

The Weekend - Buying Makeup (C0251)

A: I'm hungry, let's go grab a bite to eat.

B: Yeah me too. Oh! Can we stop at the shop really fast? I lost my makeup bag at the airport and I want to pick up a few things.

A: Will you take long?

B: No! Five minutes I promise!

A: Come on! We have been here for almost an hour! I thought you said you were only going to get a few things! How long does it take you to pick out a lipstick and some nail polish!

B: Are you crazy! You have no idea what you are talking about! Just for my eyes I have to get eye-liner, an eyelash curler, eye shadow, an eyebrow pencil and mascara. Then I need to get foundation, liquid foundation.

A: Whoa whoa whoa! Are you nuts? How much is all this going to cost? I'm looking at the price at each one of these little things and it's outrageous! This is basically a crayon!

B: What about you? You spend as much or more money on your razors, after shave, cologne and gel! Not to mention how much you spend on clothes and...

A: Fine! Get the stupid thirty dollar crayon!

Key Vocabulary

to grab a bite	<i>P</i>	to quickly get something to eat
mascara	<i>N</i>	a cosmetic applied to thicken, lengthen, and darken the eyelashes
eye shadow	<i>N</i>	a cosmetic coloring material applied to the eyelid
outrageous	<i>A</i>	passing reasonable bounds; intolerable or shocking
basically	<i>R</i>	in a basic way; fundamentally or essentially
to grab a bite	<i>P</i>	to quickly get something to eat

Supplementary Vocabulary

lip gloss	<i>N</i>	a glossy lip balm for women
lip liner	<i>N</i>	a pencil used especially to accentuate the lips
face mask	<i>N</i>	a facial cleanser when dry creates a mask
understate	<i>V</i>	to misjudge the statement made as being less
naive	<i>A</i>	to have little experience or knowledge toward a given topic

Global View - Contraceptives (C0252)

A: Alright, settle down everyone. As part of this school's curriculum we'll be covering sex ed this week.

A: Now I want everyone to take this class seriously, sexual education is very important and I want you to ask as many questions as you can think of. Remember, there are no stupid questions here.

B: Miss Carlton? What exactly is sexual education? Are you going to teach us like Kama sutra stuff like that?

A: No Jason, that's not exactly what sex ed is. Basically, we will talk about sexually transmitted diseases, contraceptives and how the male and female bodies work.

B: My older sister is in college and she takes what she and her friends call the pill. I never really understood what that is, but I know it has to do with sex or something.

A: Good point Jason! This will be the topic of our first class, contraceptives. As you mentioned, the pill is one of the many that exist. The birth control pill is taken daily by a woman in order to prevent unwanted pregnancy, but it does not protect her from contracting STD's from an infected person. Another popular method is using condoms. This is probably the best method if you have sex, since it not only prevents a woman from getting pregnant but also protects both from STD's. Yes Jason?

B: What are condoms made out of? How exactly is it that a woman gets pregnant?

A: Condoms are usually made out of an elastic material called Latex. As for your other question, that's a whole new class.

Key Vocabulary

curriculum	<i>N</i>	the aggregate of courses of study given in a school, college, university, etc.
contraceptive	<i>N</i>	device, drug, or chemical agent that prevents conception

condom	<i>N</i>	a thin sheath worn over the penis during sex
to pre-vent	<i>V</i>	to stop from happening
to con-tract	<i>V</i>	to get or acquire, as by exposure to something contagious

Supplementary Vocabulary

72 hour pill	<i>N</i>	a pill taken immediately or within 72 hours of having unprotected sex
abortion	<i>N</i>	the termination of a pregnancy
planned parent-hood	<i>N</i>	a clinic in America which deals with sexually active adults
syphilis	<i>N</i>	one form of a sexually transmitted disease
penicillin	<i>N</i>	an anti-biotic used to treat syphilis

The Office - Interview Skills 7 - Describing Ones Weaknesses (C0253)

Mr Parsons: Okay Rebecca, well I think you've given me a clear impression of your positive qualities, but let's talk a little bit about your weaknesses.

Rebecca: Okay, well it's always more difficult to describe them isn't it?

Mr Parsons: Definitely, but if you had to pinpoint one weakness what would it be?

Rebecca: Well as I mentioned before, I do tend to get frustrated if I don't see progress in my work or career. I suppose I'm quite a restless character. My father always taught me to be a high achiever so.

Mr Parsons: So would you say if things don't go your way at work it could easily get you down?

