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Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-81812-4 — Cambridge English American Empower Pre-intermediate/B1 Student's Book with eBook
Adrian Doff , Craig Thaine , Herbert Puchta , Jeff Stranks , Peter Lewis-Jones
Excerpt
More Information

CAN DO OBJECTIVES

- Ask and answer personal questions
- Talk about how you communicate
- Greet people and end conversations
- Write a personal email



UNIT 1

COMMUNICATING

GETTING STARTED

a Look at the picture and answer the questions.

1 What do you think the women's relationship is?
- friends
- sisters
- coworkers

2 What do you think they're laughing about?

b Ask and answer the questions.

1 Who do you like to spend your free time with? What do you talk about?
2 Who makes you laugh the most? Why?

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1A DO YOU PLAY ANY SPORTS?

Learn to ask and answer personal questions

G Question forms
V Common adjectives

1 SPEAKING AND LISTENING

a Look at pictures 1–3 and answer the questions.

1 What event are the people at?
2 Do you think each pair is meeting for the first time? Why / Why not?

b 01.01 Listen to conversations 1–3. What do the people talk about? Write the numbers of the conversations.

- the party 1, 2, 3
- people they know _____
- money _____
- where they live _____
- work _____
- their interests _____
- education _____

c 01.01 Listen again. Which speakers are not enjoying their conversations? Why?

2 VOCABULARY Common adjectives

a 01.02 Complete the sentences with the adjectives the speakers used in the listening. Then listen and check.

all right awful strange delicious perfect boring

1 It's a(n) _____ day for a birthday party.
2 The pizza is _____.
3 It's _____, but the music is a little _____.
4 It's a(n) _____ movie.
5 It's a really _____ story.

b Which of the adjectives in 2a are positive? Which adjectives are negative? Which adjective means "OK"?

c Now go to Vocabulary Focus 1A on p. 134.

3 READING

a Talk to a partner. Answer the questions together.

1 Where do you usually meet new people?
2 Do you usually start conversations or wait for others to speak?
3 What's the first question you usually ask someone?

b Read the first paragraph of "Small Talk." Who is the article for? What problem does it help with?

c Read the article. Fill in the blanks 1–8 with the questions below.

How do you know Ana?
How much do you earn?
Do you live near here?
How much rent do you pay?
What do you do?
How's the food?
Do you play any sports?
Where did you buy them?

d Read the article again with a partner. Do you both agree with the advice?





SMALL TALK



Do you have problems when you meet people for the first time?

Is it difficult to think of what to talk about? Don't worry. You don't need to talk about yourself; ask the right questions and you can make the other person talk.

When you start a conversation with a new person, ask about the situation you're in and the people who are there:

What do you think of the party?
1 .....
2 .....

Say something positive and follow it with a question:

This music's great. Do you know what it is?
The game was great last night. Do you watch soccer?
I really like your shoes. 3 .....

Then ask personal questions about interests and hobbies to show you are interested:

Did you see the movie? How did you like it?
4 ..... **Which ones?**
What was the last song you listened to?
What kind of music is that?

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When you feel more relaxed, ask personal questions about relationships and home life:

Where did you grow up?
Are you married?
Do you have any children?
5 .....

Vacations are always a good topic if the conversation slows down:

Do you have any vacation plans?
Where did you go on your last vacation?

You can ask about work and school anytime:

6 .....
or **Where do you study?**

But be careful – sometimes people don't want to talk about work at a party!

There are also some topics that are never a good idea to talk about:

Money – people usually think talking about money is rude. So unless you know people very well, don't ask:

7 .....
or
8 .....

Politics and religion – you don't want to start an argument!

Age – never guess anyone's age. They won't be happy if you get it wrong!

4 GRAMMAR Question forms

a Complete the charts with the questions in the box.

Where did you meet? Are you married?
Who do you know at this party? Why were you late?
Do you like the music? Is she your sister?

Questions with the verb *be*

Question word	Verb *be*	Subject	Adjective, noun, etc.
Why			late?
	Are		

Questions with other main verbs

Question word	Auxiliary verb	Subject	Main verb	
Where			meet?	
			know	at this party?
	Do		like	the music?

b Look at the two charts in 4a and answer questions 1 and 2.

