

Unit 1. Introduce yourself and others

1

- Hello. I don't think we've met. My name's Alex. Alex Cooper.
 - Sandra. Sandra Wells.
 - So, Sandra. Are you enjoying the party?
 - It's all right. I don't know too many people here, though.
 - Is Peter a friend of yours?
 - Not really. We're neighbors. I live in the apartment upstairs. What about you?
- How do you know Peter?
- Peter is an old friend of mine. We went to school together.
 - Oh, really? Where did you two go to college?

2

- Hello there, Janice. Nice to see you again!
- Good to see you too, Tom! How are things in Seattle?
- Oh, pretty good. And in Atlanta?
- Not bad. We're opening a new office next month.
- Really? That's great. By the way, have you met Lucinda Jackson? She joined our team a couple months ago.
- I think we exchanged emails once or twice.
- Well, let me introduce you. Lucinda, I'd like to introduce you to Janice. Lucinda, this is Janice Hollins. She works in our Atlanta office.
- Nice to meet you, Janice. It's good to finally put a face to the name!
- Likewise! So, how do you like working...

3

- Hi, Nadia! How's it going?
- Hi, Tina! I'm OK. What's new?
- Nothing much. Same old, same old. And who is this?
- Oh, I'm sorry! You two don't know each other. Tina Taylor, this is my cousin, Brad Benson. He's staying with us for a couple of weeks.
- Nice to meet you, Brad. You're the first relative of Tina's I've met. Are you from around here?
- No, I live in Florida. I'm just here visiting.
- Lucky you! I'd love to live in Florida where it's warm!

4

- Steve, I'd like to introduce David Simmons, our senior accountant. Dave, this is Stephen Carson, our new CEO.
- It's a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Carson.
- Good to meet you, too, Dave. And please, call me Steve.

Unit 2. Give basic details about yourself

1

- What do you do, Sophie?
- Me? I'm a travel writer.
- That sounds interesting. I bet you travel a *lot*.
- Yeah, I do. I spend more time in hotels than in my own apartment. In fact, tomorrow I'm leaving for New Zealand for three weeks.
- Three weeks?!

- Well, fortunately, someone else is paying for my trip!
- No kidding! I wish I could travel more. We hardly ever go anywhere.
- Well, being away from home has its downside, too. But what about you, Ben? What do you do?
- I work in the finance department of a large multinational. It's not very exciting work, but it pays the bills.
- And when you're not working?
- My wife and I like to dance. Right now, we're learning how to tango.
- Sounds like fun. How often do you take classes?
- Just once a week for now. And you? What do you do when you're home?
- I just sleep, mostly—recovering from jet lag!

Unit 4. Tell a story about or describe first meetings

1

- How did your parents meet, Donna?
- That's a really romantic story, actually. The first time my parents met was when my father was stationed in Europe. He was at a music club where a friend of his was playing. It turns out that the friend was my mother's brother, so she was there, too. But she was young at the time, and my father was seeing someone else. A few months later, he returned to the US.
- But they met again?
- They did. After my father returned to the US, he left the military, but then joined again a few years later. And would you believe it? They ended up sending him back to the same place!
- So, they started dating then?
- No, they were dating when he was in the US, but my mother's parents—my grandparents—weren't very happy about the relationship. When my father was then transferred to another base 2,000 miles away, they thought that was the end.
- But it wasn't?
- No. My mother decided to "visit" my father. She and a friend took a train all the way to where my father was stationed. When they got there, my mother told her friend she wasn't going back.
- I bet her friend was upset.
- Well, wouldn't you be? The poor girl had to go home alone. Apparently, she never talked to my mother again.
- But your parents ...?
- Six months later, they got married. And as they say, the rest is history. They've been together for over fifty years now.
- Wow, that really *is* a romantic story.

Unit 7. Talk about free time activities

1

I'm really into music. I play the trumpet in a jazz band. I practice pretty much every day—three or four days a week with the group and the other days I practice on my own. I also go out quite a lot to clubs to hear what other groups are playing. You could say that if I'm not playing, I'm listening to others play.

