

# 6

# Can you speak English?

can/can't/could/couldn't • was/were • Words that sound the same • On the phone

## STARTER



1 Where do people speak these languages?

French Spanish Farsi Italian Portuguese Japanese English Arabic

*They speak French in France and also in Canada.*

2 Which languages can you speak?  
Tell the class.

*I can speak English and a little Spanish. And of course, I can speak my language.*

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

can/can't

1 **T 6.1** Match the sentences and pictures.  
Then listen and check.

- 1 He can ski really well.
- 2 She can use a computer.
- 3 'Can dogs swim?' 'Yes, they can.'
- 4 'Can you speak Japanese?' 'No, I can't.'
- 5 I can't spell your name.
- 6 We can't understand the question.

### GRAMMAR SPOT

1 Say all persons of *can* and *can't*.  
*I can, you can, he ... she ... it ... we ... they ...*  
*I can't, you ..., etc.*

What do you notice?

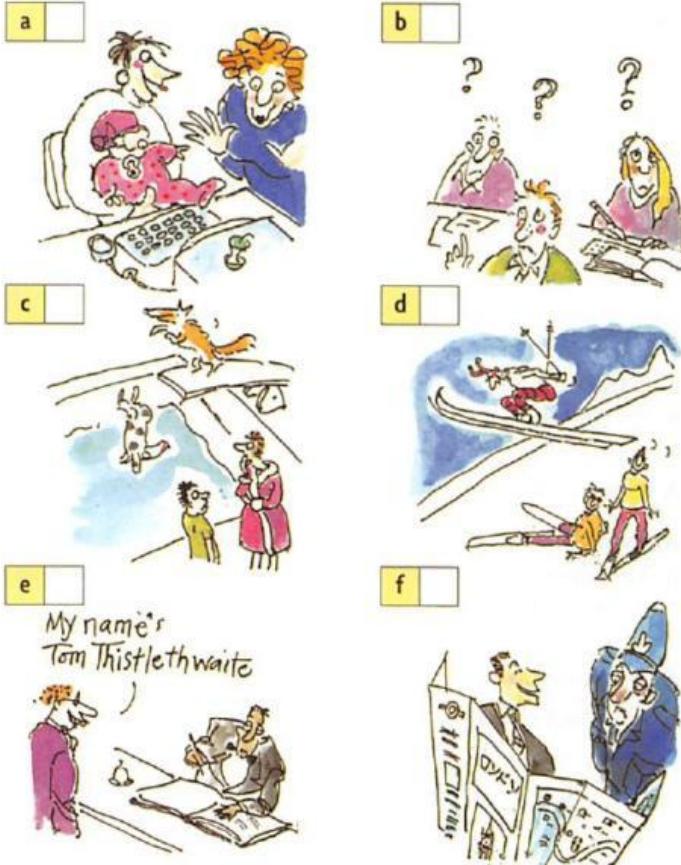
2 **T 6.2** Listen and repeat these sentences.

I can speak French.  
Can you speak French? = /kən/  
Yes, I can. = /kæn/  
No, I can't. = /kə:nt/

3 Say these sentences.

• • •      • • •  
We can swim.   She can't cook.

► Grammar Reference 6.1 p128



2 **T 6.3** Listen and complete the sentences with *can* or *can't* + verb.

- I \_\_\_\_\_, but I \_\_\_\_\_.
- He \_\_\_\_\_, but he \_\_\_\_\_.
- '\_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_?' 'Yes, I \_\_\_\_\_.'
- They \_\_\_\_\_, but they \_\_\_\_\_.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ and we \_\_\_\_\_.
- '\_\_\_\_\_ she \_\_\_\_\_?' 'No, she \_\_\_\_\_.'

## PRACTICE

Tina can't cook. Can you?

1 **T 6.4** Listen to Tina and complete the chart. Put  or .



Can ... ?	Tina	you	your partner
drive a car			
speak French			
speak Italian			
cook			
play tennis			
ski			
swim			
play the piano			
use a computer			

- Complete the chart about you.
- Complete the chart about your partner. Ask and answer the questions.

*Can you drive a car?*

*No, I can't.*

*Can you ski?*

*Yes, I can. But not very well.*

Tell the class about you and your partner.