1 In questions with the verb *be*, which word is first: *be* or the subject?
2 In questions with other main verbs, what kind of word goes before the subject?

c Now go to Grammar Focus 1A on p. 144.

d 01.07 **Pronunciation** Listen to the questions in the charts in 4a. Underline the stressed words.

e Put the words in the correct order to make questions.

1 do / like / what kind of music / you ?
2 do / what / your parents / do ?
3 grow up / did / you / in this area ?
4 are / you / how old ?
5 have / you / do / any hobbies ?
6 speak / any other languages / you / do ?

f 01.08 Listen and check. Underline the stressed words.

g Ask and answer the questions in 4e.

5 SPEAKING

a Write down six questions that you would like to ask other people in the class. You can use questions from this lesson or write your own. Think about:

- home
- relationships
- education
- work
- interests
- people you know
- the weekend
- travel
- something else

b Work in small groups. Ask the other students the questions you wrote in 5a. Then ask for more information.

Do you live near here? — No, I live 20 km away.
Oh, how do you get here? — I drive.

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1B I'M REALLY INTO SOCIAL MEDIA

Learn to talk about how you communicate

- G Simple present and present continuous
- V Adverbs

1 READING AND LISTENING

a How do you communicate? Do you do these things with your friends and family? If not, what do you do instead?

- send birthday cards to friends
- write a blog
- send postcards on vacation
- write letters by hand
- make plans with friends by email
- cancel plans by text or direct message
- call friends to invite them somewhere

I always send birthday cards.

I don't. I write "Happy birthday" on Instagram instead.

b Read the introduction to the article and the line in "quotation marks" under each photo. What do you think the missing words are?

c Read the article and check your answers to 1b. Answer the questions.

1 Why does Julie think her friend will cancel?
2 What does social media help Jin remember?
3 Why is Marc writing a blog?
4 Why does Gabriel prefer communicating through pictures?

d 01.09 Listen to four speakers. Match them with the topics they talk about.

1	☐ Tara	a	blogs and emails
2	☐ Magda	b	relationships and texts
3	☐ Chris	c	important days and Instagram
4	☐ Mike	d	plans and texts

e 01.09 Listen again. Is each speaker happy or unhappy about the use of technology? Why / Why not?

f Which ideas do you agree with?

- It's rude to cancel by text.
- It's all right to end a relationship by text.
- Social media is the perfect place to say "Congratulations!"
- I love to get postcards and letters.

THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS

Communication is quick and easy with digital technology. But is it making us lazy? Should some things be more personal?





"Instagram means I don't _____ anything."

I'm really into Instagram. It's especially useful for birthdays, that kind of thing. When I check my Instagram feed, I can see who's celebrating, so I never forget. And I can just write a message on their post. And when people have big news – maybe a new baby or something – you can write a comment right away.

"I'd prefer a phone call to a _____."

I absolutely hate it when friends cancel by text. It's so rude. My friend Sara and I planned to go to the movies tonight. But I'm pretty sure she'll cancel – she usually does. I'm waiting for her text now.

"Writing a blog is a lot easier than sending _____."

I'm studying in New York, away from my family. And while I'm here, I'm writing a blog so my friends and family at home know my news. I particularly like to put all my photos on there because people leave comments. Most of my friends use social media, but I prefer writing a blog. It's fairly easy to do, and it's quicker than writing 50 separate emails.





"I engage with my _____ on Instagram."

I don't keep in touch with a lot of close friends, but I do have a lot of followers on Instagram. I post photos and videos every day. I'm an artist, so sometimes I include my new art and talk about where people can see my art in person. My followers comment on my posts, and sometimes they come to one of my art shows. It's great to meet them in person, but I'm shy, so I prefer to communicate through pictures!

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2 VOCABULARY Adverbs

a Look at the highlighted adverbs in the article. Answer the questions.

1 Which adverbs make another word stronger?

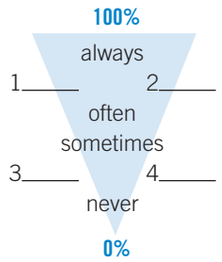
_____ _____ _____ _____

2 Which adverbs make another word less strong?

_____ _____

b Look at the sentences and complete 1–4 with the frequency adverbs.

