



LANGUAGE NOTES

- **I'm really excited** ... Notice the emphasis on "really." "Really" is used to emphasize the adjective "excited" here.
- **Birthday party** Notice that the normal stress for a compound noun falls on the first element of the compound.
- **Aren't you?** This negative tag is used to show that the speaker expects a positive answer. Patty assumes that Susan is also looking forward to the party.
- **She'll be 55** Notice that "55" is stressed here. This detail answers the question "How old is she?"
- **Fourteenth** Notice that we use "th" for ordinal numbers, starting with 4 [but first, second and third]. The stress is on the second syllable [fourTEENTH]. Compare this with "fortieth: 40th" [FORtieth].
- **She's going to be** ... Notice how this is pronounced like "gonna be." Instead of four syllables "go/ing/to/be" there are three syllables "ga/na/be."

Dialogue 3-2: At the Movies



BOB: We'd like two tickets for **the 3:30 show**, please.

TICKET SALES: Here you go. **Enjoy the movie!**

[Inside the theater]

BOB: **Would you mind moving over one**, so my friend and I can sit together?

WOMAN: **No, not at all.**

BOB: Thanks a lot!

LANGUAGE NOTES

- **The 3:30 show** Movies are shown at different times throughout the day. This refers to the movie that starts at 3:30. Notice the emphasis on 3:30.
- **Enjoy the movie!** Notice how the intonation rises on movie. This is said in a friendly way, and is followed by an exclamation point.
- **Would you mind** is a polite way to ask "Can you do something for me?" Notice the verb ends in "-ing." Compare this structure to "Would you mind if I" plus a verb that ends in "-ed" (Would you mind if I opened the window?).
- **Moving over one** Here "one" is short for "one seat."
- **No, not at all** is a way of saying "No, I don't mind" or "I will be glad to." Notice the answer to "Would you mind" is in the negative form.

Dialogue 3-3: What Are You Good At?

- SANDRA:** So ... what should we do?
- JULIE:** Well, I like to do arts and crafts, and **I'm really good at** drawing. **What do you** think?
- SANDRA:** **Hmm ... how about** playing a board game? That would be more fun.
- JULIE:** OK. **Let's** play Scrabble! I'm really good at spelling, too!
- SANDRA:** **Oh, yeah? We'll see about that!**

LANGUAGE NOTES

- **So ...** Notice how the “o” sound is drawn out here, combined with the intonation, which shows boredom.
- **I'm really good at** “Really” means “very” and is used to emphasize “good.” It goes before the adjective.
- **What do you** Notice the pronunciation here — it sounds like “Whaddaya.”
- **Hmm ...** is used to show that the speaker is thinking. It is also used to show that the speaker disagrees with an idea.
- **How about** is used to make a tentative suggestion. The speaker is introducing an idea and doesn't want to sound too strong.
- **Let's** is used to make a strong suggestion. The speaker feels confident about the plan.
- **Oh, yeah? We'll see about that!** “Oh, yeah?” is used in a joking way to show a bit of friendly competition. Notice the emphasis on “that,” which refers back to “good at spelling.”



Dialogue 3-4: What's Your Favorite Sport?



PHIL: **What time is that soccer game on?** I thought it started at noon.

JACK: We must have had the wrong time. Oh, well ... soccer's not my favorite sport anyway. **I much prefer basketball.**

PHIL: **Oh, really?** I thought your favorite sport was tennis! **I'm a big fan of basketball,** too.

JACK: **How about a game** sometime?

PHIL: **Sure thing!** Why don't we go **shoot some hoops** now since the soccer game isn't on?

JACK: Excellent idea. Let's go.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- **What time is that soccer game on?** means "When does the soccer game start?" "What time" plus something plus "on" is a common expression used to ask about the start time of a TV show or a movie.
- **I much prefer basketball** here means "I like basketball a lot more than soccer." Notice how "much" is stressed to show that the speaker really likes basketball.
- **Oh, really?** Notice the rising intonation on "really." This shows that the speaker is surprised. He thought that Jack liked tennis the best.
- **I'm a big fan of basketball** is a way of saying "I like basketball very much" ("to be a fan of" is a casual expression used to describe something you really like).
- **How about a game** here means "Let's play a basketball game."
- **Sure thing!** This is a casual expression used to mean "OK."
- **Shoot some hoops** means to play an informal game of basketball. This is a casual expression used between friends.

Dialogue 3-5: A Night at the Theater

SHANNON: What a fantastic performance! Thank you for inviting me to the musical.

ELENA: **You are welcome.** I'm happy you enjoyed the show. The choreography of the dancers was incredible. It reminds me of when I used to dance.

