1 Let’s talk

1A Make a good impression

Preview 1 Past Simple and Present Perfect

1 Use these prompts to make questions with you. Use the Past Simple or Present Perfect.

1 Have you been learning English for a long time? I first learned it at school, actually. But I forgot most of it so I decided to do this course.

2 How old are you when you have your first English lesson?

3 Have you seen any films in English recently?

4 When did you speak English outside class?

5 Have you read a novel that was written in English last month?

6 How long have you come to this school?

b) Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions. Ask follow-up questions. Check in Language Summary 1 p118.

Vocabulary Communicating

2 Tick the words/phrases in bold you know. Check new words/phrases in p117.

a) It’s essential to make eye contact when you’re speaking to someone.

b) On average, I come into contact with about twenty people a day.

c) On the whole, women gossip more than men.

d) In general, men butt in more than women, which women find very annoying.

e) If you overhear people having a row in public, you should intervene.

f) Politicians generally witter on without ever answering the interviewer’s questions.

g) Elderly people have reason to grumble about the youth of today.

h) Adults spend more time chatting on the phone than teenagers.

i) Couples who constantly bicker should split up.

j) Women chat up men as often as men chat up women.

b) Tick the sentences you agree with. Then change the other sentences to make them true for you. Perhaps it’s not essential to make eye contact, but it might seem rude if you don’t.

c) Work in pairs. Compare ideas. Do you agree?
Help with Grammar

Time expressions with Past Simple and Present Perfect

See Preview, p6.

5 a) Look at these sentences. Are they talking about a definite time in the past or time up to and including now? Which verb form is used?

1 I've bought quite a few self-help books over the past few months.
2 I've read about 150 pages so far.
3 During the last couple of weeks I've actually been trying out some of Carnegie's suggestions.
4 Up until now, I've never really had any contact with the guy in the ticket office.

b) Underline the time expression in each sentence in 5a).

c) Sometimes we can use the Present Perfect or the Past Simple with the same time expression. Compare these pairs of sentences. Why did Speaker A use the Past Simple? Why did Speaker B use the Present Perfect?

1 A I told at least ten people about it at work this week.
   B I've told at least ten people about it at work this week.

2 A I read it during the summer holidays.
   B I've read a lot of books during the last month.

3 A Since Ann suggested this one, I've read a couple of his other books.
   B I've read lots of his books since I've been unemployed.

4 A As soon as I finished reading it, I gave it to my brother.
   B As soon as I've finished reading it, I'm going to give it to my brother.

d) Check in G1.2 p118.

Listening and Grammar

3 a) Think of someone (not in your class) who is popular. Write five personal qualities that make him/her popular.

b) Work in pairs. Tell your partner about the person you chose. Are any of the personal qualities the same?

c) Agree on the three most important qualities. Tell the class.

4 a) Look at the book cover and read the introduction. What did the author and his publishers initially think about the book?

— How to Win Friends and Influence People, first published in 1937, has become an all-time international best-seller. The first print run was limited to 5,000 copies, which was an indication of how small a readership the author and the publishers were expecting. However, from the very beginning the book’s runaway success meant the publishers had difficulty keeping up with demand.

b) R1.1 Listen to Ann, Sy, Dean and Amy at their book club meeting. Which of Carnegie’s suggestions do they mention?

— 1 A I told at least ten people about it at work this week. the speaker considers the working week finished
   B I’ve told at least ten people about it at work this week. the speaker considers the working week unfinished

2 A I read it during the summer holidays.
   B I’ve read a lot of books during the last month.

3 A Since Ann suggested this one, I’ve read a couple of his other books.
   B I’ve read lots of his books since I’ve been unemployed.

4 A As soon as I finished reading it, I gave it to my brother.
   B As soon as I’ve finished reading it, I’m going to give it to my brother.

d) Work in pairs. Which of Carnegie’s suggestions do you think is the most important and why?

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1A
a) Are both verb forms possible? Why? Why not?
1 I spoke/‘ve spoken to him this morning.
2 I saw/‘ve seen her during the last few months.
3 I’ll call you as soon as she arrived/‘s arrived.
4 She came/‘s here a lot last month.
5 During last night’s performance, several people walked/‘ve walked out.
6 There have been a lot of changes since I worked/‘ve worked for them.
7 Once I met/‘ve met her, I really liked her.
8 I’ve been skiing twice since I saw/‘ve seen you last.

b) Work in pairs. Compare answers.

Reading

7 a) Work in pairs. Give examples of what you consider to be good and bad service in shops, restaurants, etc.
b) Read the article. Why do very friendly, chatty shop assistants and waitresses annoy the writer?
c) Read the article again. Tick the true sentences. Correct the false ones.
1 The writer was in a hurry when she went into the shop.
2 She wondered why the shop assistant’s behaviour had upset her.
3 She enjoyed the food she had at the restaurant.
4 She told the waitress what she thought of the food.
5 No psychological studies have the same view as hers.
6 She wouldn’t object to assistants who were naturally friendly.