I **usually** just send a text.
I **hardly ever** get cards or presents from friends.
I **almost always** cancel plans by text.
My daughter **rarely** calls me.



c 01.10 **Pronunciation** Look at the words in the chart. Do the letters in **bold** make **long** or **short** vowel sounds? Complete the chart headings. Listen and check. Repeat the words.

_____ vowels	_____ vowels
r**a**rely	c**a**ncel
r**ea**lly	esp**e**cially
wr**i**te	part**i**cularly
ph**o**tos	bl**o**g
usually	s**o**metimes

d 01.11 Listen and repeat the sentences.

1 My friend always cancels plans.
2 I particularly enjoy getting letters.
3 I think social media is fun.
4 I hardly ever write postcards.
5 I usually text my friends.
6 I'm really into blogs.
7 Sometimes I text my mom photos.
8 I rarely see my family on the weekends.

e Change the sentences in 2d so they are true for you. Then compare your sentences with a partner.

Hi Sara,
Are we still on for the movie tonight?

Hi Julie,
Not sure. I'll let you know soon.

3 GRAMMAR Simple present and present continuous

a Look at these sentences. Which are simple present? Which are present continuous? Complete the headings.

_____

1 I like to put all my photos on my blog.
2 When I plan something, I send a text.

_____

3 I'm waiting for her text.
4 She's writing a blog so that we know what she's doing.

b Match sentences 1–4 with these uses of the simple present and present continuous.

We use the simple present to talk about … .
- habits and routines ☐
- feelings and permanent situations ☐

We use the present continuous to talk about … .
- actions right now ☐
- temporary actions around now ☐

c Now go to Grammar Focus 1B on p. 144.

4 SPEAKING

Ask and answer the questions. Give reasons for your answers.

How often do you …?
- send a text to your boss or teacher to say you are sick
- share important news on social media
- read English-language websites
- send an e-card instead of a real card
- buy presents for people online
- start conversations with new people
- write emails in English
- video call friends and relatives
- send video by text

How often do you read English-language websites?

Not very often, but I'm planning a vacation in Miami …

How often do you send e-cards?

Never. I absolutely hate them!

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1C EVERYDAY ENGLISH
It was really nice to meet you

Learn to greet people and end conversations
- P Sentence stress
- S Showing interest

1 LISTENING

a In your country, what do you usually say and do when you … ?
- first meet somebody new
- meet someone you know well

We hug and kiss.

We shake hands and say …

b Look at the picture. How well do you think the people shaking hands know each other?



c 01.14 Listen to Part 1 and check your answer to 1b.

d 01.14 Listen again. Are sentences 1–4 true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.

1 The last time Madeline and Carlota saw each other was six years ago.
2 Carlota lives far from where Madeline works.
3 Carlota and James got married a year ago.
4 Carlota, James, and Madeline decide to go to a restaurant together.

2 USEFUL LANGUAGE Greeting people

a 01.15 Complete the sentences from Part 1 with the words in the box. Listen and check your answers.

meet you	no see	to see you	this is James	are you	these days

1 Long time _____!
2 How _____?
3 Great _____!
4 Where are you living _____?
5 By the way, _____.
6 Nice to _____.

b Look at the phrases in 2a. Which can you use to speak to … ?

1 someone you know 2 someone you are meeting for the first time

c 01.16 Listen and write down some possible replies to the phrases in 2a. Do you know any different ways to reply to each phrase in 2a?

d Work in pairs. Take turns saying the phrases in 2a and replying.

3 CONVERSATION SKILLS Showing interest

a 01.17 Listen and complete the exchanges from Part 1 with the adjectives in the box.

wonderful	good	nice (x2)

1 **MADELINE** Long time no see! How are you?
CARLOTA I'm great. What a _____ surprise! Great to see you!

2 **MADELINE** I live on Belmont Road, in Hawthorne, near my parents.
CARLOTA Oh – how _____ !

