Unit 1

Meeting people

Old friends, new friends

In this unit, you will learn how to:

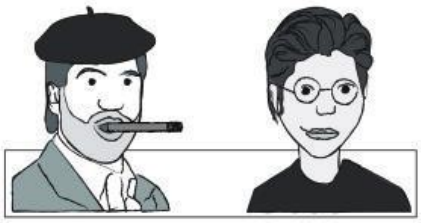
- describe people's nationality
- ask people about languages they speak
- read short biographies
- ask and answer about personal information, using **to be** and simple present tense
- recognise appropriate topics for small talk
- recognise formal and informal language in greetings, introductions, answers and goodbyes
- take part in small talk at a party or social event, and ask questions if you don't understand
- write simple dialogues of small talk
- understand names and phone numbers with correct spelling
- spell names and say phone numbers
- leave messages on an answer machine
- use contractions such as I'm, he's, we're, don't, isn't, aren't.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Hola! Chào Ahlan wa sahlan Salut Salve Hallo
Sawatdi Selamat Merhaba Zdravstvui Ni hǎo

Vocabulary

Languages and nationalities



A ***In the USA, people are American. They speak English.*** **Use your dictionary and fill in the blanks.**

Country	Language	Nationality
USA	English	American
Britain	_____	British
Mexico	Spanish	_____
China	Mandarin	_____
Russia	Russian	_____
Turkey	Turkish	_____
Thailand	Thai	_____
Italy	_____	Italian
Argentina	Spanish	Argentinean
Spain	_____	_____
Vietnam	_____	_____
Canada	_____	Canadian
Egypt	Arabic	_____
Indonesia	_____	Indonesian
Korea	Korean	_____
_____	French	French

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B Ask your partner about eight countries:

What language do they speak in (country)…? They speak (language).

Now swap and answer your partner's questions.

C Now look at the words for *hello* on the previous page. Ask your classmates what language it is in. Check with your partner. *It's in Italian.*

D Look at these questions and answers. Ask the people in your group about the languages they speak.

Do you speak Spanish? *Yes, I do.* *Do you speak English?* *Yes, a little.*
Do you speak Mandarin? *No, I don't.*

E Now write about three countries, languages and nationalities. E.g. *In Spain, the people are Spanish, and they speak Spanish.*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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Reading

Our friends the travellers

Mei-Ling

Ni hǎo. I'm *Mei-Ling*. I live in Shanghai, China, with my parents and grandparents. I'm an only child. I'm twenty-one years old. I'm a university student and I'm studying accounting. I'm engaged. My boyfriend, Tao, is studying International Relations.

Giuliano

Salve, I'm *Giuliano*. Please call me *Jules*. I live in Milano, Italy. I'm twenty-three years old. I'm also a university student. After university I want to be a secret agent. I am studying International Relations. My girlfriend's name is Maria. She is a nursing student. My Mother is a travel agent and my Dad is a banker.

Anh & Minh

Chào. He's *Minh*, and I'm *Anh*. We are cousins. We both live in Ho Chi Minh City, in Vietnam. Minh starts university in September. He wants to be a video game designer. After high school, I want to be a chef. Minh hasn't got a girlfriend. I don't have a boyfriend, either.

Carlos

Hola! I'm *Carlos*. I come from Costa Rica in Central America. I live in San Jose with my family. I have two brothers. I also begin university in September. After university, I want to be a pilot. I haven't got a girlfriend right now. My ex-girlfriend's name is Ana. I still love her.

Adriana

Hi, My name's *Adriana*. People call me *Adri*. I'm twenty. I come from Cancun, Mexico but go to university in Mexico City. My dream is to be a geologist. I have a boyfriend called Pedro. I live in Mexico City with my cousin Eva.

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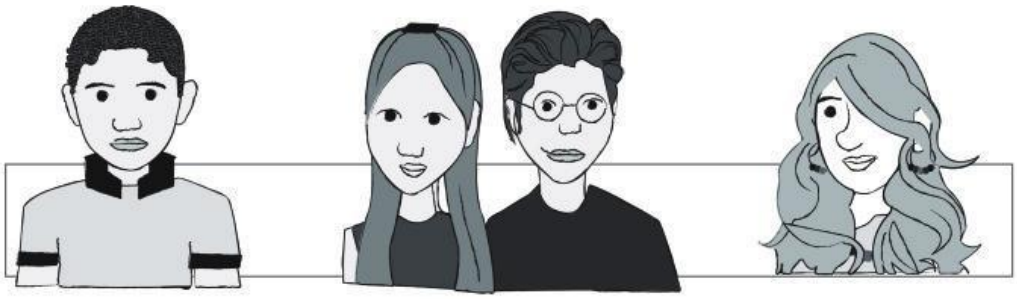
A Complete the questions and answers about the travellers. Talk with your partner.