*Louis can ski, but I can't.*

## What can computers do?

4 Talk about computers with a partner. What can they do? What can't they do?

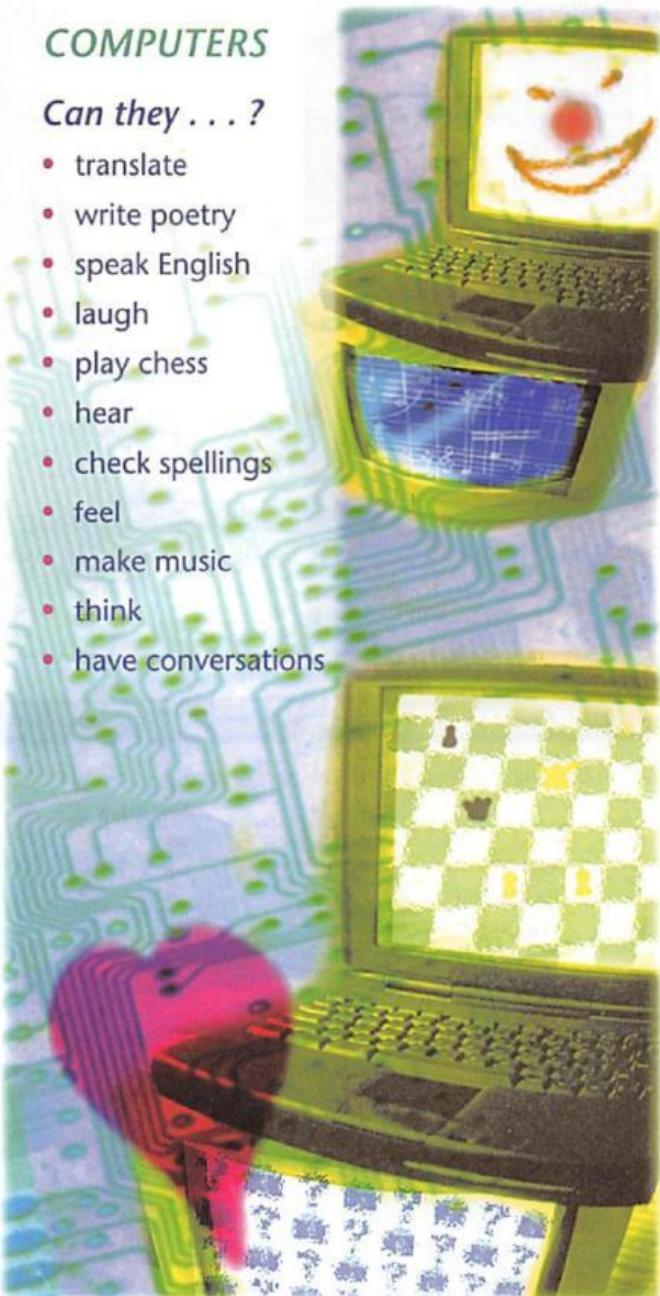
*They can translate, but they can't speak English.*

*Yes, they can.*

## COMPUTERS

*Can they . . . ?*

- translate
- write poetry
- speak English
- laugh
- play chess
- hear
- check spellings
- feel
- make music
- think
- have conversations



5 What can people do that computers can't do?

# WHERE WERE YOU YESTERDAY?

was/were, can/could

Read the questions. Complete the answers.

Present	Past
1 What day is it today? It's _____.	What day was it yesterday? It was _____.
2 What month is it now? It's _____.	What month was it last month? It was _____.
3 Where are you now? I'm in/at _____.	Where were you yesterday? I was in/at _____.
4 Are you in England? _____, I am. _____, I'm not.	Were you in England in 2003? _____. I was. _____. I wasn't.
5 Can you swim? _____, I can. _____, I can't.	Could you swim when you were five? _____. I could. _____. I couldn't.
6 Can your teacher speak three languages? Yes, _____ can. No, _____ can't.	Could your teacher speak English when he/she was seven? Yes, _____ could. No, _____ couldn't.

## GRAMMAR SPOT

1 Complete the table with the past of *to be*.

	Positive	Negative
I	was	wasn't
You	were	weren't
He/She/It	_____	_____
We	_____	_____
They	_____	_____

2 **T 6.5** Listen and repeat.

/wəz/ /wə/

It was Monday yesterday. We were at school.

In short answers the pronunciation is different.