8 a) Look at the words/phrases in bold in the article. What words are missing from each phrase?
b) What types of word can we miss out in informal written and spoken English?

9 Work in groups and discuss these questions.
1 Would you have responded to the shop assistant and the waitress in the same way as the writer of the article? If so, why? If not, what would you have said?
2 How would you describe the service in shops and cafés in your country? Has it changed over the years?

Get ready … Get it right!

10 a) Write three topics you would like to talk about, e.g.
   ● films/TV/music • sport • clothes • pets
   • work/studies
b) Work in pairs. Swap papers. Choose one of your partner’s topics and write six questions to ask him/her.
How many films have you seen during the last six months?

11 Work in pairs. Take turns to ask and answer your partner’s questions. Tell the class one thing you’ve learnt about your partner.
1B Friends – the new family?

QUICK REVIEW

Write true and false sentences about yourself using these time expressions: so far; this week; during the last few days; up until now; as soon as; in the past few months. Work in pairs. Take turns to tell each other your sentences. Guess which of your partner’s sentences are true.

Help with Grammar

Cleft sentences: what and it clauses

- Cleft sentences divide a message into two parts, using what or it clauses. They can focus attention on new, more important or contradictory information.
  
  (I can get a bit stressed by work.) What I do if I get stressed is talk to my friends. (new information)
  
  (I get on well with my parents.) However, it’s my friends that I talk to if I have a problem. (contradiction)

WHAT CLAUSES

a) Look at this example and answer the questions.

(We’ll have a drink and talk afterwards.) What we talk about isn’t deep and meaningful, though.

1 Underline the clause that gives new information in the cleft sentence.
2 Which verb joins the two clauses?
   ● To focus on an action we can use what … do ….
   
   What I do if I get stressed is talk to my friends.
   
   ● To focus on a whole sentence we can use what happens ….
   
   What happens is we bottle things up.

TIP! ● When we use who, why, whose, when, where, etc. instead of what, we usually use an expression such as a person, the reason, etc., with or without the wh- word.

A person (who) I tend to confide in is my hairdresser.

IT CLAUSES

b) Look at these cleft sentences with it. Answer the questions.

(They’re not going to the party.) It couldn’t be my friends who are going.

a) It’d probably be my parents who I’d talk to first.

b) It wasn’t until he broke up with his girlfriend that my hairdresser started to confide in me.

1 Does the speaker emphasise the information in the it clause or in the who/that clause?
2 What verb follows it?

e) Check in G1.3 p119.
1B

a) Complete sentence b) so it has the same meaning as sentence a).

1 a) Lucy's coming to help me out.
b) The reason Lucy's coming is to help me out.
2 a) After leaving my last job, I began to work freelance.
b) It ...
3 a) You should write a letter and refuse to pay.
b) What ...
4 a) Jo's not the problem. It's Tim.
b) It's …
5 a) I wanted to speak to Ben.
b) The person …
6 a) This is what happened. I forgot the map.
b) What …

b) [1.3] Listen and check.
c) Listen again and practise.

The reason Lucy's coming is to help me out.

5 a) Complete the following sentences about yourself.

1 What I find really boring …
2 It's … that really irritates me.
3 It wasn't until …
4 The year that …
5 What amuses me …
6 A place I really love …

b) Work in groups. Say your sentences. Ask follow-up questions.

Reading and Vocabulary

6 a) Work in pairs. Make a list of the different types of friends you could meet at different stages of your life, e.g. school friends. Will they always be important to you?

b) What do you think 'friendship overload' means?
In what ways might it be a problem?

c) Read the article. Does the writer agree with your ideas in 6a)?

d) Read the article again. Answer these questions.
1 Why are families often no longer available to do the things they used to? 
2 In what ways do people living locally feel like family?
3 According to the writer, what are 'second division' friends?
4 Why do people these days seem to have so many more friends than before?
5 What does the writer say about some of the people you see often?
6 Why does the writer suggest a real friend is one you hardly ever see?

e) Work in pairs. Which of the opinions in the article do you agree or disagree with? Give reasons.

Friendship overload

Old college friends, Internet chat room mates, work colleagues, neighbours ... we collect friends as if they're going out of fashion, says Mary Killen

Friends are the new family. We've no choice any more because the jobs that used to be done by family members on a regular basis, such as confidant, babysitter and someone to watch the TV with, have gone for good. More often than not, we now live too far away for this to be practical, which means that our friends – the people we actually come across most regularly – have to help us out. Naturally, they have to be on the same wavelength as well, but living nearby, having kids at the same school and so on means that we tend to have a lot in common. This is why they often end up as substitute family, either by chance or on purpose!

But what about the friends we are not so close to? There was a time when people tended to have a small group of 'best' friends and then a second division of twenty or more friends we acquired along the way. They could be people we were on good terms with at work, and since a British 25-year-old has, on average, experienced three different jobs, that soon adds up! Or perhaps we made friends with them at school or university and kept in touch. Maybe they are neighbours, people we know through hobbies, nightclubs or holidays, or even friends of friends.

