

2



Around Town

## Dialogue 2-1: Ordering a Meal

**WAITER:** Hello, I'll be your waiter today. **Can I start you off with something to drink?**

**RALPH:** Yes. I'll have iced tea, please.

**ANNA:** **And I'll have lemonade.**

**WAITER:** OK. **Are you ready to order, or do you need a few minutes?**

**RALPH:** I think we're ready. **I'll have the tomato soup to start, and the roast beef with mashed potatoes and peas.**

**WAITER:** How do you want the beef — rare, medium, or well done?

**RALPH:** **Well done, please.**

**ANNA:** **And I'll just have the fish, with potatoes and a salad.**



## LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Can I start you off with something to drink?** Notice how the question starts with “Can.” Since this is a yes/no question, the intonation rises at the end.
- **And I’ll have lemonade.** Notice how Anna stresses “I’ll” and “lemonade” to emphasize her choice.
- **Are you ready to order, or do you need a few minutes?** The word “or” signals a choice here. Notice the rising intonation on order, and the falling intonation on minutes (the first choice is “Are you ready to order?” and the second choice is “Do you need a few minutes?”).
- **I’ll have the tomato soup to start, and the roast beef with mashed potatoes and peas.** Notice that “tomato soup,” “roast beef,” “mashed potatoes” and “peas” are stressed because the food order is the important information here. Notice also that “tomato soup,” “roast beef” and “mashed potatoes” are compound words. The stress falls on the second word in each phrase.
- **Well done, please.** Notice that the subject and verb are omitted in the response; only the necessary information is given.
- **I’ll just have the fish.** Anna says “just” here to mean that she does not want a starter.



## Dialogue 2-2: At the Doctor's Office



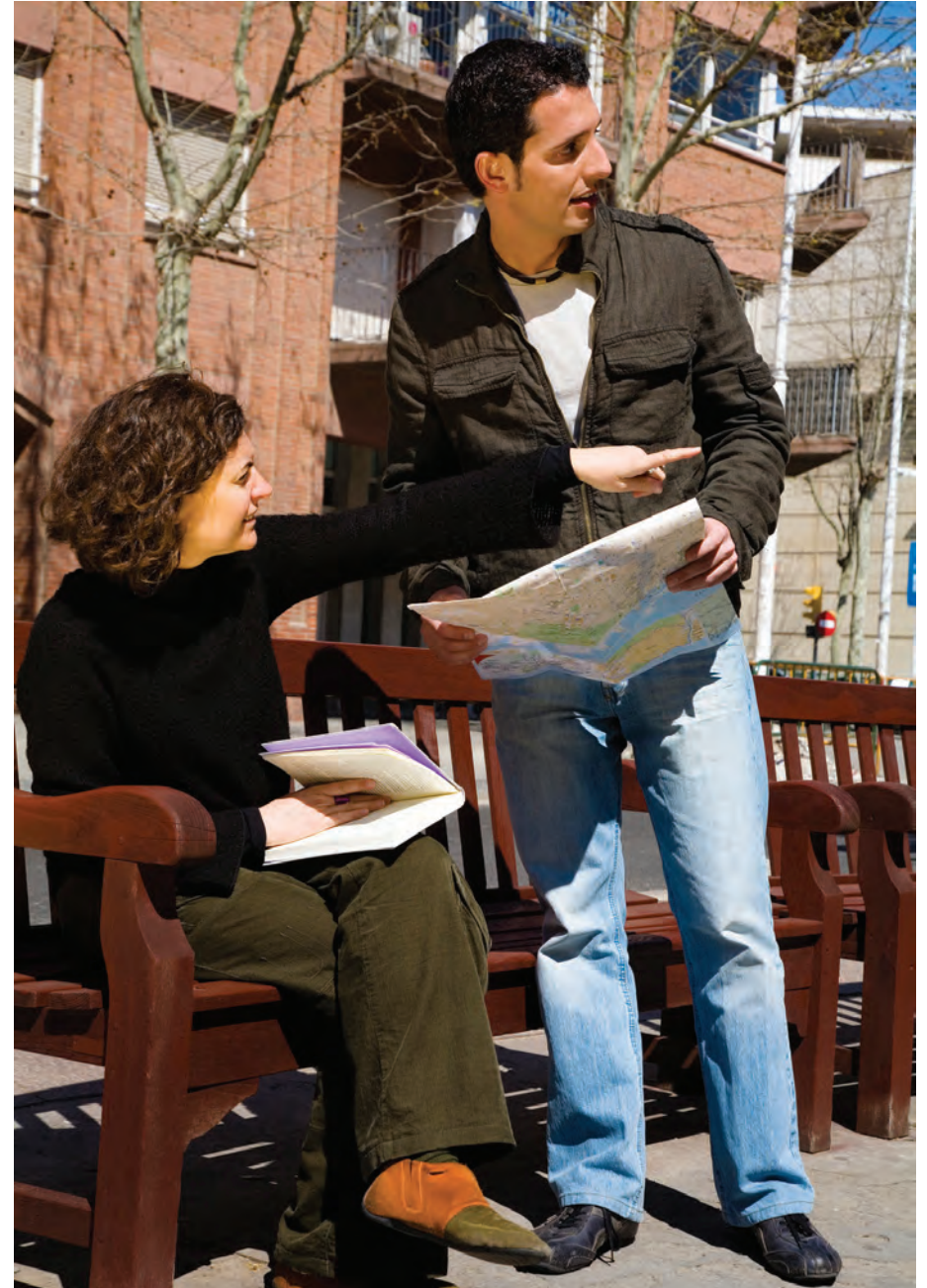
- DOCTOR:** What seems to be the problem?
- CATHY:** Well, I have a bad cough and a sore throat. I also have a headache.
- DOCTOR:** How long have you had these symptoms?
- CATHY:** About three days now. And I'm really tired, too.
- DOCTOR:** Hmm. It sounds like you've got the flu. Take aspirin every four hours and get plenty of rest. Make sure you drink lots of fluids. Call me if you're still sick next week.
- CATHY:** OK, thanks.