/wɒz/  
'Was it hot?' 'Yes, it was.'  
/wəz:/  
'Were you tired?' 'Yes, we were.'

3 What is the past of *can*?

Positive \_\_\_\_\_ Negative \_\_\_\_\_

►► Grammar Reference 6.1 and 6.2 p128

## PRACTICE

### Talking about you

1 Ask and answer questions with a partner.

Where were you ... ?

- at eight o'clock this morning
- at half past six yesterday evening
- at two o'clock this morning
- at this time yesterday
- at ten o'clock last night
- last Thursday evening

2 Complete the conversation, using *was*, *were*, *wasn't*, *weren't*, or *couldn't*.



Kim \_\_\_\_\_ you at Charlotte's wedding party last Saturday?

Julie Yes, I \_\_\_\_\_.

Kim \_\_\_\_\_ it good?

Julie Well, it \_\_\_\_\_ OK.

Kim \_\_\_\_\_ there many people?

Julie Yes, there \_\_\_\_\_.

Kim \_\_\_\_\_ Henry there?

Julie No, he \_\_\_\_\_ . And where \_\_\_\_\_ you? Why \_\_\_\_\_ you there?

Kim Oh ... I \_\_\_\_\_ go because I \_\_\_\_\_ at a conference. It \_\_\_\_\_ boring!

**T 6.6** Listen and check. Listen for the pronunciation of *was* and *were*. Practise with a partner.

## Four geniuses!

3 The people in the photos were all geniuses. What were they famous for?

4 Look at these sentences.

*I was born in London in 1973. I could read when I was four.*

*My sister couldn't read until she was seven.*

Match lines in A, B, and C and make similar sentences about the four geniuses.

A	B	C
Mozart / born in	Siberia / 1938	paint / one
Picasso / born in	Germany / 1879	dance / two
Nureyev / born in	Austria / 1756	play the piano / three
Einstein / born in	Spain / 1881	couldn't speak / eight

5 Ask and answer questions with a partner about the geniuses.

*When was Mozart born?*

*Where was he born?*

*How old was he when he could ... ?*

6 Work in groups. Ask and answer questions about you.

1 Where were you born?

2 When were you born?

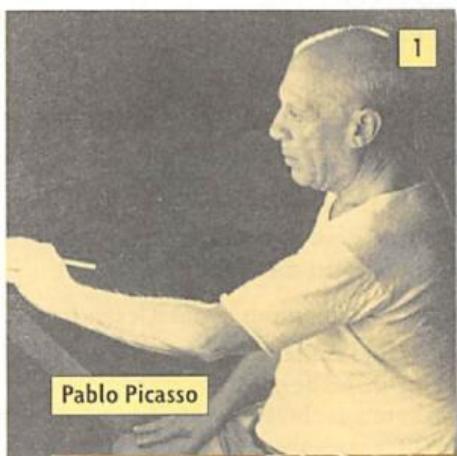
3 How old were you when you could ... ?

- walk                    • talk
- read                    • swim
- ride a bike            • use a computer
- speak a foreign language

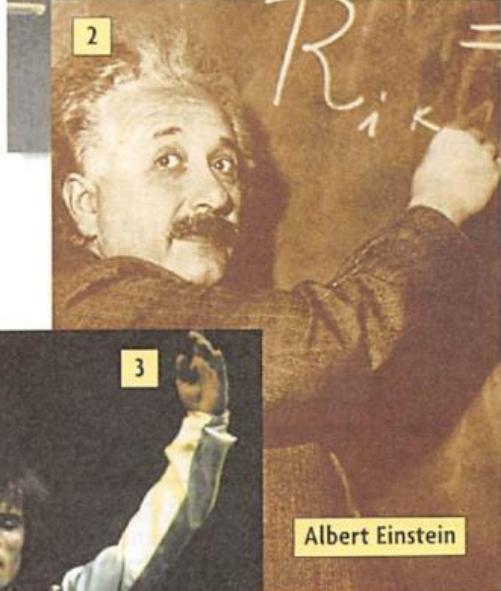
### Check it

7 Tick (✓) the correct sentence.

- 1  I don't can use a computer.  
 I can't use a computer.
- 2  Was they at the wedding?  
 Were they at the wedding?
- 3  I'm sorry. I can't go to the meeting.  
 I'm sorry. I no can go to the meeting.
- 4  She was no at home.  
 She wasn't at home.
- 5  He could play chess when he was five.  
 He can play chess when he was five.
- 6  I can to speak English very well.  
 I can speak English very well.

