UNIT 12 Hard news, soft news

WAGENDA

- Reporting spoken language: statements, questions, orders, and requests
- Politics and current affairs file. Collorations
- News and views
- Social responses. Common expressions. Saying goodbye

Language focus

Work in pairs.

e-vote warning

Fishing disaster

Workers face

more stress

What do you think the following 'hard' or serious news headlines are about?

2 In which news items do you think the words and phrases in the box will appear? Use a dictionary to help if necessary.

apathy l	acteria	clinic	cal depression	downsizing	
dumping of v	vaste	enviror	mental disaster	fraud	lay-offs
local election	pol	lution	sick leave	turnout	

Read the articles and check your answers to 1.

Plans to introduce electronic voting

for the next national elections are likely to be delayed after a world expert in e-voting warned that the system was still not secure. Rebecca Mercuri, a computer science expert, said that e-voting gave an opportunity for fraud and said that she couldn't believe that anyone was even considering using the Internet for national elections. Mercuri told reporters it would be at least ten years

before systems were safe enough. Governments throughout the world see Internet and text-message voting as a way of beating apathy and getting more people to vote. The turnout in the recent local elections was as low as 15% in some parts of the country. A government official confirmed that they had decided to wait for further reports before introducing e-voting.



Government officials are still trying to find out the cause of the environmental disaster that has led to 2,000 tonnes of dead fish being washed ashore in the last few weeks.

Scientists think mystery bacteria may be responsible. One scientist told reporters that he thought the exceptionally hot weather in August had caused the bacteria to spread. He explained that a similar problem had occurred at the same time the previous year. Other scientists maintain that pollution caused by the dumping of waste from the oil industry may be responsible.

The Government announced that they would introduce a special aid programme to help the 4,000 fishermen affected.





A United Nations report out today reveals that workplace stress is rising at an alarming rate and is costing employers billions of dollars in sick leave and lost working time.

The study by the UN's International Labour Organization (ILO) looked at problems of stress and mental illness at work in the United States, Germany, the UK, Finland, and Poland. In the

United States, one in ten workers suffers from clinical depression, and 200 million working days are lost every year because of stress. But the problem is worst in Finland where more than half the workforce have stress-related problems.

The report blamed a number of factors for the dramatic rise: downsizing, lay-offs, mergers, short-term contracts, and higher demands. The ILO said that 50 years ago these problems hadn't existed but in the present day there was much less security in work. The report added that companies were making more demands on their staff. A spokesperson for the Employers' Association explained that many companies had made improvements in recent years. He believed that employees could expect to see more help and support schemes in the future.

- Who made the following statements in the newspaper articles? Choose from the list in the box.
 - a 'Fifty years ago these problems didn't exist.'
 - b 'I can't believe that anyone is even considering using the Internet for national elections.'
 - c 'Many companies have made improvements in recent years.'
 - d 'I think the exceptionally hot weather in August caused the bacteria to spread.'
 - e 'It'll be at least ten years before systems are safe enough.'

a government official	the US Congress
the ILO	a computer science expert
a reporter	a scientist
a spokesperson for the Employers' Association	a fisherman

- Work in pairs. Answer the questions.
 - 1 Compare the direct statements in 3 with the reported statements in the newspaper articles. What happens to the verb when a direct statement becomes a reported statement?
 - 2 What always immediately follows the verb tell? What other reporting verbs are used in the articles, e.g. say (said)?
 - 3 Find other examples of reported statements in the articles. What are the direct statements?

Reporting spoken language

Complete the table to show how the verb changes in reported speech when the reporting verb is in the past tense. Answer the questions.

Direct statement Reported statement Present Simple Past Simple 'There is much less security in work.' The ILO said that there was much less security in work. Present Continuous 'Companies are making more demands of their The report added that companies were making more demands of their staff. staff.' Past Simple 'A similar problem occurred at the same time He explained that a similar problem had last year.' occurred at the same time the previous year. Present Perfect A government official confirmed that they had 'We have decided to wait for further reports decided to wait for further reports before introducing e-voting. before introducing e-voting." will d 'We will introduce a special aid programme to The Government announced that they would introduce a special aid programme to help the 4,000 fishermen help the 4,000 fishermen affected.' affected. can 'Employees can expect to see more help and He believed that employees could expect to see more help and support schemes in the future. support schemes in the future.' 1 What happens to pronouns I, we, you, my, our, your in reported speech? 2 What happens to expressions such as last year, yesterday, today, tomorrow, next year in reported speech?

