

# Unit 1 Stories on Campus



## *Introduction*

Campus is the place where students spend their school lives, make friends and form their characters. On campus, there is often as much interest in students as there is in school itself.

## *Aims*

*In this unit you will learn:*

- ★ to tell stories on campus,
- ★ to appreciate humor and comedy,
- ★ to state your standards of choosing friends,
- ★ some pop slang on campus,
- ★ to find ways of making friends.



## Starting Steps

### Brainstorming

What stories happened around you on campus? How do you build up a proper relationship among schoolmates on campus?

### Situational Response

Have you ever come across funny stories on campus? Could you see the humor in them?

*Let's go over two humorous stories to warm up.*

#### **Story I**

A college student in a philosophy class was taking his first examination. On the paper there was a single line, which simply said: "Is this a question?" The student wrote: "If that is a question, then this is an answer." The student received an "A" on the exam.

#### **Story II**

A professor was giving a big test one day to his students. He handed out all of the tests and went back to his desk to wait. Once the test was over, the students all handed the tests back in. The professor noticed that one of the students had attached a \$100 bill to his test with a note saying, "A dollar per point." The next class the professor handed the tests back out. This student got back his test and \$64 change.

*Work with your partner after reading the stories.*

**For Story I:**

- (1) Why did the professor give the student an “A” on the exam?
- (2) If you were the professor, would you also give the student an “A”? Why or why not?
- (3) What do you think of the professor?
- (4) From your understanding or from different materials (books, the Internet, dictionaries, etc.), please try to find the various definitions of philosophy.

**For Story II:**

- (5) What does “a dollar per point” mean?
- (6) What is the attitude of the professor toward money?
- (7) Have you ever failed an exam? Why?

 **Word Power**

*Try to understand the meaning of the following words and expressions appearing in the passage you are going to hear.*

sophomore ( <i>n.</i> )	quiz ( <i>n.</i> )	party with	heavy partying
final ( <i>n.</i> )	flat tire	spare ( <i>n.</i> )	think it over
make up the final	relieve ( <i>v.</i> )	place ( <i>v.</i> )	free radical formation



*Listen to the recording and answer the questions.*

- (1) List the problems they faced and say what caused such problems.
- (2) Do you think they are good students who can pass the exam? Give your reasons to support your view.
- (3) Give a comment on the professor in this story.



## Tips for Learning



### Tip 1

#### Tip 1

Slang refers to nonstandard terms or nonstandard usages of standard terms. Slang provides different symbols from which communication messages can be constructed.



### Apply Tip 1

*Do you know the meaning of the following underlined words, which are top college slang on campus? They are the most frequently reported terms collected. Tell your partner what you think the meanings are, and then number the ones you favor most and make your own sentences on them.*

- (1) We're going to Hawaii after graduation. It's going to be sweet.
- (2) That club we went to last night was cool! The music was awesome!
- (3) That girl is so hot, I think I'll ask her out.
- (4) Why go to that movie? It's whack. We're having a test tomorrow? That's whacked!
- (5) After I start making the big bucks, I'm gonna buy me a sweet ride.
- (6) I'm gonna go home and just kick back until I have to go to work.

**Note**

**Gonna:** nonstandard of “going to”, usually used in slang.

*Can you find some other slang to share with the others? Do you want to learn more? Just go ahead and try to find the proper Chinese expressions given below to match the pop English saying which can enrich and enlarge your word bank.*

- |                                     |                |       |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| 1. You make me sick!                | a. 你真让我恶心!     | _____ |
| 2. Are you out of your mind?        | b. 我真后悔这辈子遇到你! | _____ |
| 3. Leave me alone.                  | c. 我们完了!       | _____ |
| 4. Take a hike!                     | d. 不关你的事!      | _____ |
| 5. It's none of your business.      | e. 你脑子进水啊?     | _____ |
| 6. Cut it out.                      | f. 你太过分了!      | _____ |
| 7. What were you thinking?          | g. 我没办法。       | _____ |
| 8. I can't help it.                 | h. 全都让你搞砸了。    | _____ |
| 9. Get off my back.                 | i. 省省吧。        | _____ |
| 10. I wish I had never met you.     | j. 成事不足,败事有余。  | _____ |
| 11. Mind your own business!         | k. 少跟我啰唆。      | _____ |
| 12. You've gone too far!            | l. 管好你自己的事!    | _____ |
| 13. Can't you do anything right?    | m. 你疯了吗?       | _____ |
| 14. We're through.                  | n. 你自找的。       | _____ |
| 15. You've ruined everything.       | o. 别逼我!        | _____ |
| 16. I can't believe a word you say. | p. 哪儿凉快哪儿歇着去吧。 | _____ |
| 17. Don't push me!                  | q. 走开。         | _____ |
| 18. Don't panic!                    | r. 我才不信你呢!     | _____ |
| 19. You asked for it.               | s. 别怕!         | _____ |

 **Tip 2**

Tip 2

Some friendships come and go. Some will last a lifetime, others only a day. If you've tried your best, perhaps it just wasn't meant to be.

 **Apply Tip 2**

**Group Discussion** (for 3-4 students)

1. *From the following passage try to find the meaning of friendship, then exchange your ideas with your partners.*

Friends are great in themselves and they form a vital part of your personal support network. They can throw you a lifeline when you feel like you are drowning in a crisis. Taking the time to make friends is part of taking care of yourself, and it gives you the opportunity to be a support to others when they are in need. ( And that can feel pretty good too! ) Be aware of your good points — find them so that you can encourage others to do the same. Friendship, it's up to you to take the first step, take a deep breath and go for it!