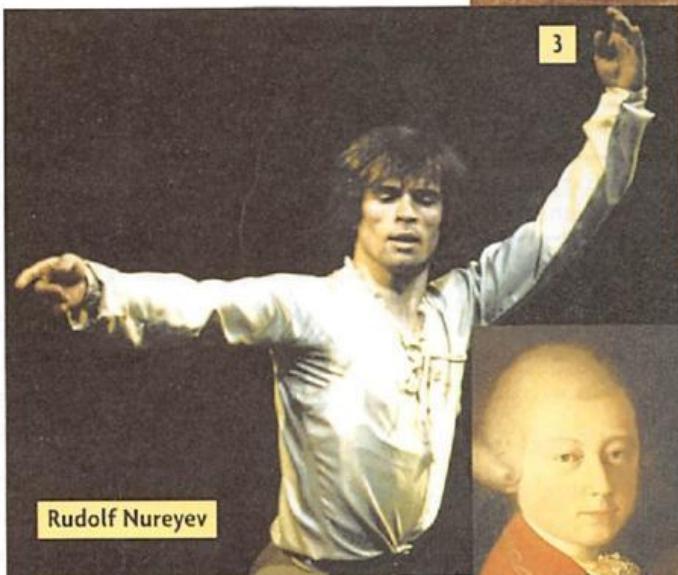


Pablo Picasso

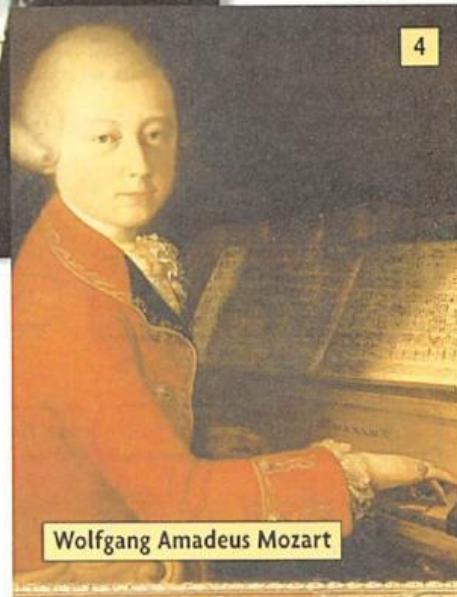


3

Albert Einstein



Rudolf Nureyev



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

## READING AND SPEAKING

### Super Kids

- 1 Look at the children in the photographs. How old are they? What can they do?
- 2 Work in two groups.  
Group A Read about little Miss Picasso.  
Group B Read about the new Mozart.
- 3 Answer the questions about Alexandra or Wesley.
  - 1 How old is she/he?
  - 2 Why is she/he special?
  - 3 Where was she/he born?
  - 4 Where does she/he live now?
  - 5 Who does she/he live with?
  - 6 Does she/he go to school?
  - 7 What could she/he do when she/he was very young?
  - 8 Does she/he have much free time? Why not?
  - 9 Is she/he poor?
  - 10 Where was she/he last year?
- 4 Find a partner from the other group. Tell your partner about your child, using your answers.
- 5 What is the same about Alexandra and Wesley? What is different? Discuss with your partner.

*They are both geniuses.*

*Alexandra is a painter, and Wesley is a pianist.*

### Roleplay

- 6 Work with a partner.

Student A is a journalist.

Student B is Alexandra or Wesley.

