

Video scripts

Unit 1

Lesson B

Presenter We asked people how they like to communicate. Here's what they said.

Jeff Well, I go on my social networking site five or six times a day. I'll log in when I'm taking a break. I like to check out my friends' pages and see what they're up to.

Victoria Personally I use email, but my kids are constantly texting. Occasionally my son will email someone like my sister, but with friends he tends to text.

David At work I'm on the phone all the time, but when I'm traveling, I normally use my laptop to make calls over the Internet. It doesn't cost anything, so . . .

Sarah Every once in a while, I'll instant message with a friend. Some of my friends don't use IM, so mostly I just call on my cell to catch up with them.

Lesson C

Stan I ran into Tammy today. She's really upset.

Alexa Oh, yeah? And why's that?

Stan Because I "unfriended" her.

Alexa Oh, that's awkward. How did she find out?

Stan I'm not sure, actually.

Alexa Huh. So why did you "unfriend" her?

Stan Well, it was nothing personal. It's just that every once in a while, you know, when I'm updating my profile, I'll remove people – if we haven't been in touch for some time.

Alexa But you emailed her, right? I mean, you let her know?

Stan No. I didn't think she'd be offended.

Alexa So you just delete people that you're not in touch with?

Stan Yeah. It's no big deal.

Unit 2

Lesson A

Everywhere we look these days, we see images of celebrities. Celebrity magazines, which outnumber news magazines, are on every newsstand. We love to read about the people that celebrities date, the clothes they wear, and especially their problems, which the media will often invent. Then there's reality TV. Millions of viewers avidly follow reality and talent shows, which make ordinary people into instant celebrities. There are even shows that pay for plastic surgery, so people can look like their favorite celebrity. So, why are we so obsessed?

Well, there's a simple scientific reason for it, which might make you feel better about your own interest in celebrity gossip. Psychologists say it's natural for us to talk about or imitate the people who are the most successful in our society. In ancient times, people gossiped about kings and leaders, who were the celebrities of their day. Nowadays, it's actors, musicians, or athletes. And with TV and the Internet, they come right into our homes, which almost makes them part of the family.

So our obsession with celebrity is perfectly normal, which is reassuring – don't you think?

Lesson C

Anna Did you see that video clip I emailed you?

Pedro Um, no. I don't generally tend to watch them, which is unusual, I guess. What was it?

Anna Oh, it's a couple of talking cats. It's hilarious.

Pedro Yeah? I don't mind the funny ones. You know what I don't like? People do really dangerous things and video it – like riding bikes off walls.

Anna Which is stupid, I know.

Pedro You know what gets me, too? Some of the home videos people post. They're so boring.

Anna That's true. But you know what's amazing? The number of hits they can get. I mean, they get millions.

Pedro Which is incredible. I just don't get it.

Unit 3

Lesson A

Presenter We asked people around the world: What are some of the highlights of your life so far?

Janie Oh, I've been pretty lucky up until now. For one thing, I've traveled a lot. I lived in Italy a couple of years ago. That was amazing. Then after Italy, I went to Central America and

worked with a team of volunteers. We were rebuilding homes after a major earthquake for two months. It was hard work but so rewarding. Life has definitely been interesting so far.

Marcos Um, I've done some interesting things in the last few years. I started a band the year before last, though it didn't last – we broke up after six months. But it was fun. And I've been coaching a local soccer team for the last two years. That's been good. We've won most of our matches. I still haven't decided what I want to do after I graduate. I haven't thought too much about it . . . yet. But that's OK!

Ginny Well, we haven't really done anything except work over the last few years. We met when we were in college. Shane was getting his master's, and I was studying design. Then Shane started his PhD. Since then, he's just been concentrating on school.

Shane Ginny got an internship at a fashion company last year. That was a big thing for her. You've been enjoying it so far, haven't you?

Lesson C

Arnold Look at this old class photo. I mean, look at our hair!

Brad I know. You should see one of my school photos. We'd forgotten it was picture day, and looking back, picture day was a big deal in our house. My mom showed the photos to everybody and sent them out to my aunts. I hated it.

Arnold No wonder.

Brad Yeah. And she made me wear a shirt and tie. It's no wonder I hated it. But anyway, back to my story . . . so this one day I went to school as usual, which means I hadn't combed my hair and I was wearing an old T-shirt. I mean, when I think about it, I was always really scruffy-looking.

Arnold Yeah, me too. I didn't care how I looked back then.

Brad No, me neither. So anyway, where was I?

Arnold You went to school on picture day all scruffy . . .

Unit 4

Lesson A

In today's job market, candidates face stiff competition. The evidence suggests that applicants who do their homework on an employer before they submit an application stand out from the crowd. Recent research shows what employers look for in new hires. And information like this is often the key to landing your dream job.

