

Unit 1 First Day on Campus



Introduction

Students are often puzzled during the first days on campus. Tall teaching buildings, sophisticated library, demanding professors, countless students, and new ways to organize life can be intimidating. As a newcomer, you must learn your way around the campus and learn how to meet and interact with lots of people.

Aims

In this unit you will learn:

- ★ to become acquainted with college life and study;
- ★ the proper way to start a conversation on different occasions;
- ★ to greet people and to respond properly to the greetings of others;
- ★ to introduce yourself and others in both formal and informal ways;
- ★ to locate partners to carry out the tasks in oral English class.



Starting Steps



Intonation Practice

Tones are the way our voice moves up and down. The way we use these tones is called intonation, and it is the English intonation that makes English sound really English. The speaker uses voice tones to help the listener understand the meaning of the sentence.

Rising and falling are the two basic intonation patterns in English. Sometimes, they go together and make rise-fall tones or fall-rise tones.



Listen and repeat the following sentences to see how rhythm, stress, linking, contractions, and elisions all work together with the tone patterns of spoken English.

Questions

1. What would you like?
2. What will you have?
3. Where are you going?

Statements and short answers

- I'd like a chicken-salad sandwich.
I'll have a hotdog and a coke.
To the lab.



Brainstorming

1. Have you ever heard of these terms: break the ice, safe topic?
2. What do you usually say to break the ice?
3. What kind of topics can be considered safe in the English-speaking countries and in your own country?
4. What do you usually say when you introduce yourself?

Situational Response

1. How would you respond in the following situations?
2. Which of the following occasions are formal? Which are informal?



Hi! Hot day,
isn't it?



Hi! How's
everything going?



How do you
do, Mr. Smith?

Starting conversations in which you introduce yourself, depends on the occasion and the people involved. Try to be friendly and polite as you start conversations with strangers.



Conversations



Listen to the following conversations and answer the questions:

1. How did the speakers start a conversation?
2. What were involved in their self-introductions?

Part A

A: Hi!

B: Hi! But I don't think we've met.

A: My name is Margaret. I'm a new-comer. This is my first day of class.

B: Pleased to meet you, Margaret.

A: You can call me Margie.

B: Okay, Margie. My name is Catherine, but everyone calls me Kate.

A: Hello, Kate. Where are you from?

B: I am from Canada. And what about you?

A: I'm American. What did you do before you came here?

B: I was a student.

A: What's your major?

B: My major is computer.

A: That's great. My major is computer too.

Part B

A: Good morning, Professor Marker.

B: Good morning, Ms. Li. Please have a seat. How do you like the weather here?

A: I like it very much.

B: Better get yourself prepared for winter. It's cold here. What will be your major, Ms. Li?

A: Education, specializing in TESL.

B: Your transcript indicates that you have a strong English background, and that you've had two years of teaching experience. I don't think you'll have any particular problems.

A: Thank you for your encouragement.

B: I hope you'll enjoy yourself here.

A: I am sure that I will.

B: Good-bye.

A: Good-bye. It was nice to visit with you, Professor Marker.



Tips for Learning



Tip 1

Tip 1

It is good to know a few opening gambits in order to interact with friends or strangers. Here are some useful ones. Remember to be friendly and polite, and smile as you use them.

Useful Expressions

What's up? (Very informal)

Nice day, isn't it?

Hi, my name is...

Excuse me. Is anybody sitting here?

Sorry, I couldn't help overhearing. Did you mention something about...

Good morning! May I introduce myself? (Very formal)

Apply Tip 1

The aim of the following section is to give you a chance to get used to the methods in learning the new expressions that will be used throughout the book. Try to apply the tips as you do the following role-play activity.

The class is divided into two groups: A and B.

Group A Please look at activity 1 in work sheet at the end of the book.

Group B Please look at activity 16 in work sheet at the end of the book.

If you do not feel very confident after the practice, talk to your teacher or your partner. Work through problems to solutions together. Take it easy. Practice makes perfect.

Tip 2

Tip 2

When you talk about yourself, there are many things about which you can talk. For example, you can talk about your name, your job, your family, etc. Get together with another student. Introduce yourself first and then find out about each other.

Useful Expressions

Allow me to introduce myself.

Please tell us about yourself.

I come to get my Bachelor's/Master's/Doctor's degree.

I'm a new-comer here.

