the sentences.

- 1 The book Jane Hornby has written is called _____.
 - (a) *The Seven Ages of Man*
 - (b) *The Seven Ages of Men and Women*
 - (c) *The Seven Average Ages of Man*
 - (d) *The Seven Average Ages*
- 2 Ten-year-olds usually _____.
 - (a) start to have close relationships with the opposite sex
 - (b) have the closest relationships with their parents
 - (c) need to spend more time on their own
 - (d) need to spend more time with their friends
- 3 In the US, it's in your twenties that _____.
 - (a) you are most intelligent
 - (b) most people find someone they want to marry
 - (c) you find out what you want to do
 - (d) a third of men get married
- 4 At 40, _____.
 - (a) most people stop feeling young
 - (b) your age starts to show in your face
 - (c) most people get a bit fatter
 - (d) you start to get smaller
- 5 Sixty is the age when _____.
 - (a) you become less interested in certain things
 - (b) you become less interested in food
 - (c) you start to forget things
 - (d) your friends start to die

Interview

7

Example answers

- 1 That might be when you are a teenager and everything seems new, or in your sixties or seventies when you have time to look back and not very much time to look forward.
- 2 I think that must vary a lot, but teenagers are pretty mixed up and then in your twenties you are still finding your way. In your thirties you are still young and energetic, but independent, so that's a good time in life.
- 3 I think teenagers make the closest friendships.
- 4 Well, I'd say people get married around 30 – the man is often a couple of years older than the woman. At least, that is true of the cities, but it is earlier in the countryside, maybe mid-twenties.
- 5 I wonder if that is partly a question of your attitude. Some people seem middle-aged when they are quite young. Anyway, by your mid-forties it is hard not to call you middle-aged.

Listening and understanding

8

DID YOU KNOW ...?

The number seven has long been important in the West. This comes from the seven heavenly bodies our ancestors could see (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn). Thus there are seven heavens. The week of course has seven days, and there are seven Deadly Sins. Shakespeare in one of his plays divides the life of a man into seven stages (*The Seven Ages of Man*) – the man in the play is a baby, a schoolboy, a lover, a soldier, an official, an old man, and a child again unable to look after himself.

Does seven have any significance in Chinese culture?

How many stages do you think we go through in modern life?

Language points

start to show round your middle: you start to get fat, known as middle-aged spread

lose their friends: their friends start dying

Answers

- 1 (g) 2 (c) 3 (f) 4 (a) 5 (e)
6 (d) 7 (b)

Example answer

My answers agree pretty closely with the ideas of the author. I think most of them are common sense actually.

9

Answers

- 1 (d) 2 (c) 3 (a) 4 (d) 5 (d)

Presentation skills

Telling a personal anecdote

- 1 **Work in pairs. Think of someone you know who has made a positive change in their life, or invent a story about someone.**
 - a relative or friend who moves far away to a different city and starts a new life there
 - an older relative who retired after a busy working life
 - a family friend who gets married
 - a friend who goes to university and becomes a lot more confident as a result of joining clubs

- 2 **Think about the person you have chosen. Help each other make notes about:**
 - who the person is: their age, job etc and how you know them
 - their character: whether they are lively, quiet, ambitious etc
 - their situation at the start of the story
Linda was very homesick and lonely when she first started at university.
 - what the change is and why they make it
She joined a debating club and learnt how to talk in public.
 - the effect of the change on them and how it changes them and their lives
She became a lot more confident.
 - their present situation and how they feel
Now she's really popular – a real party girl!

- 3 **Work with the whole class and tell your story.**

- 4 **Vote for:**
 - the best story
 - the stories you think are true rather than invented

Telling a personal anecdote

In conversation, we often tell short stories about friends or people we've heard about.

We want to sound as natural as possible. In order to do this, and to attract the interest of the audience, it's important not to read out the story, but to use notes as a guide.