So what do employers want? Well, first of all, they want people who have long-term potential. In interviews, show interest in moving ahead in your career. Ask about the career paths of other employees and possible promotions. They also look for evidence you can work well with others. Give an example of how you collaborated with others on a project to make progress, meet deadlines, or achieve a goal.

They want to know that you have the ability to make money for the company. Explain how your work can make or save money for the company.

You should also have an impressive résumé. On your résumé, highlight the experience and skills that are relevant for each employer, as well as details of your education. Show your résumé to a career counselor or someone with experience in management, and follow their advice. Their feedback is invaluable.

And finally, employers want you to have relevant work experience. Emphasize the skills and knowledge you have acquired in other jobs, and include any relevant training you have had. Good luck!

Lesson C

Jake How are the interviews going? Any luck yet?

Tori Yeah, as a matter of fact, I just had an offer from a biotech company . . . but I'm having second thoughts about it.

Jake And why's that?

Tori Well, it's a fabulous opportunity with a great salary and everything, but you know, I don't know if it's really "me" – being stuck in a lab all day. I'm not sure it would be rewarding enough.

Jake So you're not tempted by the money, then?

Tori Not really. I mean, money is a factor, obviously. But seriously, it's not that important. As a matter of fact, I've been considering teaching. I just want to do something that involves people more. But I don't know if they need teachers, really.

Jake Well, interestingly enough, I just read an article that said there's a real shortage of science teachers – so, in fact, teaching might be a good choice for you.

Unit 5

Lesson B

Presenter We wanted to find out what people think the biggest challenges facing the world today are. So we asked people around the world for their views and hopes for the future. Here's what they said.

Aya Well, I wish we could eradicate poverty. The gap between the rich and the poor keeps getting bigger. There's something like two billion people who live below the poverty line. I just wish we distributed wealth more fairly.

Luis I guess I'd choose protecting the environment. And pollution is, I think, the biggest problem. I just wish everywhere hadn't gotten so polluted. Environmental protection is critical if we're going to survive. I also wish we invested more in "green" projects. I hope that makes sense.

Gabrielle The biggest challenge? The eradication of hunger. I really wish someone would find a solution. You see all these poor, starving people – 16,000 kids die every day from starvation. No one should be hungry in this day and age. The problem is mostly one of food distribution. There are enough wealthy countries to solve it. I just wish I knew what to do about it.

Tom Um, there are so many unemployed people, especially with the economy the way it is right now. I wish the government would do something to reduce unemployment and create

new jobs. I hope they put more investment in job creation.

Lesson C

Lucia I wish I knew what to get my nephew for his birthday. I should have thought about it earlier, and I wouldn't be in this last-minute panic now.

Jim I suppose there's no point in getting him just another toy.

Lucia Yeah. You know, the average kid here has 150 toys, which is unbelievable. It's just ridiculous. ...

Jim I suppose it is.

Lucia ... especially when there's so much poverty in the world. I mean, suppose everybody gave to charity instead of buying useless gifts.

Jim But just imagine you were five years old and you got this card from your aunt that said she planted a tree for you somewhere. I mean, how disappointed would you feel?

Lucia I suppose. Well, what if I adopted a polar bear for him?

Unit 6

Lesson A

Professor So, imagine the headline 20 years from now: "Only one day left to turn in your old coins and bills." Is this really going to happen? And if it does, what will it be like, do you think, to have a cashless society?

Amanda Well, I mean, most people don't carry much cash now – I mostly use my debit card. And for bigger things, I use a credit card. So I think people are going to be using a lot less cash in the future. And in 20 years, we'll probably be doing all our shopping online, so there may not be a need for cash then.

Oliver But if we only use credit cards, then what are kids going to do? Will they have to carry prepaid debit cards? It just seems unlikely to me. I mean, we might see less cash in the future, but it won't be disappearing anytime soon. Though I have to say, it'll be good to get rid of those small coins.

Sam I agree that everyone's going to use credit cards more. But the problem is, if we don't have better security, then there'll be more fraud and identity theft and everything. It's just a thought, but if paper money becomes obsolete, then our grandchildren might be looking at it in museums!

Judith I think in the future, every phone will have a chip that carries all our personal information – you know, our bank details and everything.

We may not even need credit or debit cards. So you'll just use your cell phone when you buy things. It's already happening in some parts of the world, which is interesting.

Lesson C

Chris Wow! There's almost no one here tonight.

Tina Yeah. You know, I wonder if we'll still be going to the movies in ten years.

Harry Oh, I think so.

Tina I don't know. I'd say we probably won't. It's easier to watch movies at home – cheaper, too.

Harry Yeah, but going to the movies is different. It's more social.

Chris And it's a great first date. That's not going to change, is it?

Harry I hope not. I would think that movie theaters will find ways to attract more people.

Tina I guess so. But like what?

Harry Well, things that make movies more realistic, like seats that move.

Tina Ugh. I get motion sickness.

Chris And gaming. And you'll be able to choose how the movie ends.

Harry Yeah. I would imagine people will always want to go to the movies, but it'll be a different experience.