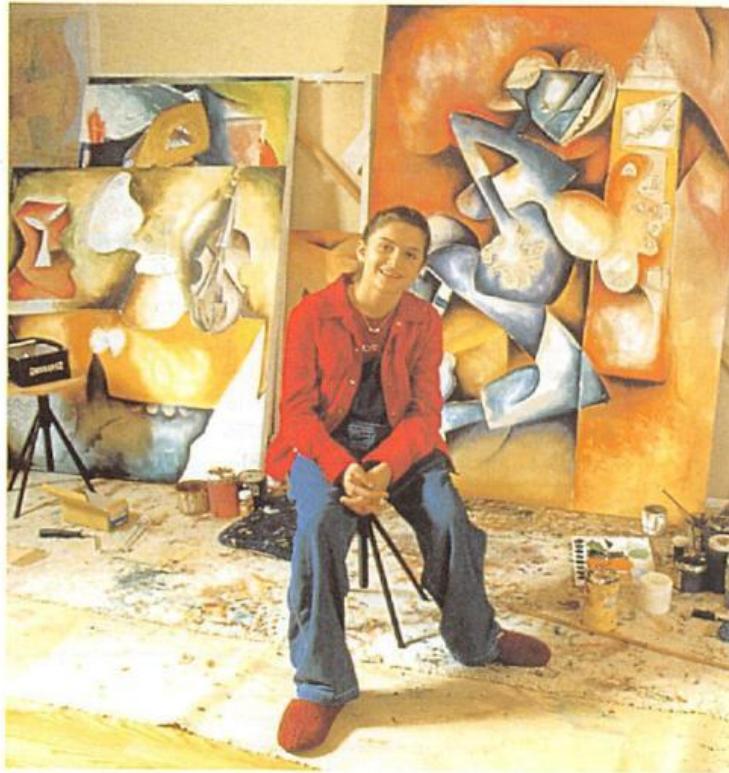
Ask and answer questions, using the questions in exercise 3 to help you.

*Hello, Alexandra! Can I ask you one or two questions?*

*Of course.*

*First of all, how old are you?*

*I'm thirteen.*



## The New Mozart

Eight-year-old **Wesley Chu** is a happy little boy, but he plays serious music. He is a world-famous pianist. He can also write music. Some people call him '**the new Mozart**'. Every year he travels the world and gives concerts. Last year he was in London, Hong Kong, and Rome. 'It's fun,' he says.

Wesley was born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where he still lives with his parents and his two sisters. He goes to school five days a week and practises piano for two hours a day. Wesley could play the piano when he was only three years old. He could write music before he could write the alphabet. He wrote his first piece of music when he was five.

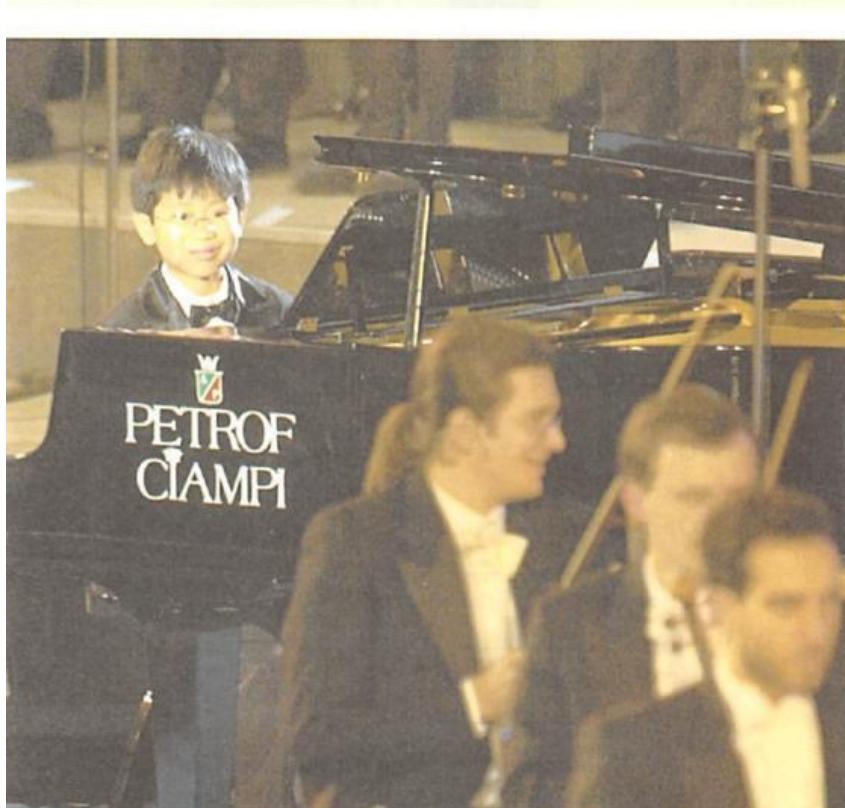
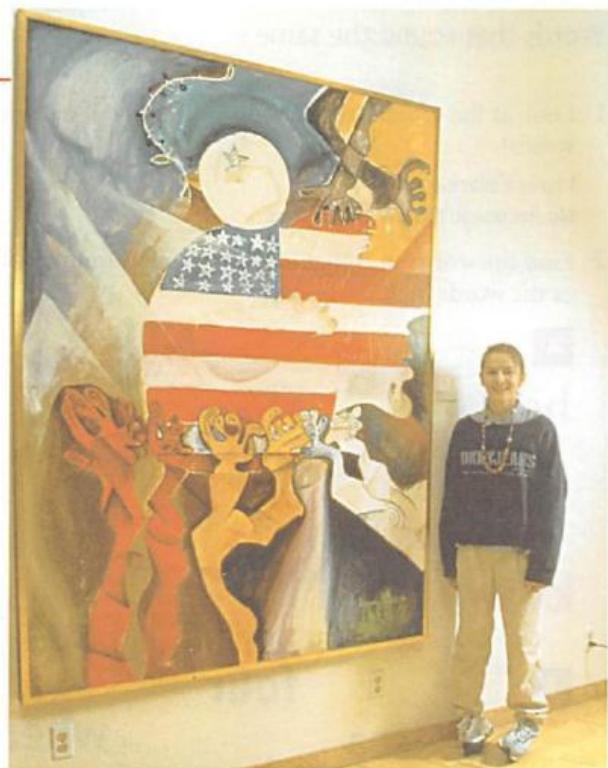
Wesley doesn't just play the piano and write music. He also likes watching TV, playing video games, and playing football. He says, 'Mozart was poor and he couldn't play football, so I'm not like him at all!'