Pocket Book pp. 14-15

Practice	0	Complete the reported statements.				
		1 'We've looked at problems of stress and	d mental illness at work in five countries.			
		A spokesperson told reporters				
			2 'We're planning to employ a professional counsellor to help our staff.'			
		The Director announced				
		3 'I don't know if I'll be able to survive until next year.'				
		A fisherman said				
		4 'It can't be oil pollution because we have very strict controls.'				
		A spokesperson for the oil industry tol				
		5 'Our party lost the last election becaus One politician claimed	e the turnout was low.'			
		One pontician ciaimed				
	0	Work in pairs. Complete the list of direct	questions from the reported questions.			
		Reported question	Direct question			
		 The unions wanted to know how the employers planned to deal with workplace stress in the future. 	'How do you plan to deal with workplace stress in the future?'			
		2 The reporter wanted to know if the problem was just as bad in other countries.				
		3 The fishermen asked the Government when they could expect more financial aid.				
		4 The fishermen asked the Government what they were doing to prevent another environmental disaster.				
		5 The reporter asked Professor Mercuri if she thought e-voting would be introduced in her lifetime.				
		6 The journalist asked Professor Mercuri if there had ever been any cases of fraud in electronic voting.				
	0	Look at the reported questions in 2.				
		 How is the verb form in a reported que direct question? What differences are there in the word direct questions? When is if used in a reported question? 				
		Pocket Book p. 15				

- Work in pairs.
 - 1 Write six questions that a reporter might ask one of the fishermen affected by the environmental disaster.
 - Examples How long have you been a fisherman?

 Do you have any other jobs?
 - 2 For each of the direct questions write the reported question form.
 - Examples The reporter asked how long he had been a fisherman. The reporter asked if he had any other jobs.
- Write the reported orders and requests as in the example.
 - Example 'Check your pollution controls,' the Government ordered the oil refineries.

The Government ordered the oil refineries to check their pollution controls.

- 1 'Could you speak up a bit please?' the professor asked the reporter.
- 2 'Don't dump waste in the sea,' the Government warned representatives of the oil industry.
- 3 'Can I finish my point?' the speaker asked the reporter.
- 4 'Don't make too many demands of your staff,' the presenter told the companies.
- 5 'Could you email us a copy of the report?' she asked the speaker.
- 6 'You must re-count all the votes,' the official told them.
- 6 Work in groups.
 - 1 Write six questions to ask another student about workplace stress. You can include questions on:
 - · their experience of stress in their job, or the jobs of anyone they know
 - · how their company, or companies they know, deal with stress
 - their opinion of workplace stress as a current problem, and how it can be avoided
 - 2 Interview a person from another group. Then answer their questions.
 - 3 Report back to your group on the interview.

Examples She said that she ... She asked me if I ...



Newsdesk International

politics sport

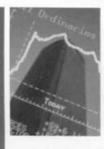
health

science/nature

technology

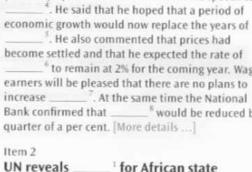
business

entertainment



Government announces financial plans in spring

The national share index rose by several points as the 2 reacted positively to measures announced yesterday by the Finance ____ in his speech to 4. He said that he hoped that a period of economic growth would now replace the years of 5. He also commented that prices had become settled and that he expected the rate of 6 to remain at 2% for the coming year. Wageearners will be pleased that there are no plans to increase ______. At the same time the National Bank confirmed that ____ 8 would be reduced by a quarter of a per cent. [More details ...]





for African state

Plans for a new National Assembly for the Central African Republic (CAR) have been revealed. will be held in six months' time. The Secretary-General of the United Nations also announced a lifting of year ago are preparing to re-open their ______5. Th 5. They will allow the CAR to increase ___ on housing, schools, and hospitals. [More details ...]

Around the world Africa: UN peacekeeping1 force arrives to end civil war2 [More details ...]

Democratic and Liberal parties3

Americas: join to form coalition government[More details ...]

Asia Pacific: Heads of Government arrive for summit in Singapore

[More details ...]

Socialist Party manifesto reveals Europe: plans for nationalization of railways More details ...]

Middle East: Religious leader to stand as candidate8 in first democratic9 election More details

South Asia: Explosion increases fears of terrorism10[More details ...]

local news

national news

international news

breaking news

Read the home page of the news website. Complete the sentences in item 1 with a word or phrase from the box.