When we begin, we'll need to attract people's attention to make them listen to us and then we can introduce the story.

Make the story interesting by describing the person so that the audience can clearly imagine them.

Remember to speak clearly and quite slowly as this gives listeners a chance to follow the story. If you make a mistake, say something like "Sorry, I'll say that again."

English speakers use a wide range of intonation. Try to do this.

Finally, remember to look at the audience, not at the notes, ... and smile.

Attracting people's attention

Could I have your attention, please?

Hello / Good morning / afternoon / evening, everyone!

Introducing a short story

I'm going to tell you a little story about someone called ...

This is a story about ...

Apologizing for making mistakes

Sorry, I'll say that again.

Sorry, I meant to say, ...

Describing change and its effects

This really changed her and she's become ...

Retiring had a big effect on him / her.

Sue is happier than she was before.

The new job has made him / her a lot happier.

As a result of doing this, he became ...

Doing this made a big difference.

Presentation skills

Telling a personal anecdote

TEACHING STEPS 教学步骤

- Tell Ss a short anecdote, or read them the example answer.
- Tell them you want them to produce a similar personal story. Give some guidelines as to length according to the time available and the ability of the group.
- Tell Ss to read the instructions and hints carefully before starting planning with their partner.
- Ask Ss to practise their presentation so that it runs smoothly.
- Individual or pairs of students should carry out some form of peer assessment of each presentation. A form covering the main aspects of speech can be used, or a slightly novel approach is to give Ss a list of statements. They tick those they agree with and then the results can be put together and presented as feedback to the presenters.

Assessment

Please tick the statements you agree with.

There seemed to be quite a few grammatical errors.

I could hear everything clearly.

The volume was wrong.

Some words were hard to catch because of the pronunciation.

The pronunciation was good.

The body language needed improvement.

I was impressed by the eye contact and use of gesture.

The speaker seemed at ease.

The speaker was nervous.

The content was interesting.

The style was attractive and caught my attention.

The content was just average.

This presentation was acceptable.

This presentation was good.

3

Example answer

Good afternoon, everyone.

Do you know, you are never too old to change?

You and I are young and we tend to think of ourselves as the ones who are growing and changing. We think of older people as set in their ways. You don't expect your grandfather to suddenly change his way of thinking and start a new life. But it can happen!

For as long as my cousin and I can remember, Mr Zhang has lived next to us. He is of medium height and build. His hair is grey. For years, he worked in the post office. He was usually dressed in a rather dull and dusty uniform or, if it was a day off work, in grey trousers and jacket. He was never rude and never friendly. He nodded when you passed, but rarely said anything. For me, he was just part of the building, like the stairway or cleaning buckets in the corridors.

But then he retired. We noticed he was not going to work anymore and even discussed what he would do without a job to go to. My father thought he would go mad from boredom. How wrong he was! Mr Zhang, as we found out later, joined a retired people's club. Their activities opened up new worlds to him. He learnt to dance. He started growing plants. He became interested in computers. He had never had so many friends. He started dressing brightly. He started smiling at us and moved on to chatting. He asked us to help him with his new laptop. We were happy to and we became friends. He told us all about his new life. He had worried about retirement, but it was wonderful.

And that's the inspiring story of Mr Zhang, who seemed a dull old man in the past but is now a new person, our popular and friendly neighbour – Zhang the second, as we might call him. Actually, we think he would be quite pleased with the name.

Thank you for listening. We hope you enjoyed hearing about this interesting old man of surprises.

Unit task

Carrying out a survey on students' college experiences

1 Work in pairs. You are going to carry out a survey about how students' college experiences have changed them. Think about the different areas of experience. For example:

- social skills
- money
- studying

2 Think of ten questions which relate to the areas of experience in Activity 1. Include some general questions as well. Here are some suggestions:

Do you feel more mature after a year at college? If so, in what way?

How have your social skills improved?

What's your biggest area of difficulty?