#### LANGUAGE NOTES

- **What seems to be the problem?** means "What is the problem?" Notice that the intonation falls at the end of the question. The doctor wants information, not a "yes/no" answer.
- **Well** is used as an introductory word. Notice how the vowel is drawn out, to sound like "Weeeeeelll ...". This can be used as a way to "buy time" while you think about what you want to say next.
- **A bad cough ... a sore throat ... a headache:** Notice the article "a" before each symptom.
- **About** is used to mean "more or less." It's used here to give an estimate of time.
- **Take aspirin ... get rest ... Make sure ... Call me:** Notice the doctor uses the simple tense here to give instructions. This is the imperative form of the verb.
- **Still sick** means "continue to be sick."



## Dialogue 2-3: Asking Directions



- MARK:** Excuse me. **Could you tell me where the library is?**
- NANCY:** **Yes, it's that way.** You go three blocks to Washington Street, then turn right. It's on the corner, across from the bank.
- MARK:** Thanks! I've only been in town a few days, so I really don't know my way around yet.
- NANCY:** Oh, **I know how you feel.** We moved here a year ago, and **I still don't know where everything is!**

#### LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Could you tell me ...** is slightly more polite than "Can you tell me ...?"
- **Could you tell me where the library is?** Notice that "library" is stressed here because it is the word with the important information. This is an indirect question, so the subject (the library) comes before the verb (is). The word order is reversed in a direct question (Where is the library?).
- **Yes, it's that way.** Notice the stress on "that." The speaker is pointing in a certain direction and wants to emphasize that direction.
- **I know how you feel** is a way of saying "I understand." Notice the emphasis on "feel." The speaker wants to show empathy and understanding.
- **I still don't know where everything is!** Notice the word order of where "everything is." The subject (everything) comes before the verb (is). This word order is different from the direct question (Where is everything?).

## Dialogue 2-4: Calling for Help

**PETER:** Hey! That car just ran a red light and hit that truck!

**GAIL:** Is anyone hurt?

**PETER:** I don't know ... let's call **911**. ... Hello? **I'd like to report a car accident near the post office on Charles Street.** It looks like a man is hurt. Yes, **it just happened.** OK, thanks. Bye.

**GAIL:** What did they say?

**PETER:** They're going to send an ambulance and a police car right away.

**GAIL:** Good, they're here. I hope the man is OK.

**PETER:** I know. You have to be so careful when you're driving.





### LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Hey!** This expression is used to show surprise. Notice how **That car just ran a red light and hit that truck!** is said with a lot of energy.
- **Is anyone hurt?** This is a yes/no question, so the intonation rises at the end. Notice how this question is asked in a worried way.
- **911** is the phone number you dial for emergency services. The person who answers will ask you questions about the emergency situation and then send out the necessary emergency services, which may include police officers, firefighters and an ambulance.
- **I'd like to report a car accident near the post office on Charles Street.** Notice how the key words "car accident," "post office" and "Charles Street" are stressed. These are the important details that the emergency services need.
- **It just happened** is a way of saying "It happened a moment ago." Notice the stress on "just," which emphasizes that the accident happened very, very recently.
- **What did they say?** Notice how "say" is emphasized, but the intonation falls at the end of the word. This is a "what" question, so the intonation falls at the end.