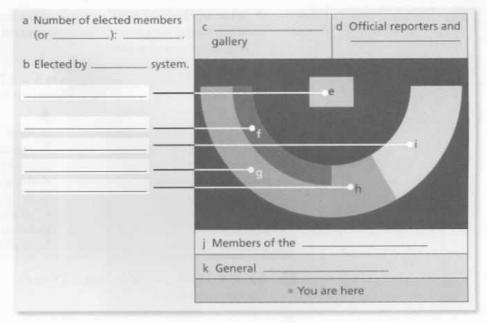
Match words from A with words from B to make collocations. Use the collocations to complete the sentences in item 2.

budget recession interest rates stock market Minister taxation parliament inflation

A B new spending foreign constitution fresh relations diplomatic sanctions economic aid public elections international embassies

- Match the underlined words in Around the world with their definitions.
 - a having equal voting rights for all people (adj)
 - b the killing of ordinary people for political purposes (n)
 - c someone who wants to be elected to a position (n)
 - d an important meeting between the leaders of two or more countries (n)
 - e a group of people who have the same political aims and ideas (n)
 - f intended to help keep the peace and prevent violence (adj)
 - g putting a company or organization under the control of the Government (n) h a government formed by two or more political parties working together (n)
 - a war between groups of people who live in the same country (n)
 - a written statement that explains what a political party wants to do if it becomes the government in the future (n)

- Work in groups. Discuss the questions.
 - 1 Does the government announce budgets in your country? What measures were announced in the last one? What measures would you like to see in the next one?
 - 2 Does your country have close international relations with any other countries? If so, which ones?
- G () 12.1
 - Listen to an audio-guide explaining the layout of a parliamentary chamber.
 Label the parts of the diagram.



- 2 Can you say how the parliamentary chamber in your country is different from the diagram?
- 6 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.
 - 1 How is the political system organized in your country?
 - 2 Would you like to change the political system in your country? How?
- Match words in A with words in B to make pairs of opposites.

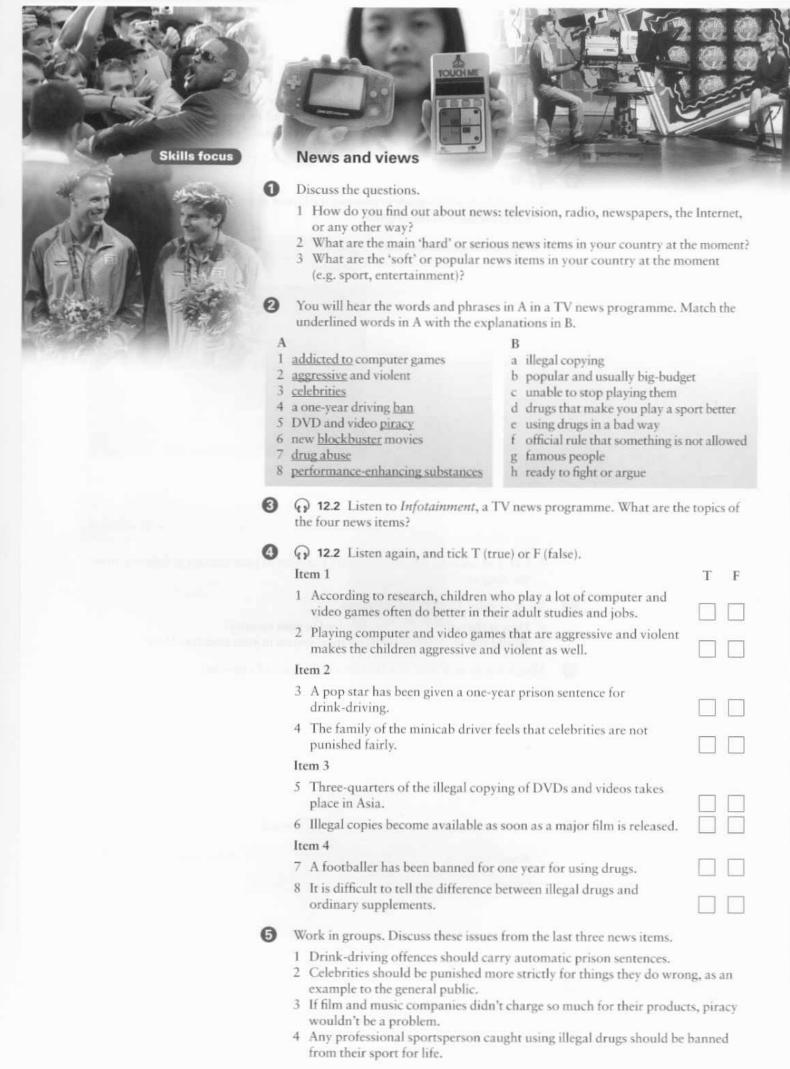
A	В
boom	minority
privatization	opposition
majority	dictatorship
government	right-wing
left-wing	recession
democracy	nationalization