Have your interests changed as a result of joining clubs?

Looking back, would you do anything differently?

3 Interview three or four other students. Make notes of their answers. Here are some examples:

I've learnt to organize my time well. I couldn't do that before I came here.

I'm a lot better at talking to people I don't know. I'm much more confident.

I still need more self-discipline. For example, I go to bed much too late.

I've got really interested in acting and I've been in two plays.

If I could do the year again, I wouldn't worry so much.

4 Collect and compare the answers to your survey. Be ready to quote individual students but do not give names.

Everyone feels they've learnt a lot and are more mature.

Most students feel their social skills are a lot better.

Students' biggest area of difficulty is money.

Two students said they need more discipline.

5 Work with the whole class and talk about the results of your survey.

Unit file

FUNCTIONS

Asking and responding to sensitive questions

I hope you don't mind my asking, but ...

Do you mind telling me ...?

Can I ask you something else?

Expressing annoyance

He drives me crazy.

It's the last thing I want to do.

Asking for clarification and clarifying

And your point is ...?

Are you serious?

What do you mean by ...?

What I mean is ...

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

believe it or not

It's a fact.

Dream on!

day in day out

Fire away.

I'm joking!

PRESENTATION SKILLS

Telling a personal anecdote

UNIT TASK

Carrying out a survey on students' college experiences

Unit task

Carrying out a survey on students' college experiences

2

Example answers

- 1 In what ways have you become more independent as a result of your time here?
- 2 How have your social skills developed?
- 3 In what ways have your study skills improved since your schooldays?
- 4 What areas of study skills do you feel you still need to improve?
- 5 Do you have a lively social life?
- 6 Do you participate in many extra-curricular activities?
- 7 What do you enjoy most about college life?
- 8 Have you gained any completely new skills since you have been here?
- 9 Do you think your personality has changed as a result of your time at college?
- 10 Have your career ambitions changed while at college?

3

Example answers

- 1 In many ways – I can handle money far better, prepare my own meals, do my own laundry and plan my day.
- 2 I have met a wider range of people and am more comfortable with meeting strangers.
- 3 I can take far more intelligent notes now and do not just copy everything. I have better research skills and I write much better Chinese and English.
- 4 My oral English needs to be improved, and I need to read more quickly. If you read quickly, you can also read more widely.
- 5 Not really – well, not in the sense of going out a lot, but we have great fun in our dormitory.
- 6 Yes, I'm active in the squash club, dance group and choir.
- 7 I just enjoy being here – the atmosphere, I guess. There's always something happening. I know so many people and am so busy. Life feels full.
- 8 Yes, I can play the guitar now and I can speak some French.

- 9 I am more confident and my outlook is far more intellectual, but I think I am still the same person with the same values.
- 10 Yes, there are so many opportunities and fields I did not even know existed. But also I have become more realistic – there are some very smart people around here and I now realize how great the competition is.

5

Example answer

We feel most of our questions produced some insights into the student experience here in college.

In response to our first two questions about independence and social skills, almost everyone agreed they had made progress and were able to look after themselves a lot better. Contact with a great many new people had also made people more comfortable with strangers, though there was still mention of nervousness.

Our interviewees were quite pleased with their study skills and said they were more organized and able to separate details from main points. There was quite a lot of concern about reading and language in general.

The students we spoke to had very different responses to our question about social life. One laughed and asked when there was any time for that. Another said she was constantly going to social events. The rest were somewhere in the middle. Our interviewees participated in one or two extra-curricular activities on a regular basis.

Answers to our question about what they enjoyed most about college life were not very precise, but one student expressed the general view rather well: "I just enjoy being here – the atmosphere, I guess. There's always something happening. I know so many people and am so busy. Life feels full."

Each student had different new skills to report. No one felt they had changed their personality. They mentioned changes but did not want to admit they were deep. New experiences had changed most people's career ambitions, though one girl was staying true to her dream of being a librarian.