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Unit 1



OBJECTIVES

Theme:
meeting people

Language functions:
introductions;
greetings;
forms of address

» WARM UP

- 1) Sit in a circle. Write three things about yourself or your impression of the city, the college or the English class. Do not put your name on the paper. For example:

- I come from southern China, and I find Beijing's summer very dry.
- The college is far smaller than I imagined.
- I haven't had much practice speaking English, so I'm a bit worried about this class.

- 2) Crush your paper into a ball.
- 3) When the teacher says "go," toss your "snowball" at other students as in a snowball fight. Do not throw "snowballs"

at anyone's face. When the teacher says "freeze," every student should pick up one "snowball."

- 4) Open the "snowball" and find out which student it belongs to by asking questions. But do not ask "Who wrote this?" or "Excuse me, did you write this?"
- 5) The person you identify will be your partner for this lesson. Sit together and chat about the information on the sheets.

» ACTIVITY 1

1. Conversation

Monitor: Good afternoon, everybody. This is our first meeting, and I'm happy to act as monitor temporarily, until we have an election. We are 24 people, and we come from different parts of the country, so I suggest we each say a few words about ourselves.

Yang Hong: Good idea. Let me introduce myself first. My name is Yang Hong. I come from Shanxi and my parents are both teachers. I chose to study English because I'm particularly interested in foreign cultures. I also like singing, although I'm not a great singer. I also like sports.

Cao Xiaoyu: My name is Cao Xiaoyu. I come from Nanjing, known as one of the four ovens of China, but actually it is very beautiful. I want to study English because I want to see the outside world with my own eyes. I don't have as many interests as Mr. Yang, but I'm interested in writing. Some of my poems and articles have been published.



Zhang Juan: I'm Zhang Juan, and I come from a mountain village in Zhejiang. It's a very out-of-the-way place, and I have never traveled far from home, so I am very excited. I like English because I happened to have a good English teacher in my high school, but eventually I decided to specialize in international finance. Yes, I'd like to make a lot of money. You probably don't know how hard life can be in our part of the country. Anyway, I've told myself that I'm not going to let my parents live in poverty forever.

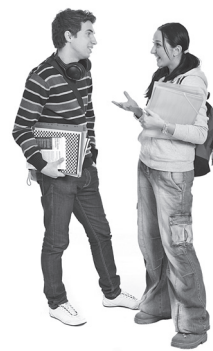
Zhou Ming: My name is Zhou Ming. Just call me Xiao Zhou. Everybody does. My father is a government official and my mother's an engineer. It was my father's idea that I should study English. You see, he's very idealistic. He believes English is going to be more and more important. I have many interests too. I like to read, I like to talk—my friends say I talk too much—and I like to think. Many social problems fascinate me.

Liu Ying: I don't really have much to say about myself. I'm very shy, just like a giant panda. Sometimes I just wish that I could live in a bamboo grove. But now that I'm here, I hope I can become part of our big family. I hope you will like me. By the way, my name is Liu Ying and I come from Hubei.

2. Group work

Can you find anything similar between you and any of these five students? What about your classmates? Let's find out and get to know each other by asking the following questions!

- Where do you come from? _____
- Which high school did you go to? _____
- What are your hobbies? _____
- What made you decide to come to this university? Are you satisfied with this decision? _____
- Are there areas of college life about which you have special concerns? _____

