

# 42 Socializing 1: nice to meet you

## A At the airport

- Rebecca: Excuse me. **Are you** Kate Thomas?  
I'm Rebecca Melesi.
- Kate: Hello. **Nice to meet you.**
- Rebecca: Hello. **Nice to meet you too.** How was the flight?
- Kate: Very good, thanks. **No problems at all.**
- Rebecca: I'll take you to your hotel and then we'll go out to dinner.
- Kate: Thank you. **That would be nice.**



## B At the office

- Rebecca: Good morning, Kate. How are you?
- Kate: Very well, thanks. And you?
- Rebecca: Fine, thanks. Take a seat. Would you like something to drink?
- Kate: Juice, please.
- Rebecca: Here you are.
- Kate: Thank you.
- Rebecca: Steve, this is Kate Thomas from Adventure Travel in London. Kate, this is Steve Smith, our marketing manager.
- Kate: Hello, Steve. **Pleased to meet you.**
- Steve: Nice to meet you, Kate. **Have you been to Botswana before?**
- Kate: No, this is my first time.
- Steve: **Where are you staying? What's it like?**
- Kate: At the Intercontinental. It's very comfortable, thanks.



**Note** You say *Have you been to Botswana before?*, but you don't say *'Have you been to here before?'* You say *Have you been here before?*

## C Saying goodbye

- Steve: **It was nice meeting you, Kate.**
- Kate: Nice meeting you too, Steve.
- Steve: **Have a good trip back to London.**
- Kate: Thanks. I'll be in touch soon.
- Steve: **I look forward to seeing you next time.**
- Kate: Yes, me too. Bye.
- Steve: **Goodbye.**

**Note** You say *Nice to meet you* when you meet someone for the first time, and *Nice meeting you* when you say goodbye.

**42.1** Look at A, B and C opposite. Choose the correct response (a or b) in each of the exchanges (1–7).

- 1 Nice to meet you.  
a Nice to meet you too.  
b Fine, thanks.
- 2 How was the flight?  
a That would be nice.  
b Very good – no problems at all.
- 3 I'll take you to your hotel and then we'll go out to dinner.  
a Fine, thanks.  
b Thank you. That would be nice.
- 4 Would you like something to drink?  
a Coffee, please.  
b Here you are.
- 5 Have you been to Botswana before?  
a No, this is my first time.  
b Pleased to meet you.
- 6 This is my first time.  
a Where are you staying?  
b Where are you living?
- 7 This is Adrian from Ginnel Studios in York.  
a Nice meeting you.  
b Pleased to meet you.
- 8 It was nice meeting you.  
a Very well, thanks.  
b Nice meeting you too.

**42.2** This conversation is between a visitor to a company and two people who work there. Complete what they say with expressions from B opposite.

- 1 Leslie: Take a ..... Would you like ..... to drink?  
..... coffee, tea and apple juice.
- 2 Leslie: Brian, ..... is Georgina Osborne from SPL in Dublin. Georgina, this is Brian, our production manager.
- 3 Brian: Nice to meet you, Georgina. .... you ..... to Melbourne before?
- 4 Brian: ..... are you staying?
- 5 Brian: What's it ..... ?

**42.3** Look at B opposite and match Georgina's answers with the questions in 42.2 above.

- a At the Hilton.
- b Pleased to meet you.
- c Tea, please.
- d Very comfortable, thanks.
- e Yes, I was here about ten years ago.

## Over to you

A visitor comes to your office. You introduce the visitor to a colleague. Write the conversation.

# 43 Socializing 2: at the restaurant

## A Choosing and ordering



Rebecca: A table for two, please.  
 Waiter: Where would you like to sit? Near the window?  
 Rebecca: That's fine.  
 (Rebecca and Kate look at the menu.)  
 Kate: What do you recommend?  
 Rebecca: The fish is very good. Do you like fish?  
 Kate: No, I'm not keen on seafood – I don't like it very much. What are you going to have?  
 Rebecca: I think I'll have the risotto. That's a type of rice with vegetables.  
 Kate: That sounds good. I'll have the same.  
 Waiter: Are you ready to order?  
 Rebecca: Yes, I think so.

## B Small talk

**Small talk** is when people talk in a friendly way about things that are not important.

Rebecca: Do you live in London?  
 Kate: No, I live in Brighton, on the south coast, about an hour from London. I commute.  
 What about you?  
 Rebecca: I commute too. It takes about 20 minutes by car. Do you mind commuting?  
 Kate: It's OK if the train isn't late. I read and I listen to music. And you?  
 Rebecca: It's fine if there isn't too much traffic. What do you do in your spare time?  
 Kate: I play a lot of golf.  
 Rebecca: Really? I play golf too. How about a game tomorrow after our meeting?  
 Kate: Good idea.

## C Thanking

Kate: That was delicious.  
 Rebecca: I'm glad you liked it. Would you like a dessert?  
 Kate: No, thanks. I'll just have a coffee.  
 Rebecca: Two coffees, please. And could we have the bill?  
 Waiter: Certainly.  
 (The bill arrives.)  
 Rebecca: I'll get this.  
 Kate: Thank you.  
 Rebecca: My pleasure.