8 Complete the table. Mark the stress for each word.

Noun (subject)	Noun (person)	Adjective
politics		
	economist	
		diplomatic
	democrat	

- Work in groups. Complete one of these sentences, and discuss your answer.
 - · If I were Prime Minister/President of my country ...
 - · If I were Secretary-General of the United Nations ...

Compare your views with other groups.



- 6 Read the article The Gameboy generation about the effect computer games have on child development. Answer the questions.
 - 1 Where were the two studies carried out?
 - 2 What are the main conclusions of the two studies?
 - 3 What do the two studies both agree on?

The Gameboy generation

Do computer and video games damage or develop our children? Two new scientific studies have reached opposing conclusions.

One study in Japan concludes that computer and video games are creating a generation of children who are far more likely to use violence than their parents' generation. But the <u>tendency to</u> <u>lose control</u> is not due to the violence and aggression in the

games themselves, but to the fact that playing the games prevents the proper development of the brain.

Professor Ryuta Kawashima of Tohoku University measured the brain activity in hundreds of teenagers playing a computer game and compared it with the brain activity of other students doing a simple arithmetical exercise. Before starting his investigation, Professor Kawashima expected to find that playing computer and video games stimulated brain activity, and that this would encourage the manufacturers and reassure parents.

However, he was <u>startled</u> by what he discovered. He found that playing the computer game only stimulated the parts of the brain associated with vision and movement. The arithmetical exercise, on the other hand, stimulated brain activity in both the left and right hemispheres of the <u>frontal lobe</u>. The frontal lobe, which continues to develop in humans until the age of about 20, is the part of the brain that exercises self-control and stops <u>anti-social</u> and violent behaviour.

This is a very important discovery, Kawashima told reporters. 'The implications are very serious for an increasingly violent society. These students won't develop proper self-control and good behaviour if they continue playing games, instead of learning arithmetic. It's also important for children to play outside with other children, and interact and communicate with others.'

However, another study in Britain has concluded that children

who become addicted to computer and video games could actually be more intelligent than average. In some cases, they could be more certain to go to university and get higher-ranking jobs. The research looked at game addicts five years on. Many of the children had become highly intelligent, motivated, and successful people.

The government researcher, Jessica Harris, said that there was no evidence to show that the 'Gameboy generation' had suffered any lasting damage. Although it is true that many of the games have high levels of aggression, this is also true for many sports, such as racing, karate, and

wrestling, which all focus on the player's level of aggression. In fact, one part of the survey found that regular game use <u>had a calming effect</u> on the children because it provided 'an outlet for aggression and the open expression of competition'.

There is at least one thing that both sides agree on – more research is needed before any definite conclusions can be made about whether playing computer and video games is good or bad for children.



- Explain the meaning of the underlined words and phrases in the text. Use a dictionary if necessary.
- Work in groups.
 - 1 Do you think playing computer games damages children or helps them develop?
 - 2 Are there any toys or games that you would not allow your children or children you know to play?
 - 3 What games and activities are best for the educational and social development of children?

Focus on functions

Social responses. Common expressions. Saying goodbye

Social responses



- 1 12.3 Listen to the telephone conversation between Rosa and María Ferrando. Answer the questions.
 - 1 What good news does Rosa tell María?
 - 2 When did the investors make their decision?
- Match the offers and invitations made by people at NMP's party in A with the replies in B.
 - A
 - 1 María, would you like another drink?
 - 2 Do try one of these canapés. Eric made them. They're delicious.
 - 3 We're having a barbecue on Thursday evening. Would you like to come?
 - 4 We're going to see that new musical next week. How about coming with us?
 - 5 Would you like me to give you a lift back to your hotel after the party?
 - В
 - a Yes, I'd love to see it. When are you going?
 - b That's very kind of you, if you're sure it's no trouble.
 - c Did he? Then I must try one.
 - d Oh, I'd love to but I'm afraid I'll be away on business then.
 - e Thanks, Piet. I'd love some more wine.