3 **MADELINE** By the way, this is James. He's my husband.
CARLOTA Husband – wow! That's _____ news.

4 **MADELINE** Would you both like to come?
CARLOTA Sure, that sounds _____.
MADELINE Great! Let's go.

b Look at the conversations in 3a. Do the highlighted phrases give information or show interest?

c What kind of word completes each phrase 1–4? Choose the correct form from the box.

adjective + noun	adjective

1 What a + _____!
2 That sounds + _____.
3 How + _____!
4 That's + _____ + news.

d Work in pairs. Take turns telling your partner about yourself. Reply using the phrases in 3c.

Tell your partner:
- where you live
- something you did last weekend
- some news
- about your job/studies.

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4 PRONUNCIATION Sentence stress

a 01.18 Listen to the sentences. Notice the words with stressed syllables.

I think it was about six years ago.
I live on Belmont Road.
By the way, this is James.
He's my husband!
I'm going to the café down the street now ...
... for some coffee.

b Look at the sentences in 4a. Which words have stressed syllables – grammar words or words that give information?

5 LISTENING

a 01.19 Look at the picture and think about the conversation in Part 1. Who do you think the children are – Carlota and James or Madeline and James? Why? Listen and check. What subjects do Carlota, James, and Madeline talk about in the café?



b 01.19 Listen again. Answer the questions.

1 What do Carlota and James invite Madeline to do?
2 What job does Madeline do?
3 Who helps Madeline at the store?
4 What is Madeline's nickname?
5 Where did Madeline grow up?
6 Where did James live as a child?
7 Why does Madeline leave?
8 Why does James ask Madeline to say hello to Sebastian for him?



6 USEFUL LANGUAGE Ending conversations

a 01.20 Listen and complete the phrases for ending a conversation.

1 I really need to _____ to the store.
2 It was great to _____ you again, Carlota.
3 James, it was really nice to _____ you again!
4 I'll _____ you a _____ .
5 _____ hello to Sebastian for me!

b Put the sentences in the correct order to make a conversation.

B ☐ Oh, OK. It was great to see you.
A ☐ Not far from here. Look, I'm sorry, but I really need to go. I'm late for a meeting.
A ☐1 Dan, is that you?
A ☐ Yeah! I think I last saw you at John's wedding. How are you?
A ☐ You, too! I'll give you a call!
B ☐ I'm fine. And you? Where are you living these days?
B ☐ Hi, Sarah! Long time no see!

7 SPEAKING

a Communication 1C Student A: Look at 7b–d below. Student B: Go to p. 130.

Student A

b Read card 1. Think about what you want to say.

c Start the conversation with Student B. Use your own name.

1
You are walking down the street and you see your friend.
- say hello
- give your news:
  - you have a new job
  - *your own idea*
- listen to your friend's news and respond
- say goodbye

d Now look at card 2. Listen to Student B and reply. Use your own name.

2
You meet a coworker for the first time.
- say who you are
- give some information:
  - your office is in building C
  - *your own idea*
- listen to what your new coworker says and respond
- say goodbye

UNIT PROGRESS TEST

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

You can now do the Unit Progress Test.

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1D SKILLS FOR WRITING
I'm sending you some photos

Learn to write a personal email

W Correcting mistakes

1 SPEAKING AND LISTENING

a Read messages 1–3 and answer the questions.

1 What do the highlighted phrases mean?
2 Do you ever send or receive these kinds of messages? Who to/from? Why?

1 I can't seem to get in touch with you. Call me! SEND

2 Did you get my last text? SEND

3 Are you OK? We haven't heard from you in a long time. SEND

b 01.21 Listen to Nina and Chris talking about keeping in touch with friends and family. Who is better at keeping in touch: Nina or Chris?

c 01.21 Listen again and answer the questions.

1 Why doesn't Nina send many emails?
2 Why does Chris call his mother so often?
3 How often does Nina call her parents?
4 When does Nina prefer to tell her friends her news?
5 When does Chris send photos by WhatsApp?

d How often do you keep in touch with friends and family? Circle the correct adverb for you.

always often sometimes rarely

Think about:
1 a family member who lives in a different place
2 a friend you don't see very often.