**43.1** Look at A opposite. Put this conversation into the correct order. Look at the examples before you begin.

1 a 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 9

- a Roxanne: What do you recommend?  
 b Francesca: I think I'll have a salade niçoise.  
 c Francesca: It's a type of salad with vegetables, eggs and tuna in it.  
 d Francesca: The steak is very good. Do you like meat?  
 e Roxanne: I'm not keen on meat. What are you going to have?  
 f Roxanne: What's that?  
 g Roxanne: That sounds good. I'll have the same.

**43.2** Look at B opposite. Match the questions (1–4) with the answers (a–d).

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Do you live in Tokyo?              | a Good idea.  |
| 2 Do you mind commuting?             | b No, I live in Yokohama, about 30 minutes from Tokyo on the coast. |
| 3 What do you do in your spare time? | c It's OK. I do a lot of work on the train.                         |
| 4 How about a game this evening?     | d I play squash.  |



**43.3** Look at C opposite. Then write the conversations.

- Alain: 1 (Ask Bengt if he wants a dessert.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bengt: 2 (Say you would like ice cream.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alain: 3 (Ask the waiter for two ice creams.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bengt: 4 (Say you liked the meal.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alain: 5 (Reply.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alain: 6 (Ask for the bill and tell Bengt that you will pay.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bengt: 7 (Thank Alain.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alain: 8 (Reply.) \_\_\_\_\_

## Over to you



You are at a restaurant with a visitor to your country. Write a conversation between yourself and the visitor.

# 44 Socializing 3: networking

## A Business or pleasure?

Rebecca and Kate are at the golf club.

- Kate: Thanks for the game. It was great.  
 Rebecca: I enjoyed it too. Hi, Charlene, how are you? I haven't seen you for some time!  
 Charlene: Rebecca, hi. I'm fine, thanks.  
 Rebecca: Charlene, this is Kate. She's here from England.  
 Charlene: Hello, Kate.  
 Kate: Nice to meet you, Charlene.  
 Charlene: Are you here for business or pleasure?  
 Kate: Business, actually. I'm in the travel business, like Rebecca.  
 Rebecca: I have to get back to the office. I'll see you later, Kate. Bye, Charlene.  
 Kate: Bye. See you later.  
 Charlene: Bye.



## B Here's my card

- Charlene: Have you been to Botswana before?  
 Kate: No, this is my first time. The weather's better than in London, that's for sure.  
 Charlene: Yes, spring is a nice time of year here. What do you do?  
 Kate: Our company sells African adventure trips. I wanted to see things for myself – the country, the hotels ...  
 Charlene: That's interesting. I'm in the hotel business. My company owns ten hotels in Botswana and South Africa.  
 Kate: Really?  
 Charlene: Here's my business card.  
 Kate: And here's mine. Perhaps we can do business together. It's great to have the chance to do some networking like this!  
 Charlene: Yes, I'm sure there are some great opportunities for us to work together.  
 For more on business cards, see Unit 14.

## C Saying the right thing

Asking the right questions and giving the right sort of answer are important.

- a What was summer like this year here? Pretty wet – not really beach weather!  
 b Do you have children?  
 c How's business?  
 d Do you play tennis?  
 e Do you come here often?

## 44.1 Match the two parts of these exchanges.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Thanks for the game.                       | a No problem. Do you have any questions?                  |
| 2 Thank you for the meal.                    | b It's nice to get out of the office to a café sometimes. |
| 3 Thanks for the coffee.                     | c It was great, but you play better than me.              |
| 4 Thank you very much for your presentation. | d I'm glad you liked it. The food here is always good.    |

## 44.2 Look at A opposite. Put this conversation into the correct order. Look at the examples before you begin.

- |     |   |   |   |      |
|-----|---|---|---|------|
| 1 j | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    |
| 6   | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 h |
- a Bunzo: Bye. See you later.  
 b Bunzo: I'm fine thanks.  
 c Bunzo: Nice to meet you. Are you here for business or pleasure?  
 d Carlos: Bunzo, this is Graciela. She's here from Brazil.  
 e Carlos: I have to get back to the office. I'll see you later, Graciela. Bye, Bunzo.  
 f Carlos: My pleasure. I enjoyed it too. ... Hi, Bunzo, how are you? I haven't seen you for some time!  
 g Graciela: Business, actually. I'm in the oil business, like Carlos.  
 h Graciela: Bye.  
 i Graciela: Hello, Bunzo.  
 j Graciela: Thanks for the meal, Carlos. It was delicious.

## 44.3 Look at B opposite. Choose the appropriate response (a or b) in each of the exchanges (1–5).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Have you been here before?              | a No, and I don't want to come back.<br>b Yes, I was here about 20 years ago when I was a student. It's changed a lot!         |
| 2 The weather's better here than at home. | a Yes, the summers here are very nice, not too hot.<br>b Yes, the weather here is much better than anywhere else in the world. |
| 3 What do you do?                         | a I'm in the construction business.<br>b Why do you want to know?  |
| 4 I'm in the advertising business.        | a I know nothing about advertising.<br>b That's interesting.   |
| 5 Perhaps we can do business together.    | a I'm sure there are some opportunities to work together.<br>b I don't think so.   |

## 44.4 Relate the questions in C opposite to these subjects.

- |           |                                  |              |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 Family  | 3 The person's company           | 5 Spare time |
| 2 Weather | 4 The place where the people are |              |

## Over to you

Charlene and Kate talk about the weather. Which of these subjects is it acceptable to talk about when you meet someone: a) for the first time, and b) when you know them better?

- politics
- the economic and business situation in general
- your families