

CHECK!

# Participating in a video-call in English

**LEVEL**

Intermediate (B1)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B1\_1014C

**LANGUAGE**

English

## Let's check!

Can I participate in a video-call in English?

- Can I use common phrases to have an organised video-call?
- Can I use the present continuous to make future arrangements?
- Can I describe and give advice about a technical problem?



# Warm-up

Discuss the following questions.



Are video-calls a regular part of your working day? What about your free time?

What are some advantages and disadvantages of video-calls?

How do you spend your free time? Do you like to make lots of plans?

What devices do you own? Do you always like to have the latest version?



## Learning outcome 1

Can I use common phrases to have an organised video-call?



# Have an organised video-call

Your company is planning a weekend team-building trip this year. You and your colleagues are **meeting to decide on a location and date**. Your teacher will be the host. Read the steps below and take two minutes to make some notes before you start the activity.

1



Discuss your ideas for possible locations and dates.

What's the best time of year for this kind of trip?

What kind of activities would be the most fun for everyone?

2



Take turns making your arguments for the best location and date.

3



Decide on the best location and date as a team – and keep an eye on the time!



# Let's check! Feedback round

Your teacher will now highlight what was done well some mistakes that were made **in the last activity** for you to reflect on.



Good examples

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Find the mistake!

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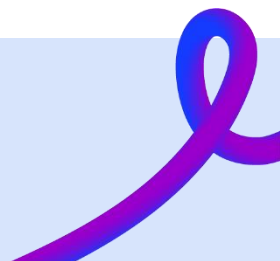
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## Learning outcome 2

Can I use the present continuous to make future arrangements?



# Are you available to meet?

Your teacher will assign you one of the schedules below. Feel free to add more details to it!

**Arrange to meet your classmate(s)** for a coffee.

You can do this activity **in the main group or in breakout rooms**.



**Student 1**

**Monday:** free after work

**Thursday:** meeting with client in the afternoon

**Friday:** leaving work early for appointment



**Student 2**

**Monday:** in meetings all day

**Tuesday:** Gym after work

**Friday and Saturday:** Free until evening



**Student 3**

**Wednesday:** out of the office

**Thursday:** collecting your child from school

**Sunday:** Unavailable – family time



**Student 4**

**Monday and Wednesday:** on holidays

**Thursday:** in meetings all day

**Weekend:** camping trip



**Student 5**

**Tuesday:** Working on a deadline

**Friday:** Free after 6PM

**Saturday:** Family dinner





# Let's check! Feedback round

Your teacher will now highlight what was done well some mistakes that were made **in the last activity** for you to reflect on.



Good examples

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Find the mistake!

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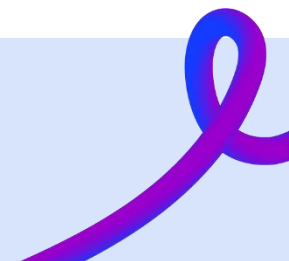
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## Learning outcome 3

Can I describe and give advice about a technical problem?

# Describing and solving technical problems

**Role-play a conversation** between a tech support agent and a caller who needs urgent help. Each student should take 2 minutes to think of a technical problem and make some notes (share it with your teacher first to make sure there are a variety of problems!)



**Tech support:** Introduce yourself and prepare to help the caller.

**Caller:** Describe your technical problem(s). Let them know that you need urgent help because... (explain your situation).

**Tech support:** Ask questions to find out more information. Try to identify the problem and then give advice.

**Caller:** Answer the tech support agent's questions. Respond to their advice.

**Caller:** The problem hasn't been solved and you don't have much time. Try to get an answer!

**Tech support:** Do your best to help the caller.



# Let's check! Feedback round

Your teacher will now highlight what was done well some mistakes that were made **in the last activity** for you to reflect on.



Good examples

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Find the mistake!

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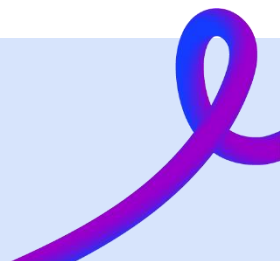
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- Can I use common phrases to have an organised video-call?
- Can I use the present continuous to make future arrangements?
- Can I describe and give advice about a technical problem?

Your teacher will now recommend whether you should move on to the next chapter or repeat some of the lessons of this chapter.

# End of the lesson

Idiom

*He doesn't beat around the bush*

**Meaning:** He says what he thinks.





# Additional practice



# To interrupt or not to interrupt?

Look at these situations. Decide whether it would be appropriate to interrupt the meeting. Why or why not? Share similar stories.



A colleague gets excited and starts talking for ages about something unrelated to the topic of the meeting.

A colleague has a malfunctioning microphone but doesn't realise it.

A colleague comes late to the meeting and starts to talk about a point that was already discussed.

A colleague's dog has entered the picture and is about to knock down an expensive vase.





## Discussing plans

**Do you often meet friends during the week?**

**When was the last time you planned to meet someone?**

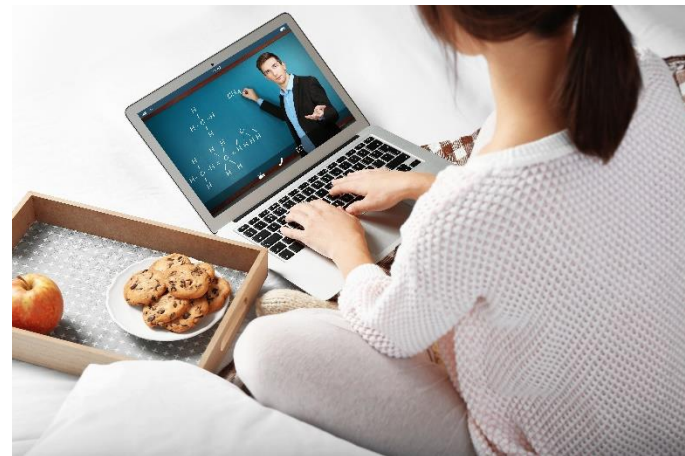
**What are you doing this weekend?**

**What are your holiday plans for this year?**



# Discussion

**What are some challenges of video-calls that don't happen during in-person meetings?**



**What are some tips to make sure a video-call runs smoothly?**



# Your schedule

Speak about your schedule using the present simple and present continuous. Use the phrases to help you. What do you do regularly? What are your plans this week/month?