## Dialogue 2-5: At the Supermarket



- LOUISE:** Hey, Julia ... Look at those desserts! **How about** baking some cookies today?
- JULIA:** **Hmm ... Yeah, that's a great idea!** While we're here, let's pick up the ingredients.
- JULIA:** OK, what do we need?
- LOUISE:** **The recipe calls for flour, sugar and butter.** Oh, and we also need eggs and chocolate chips.
- JULIA:** **Why don't you** get the dairy ingredients? You'll find those in the refrigerated section in the back of the store. I'll get the dry ingredients — they're in **aisle** 10.
- LOUISE:** Great! Let's meet at the checkout.
- JULIA:** OK. See you there.

#### LANGUAGE NOTES

- **How about** is a casual way to suggest doing an activity. Notice that “how about” is followed by an “-ing” verb.
- **Hmm ...** Notice that Julia pauses for a moment. “Hm” is an expression used to think about something first before speaking.
- **That's a great idea!** Notice the emphasis on “great.” Julia has thought about it and then decided that she really does want to bake cookies.
- **The recipe calls for** is a way of saying “the recipe says we need.” The phrase “call for” can also be used to talk about the weather forecast. (They're calling for rain.)
- **... flour, sugar and butter.** Notice that this is a list, so there are short pauses between each item. Notice also that each ingredient is stressed because this information is important.
- **Why don't you ...** This expression is used to ask someone to do something. It can also be used to give advice — but in this case two friends are deciding on who does which task.
- **Aisle** Notice the silent “s” in aisle. An aisle is an orderly lane in a supermarket, with shelved products on both sides. Each aisle has a number, so that it is easy to find what you need.

## Dialogue 2-6: Running Errands

- HOTEL RECEPTIONIST:** **Hi, there.** How can I help you?
- CLAIRE:** Well, I'm in town visiting for a few days, and I need to get some things done while I'm here.
- HOTEL RECEPTIONIST:** **Sure.** What do you need?
- CLAIRE:** I need to **get my hair cut.** I also need to **have my new pants hemmed.**
- HOTEL RECEPTIONIST:** OK. Here's a map of the city. There's a good hair salon here, which is just a block away. And there's a tailor right here. **Is there anything else?**
- CLAIRE:** Yes. I'll need to **have my car serviced before my long drive home!**
- HOTEL RECEPTIONIST:** **No problem.** There's a good mechanic a few blocks away.





### LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Hi, there.** Notice the intonation in this greeting. It rises after “Hi” and falls after “there.”
- **Sure** is a friendly expression to mean “OK.”
- **Get my hair cut / have my new pants hemmed / have my car serviced.** Notice get/ have + object + participle. This structure is used to describe actions that someone else does for us. “Get” and “have” are interchangeable here.
- **Is there anything else?** here means “Do you need more information?”
- **Before my long drive home!** Notice the emphasis and intonation on “home.” The speaker wants to show humor here. If she doesn’t get her car checked, she might not get home! She wants to be friendly and light with the receptionist.
- **No problem** here means “Don’t worry.” Notice the stress on “No.” The receptionist laughs first, then puts emphasis on “No” by lengthening the word. This shows that she understands the car could break down if it doesn’t get serviced.

## Dialogue 2-7: At the Post Office

- POSTAL CLERK:** What can I do for you today?
- CAROL:** I need to mail this package to New York, please.
- POSTAL CLERK:** OK, let's see how much it weighs ... it's about five pounds. If you send it express, it will get there tomorrow. **Or you can send it priority** and it will get there by Saturday.
- CAROL:** Saturday is fine. How much will that be?
- POSTAL CLERK:** **\$11.35** [eleven thirty-five]. Do you need anything else?
- CAROL:** **Oh, yeah!** I almost forgot. I need a book of stamps, too.
- POSTAL CLERK:** OK, **your total comes to \$20.35** [twenty dollars and thirty-five cents].



## LANGUAGE NOTES

- **What can I do for you today?** Notice that this question starts with “What,” so the intonation drops at the end of the question.
- **Or you can send it priority ...** Notice the stress on “or,” which emphasizes that there is another possibility.
- **\$11.35 ... \$20.35** Notice the two different ways the postal clerk says the price. First he says eleven thirty-five (without the words dollars and cents), then he says twenty dollars and thirty-five cents.
- **Oh, yeah!** is an expression used here to mean “I just remembered something.” It’s often followed by “I almost forgot.”
- **Your total comes to ...** is a way of saying “the cost is ....”



