

Introducing yourself and others

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Conversation: Meeting at a party

TODD: Hi—you must be John's cousin Matt, **right?** From San Diego?

MATT: **Correct!** I just got in last night.

TODD: I'm Todd, John's roommate from Tech. Glad to meet you. I can assure you **that** I'm not anything like what John has told you.

MATT: I'm happy to meet you, too—and, yes—I have heard about you! Football player and **party animal extraordinaire**.

TODD: Football, yes—and **as a matter of fact**, I do like parties. **But tell me more about yourself** and **what you do** in San Diego.

MATT: Well, I'm more (of) a surfer than a football player. You know, San Diego has a fantastic coast—and we can surf all day and then party on the beach at night.

TODD: That sounds **awesome**. How long are you staying?

MATT: Well, I'll be here for two weeks. John has promised me a **nonstop schedule**—kind of a **mix** of sightseeing, meeting his friends, checking out **the local scene**, and—**hopefully**—camping in the mountains for **a couple of days**.

TODD: John's **a good guy**—and **you can be sure** he knows **the local scene**. He knows everybody in town. I'm sure he'll **show you a good time**. And his friends are here to help.

MATT: **Thanks so much**—I really appreciate that. I'm still a bit **jet-lagged** at the moment but should be **in good shape** by tomorrow. I'm **looking forward to** hearing what John **has in store** for me. . . .

TODD: Don't worry. We'll all take good care of you. And don't be surprised if we **show up on your doorstep** in San Diego one day, ready for surfing!

Improving your conversation

I'm Todd (Jones)

Simply using **I'm** and then saying your name is one way to introduce yourself. You could also say, for example, **My name's** Todd (Jones). It is customary to offer your right hand in a handshake to the other person. In very informal situations, you could just say Hi, **I'm** Todd, with no handshake.

To introduce one or more people other than yourself, say:

This is (my wife,) **Mary**. And **this is** Susan, Bob, and Joe.

To introduce more than one person and also tell how you know them, say:

These are my friends, Susan and Bob. And this is Jim, my coworker.

All of the people introduced would then shake hands. You could also say:

I want you to meet (my friends,) Susan and Bob.

Glad/happy to meet you

When you have been introduced to someone, it is customary to say (I'm) **glad/happy to meet you** or **It's nice to meet you**. The reply is **I'm happy to meet you** or **I'm happy to meet you, too**. (The underlined words are pronounced slightly louder than the others.)

Right?

Right? is an informal way to ask for confirmation that what you have just said is true. The answer can be **That's right!**

This train goes to Washington, **right?**
You're from Panama, **right?**

That's right.
That's right, I am.

Correct!

This is an informal answer to a question that asks for confirmation.

You're Matt, aren't you?
This is Economics 101, **right?**

Correct!
Correct!

If you want to tell your questioner that he or she is *not* correct, you can politely say this with, for example:

No, that's not **right**.
No, that's not **correct**.
No, I'm not **Matt**; I'm **Jim**.
No, she isn't my **sister**. She's my **cousin**.

(The underlined words in the examples should be spoken slightly louder than the other words in the sentence.)

To sarcastically indicate that something is *not* correct, **Yeah, right!** is used.

Dylan, I heard you just won the lottery
jackpot!

Yeah, right! Where did you hear
that nonsense?

Am, do, etc.

When a yes-or-no question using the verb *to be* is asked, the answer can be made emphatic by following it with a *tag*, in which, if the answer is *yes*, the verb is said a little louder than the other words. Affirmative tag answers are not contracted.

Are you unhappy?
Is he sick?
Are we winning?
Are they leaving?

Yes, I **am**.
Yes, he **is**.
Yes, we **are**.
Yes, they **are**.

When the answer is *no*, there are two ways to answer with a tag. The underlined words are the ones said a little louder. Negative tag answers are usually contracted. The full form makes them more emphatic.

Are you unhappy?

Is he sick?

Are we winning?

Are they leaving?

No, I'm not./No, I am not.

No, he's not./No, he isn't./No, he is not.

No, we're not./No, we aren't./No, we are not.

No, they're not./No, they aren't./No, they are not.

When an information question using any verb other than *to be* is asked, the answer can be made emphatic by following it with a tag, in which the verb is said a little louder than the other words.

Do you eat meat?

Does he like school?

Do we wait in line?

Do they live here?

Yes, I do./No, I don't./No, I do not.

Yes, he does./No, he doesn't./No, he does not.

