

LIVING ENGLISH LESSONS

Casual Conversations

HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Hi, my name is Carla.

Hello Carla, I'm John.
Nice to meet you.

I am from Argentina.
Where are you from?

I am from Madrid, Spain.
Argentina is a beautiful country!
I went to Buenos Aires last summer.



I moved here from Buenos Aires
ten years ago. What do you do
for a living?

I am a consultant for an
oil and gas company
that does business in
Latin American countries.
How about you?



I'm a project manager with the
City of Houston's International
Services Department. We do a lot
of work with the city's immigrant
communities.

It sounds like an interesting
job! Are you going to the
Mayor's conference tomorrow?

Yes, I will be there.

I will see you then!
Bye for now, Carla!

Goodbye, John!



VOCABULARY

greeting	communication	chat talk	subject topic	first impression
facial expressions	body language	imply	ask	tone of voice
understand misunderstand	agree disagree	ignore	gestures	personality
text	slang	eye contact	interrupt	polite

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Fill in the section about you, then ask a classmate for the same information about him/her.

My name is _____.

My classmate's name is _____.

I was born in (city) _____,

He/She was born in (city) _____,

(country) _____.

(country) _____.

My birthday is (month) _____,

His/Her birthday is (month) _____

(day) _____.

(day) _____.

I have been in Houston for (time period)

He/She has been in Houston for (time period)

_____.

_____.

I have (number) _____ brothers and (number)

He/She has (number) _____ brothers and (number)

_____ sisters.

_____ sisters.

ASKING QUESTIONS: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, AND HOW

Complete these sentences with the correct word.

- _____ do you spell your name?
- _____ do you do in your spare time?
- _____ money do you normally carry?
- _____ is your birthday?
- _____ did you live when you were 10 years old?
- _____ people went to the party?
- _____ washed the dishes last night?
- _____ is the library located?
- _____ was that on the phone?
- _____ does the class start?

WHO refers to a person

WHAT refers to a thing

WHERE refers to a place

WHEN refers to time

WHY asks for the reason or cause

HOW ask for information or an explanation

HOW MUCH/MANY refers to amounts

COMMUNICATION ROLE PLAY

Stand up and take turns acting out each of the following behaviors together with a partner. Talk about what they mean and how they make you feel.

Space: stand side by side, 2 feet apart, 4 feet apart

Body language: hands on hips, arms crossed, tap foot on floor, look at watch

Emotions: excited, shocked, tired, angry, sad, nervous, bored

Gestures: shake hands, point your finger at your partner, put hands over your mouth, turn your back to your partner, wave both arms over your head

Facial expressions: smile, frown, stick out tongue, roll eyes, stare

Voice: speak loudly, whisper, laugh loudly, yawn, complain, interrupt your partner when they talk

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

Read through the texting situations and answer the questions below.

Josh: Hey!

Beverly: Hello

Josh: Sorry about your car

Beverly: What do you mean?

Josh: You didn't see the spot?

Beverly: What spot?!

Josh: Sorry! I accidentally scratched your car door when I left yesterday.

Beverly: 😡

What happened to the car?

How did Beverly feel?

Mom: I'M GETTING GROCERIES AFTER WORK TODAY

Teenager: Okayyyyy

Mom: DO WE HAVE MILK IN THE FRIDGE?

Teenager: What? IDK mom. I'm still at school!

Mom: OH! I FORGOT!

Teenager: Mom, why are you yelling?

Why did the teenager think the mom was yelling?

What does IDK mean?

Luis: Want to go get tacos later?

Hiro: Sure! But they better not have cilantro! I'm allergic

Luis: Hmm. But I've seen you eat cilantro on your tacos before

Hiro: That's impossible

Luis: Wait a minute. Is this Jordan?

Hiro: No. This is Hiro. I have a new phone.

Who is Jordan?

What probably happened?

HOMWORK CHALLENGE

The next time you go to a restaurant, library, or park, watch people interact with each other. Observe what you see using the questions below.

What does their body language mean?

Who are the people talking to? Are they friends, family, strangers, neighbors, or coworkers?

Is the conversation positive? What are their emotions?

NOTES

If you have a special physical or communication need that may impact your participation in any of these activities, please contact library staff prior to the program to discuss accommodations. We cannot ensure the ability of appropriate accommodations without prior notification of need.



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