*On Thursdays, I...*

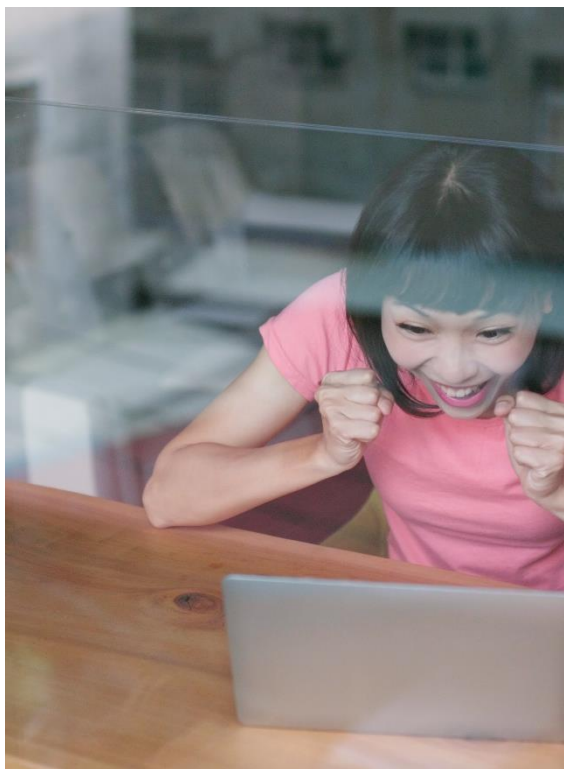
*This Thursday, I...*

- Most Mondays
- Next Tuesday
- This Wednesday
- Every Thursday
- Some Fridays
- Most Saturdays
- On Sundays



# Discussion

Choose a situation. Has anything similar ever happened to you? How did you respond?



You leave your video camera on after the meeting is finished.

You are having an important video conference and your mother calls.

You are going to start a job interview and can't turn on your video.

You forget to turn off your microphone and say something embarrassing.





## Discuss

**What are some personal qualities you need to work well from home?**



**What are some possible interruptions you could have there?**



# Check summary

## Phrases for video-calls

### Phrases for video-calls:

- Starting a call: Have we got everyone?
- Interrupting and taking turns: Can I jump in here? No, go ahead.
- Managing time: Let's keep it short and sweet. Let's stick to the topic.
- Ending a call: That's all we have time for today, I'm afraid.

### Using *Let's* to make suggestions:

- *Let's* + infinitive (positive); *Let's* + *not* + infinitive (negative)

### Key real life language phrases:

- Now, where were we? Can you take the lead on this? Let's leave this here for today.

### Having an organised video-call:

- Requires taking turns, managing time and trying to stick to the topic!



# Check summary

## Present continuous for future arrangements

### Future arrangements

- We use the present continuous to talk about what we are doing in the future, for example, when we are **meeting somebody** or **have an appointment**, or a **planned event**. This is often at a specific time; it has been arranged in advance.

### Present continuous: form

- Use *is/are* + **verb(-ing)**

### Active and stative verbs

- Active verbs describe an activity: She's **walking** to the shops
- Stative verbs describe a state: I **love** hot chocolate

### Stative verbs and the present continuous

- Stative verbs are only used in the present continuous when we are describing an activity.
- **I see** a bird through the window (stative – this refers to my perception of the bird)
- **I am seeing** my friend on Friday (active – this refers to the activity of meeting my friend).



# Check summary

## Solving technical problems

### Vocabulary for describing and solving technical problems

- Verbs: crash, (dis)connect, cut out, go blank, to freeze
- Phrases: How's that? Give it a moment... Hang on a sec... Happy to help!

### **keep + -ing and try + -ing**

- Use *keep + -ing* to talk about something that happens again and again: My audio **keeps cutting out**
- Use *try + -ing* to make suggestions: **Try disconnecting** and connecting again.

### **(It) looks like...**

- We use this phrase to say that something *seems* to be the case (but we aren't fully sure): **Looks like** your screen is broken – you'll probably have to replace it.

### **Modals can and could**

- Are useful for discussing problems and solutions: offering help, asking for help, expressing ability



# Vocabulary

to take turns

Have we got everybody?

I'll keep it short and sweet

Can I jump in here?

No, go ahead

Let's stick to the topic

Who's missing?

host

to interrupt

Let's...

Now, where were we?

Let's leave it here

to take the lead

topic of conversation

to run out of time

to wait (your) turn

basic rules



# Vocabulary

deadline

to schedule

touch base

organise our workflow

deliverables

Thoughts?

I can do...

... works (best) for me

to plan

to arrange

to remember

to know

to yawn

to prefer

flexible

Absolutely!

overworked

to organise

upcoming

this month, this week(end)





# Vocabulary

device

the latest version (of)

technical problem

tech support

How can I help you?

the Wi-Fi is down

(The software) keeps crashing

(The screen) is frozen

can/could

(It) looks like... / Looks like...

to restart

to cut out

to keep +ing

(The screen) went blank

How about now? / How's that?

Try + ing

Give it a moment

Hang on a sec

to (dis)connect

internet provider