2

I watch a lot of sports. I didn't always like to watch sports, but now I'm crazy about it. I first got interested because my husband watches sports on TV almost every weekend. You know the saying, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em. So, we started to watch football and basketball games together. Now I'm as big a fan as he is!

3

I'm a big fan of movies. It all started a few years ago when a friend and I went to a film festival in Sydney. I couldn't believe how many great movies I saw from other countries—the kinds that you never see in most movie theaters. I had no idea what I was missing. Since then, I've discovered a small art movie theater in town that shows old movies from around the world. I go there at least three times a month.

Unit 8. Arrange to get together

1

- Hi, Lisa. This is Mark. Do you remember me? We met at Barbara's place last Friday.
- Hi, Mark! Of course. It was a great party. Nice to hear from you. What's up?
- Well, you mentioned you like modern art and there's a van Gogh exhibit at the National Gallery this month. I'm planning to go this weekend. Would you care to join me?
- Sure, I'd love to. Thank you for thinking of me. When?
- Are you free on Sunday? We could meet there before lunch and then go out to eat afterwards.
- Sounds great! What time would you like to meet up?
- Around 10:30 or 11:00?
- Let's make it 11:00. And I know of a terrific café near there ...

Unit 10. Review

1

- When did you move here?
- We moved here in 2015.
- Why did you decide to come here?
- Well, my great-grandparents are from here, but I'd never been here before. They told me stories when I was younger, and I wanted to see what it was like. I just loved it when I visited.
- Oh, wow. That's interesting. Do you have any other relatives here?
- Yes, I do. I met several cousins I didn't know I had!
- How do you feel about living here?
- At first it was strange, because I didn't speak the language. But now I love it! This is a very beautiful country.

Unit 11. Describe accommodations

1

I live with a roommate in a dorm on campus. Our room is a little cramped, but there's space for two beds, two desks, and two closets. We even have a small fridge, which we share. Our room is fairly messy most of the time, since neither of us is really neat. On weekends, the place can get very loud with all the other

students, and at times, the music is deafening. If I have to study, I go to the library.

2

At the moment, I live in a bedsit in an old Victorian house in London. It's not just small, it's tiny! There's just one window, so it's fairly dark most of the time. My bedsit has its own small kitchen, but it doesn't have a bathroom—I share that with other people. I keep my room clean, but the bathroom?! Sometimes it's filthy! I hope I can move soon.

3

We've just bought a new three-story townhouse. We only moved in a few weeks ago, so everything is still spotless. It has huge windows and is bright and spacious. I really love how the entire place is ours, so we don't have to worry about our neighbors downstairs or upstairs. Sometimes, we can hear the street traffic, but it's usually very quiet.

Unit 13. Make food suggestions and recommendations

1

Although it's not 100% clear where *ceviche* comes from, people often think of Peru when they hear the name of the dish. The Peruvian *ceviche* is made with pieces of raw fish, marinated for several hours in fresh lime or bitter orange juice, along with sliced onions, hot chili peppers, salt, and pepper. It is sometimes served at room temperature with corn on the cob. Because the fish is not cooked, it must be prepared and eaten fresh.

2

Bulgogi is one of the national dishes of South Korea. The word *bulgogi* means "fire meat." It is made from thin slices of beef. The beef is then marinated and grilled. Garlic, onions, and green peppers are often grilled with the meat. It may be served with a side of lettuce, which is used to wrap small portions of the *bulgogi*. These lettuce wraps are held in the hand and are eaten in one bite.

3

Pierogis are stuffed Polish dumplings. They are usually semi-circular in shape, and they are stuffed with potatoes, sauerkraut, ground meat, or cheese. *Pierogis* are first boiled, and then fried in butter or baked. They are often served with melted butter or sour cream, and they may be served with fried onions, bacon, or mushrooms.

Unit 15. Describe a famous tourist destination

1

The Statue of Liberty is a colossal sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. It was given to the people of the United States by the people of France, and was dedicated in October 1886.