Rebecca: Well, in a way yes. But I must say that even if I'm not completely happy in my work I always give 110% I would never shirk my responsibilities. I suppose sometimes I expect too much too soon.

Mr Parsons: Well, you know journalism is a highly competitive world, so you do need to keep pushing yourself it's true. Okay well lets move on to talk about the job position here shall we?

Rebecca: Yes please.

Key Vocabulary

weakness	<i>N</i>	a personal defect or failing
to pin-point	<i>V</i>	to locate or describe exactly or precisely
go someone's way	<i>P</i>	proceed according to one's plans or wishes

get someone down	<i>P</i>	to exhaust, discourage, or depress someone
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to shirk	<i>V</i>	to avoid or neglect
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impression	<i>N</i>	the feelings one has af- ter a specific event
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frustrated	<i>A</i>	upset
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Supplementary Vocabulary

honest	<i>A</i>	to tell the truth
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workaholic	<i>N</i>	a person who is ob- sessed with their work
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professional	<i>N</i>	to still behave accord- ingly even if unhappy
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over- achiever	<i>N</i>	to strive to be the best
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temper tantrum	<i>N</i>	to throw a fit if things do not go your way
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The Weekend - Making Breakfast (C0254)

A: Smells good! What's for breakfast?

B: Well, since we are getting up so late, I decided to make a big breakfast!

A: Nice! Brunch!

B: Kind of, so I made scrambled and soft boiled eggs, some french toast and buttermilk pancakes!

A: Wow! You really went all out! Did you make any coffee?

B: Yeah, just the way you like it! I also put out some cereal and muesli if you feel like having something more light.

A: Looks good! I'll squeeze us some fresh orange juice.

B: Get the jam and butter while you are in there! Oh! And don't forget the syrup!

Key Vocabulary

brunch	<i>N</i>	a meal that serves as both breakfast and lunch
kind of	<i>P</i>	to some extent; somewhat; rather; sort of
pancake	<i>N</i>	a thin, flat cake of batter fried on both sides
to go all out	<i>P</i>	with maximum effort; using all one's resources
jam	<i>N</i>	a preserve of whole fruit, slightly crushed, boiled with sugar

Supplementary Vocabulary

oatmeal	<i>N</i>	a meal made from oats softened by boiling water
bacon	<i>N</i>	a strip of fat and meat usually made from pork
Cap'n Crunch	<i>N</i>	a breakfast cereal brand in America

waffles	<i>N</i>	a pancake like breakfast made in squares rather than circles
eggs benedict	<i>N</i>	a poached egg on half of a english muffin with a hollandaise sauce

Global View - The Miracle Of Life (C0255)

A: Continuing with our class, today we are going to study briefly the miracle of life. Many of you may think you already know how babies come to be, but I am sure that some of the things that we will be talking about today may surprise you. Billy can you turn on the projector please? Thanks. Ok, does anyone know what this is?

B: Looks like a goat head to me!

A: Nice try, but this is a woman's womb which contains her uterus and ovaries. The ovaries are packed with eggs and each month during the middle of the menstrual cycle, the ripest one will be sucked up by one of the fallopian tubes. This is called ovulation and the exact time of ovulation depends on the length of your cycle. In an average 28 day cycle, ovulation will most likely happen between the 12th and 15th days, counting day 1 as the first day of your last period.

B: That's amazing! So each month, the woman produces these eggs and then waits for them to be fertilized?

- A: Actually, every woman is already born with over four hundred thousand eggs! Some will start dying off immediately and others released during her fertile period.
- B: What about the guys? I know they produce sperm and stuff.
- A: That's right! The man's body has a tiny factory that produces sperm twenty four hours a day! Each ejaculation will release about a hundred million sperm so the factory is always pretty busy. The sole purpose of a sperm's life is to fertilize the woman's egg.
- B: So, then we basically need to put one-and-one together so we can have babies right?

A: Yes, the man will have an orgasm during intercourse and ejaculate sperm and semen. Now this is where the race begins and all those millions of sperm will race and swim from the cervix, through the uterus to the fallopian tubes. This could take anywhere from forty five minutes to twelve hours! Not all of them make it, since some go the wrong way and get lost or simply die. Many will actually reach the egg but only one will penetrate it and fertilize it. Once this happens, the egg instantly changes and creates a protective shield once the sperm is safely inside.

B: And then? That's it?

A: Well, the egg will be fertilized within about 24 hours of its release. The genetic material from the sperm combines with the genetic material in the egg to create a new cell that will rapidly start dividing. The woman is not actually pregnant until that bundle of new cells, known as the embryo, travels the rest of the way down the fallopian tube and attaches itself to the wall of her uterus. Any other questions? Then let's move on.