Friends also may decide to do something which you do not want to do like shoplift, bully someone, joyride or take drugs. Keep in mind that real friends do not force people to do things that are harmful to themselves or to others. So if a friend says “let's steal from the shop and if you don't I'm not your friend any more” or “if you don't join in bullying that kid, then our friendship is over”, this kind of friendship wasn't “worth anything”.

Try and make friends of both genders and be clear about the nature of your friendships while recognizing the boundaries that distinguish a

friendship from an intimate relationship. You do not have to be in an intimate or romantic relationship to meet your needs for friendship and belonging.

2. *After discussing the meaning of friendship, tell a story to others to support your point of view.*

3. *Look at the questionnaire below. Work together to complete them.*

### QUESTIONNAIRE

How many friends do you think a person should have?

1. One or two real friends are enough.
2. The more the better.
3. The number is not important.
4. The number increases as you grow older.

Your choices and remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of people can become your friends?

1. Those who have been your friends from childhood.
2. Your classmates and colleagues.
3. Those who can help you to do things.
4. Those who can share comments and ideas with you.
5. Those you like to spend time with.

Your choices and remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think family members can become your friends?

1. Yes.
2. No.
3. It depends.
4. Only spouses can be.

Your choices and remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

4. *State your own standards for making friends.*



## Creative Activities

### STORY-TELLING COMPETITION

*Look at the picture. The story happened in a school café between a pair of lovers. Imagine the situation.*



***“Your intoxicating beauty has made me forget my problems, my inhibitions, my wallet. Would you mind picking up the check?”***

*In a group of 4, find out what happened in the picture and make a story based on it logically, then present the outcome in class. When all the groups have told their stories, choose the one that has the best title, content, logic, fun and humor.*

*Have you had such an experience? Tell your own story to the class.*



## Extension

1. *Read the following passage and think over whether you ever had the same experience.*



Going to university, especially if it is in a new city, brings many opportunities to learn and try new things, to see new places and make new friends with a variety of backgrounds and cultures. This can be an exciting time of personal growth. However, making new friends can be scary, especially if none of your old school friends are with you. It can also be a lonely time before your social network is established.

It may feel a little awkward at first to make the step from greeting someone in the lecture room to inviting them for a coffee or to meet for lunch, but if you take the risk you may be rewarded by friendship. Turning a chance encounter into a friendship takes time, and can't be rushed. Take courage in the friends you had before, if you've done it before you can do it again. Be patient, and don't jump to critical conclusions about yourself.

(1) *Now exchange ideas with your partner. What ways are there of making friends in a new place? Share your own experiences with your classmates.*

(2) *Group Work (for 3–4 students)*

*Try to help Tom to solve his problem. Tom is in high school now and he wants to make friends, but doesn't know how. In primary school he was bullied and kicked around and didn't have any friends. The kids at this school seem to be OK, but he is afraid of doing anything wrong. First of all, look at the following list.*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be good at giving compliments without going overboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Be welcoming to new students                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have a pleasant expression on their face              | <input type="checkbox"/> Be willing to share                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Talk about yourself all the time                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Be humorous and tell jokes                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laugh at people's jokes                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Be fair                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be kind   | <input type="checkbox"/> Be good at organizing games or activities    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be bossy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Talk about other students behind their backs |

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ☐ Offer to help others with work<br>or carry things | ☐ Be negative and sarcastic                   |
| ☐ Tell others they are doing<br>things wrong        | ☐ Be too intense or serious all the time      |
| ☐ Invite people to do something                     | ☐ Moan all the time                           |
| ☐ Be mean   | ☐ Tell others how to play                     |
|   | ☐ Be a bully                                  |
|   | ☐ Claim credit for something you didn't<br>do |

(3) *Discuss the above tactics of making friends within your groups. What points do you agree with? What do you not? Give your reasons.*

(4) *If Tom wants to change his situation, do you think he should consider the following suggestions?*

- 1) Think about what he would like in a friend.
- 2) Think about what he and his friends could do.
- 3) Think about changing his behavior.
- 4) Think about whom he wants to approach.
- 5) Think about how many friends he wants.

*Or if you have some other good suggestions...*

## 2. Oral Practice.

- ☐ Task I. Retell a story.

*Listen to the following story twice, then retell the story.*



- ☐ Task II. Talk based on a given topic.

*Tell us an experience that you once asked some strangers for getting the time on the way to...*

- ☐ Task III. Role-play.

Student A: You and your partner discuss what you should do during the three-day holiday on May Day. Your mother wrote to ask you to go home, as your grandmother has been ill. But for your own you want to stay at school because you will have a very important exam just after the holidays.

You wanted to exchange the idea with your partner and wanted to know what his/her opinion is. Remember you should initiate the conversation.

Student B : Your best friend is asking for your opinion of the holiday plan on May Day. He/She couldn't make the decision whether he/she should go home to see his/her sick grandmother or stay at school for preparing the exam. You are trying to give your suggestions. Remember it is your partner who initiates the conversation.



## Evaluation

**A** On the scale of ★★★★★, circle one, two or all the stars and rate how well you have achieved the goals set at the beginning of the unit.

★★★★★ to tell the stories on campus.

★★★★★ to appreciate humor and comedy.

★★★★★ to state your standards of choosing friends.

★★★★★ to learn some pop slang on campus.

★★★★★ to find ways of making friends.

If you've given yourself ★★★ or fewer on any of the goals,

ask your teacher for extra help.

review the sections of the unit that you found difficult.

work with a partner or study group to further your progress.

**B** Answer the following questions:

◆ Do you like this topic?  Yes  No

◆ Have you learnt anything from this unit?  Yes  No

◆ Have you got new ideas on how to make friends now?  Yes  No

◆ Are you good at telling stories?  Yes  No

◆ Could you use the slang you have learned here?  Yes  No