1. How _____ is Mei-Ling? She is _____ years old.
2. Where _____ she live? She _____ in Shanghai.
3. Who does she _____ with? She lives with her _____ and _____.
4. Does she _____ a boyfriend? Yes, _____ name is Tao.
5. Does _____ have a nickname? Yes, _____'s Jules.
6. What _____ Jules study? International Relations.
7. Has Jules _____ a girlfriend? Yes, her name _____ Maria.
8. What _____ she do? She's a _____ student.
9. What _____ Jules' mother do? She _____ a travel agent.
10. What does Jules' father _____? He is a _____.

B With a group of three – each of you makes five questions – one about Anh and Minh, one about Carlos, one about Adriana. Write the questions (look at the questions above). Ask the group.



E.g. *Has Minh got a girlfriend?*

_____

_____

_____

_____

We use the simple present tense when we talk about things that are generally true.

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Language Focus

Using *do / does*
Do and *does* must be used in present simple questions and negatives.

Describing nationality
When we describe people's nationality and jobs, we use the verb *to be* + adjective.

For example:
Giuliano is a student.
Emma is a tour guide.
Minh and Anh are Vietnamese.

A Put *do / does / don't / doesn't / is / are* in these questions and sentences:

1. Mei-Ling _____ live with her boyfriend.
2. What _____ Jules want to be?
3. What _____ Maria study?
4. _____ Anh and Minh sister and brother?
5. _____ Jules' mother a teacher?
6. Who _____ Adri live with?

B Now speak to your partner and answer the questions above.

Simple present tense

Pronoun	Verb	Rest of sentence with preposition
I You We They	live	in Mexico City.
Carlos He / she	wants	to be a pilot.
I You We They	don't speak	Italian.
Carlos He / she	doesn't have	a girlfriend.
Question word	***do / does* + pronoun**	**Rest of question**
What	do you	study?
Where	does he	come from?
Who	does she	live with?

To be form:

Pronoun	*to be*	Adjective / Rest of sentence
I You We They He / she	am are are are is	Vietnamese.
to be	**Pronoun**	**Adjective / Rest of sentence**
Am Are Are Are Is	I you we they he / she	a student? brothers? tired?
Question word	***to be***	**Pronoun + rest of question**
What How old What	am is is are	I ? his nickname? her surname? Mei-Ling? their / our names?

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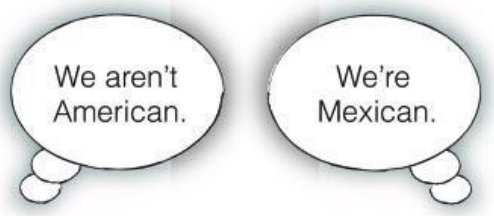
Pronunciation

Contractions



A Tapescript 1 – Listen and repeat.

Positive with *to be*		Negative with *to be*	
I am	*= I'm*	*I am not*	*= I'm not*
We are	*= We're*	*We are not*	*= We aren't*
He is	*= He's*	*He is not*	*= He isn't*
She is	*= She's*	*She is not*	*= She isn't*
They are	*= They're*	*They are not*	*= They aren't*
You are	*= You're*	*You are not*	*= You aren't*

Negatives with simple present	
I do not	*= I don't*
We do not	*= We don't*
He / She does not	*= He / She doesn't*
They do not	*= They don't*
You do not	*= You don't*

B Fill in the blanks. Listen to Tapescript 2. Repeat the sentences.

1. Mei-Ling's boyfriend _____ a teacher. He's a student.
2. Giuliano _____ Italian.
3. Jules _____ live with his friends. He lives with his parents.
4. Jules' mother _____ Italian. She's Australian.
5. _____ a travel agent.
6. Jules' father _____ work in a hospital. He works in a school.
7. _____ not American. I'm Canadian.
8. I _____ speak Italian.

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9. Minh and Anh _____ live in Hanoi. They live in Ho Chi Minh City.
10. They _____ Vietnamese.

Listening

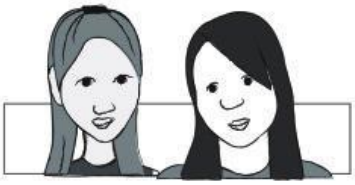
Small talk

A Small talk is the polite conversation you make after you just meet someone, for example, *'How are you?', 'Where are you from?'* and *'What do you do?'* Can you think of other examples of 'small talk' questions? Circle the topics you talk about. Underline the topics you do NOT talk about.