## Little Miss Picasso

**Alexandra Nechita** is thirteen and she is called 'the new Picasso'. She paints large pictures in cubist style and sells them for between \$10,000 and \$80,000.

She was born in Romania but now she lives in Los Angeles with her family. She could paint very well when she was only four but her parents couldn't understand her pictures. Alexandra says: 'I paint how I feel, sometimes I'm happy and sometimes sad. I can't stop painting.' Every day after school she does her homework, plays with her little brother, then paints for two or three hours until bedtime.

Alexandra doesn't spend her money, she saves it: 'We were very poor when we were first in America. We couldn't buy many things, but now I can buy a big house for my family and we can travel the world. Last year we were in London, Paris, and Rome. It was fantastic!'



## VOCABULARY AND PRONUNCIATION

### Words that sound the same

1 Look at the sentences. What do you notice about these words?

I have a black **eye**.

No, he doesn't know the answer.

2 Find the words in B that have the same pronunciation as the words in A.

A	hear	write	wear
	see	eye	there
	by	for	hour
know		son	too
B	our	four	I
buy	sea	here	sun
	no		where
	two	right	
		their	

3 Correct the two spelling mistakes in each sentence.

- 1 I can **here** you, but I can't **sea** you.
- 2 Their are three bedrooms in **hour** house.
- 3 I don't **no** wear Jill lives.
- 4 My sun lives near the **see**.
- 5 Don't **where** that hat, by a new one!
- 6 Know, eye can't come to the meeting.
- 7 You were **write**. Sally and Peter can't come **four** dinner.
- 8 There daughter could **right** when she was three.
- 9 I no my answers are **write**.

4 Look at the phonetic symbols. Write the two words with the same pronunciation.

- 1 /nəʊ/ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 /sʌn/ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 /tu:/ \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 /raɪt/ \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 /hɪə/ \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 /weɪ/ \_\_\_\_\_

## EVERYDAY ENGLISH

### On the phone

1 When you do not know someone's telephone number, you can phone Directory Enquiries. In Britain you ring 153 for international numbers. Here are the names and addresses of some people you want to phone.

#### WILSON ASSOCIATES

Nancy Wilson  
302 Erindale Road  
PERTH 6034  
Australia  
Tel:   
e-mail: [n.wilson@connect.com.au](mailto:n.wilson@connect.com.au)



Dr Khaled Abdullah  
Director of Studies  
College of Education  
P O Box 46522  
Abu Dhabi  
UAE  
e-mail: [khaledab@collegeofedu.ac.ae](mailto:khaledab@collegeofedu.ac.ae)  
Tel/fax:

Avenida Vitória 713  
SÃO PAULO – SP  
Brasil  
Tel:   
Fax:   
E-mail: [ferreira\\_m@dpret.com.br](mailto:ferreira_m@dpret.com.br)

#### Mauricio Ferreira

**T 6.7** Listen to the operator and answer her questions. Get Nancy's telephone number.

**Operator** International Directory Enquiries. Which country, please?

You Australia.