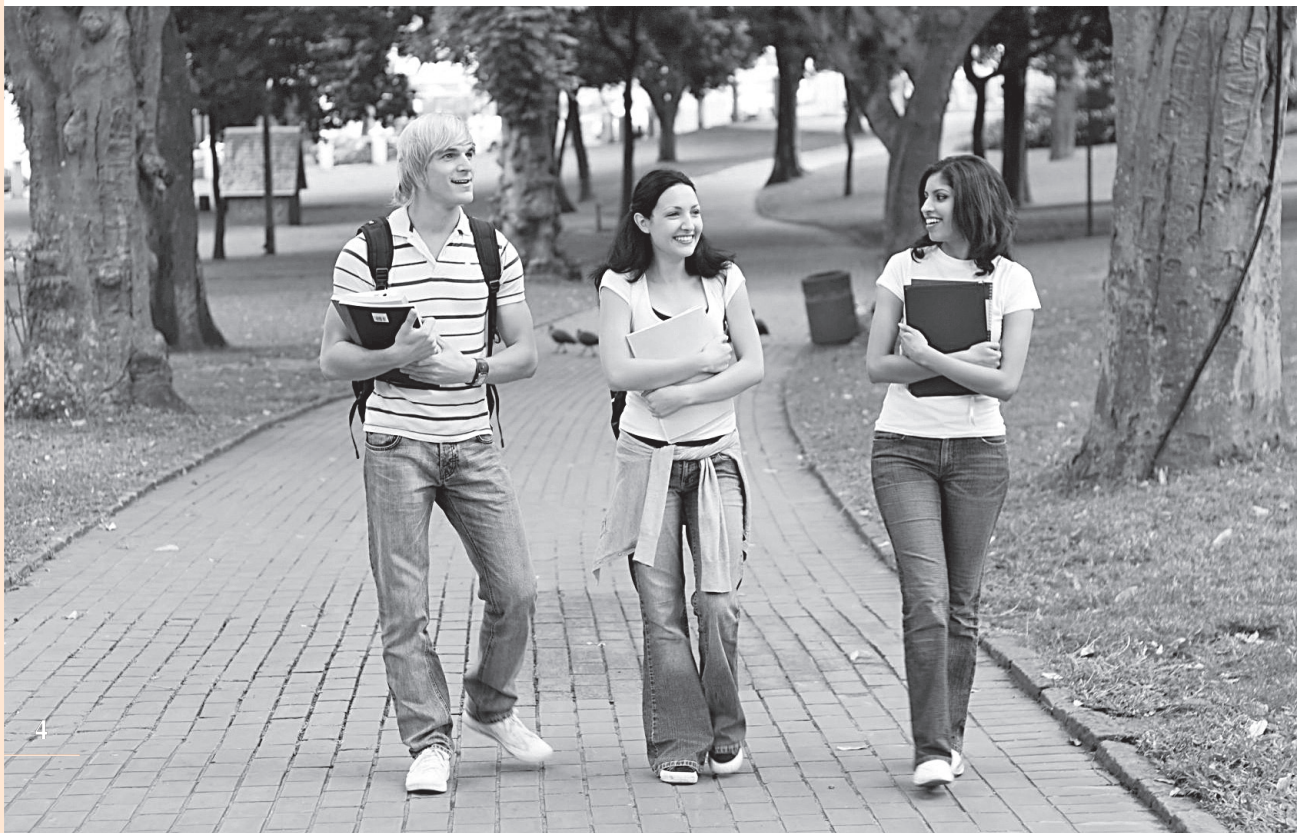


Brainstorm more questions like those listed above. Then, form into groups and take turns asking each other these questions. Finally, each student should introduce one member of his/her group to the class. Don't forget to count your teacher in!

» ACTIVITY 2

1. Conversation 

- Li Zihao:** Excuse me. Haven't we met before?
- Tian Wenyan:** I don't think so, but wait! You do look familiar.
- Li Zihao:** You went to the No. 3 High School in Shanghai, didn't you?
- Tian Wenyan:** Yes, that's right. I graduated two years ago.
- Li Zihao:** Well, we are from the same school then! I just graduated this July and I arrived here only yesterday. Anyway, my name is Li Zihao.
- Tian Wenyan:** Oh, now I remember. We once worked together in the student union. It's so nice to see you again. I'm Tian Wenyan. By the way, this is my roommate, Zhang Jing. She's from the French Department.
- Li Zihao:** Glad to meet you.
- Zhang Jing:** Glad to meet you, too.
- Tian Wenyan:** How's everything?
- Li Zihao:** Pretty good—except that I'm still not very familiar with the campus and all the facilities.
- Tian Wenyan:** Don't worry about that. We'll show you around this afternoon.
- Li Zihao:** Thank you very much.
- Tian Wenyan:** You're welcome.