The statue is made of copper. It was built in France and then shipped in pieces to the US, where it was assembled. The statue itself measures 151 feet (46 m), but with its pedestal, from ground level to torch, it is 305 feet (93 m) tall.

The Statue of Liberty is visited by over three million people a year. Visitors can only access Liberty Island and the statue by taking a ferry. Ferry tickets include access to the island, but not the actual statue. Visitors who want access to the pedestal or to climb to the crown of the statue must reserve tickets before

their visit. Tickets for climbing to the crown of the statue are often reserved six months ahead of time.

Unit 16. Describe a planned trip

1

Hello, everyone, and welcome to Dublin! My name is Colleen, and I will be your guide on your five-day tour of Ireland. I'd like to take a moment to go over our itinerary.

This afternoon we will be going on a bus tour of the city, starting at Merrion Square, which is known for its architecture and its colorful arched doorways. We will follow the River Liffey and O'Connell Street, and along the way see the Ha'penny Bridge and the Garden of Remembrance. We will continue our journey in Phoenix Park, the largest enclosed public park in any capital city in Europe, and it's also home to the Dublin Zoo. From there, we will return to our hotel for dinner. The evening is free for you to explore and enjoy the nightlife of Dublin. On day two, we will begin our day with a traditional Irish breakfast before setting out for Galway. Along the way, we will be stopping at Locke's Distillery (one of Ireland's oldest and smallest whiskey distilleries), and the ruins of Clonmacnoise monastery with its incredible stone monuments. Arriving in Galway, we will visit the award-winning Galway City Museum, with its exhibitions of Galway life and sea science. From there, we will check into our accommodations and enjoy a meal at a Galway Bay restaurant. On day three ...

Unit 19. Send a thank-you note or message

1

- Thanks for taking us around to look at houses, George. I bet you're as exhausted as we are!
- It was my pleasure. If you need anything else, just let me know.

2

- It was very kind of you to look after our pets while we were away, Mrs. Baxter. We really appreciate it.
- Think nothing of it. After all, what are neighbours for?
- Well, I hope we can return the favour sometime.

3

- Mike, thank you so much for recommending me to your HR manager. She called me yesterday and invited me in for an interview.
- It was the least I could do, Tina. I hope you get the job.

Unit 20. Review

1

There are just too many things to choose from on this menu. I don't know *what* to order.

2

Hmm. We got here a lot faster than I thought we would. I guess we can have a cup of coffee while we're waiting for our table.

3

We have to wait how long? Ugh! Forget it! Let's go to the restaurant across the street. It's not as busy.

4

I don't think our chicken should be pink on the inside like this. We'd like to send it back.

5

- You're looking pretty down, Laura. What's wrong?
- The holidays are coming up and this is the first time I won't be home to celebrate with my family.
- That sounds tough. Maybe what you should do is arrange a video call when everyone's together. You can also come over to our place and celebrate with us.
- That's not a bad idea. And thank you for the invitation. I'd be thrilled to join you!

6

- Evan's looking miserable. Any idea what's wrong with him?
- He got a letter from the immigration office. They say he needs a new visa, and if he doesn't get one in five days he has to leave the country.
- What?! There must be some mistake.
- Evan has no idea what to do. I know he'd be glad to get some help.
- Well, what we can do first is call them up and find out what the problem is.

Unit 22. Catch up with friends and family

1

- Jack! Jack Hampton!
- What...! Brian? I don't believe it! Small world!
- I thought I recognized you! What are you doing in New York? The last I heard you were living in California.
- That's right. We moved to LA three years ago. But the company is thinking of opening an office here and they sent me to check things out.
- Jack, I don't think you've ever met my wife, Susan. Susan, I'd like you to meet Jack Hampton, an old roommate of mine from college.
- How do you do, Susan?
- Hello, Jack. It's nice to meet you. I've heard a lot about you.
- Uh-oh! Remember, Susan, those were student days!
- Don't worry. I've heard nothing but good things, really. Are you having dinner ...?
- Yes, I am ... with a client. As a matter of fact, I'm running late. I'm sure he's inside waiting for me. Listen, Brian, we've got to get together. You know, to trade stories and catch up on what's been happening. How about lunch tomorrow?
- Sounds good. Here, let me give you my card. Give me a call at the office tomorrow morning and we'll arrange a time to meet.
- Fine, here, I'll give you mine, too. I'm staying at the Warwick Hotel. Susan, it's been a real pleasure. Well, I've gotta run. I'll be in touch, though.
- Nice meeting you, Jack.
- Wow, it was great running into him. We had some great times together!