Yes, we do./No, we don't./No, we do not.

Yes, they do./No, they don't./No, they do not.

As a matter of fact

As a matter of fact is a common expression that has a number of different meanings. In our example conversation it introduces a confirmation of what was previously said. It can go before the main clause or after the verb.

I heard you were looking for a job.

Your friend is very good-looking; is he single?

As a matter of fact, I am!

He is, **as a matter of fact!**

You can express the same meaning with **actually**, but put it after the verb.

I heard you were looking for a job.

Your friend is beautiful, but I'll bet she's married.

I am, **actually.**

She is, **actually.**

Just

This use of **just** indicates that something happened only a short time before. It can be used with the past tense or with the present perfect tense. For example:

Past tense

I **just** arrived.

They **just** finished.

We **just** ate.

He **just** called.

Present perfect tense

I have **just** arrived.

They have **just** finished.

We have **just** eaten.

He has **just** called.

To get in

To **get in** means to arrive and is usually used in the past tense.

What time did you **get in**?

They **got in** late last night.

Another way to say *to arrive*, when it refers to the future, is to **get there**.

I hope we **get there** on time.

She will **get there** by six.

To **get in** can also mean to be accepted by a school/college/university or other group with limited membership.

He applied to that college and really hopes to **get in**.
She didn't **get in** her first choice of sororities, but she **got in** another one, and she's happy.

I can assure you that . . . /you can be sure (that) . . .

These are common ways of saying that you believe something to be true, hoping to win the confidence of the person you are talking to.

I can assure you that I will work hard.
You can be sure that something interesting will happen.

Here is another way to express that you believe something to be true:

I promise you that we won't leave until the work is done.

Party animal

Party animal is an informal expression used to characterize someone who spends a lot of time with friends or acquaintances for entertainment—either at home or in public places.

My friend Eric will take you downtown on Saturday night; he's a real **party animal**, so you'll meet lots of people.

Extraordinaire

Extraordinaire is a word borrowed from French, pronounced in English "ek stra or d- NAYRE." It is used to exaggerate the meaning of the previous word.

I'd like you to meet Marc—he's our pastry chef **extraordinaire**. You have to try his cheesecake!

What do you do?

The question **What do you do?** asks what one's job or occupation is. When you answer with a form of *to be*, you give a general job title. Note that the article *a* is always used when referring to only one person but is never used when referring to more than one person.

What do you do?	I'm a lawyer.
What does he do?	He's a painter.
What does she do?	She's a banker.
What do they do?	They're professors.

When the answer refers to someone who has a special title or position (i.e., is the only one in that position), use *the* instead of *a*.

What does he do?	He's the president of ABC Enterprises.
What do you do?	I'm the school secretary (the only one).

When you answer with another verb, you give more specific information about where you work.

What do you do?	I work for a large firm.
What does he do?	He drives a delivery truck.
What does she do?	She works at Atlas Bank.
What do they do?	They teach French at Loyola.

When a specific time or place is included in the question, the answer refers to how people spend their time, not just what their jobs are.

What do you do on weekends?
What does she do at the beach?

I relax and hang out with my friends.
She surfs, relaxes on the beach, and goes to the boardwalk for fun.

Tell me about yourself

Tell me about yourself is a polite way to let someone know that you are interested in learning more about him or her. It is better than asking direct questions, as the person being asked can decide what to tell and what not to tell. For example:

Tell me about yourself.

Well, I'm twenty-seven, I have a degree in mathematics, and I've been working at SYZ Company for three years. My parents are both economists, and I have a sister who's a nurse and two younger brothers. They all live in Connecticut, where I was born. I'm crazy about football and have season tickets. I listen to reggae, etc.

Tell me about yourself.

Well, I'm from a small town, and I came here to work.

Awesome

Awesome is an expression that is used a lot—maybe too much!—to say that you think something is really good. Other ways to express the same thing include **great**, **fantastic**, **terrific**, **wonderful**, and **cool**.

So . . . how do you like it here?
Did you like the movie?
Thank you for taking me—
you're **awesome**!

It's **awesome**!
It was **awesome**!

Nonstop schedule

Nonstop schedule describes the activities of a very busy person, whether it be because of work, school, family responsibilities, or even social life.

I don't have time to see you this week, with my **nonstop schedule**.

Other ways to indicate nonstop activity are **around-the-clock** or **twenty-four-seven** (twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week).