2. Pair work

Imagine that you are Li Zihao. Describe your experience to your partner. You may begin like this: “You know, I ran into someone from my high school! It was really great seeing a familiar face on campus...”

3. Role-play

- In a crowded student cafeteria, **A** finally spots a vacant seat next to **B**, a sophomore. **A** approaches **B** and asks whether he/she can sit there.
- **A** is a freshman and **B** is the Dean’s secretary in charge of student affairs. **A** is in **B**’s office filling out his/her registration card.
- **A** and **B** go to a party, where **A** meets an old acquaintance **C** from primary school days. **A** reintroduces himself/herself to **C** and then introduces **B**.
- You are having a party in your dormitory. Greet your guests as they arrive.
- You are at a dinner party during an international conference. Introduce yourself and get to know as many people as possible.

» ACTIVITY 3

1. Conversation

(A reporter is just concluding an interview with a famous actress.)

Reporter: Thank you very much for agreeing to this interview.

Actress: My pleasure.

Reporter: OK, I’d like to check your full, official name. It’s Patricia Schultz, right?

Actress: Correct.

Reporter: Uh-huh, and do you prefer Miss, Mrs. or Ms.?

Actress: Excuse me?

Reporter: That is, are you married? Are you Miss Schultz, Mrs. Schultz or Ms. Schultz?

Actress: I don’t see why that’s anybody’s business. We’re talking about acting. Why does anybody care if I’m married?

Reporter: Gosh, I apologize, but we have to ask. It’s the policy of our newspaper—we’re required to collect certain background information...

2. Pair work

- 1) Students A and B first work on their own. Each reads the following two situations and tries to answer the questions at the end of each one.
- 2) Exchange answers with your partner. Are your answers similar?

Situation I

A professor, Jane Smith, was giving a lecture to a university psychology class. A student from an Asian country started to ask the professor a question and then stopped in confusion. How should he address his professor? He realized that he had no idea. How do you think he could solve this problem? Do you know what the correct form of address might be? Does it make a difference in which country the incident takes place?

Situation II

Laura is a college student looking for a summer internship position. She saw an advertisement for an interesting position as an assistant at a health science research center and wrote a letter to the director applying for the position. According to the center's brochure, the name of the director is M. S. Hess, MD. Laura addressed her letter to Mr. M. S. Hess. A few days later, she received a phone call from M. S. Hess' office notifying her that she was well qualified for the position and would be invited for an interview. At the end of the conversation, the caller added a gentle reminder: "In business letters, it is important to address the person you are writing to correctly." What was Laura's mistake?

3. Discussion

What courtesy titles do people in China usually use nowadays? When do we use them? What are the English equivalents for 同志, 师傅, and 大爷? In addition to courtesy titles, we often address people by their professions, such as 刘老师, 李经理, or 赵主任. Do you think that it is appropriate to do the same in English? If not, what is the common practice in English-speaking countries?

4. Story-telling

Have you had any embarrassing experience that involved not addressing someone properly? Tell us the story!

>> ACTIVITY 4

1. Mrs., Miss, Ms.?

Everybody knows about Mr., Mrs., and Miss. These are courtesy titles used before surnames. We usually address an adult with these titles unless he or she asks us to call him or her by his or her first name. Mr. is for men. Mrs. is for married women and Miss for single women. But what is Ms. (pronounced /mɪz/)?

Today, many women, especially those in the business world, prefer to be addressed as Ms. rather than Mrs. or Miss. The word *Mr.* does not tell people whether or not a man is married. Many women think this is an advantage for men. They want to be equal to men in this way. These women feel that it is not important for people to know whether they are married or not. Therefore, they like the title of Ms., which seems to have neatly and efficiently solved a difficult problem. There are problems with Ms., however. Not all women like it. Some like the conventional way of doing things. Others find it difficult to pronounce. To play it safe, it's best to ask each woman what title, if any, she prefers.