## Dialogue 2-8: **Catching Up After Class**





- LINDA:** Hey! How did your physics exam go?
- FRANK:** Not bad, thanks. I'm just glad it's over! How about you ... how'd your presentation go?
- LINDA:** Oh, it went really well. Thanks for helping me with it!
- FRANK:** No problem. So ... do you feel like studying tomorrow for our math exam?
- LINDA:** Yeah, sure! Come over around 10:00, after breakfast.
- FRANK:** All right. I'll bring my notes.

#### LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Hey!** is a friendly expression meaning "hello."
- **How did your physics exam go?** is a way of saying "How was your physics exam?"
- **I'm just glad ...** Notice the stress on "glad." "Just" is used for emphasis before an adjective here.
- **How about you ...** Notice the intonation falls here because the speaker is going to follow it up with a detailed question.
- **How'd your presentation ...** Notice the contraction for "How did" sounds like /howdj/ and "your" sounds like /yer/.
- **Do you feel like** here has the meaning of "do you want to." Notice "do you feel like" is followed by an "-ing" verb (studying).
- **Come over** here has the meaning of "come to my house."
- **Notes** Students take notes about what the teacher says during a lecture.

## Dialogue 2-9: Shopping

- SALESPERSON:** Can I help you?
- GLORIA:** Yes, I'm looking for a sweater — in a **size medium**.
- SALESPERSON:** **Let's see** ... here's a nice white one. What do you think?
- GLORIA:** I think **I'd rather have it in blue**.
- SALESPERSON:** OK ... here's blue, in a medium. **Would you like to try it on?**
- GLORIA:** OK ... yes, I love it. It fits perfectly. **How much is it?**
- SALESPERSON:** It's \$50. It will be \$53, with tax.
- GLORIA:** Perfect! **I'll take it.**



### LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Can I help you?** or “May I help you?” is what a salesperson normally says to greet a customer.
- **I’m looking for a** here means “I don’t know exactly which one I want.”
- **Size medium.** Clothing usually comes in small, medium and large sizes. Some women’s clothing comes in number sizes, usually ranging from 2 to 16.
- **Let’s see ...** An expression used when a person wants to think something over, to make a choice or decision, or to look for something.
- **I’d rather have it in** here means “I don’t like this exact one. I would prefer it in a different” color/size/material, etc.
- **Would you like to ...?** is a polite way to ask “Do you want to ...?”
- **Try it on** means to test the fit or appearance of a garment by putting it on. “Try on” is a separable phrasal verb, so the object “it” goes between “try” and “on.”
- **How much is it?** means “How much does it cost?” Notice that the main sentence stress falls on “is” in this question.
- **I’ll take it** means “I will buy it.”



# Dialogue 2-10: Transportation





- JOYCE:** Should we take a taxi or a bus to the mall?
- BILL:** Let's take a bus. It's impossible to get a taxi during rush hour.
- JOYCE:** Isn't that a bus stop over there?
- BILL:** Yes ... **Oh!** There's a bus now. We'll have to run to catch it.
- JOYCE:** Oh, no! We just missed it.
- BILL:** No problem. There'll be another one in 10 minutes.

#### LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Should we ... or ...?** Is a way of asking "Which is better?" "Should" is used to ask for an opinion. Note that we do not say "Will" here.
- **Take a taxi or a bus?** The word "or" signals a choice here. Notice the rising intonation on taxi (the first choice) and falling intonation on bus (the second choice).
- **Let's** (Let us) means "I think we should do this."
- **Rush hour** is the time of day when most people are going to or from work. In most American cities, rush hour is from about 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. and from about 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Notice that "rush hour" is a compound noun, with the main stress on the first word.
- **Isn't that** This is a negative question. The speaker expects an affirmative answer. It is used to check information.
- **Bus stop** is a compound noun, with the main stress on the first word.
- **Oh!** is an exclamation used to express alarm or surprise.
- **Oh, no!** is an expression used to express disappointment.
- **We just missed it** here means "We arrived a moment too late to get the bus." Notice the emphasis on "just" to show the very recent past.
- **No problem** here means "It doesn't matter."



# 3

## Pastimes and Activities

## Dialogue 3-1: How Old Are You?

**PATTY:** I'm really excited for Aunt Mary's surprise **birthday party** this afternoon! **Aren't you?**

**SUSAN:** Yeah! How old is she?

**PATTY:** **She'll be 55** on May 14 [**fourteenth**].

**SUSAN:** Wow! I didn't know that my mom was older — **she's going to be 57** on September 2 [second]. Anyway, Aunt Mary's going to be so surprised to see us all here!

**PATTY:** I know! But we still have to get all the food set up before she gets here ... OK! We're all ready now. Shh! She's here!

**ALL:** Surprise!