At times it feels as if the numbers in the second division are getting out of control as we travel more and move jobs or houses increasingly frequently – either by choice or out of necessity. It sounds ungrateful, but many of us have collected too many friends and with only so many hours in the day it's impossible to keep in contact with all of them. So, let's be honest here. Perhaps one in five of our friendships is purely email, or text-based. You like each other, but realistically the friendship is not going to last in the long run. Another fifth is the people you only phone but barely ever meet. Next are the friends you do see sometimes, just out of habit. Finally, the last two-fifths are split between the people you see a lot in phases and those you see regularly, which include some you like a lot less than some of the people you only speak to on the phone, but who happen to live very close. Add to this lot your partner's friends, your work colleagues and the parents of your children's friends, and you're soon feeling out of your depth. It's a huge commitment, the kind that can keep you awake at night.

The Americans call it 'obligation overload'. It's the very 21st-century condition of collecting friends as if our life depended on it and then worrying how on earth to keep track of them all! Having so many friends is making us miserable and funny enough it's your real best friends that won't put pressure on you to see them because they know that life is stressful enough already!

In fact, it could be argued that perhaps the definition of a really close friend is one you hardly ever see!

Adapted from the Express 17/09/99
1B

8 a) Complete these sentences with one or two prepositions.

1 Who is the friend you have most _______ common with?
2 Do you keep _______ touch with any of your old school or college friends?
3 What kind of things do you do _______ habit, but which you would like to stop doing?
4 Do you ever do things _______ phases and then stop altogether?
5 What sports do you do _______ a regular basis?
6 What clothes did you use to wear but which are now _______ fashion?
7 In what subject have you always felt _______ your depth?
8 Have you ever broken something _______ purpose?

b) Work in pairs. Take turns to ask and answer the questions in 8a). Ask follow-up questions.

7 Help with Vocabulary Prepositions and phrases

- Make a note of words/phrases together with their prepositions and try to learn them as 'chunks' of meaning.

a) Look at the phrases in the word map. Then look at the phrases in bold in the article. Check their meaning in context then match them to definitions 1–6.

- on the same wavelength
- purpose
- in phases
- the long run
- out of habit
- your depth

1 intentionally, not by accident
2 something you do often, without thinking about it
3 after a very lengthy period of time
4 with similar views/opinions
5 for short, irregular periods
6 without the knowledge or skills to deal with something

b) Match these words/phrases to the prepositions in the word map. There is sometimes more than one possible answer.

- control
- fashion
- necessity
- good terms
- a regular basis
- touch
- average
- common
- contact

c) Work in pairs. Look at the phrases from 7b) in blue in the article. What does each phrase mean?
d) Check in V1.2 p117.

9 Get ready ... Get it right!

Tick the sentences you agree with. Change the other sentences to make them true for you. Then complete sentences 7 and 8 with your own ideas.

1 What you're looking for in a friend is someone who is very different to you.
2 You need to have interests in common if a friendship is to last.
3 Friends are people who will always stick up for you, whatever happens.
4 You can't really be 'just friends' with someone of the opposite sex.
5 A real friend is someone who will tell you the truth even if it's something you don't want to hear.
6 Women form closer friendships than men.
7 It ...
8 What ...

10 a) Work in groups. Discuss what you have written and give reasons.

b) Tell the class three things that you agreed on.

By and large, we agreed that what we tend to be looking for is someone who is loyal and ...
Favourite sayings

QUICK REVIEW

Write five sentences using phrases with in, on and out of. Work in pairs. Say one of your sentences but don’t say the preposition(s). Your partner says the sentence with the correct preposition(s):

A I’m … good terms … my in-laws.
B I’m on good terms with my in-laws.

1 a) Match the first half of sayings 1—8 to their endings a)–h).

1 Rome wasn’t built in a day.
2 Don’t make a mountain out of a molehill.
3 Once bitten, twice shy.
4 Actions speak louder than words.
5 One man’s meat is another man’s poison.
6 Engage brain before mouth.
7 Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
8 Better late than never.


c) Choose a saying from your country. How would you explain what it means to a British person?

2 a) [R1.4] Listen to five people talking about sayings that they like. Put the sayings in pictures A–E in the order they talk about them.

b) Work in pairs. Try to match the sayings to these meanings.

1 You shouldn’t worry about things that might or might not happen in the future.
2 It’s important to choose the right person for the right activity.
3 It’s pointless doing something yourself if you know someone who can do it for you.
4 If you mix with a bad crowd, you’ll be judged the same way as the crowd.
5 If you don’t offer people enough money to do a job, you won’t get the best person.

c) Listen again. Check your answers.

d) Work in pairs. Which of the sayings in 1a) and 2a) do you like the best and why? Tell the class.