

TALKING ABOUT HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Vocabulary

sunburned – having red and painful skin as a result of spending too much time in the sun

tip – a small but useful piece of practical advice

first-hand – (of information or experience) from the original source or personal experience

hall of residence (BrE)/**dorm** (short for dormitory) (AmE) – a large building at a college or university where students live

worn-out – (of a person) extremely tired or exhausted

noticeable – easily seen or noticed

issue – an important topic or problem

pessimistic – likely to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen (the opposite of optimistic)

progress – the process of getting better at doing something

newbie (informal) – someone who has just started doing something and is inexperienced

follower – someone who looks at the messages, pictures, etc. posted by a particular person online

married – (of two people) united in marriage

friend – someone who you know and like very much and enjoy spending time with, typically exclusive of sexual or family relations

gardening – the activity of tending and cultivating a garden, especially as a hobby

herbs – any plant with leaves, seeds, or flowers used for flavoring, food, medicine, or perfume

neighbour (BrE)/**neighbor** (AmE) – a person living near or next door to the person referred to

business trip – a visit made to a place for work purposes, typically one involving a journey of some distance

Verbs

to come about – to happen or take place

to get back into something – to start doing something again

to introduce someone (to someone else) – make someone known by name to another in person, especially formally

to introduce someone (to a hobby/activity) – to cause someone to learn about something or experience it for the first time

to guide someone – to help someone

to hire something – to obtain the temporary use of something for an agreed payment

to rush through something – to cause something to happen or be completed too quickly

to post something – to a message, picture, etc. on the Internet so that other people can see it

to document something – to record something in written, photographic, or other form

to think about something – to have a particular opinion, belief, or idea about something

to forget about something – to fail to remember something

to fix something – to find a solution to a problem

to deal with something – to pay attention to something, to solve a problem, or make a decision concerning something

to share something – to tell someone about something

to mention something – to refer to something briefly without going into detail

to join someone – to go somewhere in order to be or to do something with them

to unpack – to open and remove the contents of a suitcase, bag, etc.

Phrases

to get to know someone – to become acquainted with someone by asking them questions about their hobbies, interests, etc.

to go kayaking – to travel in a kayak

It's totally worth it! – to be enjoyable or useful despite the fact that you have to make an effort

Shoot! (informal) – Damn!

to sign up for a class/to take a class – to join a class

to fall in love with something – to develop a deep liking for something

to be into something – to really like something

here and there – from time to time

to be interested in something – to show curiosity about something

to make friends (with someone) – to begin a friendship with someone

to have a passion for something – to have a strong feeling of desire for something

to take one's eyes off of something – to stop looking at something

to be out of town – to be away from home

to take time off work – not to work because of illness or holidays, or because your employer has given you permission to do something else

Take care! – Keep yourself safe!

Grammar Corner

In informal situations we can contract the following verbs: *want to – wanna, what are/do you – whatcha, have got to – gotta*. These contractions are used only in colloquial speech.

e.g. *I don't **wanna** be here.*

Whatcha doing?

Sorry, **gotta** go now. *I'll call you back.*

We use the phrase “*It must be nice/great/etc. + Ving*” when we feel a bit jealous about someone or something.

e.g. *Your parents are paying for your trip? **It must be nice not having** to worry about money.*

It must be great knowing everyone around here.

Real Life Situations

(P1 – Person 1, P2 – Person 2, T – Teacher)

Getting to Know Someone (1)

P1: Hi! Whatcha doing?

P2: Oh, Emma! Just reading the news before the class starts. How are you?

P1: I'm great, thanks! A little sunburned as you can see.

P2: Did you enjoy yourself during the weekend?

P1: Yeah, I went kayaking with my friends.

P2: Kayaking? That's so cool.

P1: It's a hobby of mine. I don't always have time for it, but I try to get back into it when the days are warm.

P2: So how did it all come about?

P1: My cousin Gary introduced me to kayaking. Probably 5 years ago? He's doing it semi-professionally, so he knows quite a bit about it.

P2: It must be nice to have someone who can guide you.

P1: True, true. You can always find stuff online, but I prefer getting tips first-hand!

P2: I see! So do you have your own kayak or what?