Which of these do you do with each person? Write the first letter of their name.

- talk on the phone or make a video call
- send emails or texts
- send pictures, video, or links
- hardly ever keep in touch
- get together to talk

e Work in pairs. Talk about your answers to 1d.

I rarely keep in touch with people. I never have time to …

I often keep in touch with my family. I enjoy sending …

I sometimes send photos to my sister Jane. They're usually pictures of …

I send my friend Alex links to interesting articles.

f Which of these opinions do you agree with?

1 "It's nice to see photos of what your friends are doing."
2 "You don't have to keep in touch with people all the time."
3 "If your parents worry a lot, you should call them."

2 READING

a Simon is a student from Canada. Look at his pictures from Mexico City. What do you think he is doing there?

b Read the emails and check your ideas in 2a. Which email is to his … ?

☐ friend Blake ☐ uncle and aunt
☐ younger sister Mika

c Who does Simon write to about these subjects?

- the weather
- what he does in the evenings
- the family he is staying with
- learning to speak Spanish
- the other students

d Answer the questions about Simon's emails.

1 What does he say about speaking Spanish?
2 Why do you think he says different things about this to each person?





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1

Hope you're both well and are enjoying the summer.
I'm in Mexico City. This is a photo I took of the historic district.
It's a beautiful city, as you can see – and really big! It has an incredible mix of old, historical places and new, trendy areas.
As you know, I'm learning Spanish right now. I'm taking a two-month Spanish course here, so my Spanish is slowly improving. The classes are very good, and we also watch Mexican movies.
It's pretty hot here, but it's nice and cool at night.
Love to all,
Simon

2

How's it going? Are you having a good time in Berlin?
Here are some photos of my group from the Spanish course. We're all from different countries, so we usually speak English when we're together – not very good for my Spanish! Anyway, I'm having a great time here, and the time's going much too quickly. There are a lot of good cafés here, and we usually all go out at night together.
What's Berlin like? Send me some photos! See you back at college next month.
Simon

3

I'm sending you some photos of the family I'm staying with in Mexico City. They have a daughter the same age as you (her name's Blanca). She speaks English pretty well, but we usually speak Spanish together. She introduced me to some of her friends, and I speak Spanish with them, too … some of the time, not always! How's your job in the supermarket? Hope you're not working too hard and are saving a lot of money!
See you next week.
Love,
Simon xx



3 WRITING SKILLS
Correcting mistakes

a Look at the pairs of sentences A–D. Which pair has mistakes in … ?

☐ grammar ☐ punctuation
☐ spelling ☐ capital letters

A 1 Hope youre both well and are enjoying the summer
2 Are you having a good time in Berlin,
B 1 i'm in mexico city.
2 the classes are very good, and we also watch mexican Movies.
C 1 I having a great time here, and the time going much too quickly.
2 She speak English pretty good, but we are usually speaking Spanish together.
D 1 Her are some fotos of my group from the Spanish corse.
2 We're all from diferent countrys, so we usually speak English.

b Match the rules with mistakes in five of the sentences in 3a (A1–D2).

1 ☐☐ The present continuous is formed *be* + verb + *-ing*.
2 ☐☐ When we leave out a letter, we write an apostrophe (').
3 ☐☐ We use the simple present to talk about habits.
4 ☐☐ If a word ends in *-y*, we change it to *-ies* in the plural.
5 ☐☐ Place names start with a capital letter.

c Correct all of the mistakes in the sentences in 3a. Check your answers in Simon's emails.

4 WRITING

a Write an email to a friend or family member that you don't see very often. Write about:

- how you are
- what's new with you (the place you're living or the people you're spending time with)
- what you're doing these days.

b Work in pairs. Exchange emails and read your partner's email. Circle their mistakes and write these letters at the end of the line.

- grammar **G**
- spelling **Sp**
- punctuation marks **P**
- capital letters **L**

c Work in pairs. Correct the mistakes in your emails together.

d Read other students' emails. Which email is the most interesting? Why?

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UNIT 1
Review and extension

1 GRAMMAR

a Put the words in the correct order to make questions.