SHANNON: I know! **You were such a talented ballerina.** Do you miss dancing?

ELENA: Oh, **that's very kind of you,** Shannon. I do miss it sometimes. But I will always be a fan of the arts. That's why I love going to musicals because it's the perfect combination of song, dance and theater.

SHANNON: Absolutely! I'm glad you are still an art fan too. Thank you for the invitation. It's always a pleasure to attend an arts event with you and learn something new.



LANGUAGE NOTES

- **You are welcome.** Elena replies “You are welcome” in this dialogue. She could also say, “Don’t mention it,” which is an example of downgrading. Downgrading a compliment varies with culture. When in doubt, just say “You are welcome.”
- When getting a compliment to someone (for example: “**You were such a talented ballerina**”), you can either accept the compliment (“**That’s very kind of you**”) or downplay the compliment (“Oh, I wasn’t that good”).
- Giving compliments in English often includes using superlatives (“the most ...,” “the best ...”). This is the best musical playing on Broadway! / What’s the most entertaining movie you’ve seen? However, compliments can also be given by using the construction “I’m a fan of ...”: *I’m a fan of the arts. / I’m a big fan of theater. / I’m a huge fan of this band.* Notice the use of adjectives.

Dialogue 3-6: Taking a Vacation



- JULIE:** I just bought a **ticket** to New York City. I'm so excited to see the city!
- SOPHIE:** Good for you! Traveling is so much fun. I love discovering new places and new people. When are you leaving?
- JULIE:** Next week. I'm taking the **red eye**. It was cheaper. Hopefully, I'll be able to sleep on the plane.
- SOPHIE:** I wish I could go with you! New York City is a magical place. You will have so much fun.
- JULIE:** I hope so. I'm going to visit my brother who lives there. I will stay for a week and then take the train down to Washington, D.C.
- SOPHIE:** That sounds like a great vacation. I'm looking forward to a week at the beach for my summer vacation. I just want to relax.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Ticket** can refer to many different types of transportation (metro, bus, train, plane, etc.). In general, you can guess the means of transportation by the context.
- When discussing airplane travel, a **red eye** is a flight that leaves at night to arrive early the next morning. This is in reference to how red your eyes become when you don't get a full night's sleep.

Dialogue 3-7: At the Pet Store

- CONNIE:** Oh! **What a beautiful cat.** What do you think?
- GARY:** I think I'd rather get a dog. **Dogs are more loyal than cats.**
- CONNIE:** Yes, but they're so much work! Would you be willing to walk it **every single day?** And clean up after it?
- GARY:** Hmm. **Good point.** What about a bird? Or a fish?
- CONNIE:** We'd have to invest a lot of money in a cage or a fish tank. And I don't really know how to **take care of** a bird or a fish!
- GARY:** Well, we're obviously not ready to get a pet yet.
- CONNIE:** **Yeah, you're right.** Let's go grab some coffee and talk about it.



LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Oh! What a beautiful cat** “Oh!” is used to show surprise or excitement. “What a ...” is an expression that means “I think this is a very ...” “What a(n) ...” is followed by an adjective, which is usually emphasized. Notice the emphasis on “beautiful” here.
- **Dogs are more loyal than cats.** Two things are being compared here (dogs and cats). Notice the structure of the sentences: (noun/s) plus “is/are more” plus (adjective) plus “than” plus (noun/s). The nouns and the adjective are content words here, so they are all emphasized.
- **Every single day** Notice that each word here is stressed. The speaker wants to make a point, so she emphasizes each word equally. “Every single day” is a lot!
- **Good point** here means “I agree with you.”
- **Take care of** This phrase is used with animals, people and things. It can mean “watch a child while her parents are away,” “feed and house someone or something,” or “make sure things work properly.” (*I always take care of my baby brother./ I take care of my bird by feeding it and cleaning its cage./ I need to take care of the broken sink.*)
- **Yeah, you’re right.** Notice the pronunciation of this expression — the words all blend together here. This casual expression is used to agree with someone that you know well.