2. Discussion

Terms of address are words and phrases used for addressing the person you are having a conversation with. People use them to greet others and begin a conversation appropriately. But scholars point out that the choice of terms of address depends on gender, age, status and the occasion of the conversation. A form of address is to some extent a reflection of social climate. For instance, in China, 先生 and 女士 were gradually replaced by 同志 after 1949, but have been revived in recent years. A person does not have to be a teacher to be addressed as 老师, because this term is simply used to show respect. Now, talk about the following questions in pairs or groups.

- Qingdao locals might address a young man or woman as “青年.” Are there any interesting terms of address used in your hometown? On what occasion and between whom are they used?
- How do you address a stranger and a service person in your local dialect?
- Do you know of any new terms of address in China? On what occasion and between whom are they used? For instance, “亲” is used to address a potential customer in online shopping.
- Speculate how these terms became forms of address and why they became popular. You may even do some research on that!

》 SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITY

1. Conversation

- Host:** Good evening, welcome to today's show. I'm your host, Terry White. And our topic today is: What are the important qualities students should develop during their college years? Now, let's hear what our guests have to say.
- A:** We hope that when our students graduate, they will be able to read and think about the world, and express themselves clearly; most important of all, we hope that they will be able to think critically about issues, analyze them and come up with their own conclusions.
- B:** Undergraduate education is a time to explore the great ideas in various fields. The university offers a whole range of views to students. That is important because the world will always be more difficult and complicated than we would like it to be.
- C:** During their college years, students should develop a lifelong intellectual curiosity. They should enjoy things that are not commercial. And they should

develop a value system that goes beyond material gain, beyond wealth, fame and power.

- D:** As employers, we regard good communication skills, both verbal and written, as most important. Honesty ranks second, teamwork skills third, interpersonal skills fourth and a strong work ethic fifth.
- E:** What we emphasize most is students' ability to learn, because most students leave college without being able to do their job at first. A lot of students go to college but don't know what they want to do after graduation. What we're asking is for them to make a choice. Once they've developed that core expertise, we'll pay for them to broaden their education.
- Host:** Thank you all for sharing your insights with us. I'm sure your expert opinions will be of great help to our college students. Now we have come to the end of today's show. So, goodbye and see you at the same time next week!

2. Role-play

If you were the host, how would you introduce the panelists to your audience at the beginning of the show?

3. Discussion

Discuss the viewpoints of the panelists with your partner(s). Do you agree with them? Why or why not? What important insights have you gained from this TV program? What do *you* want to get out of *your* college years?



Language Bank

Greetings

Good morning, John. How's everything (going)?

How're things?

What's up/new?

Hello, Mr. White. It's nice to see you again.

Hi, John! What a pleasant surprise! How are you? It's been a while/long time.

Responses to greetings

Very well. Thanks. And you?

Fine./OK./All right./Not bad./Can't complain./Not so good. (How about you?)

Introductions and possible responses

Mr. Brown, may I present Dr. Smith? (very formal)

Dr. Smith, it's an honor to meet you.

Alice, I would like you to meet Mrs. White. She's a colleague of mine. (formal)

I'm very pleased to meet you, Mrs. White.

Bob, do you know Dr. Smith?/have you met Dr. Smith? (formal)

We haven't met. How do you do, Dr. Smith?

This is Tony. He works in the Public Relations Department. (general)

Hi, Tony. I'm Jack Brown, from Sales.

John, meet Julia. She's a good friend of mine. Julia, this is John. (informal)

Julia, I'm so glad we can finally meet. I have heard a lot about you.

Self-introductions

Excuse me. May I introduce myself? I'm Alice Jones, from the English Department. (formal)

Let me introduce myself. I'm Alice Jones. (formal or general)

Hi, I'm Robert, but everyone calls me Bobby. (informal)

Introducing a person to a group of people

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to introduce to you our speaker Professor White. (formal)

Everyone, this is George. George is a friend of mine from work. George, these are my buddies. Tim, Jack and Bill. (informal)

(George) Hi, there.

(Tim) Pleased to meet you.