Key Vocabulary

womb

N

the uterus of the human female

ovulation	<i>N</i>	the discharge of a mature ovum from the ovary
ejaculation	<i>N</i>	the discharge of semen by the male reproductive organs
embryo	<i>N</i>	in humans, the young in the early stages of development within the womb
wall	<i>N</i>	the outermost layer defining the physical limits of an object

Supplementary Vocabulary

urethra	<i>N</i>	the part of the male anatomy which transports semen
vas deferens	<i>N</i>	the specific tube which semen travel through
scrotum	<i>N</i>	a pouch with holds the testes

pre men-
strual
syn-
drome

N

a disorder during a woman's menstrual cycle characterized by depression and stomach cramps

vagina

N

the female reproductive organ

The Office - Interview Skills 8 - Discussing Salary and Benefits (C0256)

Mr. Parsons: Okay, well I'm sure you have a number of questions to ask me regarding the position.

Rebecca: Yes, well Miss Childs did give me an overview of the position over the phone, but there were some details I'd like to clarify.

Mr. Parsons: Well feel free to ask me anything, and I'll try to fill in the details.

Rebecca: Could I first ask about the remuneration package ?

Mr. Parsons: Yes of course. That's quite an important point isn't it? As a junior sub editor we offer a starting salary of 150,000 HK dollars per annum. This doesn't include a generous housing allowance also.

Rebecca: I understand. And are there other bonuses included?

Mr. Parsons: Well apart from full health insurance we do offer a company staff bonus scheme linked to readership numbers. But we could go through all the details of that at a later date.

Rebecca: Well Mr. Parsons, I am flexible when it comes to salary. The opportunity to work in Hong Kong for you is the most important thing for me.

Mr. Parsons: Excellent. Well, what other questions do you have Rebecca?

Key Vocabulary

remuneration package	<i>N</i>	money and benefits given to someone for the work
per annum	<i>P</i>	each year
housing allowance	<i>A</i>	money that a company provides for rent of a house

flexible	<i>A</i>	able to change or to do different things
go through	<i>V</i>	to study or look at (something) in a careful way

Supplementary Vocabulary

Gross	<i>A</i>	Overall sum excluding tax and any deductions
Net	<i>A</i>	Free from all charges or deductions
Income Tax	<i>N</i>	A tax on the amount of money you earn
Stock Options	<i>P</i>	A benefit offered by a company to purchase stock for a fixed price
Bonus	<i>N</i>	An additional payment or reward given for good work or performance

Global View - The World Cup (C0257)

A: What are you doing?

B: What am I doing? What am I doing? Don't you know what day it is?

A: Ummm. no.

B: It's only the day when the world's biggest sporting event is kicking off.

A: What?

B: The World Cup! The first match is today! It's Mexico vs. South Africa! It's going to be a really good match! Both teams have a very strong offense and have skilled players. I think that South Africa will probably dominate the first half since they are the host country, and all.

A: I have no idea what you're talking about. The only sporting event we watch at home is the Super Bowl.

- B: This is bigger than the Super Bowl, man! Teams from 32 countries compete against each other every four years and fight to win that trophy. They first start in a group stage with bigger groups, each group having 4 teams. The top 2 teams pass on to an elimination stage before going on to the quarterfinals and semifinals.
- A: Sounds interesting, but soccer doesn't really appeal to me.
- B: Are you kidding? Over seven hundred million people watched the final match of the World Cup! It's a very exciting and nerve wracking sport! Each nation is cheering on their team, hoping they will become the next champion. So far Brazil is the team with the most titles under their belt; they're really good!
- A: All I know about soccer is that you can't use your hands and that players are always falling down, trying to get a free kick or penalty kick. It seems like a sissy sport to me!
- B: Whatever dude, I'm going to go watch the opening match.

Key Vocabulary

to kick off	<i>V</i>	to officially begin something
stage	<i>N</i>	a step in a process
sissy	<i>A</i>	something only appropriate for girls or women
match	<i>N</i>	game
host	<i>A</i>	one who provides services, etc as for a convention

Supplementary Vocabulary

rival	<i>N</i>	a person or team who above everyone else attempts to win against you
disinterest	<i>A</i>	to not have interest in something
competition	<i>N</i>	a match between two teams or persons
oblivious	<i>A</i>	to be unaware

qualify

V

to show an ability to
progress in a competi-
tion

Daily Life - You're Grounded! (C0258)

A: Do you know what time it is?