Unit 23. Describe and demonstrate features of an app

1

- Let me show you this great app I found. It lets you create word lists and it turns them into all kinds of quizzes and games. I use it to help me with my English, but you could use it for anything, really.
- Sounds interesting. How does it work?

2

- Well, first things first, you need to create an account. Once you've done that, you can start creating your own word list. See, you tap here on "+ List" at the top to make a new word list. The first thing you need to do is to give your list a name.
- OK. And I see here you can change who can see it and who can edit it.
- That's right. You can make it public, share it with just friends, or keep it private. Then, you start entering the words or terms you want to learn, and for each one, either a definition or an example. Let me just add a few items ... If you look here, you'll see you can also add pictures or speak to record words instead of typing.
- So, you can listen and learn, too.
- Right. Now that we've got a list, let's see what the app does with it. We tap on "create" here at the bottom and voila! Here's how we can practice the words! The flashcards work like traditional paper flashcards. You get a photo and the word, or a definition and the word. Next is the writing activity. This allows you to practice the words by looking at photos and then typing the words out.
- And does the app tell you what you got right and wrong?
- It tracks your progress.
- That's good. So you know when you've mastered a list.
- That's right. My favorite part is the games.
- Ooh, I like games!
- Well, then you'll probably like these. The app makes different kinds of games from your word list. If you earn a high score on the games, you earn a badge and you get your name on the leaderboard.
- What fun! And are there other word lists you can use, or just the ones you make?
- There are *thousands* of public lists. All you have to do is type a word in the search.
- This is really cool! I'm going to put it on my phone right now. Thanks for telling me about it!

Unit 24. Compare apps and devices

1

- How do you like it?
- It's great! I took it with me on my last trip. I had to prepare a presentation, so I was able to work on it while I was waiting to board my flight. It's really lightweight and easy to carry.
- Did you have any problems with the battery?
- None at all. It's long-lasting. I can use it for up to ten hours.

2

- Do you use it a lot?

- Not really. I got it so I could use it while I'm driving, but it doesn't work too well. It pauses a lot, so I've actually missed a turn or a street. It's happened quite often. Very disappointing.
- Maybe you should try another one. I'm sure there are better ones out there.
- We'll see.

3

- So, do you like it?
- Like it? I love it! The picture quality is amazing and the color is fantastic! It's so thin, we were able to hang it on the wall—saves a lot of space. I almost feel like I'm at the movies!
- Well, you certainly waited long enough to get a new one. Welcome to the 21st century!

Unit 25. Ask for something you don't know the name of

1

- I need an object that shows you how much something weighs.
- Ah! You mean a scale. What kind of scale were you looking for?
- I'm sorry. I don't understand.
- I mean, do you want to weigh food with it? luggage?
- No, I want to weigh myself!
- Oh! Then what you want is a bathroom scale! Let me show you where they are.

2

- My brother finally got a job in LA. He's working in a hotel.
- Really? That's great! What's he doing?
- Hmm ... he told me his title ... now what's the word? My mind has gone blank. You know ... the person who helps hotel guests.
- What, with their luggage? You mean a bellman?
- No, that's not it. He's the one at reception who gives guests information about what's happening in town, makes reservations for them ... that kind of thing. It's a French-sounding word.
- Oh ... he's a concierge!
- That's the word I was looking for! Concierge.