Pronunciation

1 (2) 12.4 Listen to these dialogues. Mark each 1 (=quite enthusiastic), or 2 (=very enthusiastic).

	Comment	Response	
a	I got the job.	Really? Great.	2
Ь	Do you like the new area manager?	Oh, yes. He seems very friendly and efficient.	
C	I'd like you to go to the conference in Florida for us.	Of course. I'd love to go.	
d	I see you've got your name in the newspaper.	I know. I didn't realize they were going to print it.	

2 Work in pairs.

Practise the dialogues. Try to continue them as long as possible, and be very enthusiastic.

- 3 (2) 12.5 Listen to some more comments made by people at the party. Tick the most appropriate response.
 - - b Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.
 7 a Never mind.

6 a Really?

- b Not at all.

 4 a Thanks. I hope so too.
- 8 a Yes, I expect so.
- a Thanks. I hope so too. b Do you?

3 a It's OK.

b Thanks. The same to you.

5 a Black, one sugar, please.

b It doesn't matter.

b Don't mention it.

4 (2) 12.6 Listen and check your answers.

Common expressions

- 1 Match the expressions in A with their uses in B.
- A
 1 Talking of (weekends, why don't you come and stay with us soon?).
- 2 As I was saying, (their daughter has just started her own business).
- 3 That reminds me, (I must get in touch with him again).
- 4 If you ask me, (I think he's making a big mistake).
- 5 As you say, (the economic situation isn't getting any better).
- В
- a to give an opinion, without being asked for one
- b to repeat and agree with what someone has said
- c to introduce a new topic by linking it to a present one
- d to say something that the present topic has reminded you of
- e to take the conversation back to an earlier topic

0	Cor	mplete the extracts from conversations with a suitable expression from 1.
	1 (, Eric, Γ d say good food is definitely one of life's pleasures. = that's what I think)
	2 .	, María, Señor Pérez sends you his regards. = I've just remembered)
	3 (, Rosa, we've got a very busy year ahead. = you said it before and I agree)
	4 .	good wines, Eric, what was the name of that wine you recommended? (= a new topic that links to the last one)
	5 .	, Rosa, I think Jean Leblanc would be ideal as consultant for the programme on France. (= I was talking about this topic earlier)

3 Q 12.7 Listen and check your answers.

Saying goodbye

- 12.8 Listen to people saying goodbye at NMP's party. Answer the questions.
 - 1 What does María say to show she's leaving?
 - 2 Do you think Piet wishes he had Rosa's job? Why/Why not?
- Work in pairs. Decide what you would say in these situations.
 - a You're on a business trip and your host has taken you out to dinner. It's very late and you have to catch an early morning plane.
 - b Some colleagues invited you out to lunch for your birthday. You've got a meeting at work in ten minutes.
 - c You've just spent three days staying with some English friends. They're seeing you off at the airport. You'll see them again next summer.
 - d You've spent the day at a foreign branch of a company, learning how to use a new computer system. Everyone there has been very helpful.
- 3 Q 12.9 Listen to four people saying goodbye. Match situations a-d from 2 with speakers 1-4.

Situation	a	ь	c	d
Speaker				



REVIEW UNIT C

WAGENDA

- Grammar 1 4
- Focus on functions 3-7
- ▶ Vocabulary 🕄

This unit reviews all the main language points from Units 9–12. Complete the exercises. Use the Pocket Book for areas that you need to review again.

Present Perfect Simple and Present Perfect Continuous, Time clauses, Time phrases

1 Complete the letter from Antonio Parisi, a candidate in the elections, to his constituents. Use the correct tense and form of the verb in brackets.



Dear voter,		
Our party	' (be) in government for the last fiv	Æ
years. During tha	time, we 2 (work) hard to	
	lard of living in our cities. We	
¹ (build) th	iousands of low-cost flats for our	
key workers, we	(open) hundreds of new	
schools, and we	s (improve) the transport	
system. We	* (achieve) all this, but we	3
(not raise) taxatio	n. We * (not finish) our worl	k
yet. At our regular	public meetings we*	

		say and want, and we n on such concerns as	- 10
housing	and pollution.	Although there is still a lot	to
do, we _	13 (try) to	solve the problem of	
pollution	. Until we	@ (deal with) this proble	em,
we	_17 (not be abl	e) to attract significant	
numbers	of tourists to	our country. As soon as we	
10	(begin) our se	cond term in office, we	
	(start) work or	the next stage of these pla	ans.