P1: No, I usually hire it. I live in a dorm, and my family is in another state, so I don't have the storage space for it.

P2: Yeah, that makes sense. Is it expensive?

P1: About 50\$ a day.

P2: That doesn't sound that bad.

P1: It's totally worth it!

Getting to Know Someone (2)

P1: Hi there!

P2: Hi! How's it?

P1: Pretty great! What about you?

P2: It's been good, thanks!

P1: I don't mean to sound rude, but is everything alright? You look a bit worn-out.

P2: Is it that noticeable?

P1: Yeah, pretty much.

P2: Shoot, I need to get some sleep! I've been very busy these days.

P1: Some issues at home?

P2: No, thank God. Everything's fine at home. I've just signed up for online classes and... completely forgot about them! So now I am rushing through it.

P1: Oh, I didn't know you studied in your free time. Do you often do that?

P2: Yeah! Actually, I fell in love with online classes only after I finished college.

P1: Is it something accounting related?

P2: No, I've got enough of it here at work! I am usually doing something more creative. Like this time I took Digital Art.

P1: Oh, wow! I didn't know you were into art!

P2: Well, I'm definitely nothing special! It's just something that I do when I have free time here and there. I still have a long way to go!

P1: Do you post your works anywhere?

P2: No.

P1: Why?

P2: I don't think that someone would be interested in them.

P1: Don't be so pessimistic! I have a friend who started a blog with his art like 2 years ago? He wanted to document his progress – he was also a newbie. And guess what?

P2: Umm?

P1: Now he has more than 6,000 followers! That is insane!

P2: Wow, that's a lot of people!

P1: Exactly! He even made friends with some of them.

P2: It must be really nice! I guess I'll think about it?

P1: You should! Just don't forget about sleeping!

P2: Yeah, gotta fix my sleeping habits! Thanks!

P1: No problem!

Something about Yourself

T: Hi everyone! So glad to see you here! Sorry that I'm a bit late! Alright, as you know I'm Margaret Lewis, I'll be teaching you English this year, and... yeah, I look forward to getting to know you! We'll deal with the formalities a little bit later, but now I'd like us to share something about ourselves. Your name, where you are from, maybe a hobby of yours, things you like doing... Stuff like that. I'll go first. So I'm Ms. Lewis, I've been in the teaching field for about 10 years. I'm married, we have the sweetest boy ever with my husband. I also like cooking, mostly Mexican food. And this summer I'm going on

vacation to Portugal – I'm really excited about that! So now you should introduce yourself. Let's start from this side.

P1: Umm, hi everyone! My name is Max, I'm 16 years old. I'm actually from Germany, but I've been living here for 4 years. I like playing video games, listening to music, playing basketball. That's it.

T: Thank you very much, Max. I look forward to learning more about your culture!

P1: Thanks.

P2: I guess it's my turn now? I'm Liz, I'm 15. I love my family, my two little brothers. I also like spending time with them or my friends. And I do a bit of gardening in my free time.

T: Wow, gardening? This is so interesting! What do you grow?

P2: Mostly herbs. It's really easy actually!

T: Fantastic!

Talking to a Neighbor

P1: Hi Dan! Long time no see!

P2: Hi Sam! I've been away on a business trip.

P1: Oh, where were you?

P2: I finally had a chance to explore New York. Although not as much as I'd like!

P1: Oh, really? How was the experience?

P2: Amazing! So many museums, galleries, restaurants.

P1: Ah yeah, I remember you mentioning your passion for museums.

P2: Haha yeah! The MAT was something! I couldn't take my eyes off of the things there!

P1: What did you like most of all there?

P2: I am fond of the paintings presented there. I definitely intend to go back there sometime in the future.

P1: You're a real museum enthusiast!

P2: Why thank you! How are you doing? How's Carol?

P1: Everything's great, thanks! Carol is out of town for a couple of days, she's visiting her family in Ohio.

P2: Didn't want to join her?

P1: I couldn't take time off work, so we thought it wouldn't be a problem spending some time apart. She'll be back next week.

P2: Ah, I see. Well, it was nice seeing you! I gotta go unpack.

P1: You too. Take care!