3

- Good morning. How can I help you?
- I'd like to buy a pen.
- Well, we do have rather a lot of pens. What kind of pen were you looking for?
- Not an everyday pen. This will be a gift. Oh, what is it ... it's a pen that can be filled. It's a little fancy.
- You mean a fountain pen, perhaps?
- Yes, that's it. I'd like to see your fountain pens, please.
- Wonderful. We have a very fine selection of fountain pens.

Unit 26. Describe a shopping experience

1

I went to a department store the other day to buy a dress. When I got to the cash register to pay for it, the sales clerk asked me if I had a coupon. She said it would give me an extra 25% off. I didn't have one, but she had one by the register. She

entered the coupon number and my dress cost me 25% less! I thought it was really nice of her.

2

Last summer, I went to an ice cream place. I wanted to buy a triple-scoop of ice cream. The employee told me they only served single and double scoops. So I said, "OK, just put three scoops on one cone, and I'll pay for one single scoop and one double." But no, he couldn't do that. He said there were no triple scoops allowed. So, he put two scoops on one cone and one scoop on another. I took the single scoop out of the cone and put it on top of the double scoop and gave the empty cone to my dog. I was so annoyed.

3

I subscribe to a couple of magazines and last week, I called one of them to let them know I was changing my address. What an ordeal! First of all, you never get a person right away any more. You have to go through a very long message. Press one for this, two for that, and then you get put on hold for ten minutes. When someone finally did pick up, I was told I had the wrong department, so they transferred me. The phone rang and rang, but no one answered and there was no way to leave a message. I was so upset I hung up. I won't be renewing my subscription.

4

I went to a furniture store this weekend to buy a new sofa. I was looking around when one of the sales clerks came up to me and asked me if I needed help. I was glad she did because I was confused—there were too many choices! She helped me choose the perfect sofa. She also told me that the store offers a free decorating service. A professional comes to your house and gives you some ideas for organizing and decorating. Of course, the suggestions include items from their store, but still, it sounds like a nice service. After the sofa's delivered, I think I'll give it a try.

Unit 29. Leave a comment or review on a company website

1

- Here with us today is communications expert Alan Clark, who will be talking about netiquette. Welcome to our program, Alan.
- I'm glad to be here. Thank you for inviting me.
- So, let's start with the term, what exactly is *netiquette*?
- Well, the word itself is the two words, *internet* and *etiquette*, put together. And just as we have rules for how to behave when we're with others, netiquette is a set of rules about how to interact with others online.
- Considering some of the messages I've seen online, we could use a bit more of that!
- Yes! Unfortunately, what a lot of people forget is that when we send an email or write a comment, the writing is *permanent*—and we don't know *who* might see it in the future.
- Good point.
- Yes, and anyone who is working, or who plans to work, or who would like to maintain a favorable impression, should keep that in mind.
- That's basically everyone, then, isn't it?
- Pretty much.

– So, what are some of the things we should remember when communicating online?

2

– So, what are some of the things we should remember when communicating online?

– Well, when writing an email, always start with a greeting, such as *Dear Ms. Watson* or *Dear Sirs*. And end the message with your first and last name, since that may not be clear from an email address.

– That’s for emails specifically, right? Not comments?

– Right, because comments and replies happen in the same space and are often public. When writing an email, however, we probably want some kind of personal reply. Wouldn’t you rather get an email starting with *Dear Rachel* or *Dear Ms. Wallace* than *Dear customer*?

– Yes, of course.

– The next point I think everyone knows: Try not to use all caps or bold. In writing, these are basically the same as shouting. If you want to emphasize something, it’s much better to use italics because they are less offensive. And if you are angry or upset when writing, it’s best not to send anything until you’ve calmed down and had a chance to think about what you wrote.

– What about smiley faces and emoticons?

– Using smiley faces and emoticons depends mostly on your relationship with the person you are writing to. If you don’t know the person well, I wouldn’t use them. Even if you are friends with the person, don’t use them too much! And in comments, I’d steer clear of angry or offensive emoticons. You’re just inviting flaming.

– *Flaming*?