I get telephone calls **around-the-clock**.
He works **twenty-four-seven**, so I hardly ever see him.

A mix

A **mix** refers to a combination of different elements, usually indicating variety.

There will be a good **mix** of music at the wedding, to keep the grandparents, the parents, and the young people happy.
We invited a **mix** of people—family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.

Hopefully

Hopefully is a word inserted to indicate your wishes that something will happen. It can come in the middle of a verb phrase (will + **hopefully** + verb), before the subject, or at the end of a sentence.

I'll **hopefully** graduate in two years.
Hopefully, I'll graduate in two years.
I'll graduate in two years, **hopefully**.
If we leave right away, **hopefully** we'll arrive on time.

A couple of

A **couple** really means two; however, informally, it can mean more than that—but it does indicate a small number.

I'll see you in a couple of hours.	I'll see you sometime today.
It only costs a couple of dollars.	It costs less than five dollars.
He'll be home in a couple of months.	He'll be home before the end of the year.

A good guy

Calling someone **a good guy** is a common way to recommend a male as being understanding of someone's situation, helpful, or generous. A female with the same kind of recommendation would be called **understanding/helpful/generous**.

If you're looking for a used car, go see Sam Smith; he's **a good guy** and will probably give you a good price.
If you want a teaching job, call Mary Johnson; she's very **understanding** and will give you good advice.

The local scene

The **local scene** refers to the culture and range of entertainment offered in a particular area.

I'm moving to Springfield next month. What's the local scene like there?	Oh, it's great! There are lots of things to do at night and on weekends.
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To show someone a good time

To **show someone a good time** means to make sure he or she is entertained.

If you come visit in December, we'll **show you a good time**. All our friends have parties in December!

Thanks so much

Thanks so much is a common way of expressing appreciation. Other ways to say this are **Thank you very much/Thanks a lot/I really appreciate this/You're a doll** (very informal)/**You're a sweetheart** (very informal).

The reply to any of these could be **You're welcome/No problem/I'm glad I could help you/Glad to help/Any time**.

Thanks so much for fixing my tire. I really appreciate it.	No problem.
Thank you very much for helping us.	You're welcome. Any time.

To be in good shape

To be **in good shape** means to be fit *financially* or *situationally*.

My sister's husband has a good job, so they're **in good shape** financially.
She has a good education and a lot of experience, so she's **in good shape** for the job market.

A similar expression, to be **in shape**, means to be *physically* fit.

She exercises every day to stay **in shape**.
You look great. How do you stay **in shape**?

To be looking forward to something

The expression **looking forward to** indicates that the speaker is very happy about a future event.

I'm **looking forward to** seeing you on Saturday.
She's really **looking forward to** going to college in the fall.

Another way to say this is with the expression, **can't wait to**.

I **can't wait to** see you on Saturday.
She **can't wait to** go to college in the fall.

To have in store for

The phrase **to have in store for** indicates an unknown situation that someone presents to someone else; it can be good or bad.

Well, I'm going home, but I have no idea what my family will **have in store for** me.
We're going shopping tomorrow to see what the designers **have in store for** us this season.
He's been working there for years, but he never knows what's **in store for** him until he gets there.

To show up on someone's doorstep

To show up on someone's doorstep means to visit someone without notice. It doesn't necessarily mean that you plan to stay overnight—or longer—but it's possible.

I was just getting ready to go out when my cousin **showed up on my doorstep**.

Related expressions are **drop in** and **drop by**, but these are used only for short visits—never an overnight stay.

We were in town, so we decided to **drop in** to see you.
Please **drop by** for a while. I miss seeing you.

To show up, on the other hand, is used negatively to indicate that someone often doesn't appear when expected.

Pia said she was coming, but you never know if she'll **show up** or not.

Another meaning of **show up**, when used with a direct object, is to perform or seem better than someone else.

Your singing was fantastic! You **showed up** all the other contestants.
He will **show up** the competition with his fantastic speech.
She **showed** us all **up** when she came in wearing that red dress!

EXERCISE

1.1

Circle the most appropriate short answer for each question.

1. Is Larry coming tomorrow?
 - a. Yes, he does.
 - b. No, he doesn't.
 - c. Yes, he is.
 - d. No, he won't.
2. Do you like chocolate ice cream?
 - a. No, I'm not.
 - b. No, I don't.
 - c. Yes, I am.
 - d. Yes, she does.
3. Are we leaving at six?
 - a. Yes, they are.
 - b. Yes, they do.
 - c. Yes, we are.
 - d. No, we don't.
4. Is she a lawyer?
 - a. No, she doesn't.
 - b. Yes, he is.
 - c. No, he doesn't.
 - d. Yes, she is.
5. Are they here yet?
 - a. No, they're not.
 - b. Yes, they're.
 - c. No, they do not.
 - d. Yes, they do.