Weather **Religion** **Money** **Nationality**

Jobs **Family** **Personal details e.g. phone number**

Emma and the travellers are at Big Sur Lodge, in Big Sur State Park in California. They are in the swimming pool, café and dining room. They meet some other travellers.



B Listen to Tapescript 3 and fill in the blanks. Practise the dialogues with your partner.

1. **Emma** _____ day, isn't it?
   Jane Lovely! I think it's about 27 degrees.
2. **Anh** Are you _____?
   Sunisa No, I'm not, I come from Thailand.
   Anh Do you like _____?
   Sunisa Yes, I love it here! My husband is American.
3. **Mei-Ling** _____, I'm Mei-Ling.
   Michael Hi Mei-Ling, I'm Michael.
   Mei-Ling What do you do, Michael?

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Michael I'm a _____. I paint bridges.

Mei-Ling Really! My father is an engineer. He _____ bridges.

Michael _____ to meet you, Mei-Ling.

Jules meets someone he knows…

4. **Marianne** Hi, is that you, Jules, how are you?

Jules _____! And you Marianne?

Marianne Very well. Are you on holiday?

Jules Yes, we are on a tour! It's beautiful in the park!

Marianne Yes, it's a great place. Jules, I have got a new _____!

Jules Congratulations! What is it?

Marianne I'm in sales. I _____ swimming pools!

Jules Do you like it?

Marianne Yes, very much! How's your family?

Jules My mother is very well. My father is _____. He's not so young anymore. And my girlfriend Maria, she's really good too. She is studying _____ and she likes it!

Marianne _____ to talk to you, Jules.

Jules You, too.

C Now look at the dialogues and at the Language Focus.

Write two or three examples of small talk for each group. Ask and answer them with your partner.

Weather	Nationality	Job	Family

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Language Focus

When do we make small talk?
Small talk is polite talk when we first meet someone we don't know, or don't know very well.

We can talk about these topics:

- Weather
- Nationality
- Jobs
- Family
- Sports / interests

We don't talk about these things unless we know somebody well:

- Salary
- Telephone number
- Religion

If there is any topic we have strong opinions on, we usually don't talk about this either.

Small talk

Once you are introduced or greet someone, it is polite to have 'small talk'. Small talk is general questions about the person to show that you take an interest in them.You can also talk about shared interests.

Asking 'Small Talk' questions

To be	Subject Pronoun	End of question
Is	your	family well?
Are	you	enjoying the show?
Is	your	son happy at university?

Weather statements

It's a nice day.
What a lovely day today.
It's very warm and sunny today.
Look at that rain!

D It is the first day of university. You are at a lunch for new students. There are lots of people standing and talking. Stand up, move around and start some small talk with five people.

E Extra activity – Write down the dialogues at the lunch.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Listening

Letters and numbers

A Tapescript 4. Listen to the sounds of the letters and numbers. Repeat after the CD.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu

Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

B Now listen to Tapescript 5. Some people are calling and leaving messages on an answering machine. Write the names and phone numbers you hear on the answering machine messages.

Call	First name of caller	Surname of caller	Telephone number
1.	_____	Bakri	_____
2.	_____	Kim	_____
3.	Therese	_____	_____
4.	Amanda	_____	_____
5.	Thomas	_____	_____

C Telephone messages

Now speak to your partner, and leave a message. First, plan your message by writing in the sections below and on the next page.

This is…

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I'd like to leave a message for…
My name is (say and spell your names)…
My number is…

What is your partner's message? Listen and write.

_____

_____

Change partners. Listen and write their message.

_____

_____

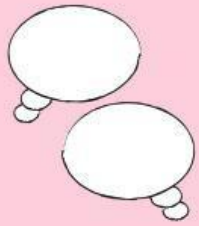
Language Focus

Meeting people

Formal or Informal?

A Which greeting is formal? Which is informal? Which is *both*? Write in the circles. Write the *both* in the middle of the circles.

Formal



Informal

Common titles

Mr	*men*
Mrs	*married women*
Ms	*women*
Miss	*unmarried women, girls*
Dr.	*doctors*

Greetings

- Hey! What's up?
- Hi. How are you?
- Good morning / afternoon / evening.

Answers to greetings

- Very well thanks. And you?
- Not bad. You?
- Good morning / afternoon / evening. How are you?

Introductions

- May I introduce you to…
- This is…
- Do you know Carlos?

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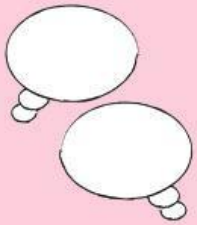
B Which answer is formal? Which is informal? Which is both formal and informal?