– If you read comments, I’m sure you’ve seen it. *Flaming* is when people send hostile or insulting messages to each other. Basically, an online fight.

– I didn’t even know there was a term for that! Any last piece of advice?

– Just one. If you’re not sure about a message you’ve written, ask yourself how you would feel if you were the person on the receiving end of your message. If the answer is, *Not good*, then edit before sending.

– That sounds like excellent advice. Thank you very much, Alan, for joining us today.

Unit 30. Review

1

– Maria! It’s good to see you again!

– It’s nice to see you, too, Alex.

– So, how have you been?

– Pretty good. How’s everything with you?

– Great! I started a new job last week.

– Congratulations! Where are you working?

– At a publishing company. I have to tell you how I got the job. It’s quite a story!

– I’d love to hear it. Why don’t we grab a cup of coffee and catch up?

2

– What do you do for fun on the weekend, Rosalie?

- We usually go out. My husband and I, I mean. We sometimes get tickets for a concert or a play. We both love theater.
- Really? I haven't seen very many plays. I guess I'm more of a movie person.
- Maybe it just takes the right play to see how great theater can be. In fact, *Noises Off* at the Wilma is out of this world. The actors are sensational.
- Do you think I'd like it?
- You'd love it, Nancy! It's incredibly funny.
- OK, you've convinced me. You said it's called ...
- *Noises Off*—at the Wilma.
- Got it. Thanks. I'll let you know how I like it.

Unit 31. Discuss food labels and labeling

1

Do I read food labels? Always! In fact, that's why my husband doesn't like shopping with me—he says I take too long. But I'm quite health-conscious, and I want to buy what's best for my family. Reading the labels may take more time, but to me it's worth it. I've been surprised a couple of times by the amount of added sugar, salt, and other substances that they put in some foods. After all, we are what we eat, right?

2

Do I find food labeling useful? Yes, I do! I'm on a special diet because I'm a professional runner, so I need to know how much salt, fat, and cholesterol is in the food I eat. Before choosing to buy something, I always check the label first.

3

We buy mostly fresh produce rather than prepackaged products, so I don't read actual food labels too often. But we are on a budget, and I like to comparison shop, so I do check the unit pricing. This lets me figure out what the best deal is. It only takes a few more minutes to check, so why not?

4

Food labels? I only check the ingredients lists when I shop. I just make sure there isn't too much sodium or cholesterol. Other than that, I don't really care what's in there. If it tastes good, I eat it. I can always exercise later.

Unit 32. Ask for and give health or fitness advice

1

- I need your advice, Michelle. I'd like to go on a diet to lose some weight, but there are so many fad diets out there—all-protein diets, all-carbohydrate diets, low-carb diets, fruit diets, soup diets ...
- I know, Brenda. I've tried a couple myself. But when I stopped dieting, I just put the weight back on. If I were you, I'd forget about those diets, and try something else.
- Like what?
- Start eating a well-balanced diet with everything—including desserts. Not too many, of course. Lots of fruits and vegetables, lots of protein, but not too much fat—and watch the carbs.
- That sounds great, but that's how I eat now. How do you cut down the calories and lose weight when you're already eating right?

- The secret ingredient in my diet is exercise. I find the only way I can keep the weight off is to work out an hour every day.
- But doesn't exercise make you hungrier?
- Actually, no. Just the opposite. After a good workout, I usually eat much less. That's why I try to exercise an hour or two before dinner.

Unit 33. Describe how you make travel arrangements

1

I always make my own travel arrangements, whether for business or for pleasure. I book online using one of the more popular travel sites. The prices I get are almost always lower than those I would get through a travel agent or directly with the airline or hotel. I like comparison shopping and choosing the best price. Sure, it takes a bit of time, but if you want the best deal, it's the only way to go, really.

2

I get help from a travel agent. I tried doing it myself online once, but it was just too time-consuming to compare different offers for different airlines and hotels on different sites. There are just too many variables. I remember being on one site that listed over twenty pages of flights for one trip, including absurd things like going through another city with a twenty-hour layover. Never again. It's just more convenient and a better use of my time to just call an agency, tell them where I want to go and when, and then let them tell me what my options are.