Vote Democratic - Vote Parisi!

- 2 Complete the sentences from Antonio Parisi's manifesto with before, after, for, since, or in.
 - We have built 10,000 low-cost flats ______ last year.
 - We have opened 300 new schools ______ the last five years.
 - The rate of inflation has been stable ______ several years.
 - It will only be a short time ______ we see the full benefit of this period of economic stability.
 - Pollution will be reduced ______ we introduce our new proposals on use of cars in cities.

Expressing probability, 1st and 2nd Conditionals

Read the news headlines from the future. How likely or unlikely do you think the events are to happen? Describe the possible consequences by writing sentences like the ones in the example.

Example

WORLD'S CITIES CONTINUE TO GROW

I think it's very likely that the world's cities will continue to grow.

If they continue to grow, governments will need to spend more on housing.

If everyone moved to the cities, there wouldn't be anybody to work on the farms.

More controls on use of drugs in sport

Average working week

More young

people go to

university

now only 20 hours

Computer games made illegal for under 16s

Leaders agree to form World government

should have (done)/shouldn't have (done), 3rd Conditional

What went wrong when Hi-Tec Systems used the A to Z Removal Company to relocate its offices? Write two sentences, using should have (done)/shouldn't have (done) and the 3rd Conditional.

Example removal company booked to start work at 6 a.m., arrived 10 a.m.

The removal company should have arrived at 6 a.m.

If they had arrived on time, they would have had enough time to do the job.

- 1 used inexperienced staff who took much longer
- 2 didn't have enough packaging materials, so damaged some of the equipment
- 3 took lots of breaks, so lost time
- 4 used an old van which broke down
- 5 didn't read the address properly so went to the wrong destination
- 6 dropped a very valuable picture

A Reporting spoken language

Report what was said on the day for each of the problems in 3.

Example A to Z: 'We're a little late because the traffic is heavy.'

A to Z said that they were a little late because the traffic was heavy.

- 1 A to Z: 'We've taken on a new member of staff and we're training him up.'
- 2 A to Z: 'You didn't tell us that you had so many computers. Do you want to wait while we get head office to send more packaging?'
- 3 A to Z: 'It's a very hot day, so we'll need to take one or two drinks breaks.'
- 4 Hi-Tec: 'Why have you turned up in such an old van?'
- 5 A to Z: 'I can't read the writing on the address document.'
- 6 Hi-Tec: 'Be careful with the picture. It's very valuable.'

Writing emails, Business correspondence

Write the following messages. Decide whether an email, a fax, or a letter is most appropriate.

- 1 to a friend describing a new flat you have just moved into
- 2 to a furniture company ordering some items for your new flat
- 3 from Hi-Tec Systems to the A to Z Removal Company complaining about the job they did
- 4 to your colleagues proposing some new strategies for motivating staff at work
- 5 to an international colleague describing the political system in your country

O Describing a process, Interviewing techniques

Choose one of these topics:

- · a recipe and instructions for making a typical dish from your country
- · the procedures you go through when revising and preparing for an exam
- · the process of recruiting and appointing new staff
- 1 What are the different stages involved in the topic you have chosen?
- 2 Work in pairs. Interview your partner about their topic for a radio programme.

O Social responses, Common expressions, Saying goodbye

What would you say in these situations?

- 1 Invite a colleague for a drink after work.
- 2 You want to help a colleague rearrange his or her desk.
- 3 Your boss's car has broken down and you'd like to give him or her a lift, but you're worried your car is in a mess.
- 4 Say goodbye to a visitor who you are going to visit next month.
- 5 You've been invited out for a meal but you want to go home early to prepare for an important presentation you're giving tomorrow.
- 6 Say goodbye to your colleagues at your place of work or study, but you want to arrange to meet up again in the future.

Work in pairs. Role-play each situation with a partner. Try to continue the conversation for as long as possible. Include some of these expressions: As I was saying ..., That reminds me ..., Talking of ..., If you ask me ..., As you say

O Vocabulary test

Work in two groups, A and B. Write a vocabulary test to give to the other group. Choose ten of the words below. Write a sentence or phrase to help the other group guess the word.

Example Word strike

Clue when people refuse to go to work as a protest

strike /	bureaucracy	downsizing	culture shock	economic sanctions
key workers	organigram	addicted	Cc	market economy
coalition	generation	appraisal	log on	privatization
come across	fulfilling	recover	electorate	spokesperson
summit	adjourn	back-up	scenario	keyboard skills