B: Um. Ten?

A: Get in this door young man. It's midnight, you are two hours past curfew.

B: I know, but it wasn't my fault! I told Jennifer she had to drop me off before ten, but she wouldn't leave the party!

A: I don't care! You are grounded for life mister!

B: Mom! That is so unfair!

A: You know the rules and you broke them. No allowance and no TV for a week. I usually never ground you but this time I have to put my foot down!

B: What! For being a couple of hours late? You have to be kidding!

A: I don't want to hear it! Now go to your room!

Key Vocabulary

curfew	<i>N</i>	order requiring one to be indoors at a certain time
allowance	<i>N</i>	money given on a regular basis for personal use
ground	<i>V</i>	to restrict one's activities, esp. of a child
drop one off	<i>P</i>	to unload someone as from a car, ship etc.

Supplementary Vocabulary

furious	<i>A</i>	overly angry or upset
punish	<i>V</i>	to be reprimanded
unexcusable	<i>A</i>	have no reason or excuse
unreliable	<i>A</i>	a person who cannot be trusted to do something
dissappointed	<i>A</i>	to be angry or sad when an expectation is not met

The Office - Interview Skills 9 - Asking For Information About The Position (C0259)

Rebecca: Could you tell me a little about the organization? For example, how big is your workforce here?

Mr. Parsons: Well in total we have around 150 employees based in Hong Kong with another 400 in our head office in Beijing. The newsdesk staff in Hong Kong comprises around 80 staff.

Rebecca: I see. And how about the working hours?

Mr. Parsons: Well, as you know Rebecca, in journalism work hours are not exactly 9-5. You could be on call at any time. We do have to work very unsociable hours at times.

Rebecca: Well I am used to that Mr. Parsons, so that's not really a shock for me.

Mr. Parsons: Good, as long as you understand that.

Rebecca: And when do you need to fill the vacancy, Mr. Parsons?

Mr. Parsons: Yesterday! But no, we are hoping to start from the beginning of next month.

Rebecca: That sounds ideal.

Key Vocabulary

how about	<i>P</i>	what do you think
staff	<i>N</i>	employees
used to	<i>P</i>	accustomed or habituated to
on call	<i>P</i>	to be available to work at any time
nine to five	<i>P</i>	9AM-5PM

Supplementary Vocabulary

overtime	<i>N</i>	to work more than your normal working schedule
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policy	<i>N</i>	a set of rules or procedures in a company
dress code	<i>N</i>	rules regarding how one should dress
pay slip	<i>N</i>	a receipt with information about your salary, deductions and taxes.
HR	<i>N</i>	Human Resources

The Weekend - Guns (C0260)

- A: Hey Nick, what are you up to?
- B: Not much, just heading over to the shooting range. You wanna come?
- A: Seriously? You mean to fire a real weapon? I don't know man.
- B: Yeah it will be fun! I have a 9mm pistol that is really easy to shoot. I also have a revolver that's really fun too! They have big targets at the range that we could use to practice and improve your aim.
- A: Yeah that would be cool! Maybe I can also have a try at other weapons like a machine gun or a shotgun! Maybe even a rocket launcher or an anti tank missile! Or what about a flame thrower!

B: Whoa, take it easy there Rambo. Don't get carried away. These weapons are not toys, and you must first learn how to handle them properly. There are basic rules that you must abide by in order to be safe. For example, never handle a weapon that you haven't inspected yourself. Always make sure there isn't anything in the chamber, and never put your finger on the trigger unless you are ready to shoot!

A: Wow, I didn't know! It always looks so cool and easy in the movies!

B: The reality is different you know, running and firing a weapon is a lot harder than in the movies! So are you ready?

A: Let's do it!

Key Vocabulary

shooting range	<i>N</i>	a specified place to practice shooting
target	<i>N</i>	object to be aimed at in shooting practice

revolver	<i>N</i>	a small gun with a container for bullets
inspect	<i>V</i>	to look at (something) carefully

Supplementary Vocabulary

rifle	<i>N</i>	a shoulder firearm with spiral grooves cut in the inner surface of the gun barrel
scope	<i>N</i>	instrument on a gun for viewing and aiming at the target
magazine	<i>N</i>	a metal receptacle for a number of cartridges, inserted into certain types of automatic weapons
round	<i>N</i>	ammunition for a single shot
barrel	<i>N</i>	the metal, cylindrical part of a firearm through which the bullet travels