Dialogue 3-8: Giving Your Opinion



- JAKE:** Where should we take a vacation this year? Let's **decide** soon.
- MELISSA:** Well, I'd like to go somewhere warm. **How about** the beach? Or we could rent a cabin on the lake.
- JAKE:** You want to go to the beach, again? I want to ski this winter. How about a compromise? What about traveling to the Alps in Europe next April? We can find a ski resort on a lake.
- MELISSA:** Oh, we've never been to Europe before! But I don't know if it will be sunny and warm then. I need to do some research first. That will help me **make up my mind**.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Decide** is a useful verb to express choice. The idiom "**to make up my mind**" also means "to decide": "There are so many choices in this menu. It's going to take awhile to make up my mind/decide." You can finish this sentence with either the idiom or the verb "decide."
- **How about** This phrase presents an alternative. This phrase can be followed by a subject plus a conjugated verb or by a noun: *How about we go swimming?* / *How about a movie tonight?*
- Many verbs express opinions: *to think / to believe / to suppose / to assume*, etc. They are not all synonymous. For example, "to suppose" and "to assume" express that the speaker has a preconceived idea: *He came back late from work, so I assumed that traffic was bad. / I suppose that may not have been the case, and that he might just have had a lot of work.*

Dialogue 3-9: Hobbies

RYAN: I'm so happy this week of **midterm** exams is finished.

TYLER: Same here. I'm looking forward to relaxing in the mountains this weekend. I've planned a little hike in the woods. And I'm **gonna** take a canoe trip down the river if the weather cooperates.

RYAN: Oh, fun! I'm going to Michigan. I'm taking my camera because fall is coming fast. The leaves are already turning all shades of red and orange. It will be **awesome**.

TYLER: Next time you go there, I'll join you. I've heard Michigan is a great place to go canoeing.



LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Midterm** Students at universities in the United States often take exams midsemester, around October or March of every year. These exams are called midterms. Exams at the end of the semester are called finals or final exams and are usually in May.
- **Gonna** is a colloquial form of “I’m going to.” Other similar constructions include “wanna” [want to] or “hafta” [have to]. These are examples of transcriptions of spoken English and should not be used in a formal context. Some of these examples are now seen in text messages as a means of shortening sentences.
- **Awesome:** is a colloquial way of saying “excellent,” “cool,” “great.” *Last night’s rock concert was awesome.*

Dialogue 3-10: Weddings

ANGELICA: **Doesn't** the bride look beautiful in that wedding dress?

MARIA: Yes. She looks amazing. And the groom is so romantic. **I just heard the story** of how they got engaged! He proposed to her during a candlelight dinner in London. Did you know that was where they went to school?

ANGELICA: Oh? Wonderful. And the **honeymoon!** What a great idea! **Most people just go to the beach** for a week after they **tie the knot**. But they plan on heading to California and cruising the coast on their motorcycle.

MARIA: Really! What a fantastic idea. This is by far the best wedding I've ever been to.



LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Doesn't ...?** When you have a negative question, the expected answer is "yes." As such, it expresses the exact opposite of what is being conveyed (i.e., the bride DOES look absolutely beautiful).
- Listen to the stress on **honeymoon**. There are three syllables in "honeymoon," with the stress on the first syllable [HO-ney-moon]. This content word is culturally important, so it's emphasized: It means a trip or vacation taken by a newly married couple.
- **Tie the knot** is an informal way of saying "get married."
- Can you find and explain the two usages of **just** in this dialogue? "Just" is an adverb that can be used in two different ways:
 - a) To indicate a very recent past (**I just heard the story**). When used to convey time, "just" is commonly used with a simple past verb because the action is complete. Sometimes it can also be used with the present perfect (He's just finished writing a book).
 - b) To indicate contrast or emphasis (**Most people just go to the beach**). In that case, "just" can be replaced by "simply" and emphasize the word it relates to (a verb, adjective or other adverb) by denoting contrast. Compare the following sentences: "They just got married yesterday" (adverb of time). "The wedding reception was just wonderful" (adverb of emphasis).

Dialogue 3-11: Giving Advice



- LAYLA:** Thanks for meeting with me during your lunch hour. I appreciate it.
- MONICA:** No problem. I'm happy to help. What's going on?
- LAYLA:** Oh you know, the usual. Should I take this new job? Or do I stick with my current one?
- MONICA:** Well, I think it's time for a change, don't you? They pay you late and you are unhappy.
- LAYLA:** Do you really think so?
- MONICA:** **I know so.** And I've been listening to you complain for over a year now. **Trust me.** Take the job. What do you have to lose?

LANGUAGE NOTES

- In formal conversation, giving advice is often suggested through modals: *ought to/ should / could / If I were you*. In informal conversations people tend to use words such as *I think that/ I feel that/ in my opinion*.
- Listen for the emphasis on **I know so** and **Trust me**. These common phrases can be used to convey both positive and negative emotions. "I know so" conveys a deep belief or certainty. "To know" shows more certainty than "to think."
- Notice the use of command forms: *Take the job. /Trust me./ Go for it!* The command form can be used to gently persuade someone.



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