**Operator** And which city?

You \_\_\_\_\_.

**Operator** Can I have the last name, please?

You \_\_\_\_\_.

**Operator** And the initial?

You \_\_\_\_\_.

**Operator** What's the address?

You \_\_\_\_\_.

**Recorded message** The number you require is \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Work with a partner. Look at the numbers from your teacher. Ask and answer to get the telephone and fax numbers of Khaled and Mauricio.

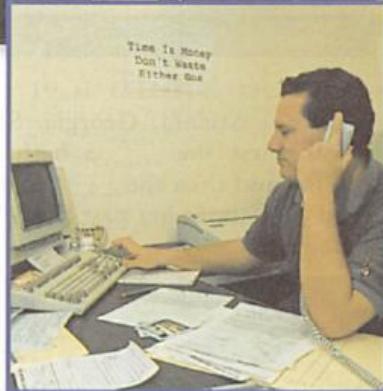
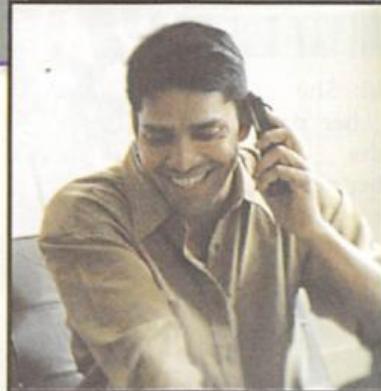
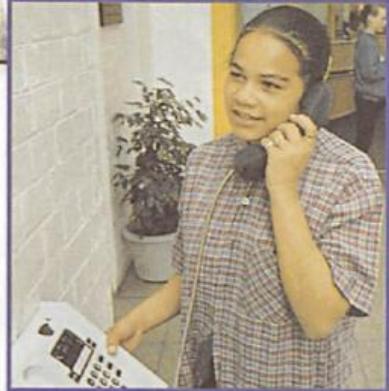
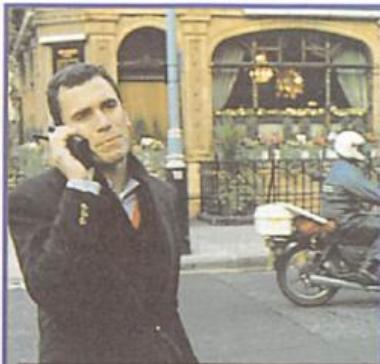
3 Read the lines below. They are all from telephone conversations. What do you think the lines before and/or after are? Discuss with a partner.

- 1 This is Jo.
- 2 Can I take a message?
- 3 Great! See you on Sunday at ten, then. Bye!
- 4 Oh, never mind. Perhaps next time. Bye!
- 5 No, it isn't. I'll just get him.
- 6 I'll ring back later.
- 7 There's a good film at the cinema on Saturday. Can you come?
- 8 Can I speak to the manager, please?



I'll = I will  
will = an offer or promise  
I'll help you

4 Complete the conversations with a line from exercise 3.



- 1 A Hello.  
B Hello. Can I speak to Jo, please?  
A \_\_\_\_\_.  
B Oh! Hi, Jo. This is Pat. Is Sunday still OK for tennis?  
A Yes, that's fine.  
B \_\_\_\_\_!  
A Bye!

- 2 A Hello.  
B Hello. Is that James?  
A \_\_\_\_\_.  
...  
C Hello, James here.  
B Hi, James. It's Tom. Listen!  
\_\_\_\_\_?  
C Oh sorry, Tom. I can't. It's my sister's wedding.  
B \_\_\_\_\_!  
C Bye!

- 3 A Good morning, Barclays Bank. How can I help you?  
B Good morning. \_\_\_\_\_?  
A I'm afraid Mr Smith isn't in his office at the moment.  
\_\_\_\_\_?  
B Don't worry. \_\_\_\_\_.  
A All right. Goodbye.  
B Goodbye.

**T 6.8** Listen and check. Practise the conversations.

Make similar conversations with your partner.