3

How do I make travel arrangements? It depends. If I'm going on a business trip, then my company arranges my travel for me. We have a contract with a travel agency, and they give us a corporate rate. If I'm traveling for pleasure, then I usually book online. I like to travel by train. If I'm flying, I book directly through the airline. I prefer booking directly because if there's a problem, I know who to turn to.

Unit 36. Relay and react to a news item

1

- Did you see this? Forty percent of university students say they want to leave the country and work abroad when they graduate.
- You're joking.
- I wish I were. According to the survey that was done, most of them say they don't plan to come back. Their number one reason for leaving is the low wages here at home.
- That's a disaster.

2

- Where's Lucy? I haven't seen her these past couple of days.
- Haven't you heard? She's on her honeymoon.
- She got married?! I didn't even know she was engaged!
- We were all quite surprised to hear the news, too.
- Well, if you speak to her, give her my congratulations.

3

- Have you heard the latest? Mario's is closing down!
- Oh, no. Really? Mario's is our favorite restaurant!

- It's one of our favorites, too. I guess the competition was too much for them.
- I'm sorry to hear that. What a shame.

4

- I saw a really nice story today about a guy who found a dog wandering around downtown. The poor thing looked really thin and hungry. So, he took it home, fed it and gave it a bath, and ...
- How did he know it didn't belong to someone?
- From its condition, I guess. Anyway, he took the dog to the vet to have it checked—and the vet found the dog had a microchip. They contacted the family and found out the dog had been missing for almost a year!
- That's unbelievable!
- The family lives almost 200 miles away, and were here on vacation last year. That's when the dog ran off—and although they tried to find him, they couldn't. They had to go home without him.
- How sad!
- Can you imagine? The family was ecstatic when they heard their dog had been found. The whole family flew here to get their dog.
- Now that's what I'd call a great happy ending!

Unit 37. Describe major local holidays and traditions

1

Our national day, Australia Day, is celebrated on January 26. It's a big national holiday which commemorates the day the British established the first permanent settlement here in 1788. Nowadays, though, it's more a celebration of Australia and its people. There are lots of activities on the day: parades, fireworks, flag-raising ceremonies, concerts, sports events—a little bit of everything, really.

2

Cinco de Mayo—the fifth of May in English—commemorates Mexico's victory over the French in the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Although it is not a national holiday, in Puebla, where the battle took place, there is a huge parade. Thousands of locals dress in costumes as French and Mexican soldiers. There's lots of food, dancing, and music. One of the special foods for Cinco de Mayo is *mole poblano*—a thick chocolate sauce with green chilies, usually served with chicken.

3

I think New Year's Eve in Italy is probably similar to other places in the world. At midnight, we propose toasts, we hug and kiss each other, and we have a lot of fireworks. In most parts of the country, we also eat *cotechino e lenticchie*, which is a kind of sausage cooked with lentils. It's supposed to bring wealth in the New Year. The more you eat, the richer you will be!

Unit 39. Create an opinion post for a social media site

1

- Did you see this, Martin? There is talk of replacing food information labels with QR codes.
- That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard! First of all, not everyone has a smartphone, and second, some people don't even know what they are, or if they do, they don't have an app on their phone to scan them.

– I absolutely agree. And not only that, but can you imagine having to scan every item you want to buy? It would take hours! I mean, I can see putting QR codes next to the existing labels. That seems sensible and could even be beneficial. People could learn more about their food once they get it home. But as a replacement? No one is going to take the time to scan each item to learn about what is in the food they are buying. People just don't have that kind of time.

Unit 40. Review

1

- Do you get all your news online?
- No. I still subscribe to the morning newspaper.

2

- I'm afraid I have some bad news.
- Really? What is it?
- We won't be able to make it to your party.

3

- Thank you very much. Goodbye.
- Who was that?
- It was the police. They found my wallet.

4

- I'd like to change rooms, if possible.
- I'm afraid we don't have any other rooms available.