EXERCISE

1.2

Match each remark in the first column with an appropriate response from the second column. Note: Some remarks have more than one appropriate response.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ Thank you! | a. As a matter of fact, no. |
| 2. _____ I just got in from Chicago. | b. Awesome. |
| 3. _____ Are you a doctor? | c. Glad I could help you. |
| 4. _____ Tell me about yourself. | d. He's a cook. |
| 5. _____ I'm a real party animal. | e. I am, actually. |
| 6. _____ We're in good shape financially. | f. I hope I get in. |
| 7. _____ You should go to college. | g. I'm a college student from Ohio. |
| 8. _____ You're a doll. | h. No problem. |
| 9. _____ Is this your doll? | i. No, I'm not. |
| 10. _____ What does he do? | j. Then you can show us a good time. |
| | k. Welcome. |
| | l. Yeah, right! |
| | m. Yes, it is. |
| | n. You're welcome. |

EXERCISE

1·3

Write a tag answer for each of the following questions.

1. Do you work twenty-four-seven?

2. Are you from New York?

3. Do your parents live in Los Angeles?

4. Are you a student?

5. Is your best friend studying English?

EXERCISE

1·4

Write a yes-or-no question for each of the following answers.

1. _____

No, we don't.

2. _____

Yes, she is.

3. _____

No, they aren't.

4. _____

Yes, I do.

5. _____

Yes, he does.

6. _____

No, I'm not.

EXERCISE

1-5

Match the words or expressions in the first column with words or expressions in the second column that have a similar meaning. Note: There may be more than one match for each expression.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. _____ a party animal | a. twenty-four-seven |
| 2. _____ extraordinaire | b. a combination |
| 3. _____ awesome | c. an understanding male |
| 4. _____ a mix | d. arrive |
| 5. _____ you're welcome | e. attend |
| 6. _____ nonstop | f. be accepted |
| 7. _____ hopefully | g. current events here |
| 8. _____ in shape | h. fantastic |
| 9. _____ a couple of | i. glad to help you |
| 10. _____ a good guy | j. have plans for someone |
| 11. _____ any time | k. if we are lucky |
| 12. _____ the local scene | l. no problem |
| 13. _____ look forward to | m. physically fit |
| 14. _____ have in store for | n. round-the-clock |
| 15. _____ show up | o. someone who likes to have fun |
| 16. _____ get in | p. two |
| 17. _____ can't wait | q. expert |
| | r. want to |

EXERCISE

1-6

Circle the most appropriate response to each remark.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Are you Sam's brother? | a. No, I don't. | c. I can assure you. |
| | b. That's correct. | d. As a matter of fact. |
| 2. I'm the president's brother. | a. Actually! | c. Yeah, right! |
| | b. You're a doll! | d. You're welcome. |
| 3. We're leaving at six tomorrow morning. | a. Awesome. | c. Any time. |
| | b. I'm in shape. | d. No, I'm not. |

4. I work all the time.
a. Yes, you're a party animal.
b. Yes, you got in.
c. Yes, you have just arrived.
d. Yes, you're busy twenty-four-seven.
5. Are you coming to my party?
a. I'm looking forward to it.
b. It's a mix.
c. I'm in shape.
d. I can assure you that.

EXERCISE

1·7

Write a remark or question for each of the following responses.

1. _____
She's a teacher.
2. _____
You're welcome.
3. _____
I can assure you that I'll show up on time.
4. _____
I'm an engineer from Seattle, and I've been working here for six months.
5. _____
I can't wait.

EXERCISE

1·8

Fill each blank with the correct form of the indicated verb.

1. I can't wait to (see) _____ you next week.
2. We are looking forward to (see) _____ you next week.
3. Are you looking forward to (go) _____ on your vacation?
4. What are you looking forward to (do) _____ there?
5. I can't wait to (hear) _____ all about it.

EXERCISE

1·9

Imagine you are introducing two of your friends to each other. Write what you would say and what each of your friends would say. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.

EXERCISE

1·10

Write a conversation between two people, using at least eight of the expressions explained in this chapter. Ask an English-speaking friend to check your answers.