1 night / did / go / out / you / last ?
2 where / you / last / weekend / go / did ?
3 kinds of / like / you / what / do / TV shows ?
4 do / this school / know / who / at / you ?
5 you / how / play / sports / often / do ?
6 you / do / what / on weekends / do / usually ?
7 tired / you / are / today ?

b Ask and answer the questions in 1a.

c Complete the conversation with the simple present or present continuous forms of the verbs.

JACKIE Hi, Mom.
MOM Oh, hi, Jackie. Nice of you to call. You [1]_____ (not call) very often!
JACKIE Oh, come on, Mom! I [2]_____ (work) really hard in college right now. I never [3]_____ (have) time to call! And I [4]_____ (send) you emails all the time.
MOM I [5]_____ (like) to talk to you and hear your voice, that's all. Your sister [6]_____ (call) me every weekend.
JACKIE Well, we [7]_____ (talk) now, but the world [8]_____ (change), Mom! Some of my friends never [9]_____ (call) home. They just [10]_____ (email) or send a text.
MOM I preferred how things were in the past.

2 VOCABULARY

a Complete the sentences with the correct adjectives.

1 The movie was a__ __ __ __ __ __t at the beginning, but I didn't like the ending.
2 We ate some really d__ __ __ __ __ __ __s food at the party.
3 They have a nice house, but they live in a really u__ __y part of town.
4 It was a w__ __ __ __ __ __ __l day, so we decided to go to the beach.
5 I bought a b__ __ __ __ __ __ __l new dress to wear to my friend's wedding.
6 He listens to really s__ __ __ __ __e music – I don't know any of the bands.
7 This summer, the weather here was h__ __ __ __ __ __e – it rained all the time.
8 This is a p__ __ __ __ __t day for a walk in the park – it's so warm and sunny.

b Choose the correct answers.

1 I *absolutely* / *fairly* love football.
2 My parents live abroad. I *rarely* / *always* see them.
3 I think Italian movies are *especially* / *pretty* good, but I don't love them.
4 I *usually* / *particularly* go for a run once or twice a week.
5 I *really* / *fairly* hate rock music.
6 I love all sports, but tennis is *especially* / *usually* good.

c Which sentences in 2b are true for you?

3 WORDPOWER *like*

a Match sentences 1–4 with replies a–d.

1 ☐ I have a jacket **like** yours.
2 ☐ **What was** the movie **like**?
3 ☐ I enjoy visiting countries with a lot of history, **like** Greece.
4 ☐ We can go for a walk later **if you like**.

a Yes, that would be great.
b And Italy! Me, too.
c Yes, this style's popular right now.
d I thought it was all right, but my friend hated it.

b Match the expressions in **bold** from 3a with meanings a–d.

a ☐ what was your opinion of
b ☐ similar to
c ☐ if you want
d ☐ for example

c Complete the sentences with the words in **bold** from 3a.

1 **A** Is your college different from others in your country?
B No, it's _____ most of the others.
2 **A** We can meet tomorrow _____.
B OK – come to my apartment for coffee.
3 **A** Do you want me to bring something to the dinner party?
B Yes. Bring something sweet, _____ some ice cream.
4 **A** We went to that new restaurant yesterday.
B _____ it _____?

d We often use *like* with the verbs *look* and *sound*. Look at the examples.

- saying people or things are similar
  *John **looks like** his brother – they're both tall with black hair.*
  *I think this new song **sounds like** all their other stuff.*
- saying what you think will happen
  *It **looks like** it might rain – it's very cloudy.*
- giving your opinion about what you heard or read
  *I spoke to Sara yesterday. It **sounds like** she had a really good vacation.*

Complete the sentences with the correct forms of *look like* or *sound like*.

1 It _____ their first song. I really like it!
2 Sam invited Tom to the party, so it _____ he'll come.
3 You don't _____ your sister. She's very tall.
4 That was the last bus. It _____ we'll have to walk.

REVIEW YOUR PROGRESS

How well did you do in this unit? Write 3, 2, or 1 for each objective.
3 = very well 2 = well 1 = not so well

I CAN . . .	
ask and answer personal questions	☐
talk about how I communicate	☐
greet people and end conversations	☐
write a personal email.	☐

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