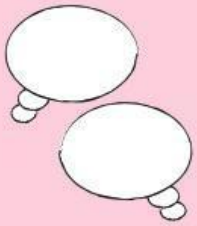
Formal



Informal

C Which introduction is formal?
Which is informal?
Which is both formal and informal?

Formal



Informal

Answers to introductions

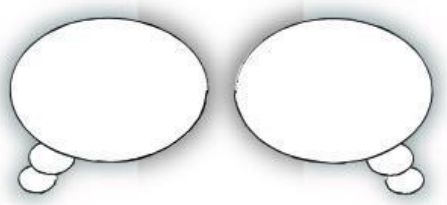
- Pleased to meet you, Mr Smith.
- Nice to meet you, Carlos.
- Hi, how are you?

Saying goodbye

- Good-bye.
- 'Bye.
- See you later / again.

Which goodbye is formal? Which is informal? Which is both?

Formal **Informal**



Speaking

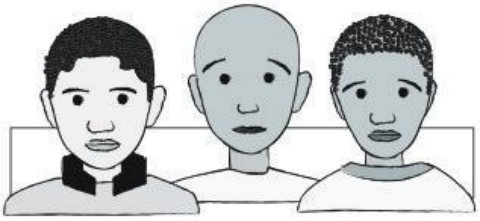
Meeting People

A Read the dialogues on the next page. Who do you think is speaking and where, in:

Dialogue 1 _____

Dialogue 2 _____

Dialogue 3 _____



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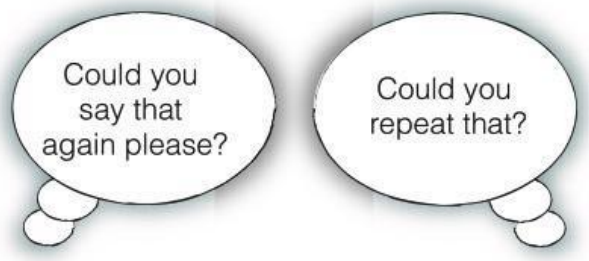
Dialogue 1 - informal	Dialogue 2	Dialogue 3 - formal
'Hey, what's up?' 'Not bad. You?' 'Keeping out of trouble!' 'Do you know Carlos?' 'Hi, Carlos.' *(small talk)* 'See you later.'	'Hi, how are you?' 'Fine thanks, and you?' 'Great! George, this is Marcia.' 'Hi Marcia, pleased to meet you.' 'You too.' *(small talk)* 'Well, see you again Marcia.'	'Good morning.' 'Good morning. How are you?' 'Very well, thanks. May I introduce you to our new staff member, Peter Jenkins?' 'Pleased to meet you, Mr Jenkins.' 'Please, call me Peter. Nice to meet you.' *(small talk)* 'Goodbye.'

B Now write some small talk into each dialogue.

C Show your dialogue to the two other people in your group, and practise the dialogues.

If you don't understand, ask questions. For example,

- *Could you say that again, please? Could you repeat that?*
- *Is Marcia your first name or your surname?*



Review

A Fill in the blanks. Use simple present tense. Choose from the verbs in the box. You may need to use a negative verb.

1. _____ you Canadian? No, I'm not. I'm American.
2. Anh and Minh _____ in Ho Chi Minh City.
3. Minh _____ _____ a girlfriend.
4. Mei-Ling _____ 21 years old.

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5. What _____ _____ _____ to be? I'd like to be a designer.
6. Mei-Ling's father _____ bridges. He is an engineer.
7. Marianne is a salesperson. She _____ swimming pools.
8. Anh and Minh _____ _____ Spanish. They speak Vietnamese, French and English.

to be ***to sell*** ***to live*** ***to speak*** ***to have (got)*** ***to design***

B Write small talk answers to these questions.

1. Where are you from? _____
2. Are you a student? _____
3. Do you live with your parents? _____
4. Do you like dance music? _____
5. Do you have a part-time job? _____

C Write small talk questions to these answers.

_____ 1. Yes, it's very warm, isn't it?
_____ 2. No, I don't speak Italian.
_____ 3. No, just call me *Jenny*.
_____ 4. Yes, we are engaged.
_____ 5. No, I don't like coffee.

D Spelling quiz.

Student A: Ask Student B to spell four nationalities. Check their spelling.
E.g. *How do you spell French?*
Student B: Spell the nationalities. E.g. *F R E N C H. Change roles.*

E Write *I* for informal or *F* for formal next to sentences 1 – 6.

1. Good morning, Dr Stevens. May I introduce you to So Young Kim?
2. Hi, I'm Emma.
3. Hi Todd. What's up?
4. Pleased to meet you, Mr Lee.
5. See you later.
6. Good bye. Enjoy your stay in New York City.

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