 **Apply Tip 2**

It's now time for you to get acquainted with your group members. Do some introduction and self-introduction. Here are some ideas to start off with. Try to ask for as many details as possible.

FAMILY: parents, brothers, sisters, your childhood, hometown, etc.

LEISURE TIME: hobbies, activities on weekends, music, TV shows, sports, etc.



Interaction

EDUCATION: subjects at school, favorite courses, individual expectations of the university experience, etc.

FRIENDS: best friends, things friends do together and usually talk about, challenges in friendship, etc.

Have you found someone who shares the same interest with you, and with whom you can enjoy more sharing together in the coming days?



Creative Activities

AN ICEBREAKER PARTY

It's time for the real use of the language now. The class is divided into 4 groups. Go to an Icebreaker Party (a party for the freshmen to get to know others), and enjoy yourself!



At a party everyone chats for a few minutes with one guest, and then is expected to circulate and move on to another guest.

The host or hostess normally encourages the guests to introduce themselves to each other at a party.

Group A host and hostess (2 students). Please read activity 30 in the work sheet for further instructions.

Group B sophomores and juniors (4 students). Please read activity 43 in the work sheet for further instructions.

Group C graduating students (2 students). Please read activity 50 in the work sheet for further instructions.

Group D freshmen (the rest of the class). Please read activity 48 for further instructions.

Now stand up and enjoy your party!



Extension

1. Look at the questionnaire below. Help each other to fill in the blanks. Try to ask and answer the questions in English. (Intermediate)

QUESTIONNAIRE

(Further information about your new friends)

Last name _____ First name _____

Place of birth _____

Permanent address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Hobbies _____

In what areas does your English need the most improvement?

What is the main thing that you hope to get from this course?

2. Read the following information and discuss the questions. (Advanced)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA — INTRODUCING THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS LIFE



Academics will be only a part of your experience at the University of California. There are many events, activities and organizations on campus for you to participate in and enjoy when you are not in class or studying. Some are devoted solely to entertainment, recreation or relaxation, while others allow you to explore and share a common interest with other students.

There are student clubs and organizations representing every imaginable interest and affiliation, be it academic, cultural, social, political, ethnic, professional, religious, musical, recreational, artistic, literary or service-oriented in nature. Each campus has an office that coordinates student activities and sponsors orientation programs to acquaint you with the organizations.

The student government at each campus, called the Associated Students, takes an active role in campus affairs advocating student concerns, sponsoring cultural events and managing a variety of services and projects. Through the Associated Students, you may become involved in student newspapers, magazines, radio stations, teacher-evaluation publications and community service projects.

Discovery is an important part of the University experience. Literally hundreds of student organizations and clubs represent every imaginable interest and affiliation. Some are devoted solely to entertainment, recreation or relaxation, while others provide the opportunity to explore and share common interests with other students.

Please discuss the following questions:

- (1) What does higher education mean to you?
- (2) What do you expect in your university study?
- (3) What student clubs or organizations are you going to join in the university?

You can use these two websites to find more information about campus life:

<http://www.google.com/>, <http://www.net.edu.cn/>

3. Read the following story and practice retelling.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams had always spent their summer holidays in England in the past, in a small boarding-house at the seaside. One year, however, Mr. Williams made a lot of money in his business, so they decided to go to Rome and stay at a really good hotel while they went around and saw the sights of that famous city.

They flew to Rome, and arrived at their hotel late one evening. They expected that they would have to go to bed hungry, because in the boarding houses they had been used to in the past, no meals were served after seven o'clock in the evening. They were therefore surprised when the clerk who received them in the hall of the hotel asked them whether they would be taking diner there that night.

“Are you still serving dinner then?” asked Mrs. Williams.

“Yes, certainly, madam,” answered the clerk. “We serve it until half past nine.”

“What are the times of meals then?” asked Mr. Williams.

“Well, sir,” answered the clerk, “we serve breakfast from seven to half past eleven in the morning, lunch from twelve to three in the afternoon, tea from four to five, and dinner from six to half past nine.”

“But that hardly leaves any time for us to see the sight of Rome!” said Mrs. Williams in a disappointed voice.



Evaluation

Ⓐ *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 start a conversation in a proper way on different occasions

★★★★★ to introduce yourself and others in both formal and informal ways

★★★★★ to become acquainted with college life and study

★★★★★ to locate partners to carry out the tasks in oral English class

★★★★★ to greet people and respond properly to greetings of others

Ⓑ *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.