Unit 7

Lesson B

Presenter Does family size matter? We asked “only children” and siblings to compare experiences growing up. Here’s what they said.

Osman People often say, “It must be stressful to live like that.” But it wasn’t. There was always somebody to play with and share secrets with and everything. I think it’s important for kids to be around other kids. I guess the only thing was, I used to long for somewhere quiet to study.

Sophia I suppose I was a bit lonely being by myself all the time – I was always having to find ways to occupy myself. And like, there was no one else to blame if I got into trouble – I couldn’t get away with anything! It’s hard to tell how it affected me, but . . . it’s not worth worrying about now, though.

Lilli Looking back, I don’t know how my mom did it as a single parent. It was impossible for her to have time for herself. Still, we always had enough to eat, nice clothes to wear, books to read, etc. We were very close, maybe because it was just the three of us.

Sean Personally, I had no real problems growing up. I got lots of attention, but I guess there was a lot of pressure on me to do well in school. I

mean, I don’t feel I missed out on anything. I had lots of opportunities to socialize with other kids in school.

Lesson C

Sarah So how are things going, now that you’ve graduated?

Franco OK, but it was hard moving back in with my parents. I’m not saying we don’t get along, but frankly there’s a bit of friction. You know, they have all these rules.

Sarah Well, I have to say, it is their house. What I mean is, it’s probably not easy for them, either.

Franco I know. I’m just saying it’s hard to get used to. And they’ve even asked me to pay rent now.

Sarah Well, . . . you’d have to pay rent if you had your own place.

Franco I know. I don’t mean that they should support me completely, but I could use some help till I get on my feet. In other words, I just wish they’d give me a break.

Sarah Well, you could always work more hours if you need to.

Unit 8

Lesson A

Anchor Hello and welcome to our video podcast on developments in the fields of technology and the future. In this episode, we’re going to be looking at the future of farming.

By the year 2025, the world population is expected to rise to 8 billion. In order to grow enough food, it is estimated that 1 billion hectares (that’s almost 2.5 billion acres) of new land will be needed – that is, if the farming methods that are practiced today continue. Environmentalists say something must be done if food shortages are going to be avoided. That’s why the idea of “vertical farming” is being discussed at an eco-conference this week. Celia Hernandez, our environmental correspondent, joins me. Celia, what is vertical farming? And where did the idea come from?

Celia The idea was developed by Dickson Despommier, a professor at Columbia University, back in 1999. Vertical farms are basically high-rise greenhouses that can be built in cities. So crops will be grown indoors – and in water instead of in soil.

Anchor And what are the advantages of growing food in this way?

Celia Well, supporters say it’s more reliable because crops won’t be affected by weather conditions like drought or cold. It’s also more environmentally friendly, because waste can be composted and water will be recycled. And because crops will be grown, harvested, and consumed in the same urban area, transportation costs will be greatly reduced. So in theory, food should be cheaper, too.

Anchor Well, thank you very much for your time, Celia. And thank you for watching. See you next time!

Lesson C

Edward I think the main problem with our diet these days is that we eat too much processed food. Take cereal, for instance. If you look at the list of ingredients, you can’t even pronounce most of them.

Debra Oh, I know.

Edward I mean, can all those additives be good for you?

Debra Yeah, and look at food coloring and artificial flavors. I mean, why do they need to add that stuff?

Edward I know. I imagine most people don't read the labels.

Debra And then the manufacturers make all those claims such as "Lowers your cholesterol." I mean, do

most people really believe that stuff? I think a lot of those claims are misleading.

Edward Yeah, I have to say, we're not very well-informed about food, generally.

Unit 9

Lesson B

Anna I think some of the happiest moments in my life were playing on this beach as a kid.

Wesley Yeah? My happiest moment was graduating from college, when all that hard work finally paid off.

Anna You know, college really wasn't my thing. I mean, I tried to make the most of it. But I got so stressed, taking exams all the time. I remember sitting outside on the last night, talking. My friends were out there with me, crying. And I was sitting there, thinking, "Gosh, I'm glad it's all over!"

Wesley And look at you now – with a successful career and everything.

Anna I know. There are so many things going on in my life. And being successful feels good. But it's not everything. Remember when we were kids and we'd run around, playing in the sand, not caring about anything?

Wesley Yeah. Hey, look – there are some people digging for clams over there. Want to look for some?

Anna Sure. Come on. I'll race you!

Lesson C

Professor So, how do you define happiness and success? Are they the same thing?

Marta As far as I can tell, they're not necessarily the same thing. I mean, according to a recent job-satisfaction survey, accountants are the most unhappy. But as far as careers go, accounting is considered one of the best.

Frank Yeah. I mean, we're brought up to believe that happiness means having lots of money – a big house and everything. But as far as I'm concerned, you can't define happiness in terms of what you own. No possession in the world can make you truly happy.

Juliette I agree. When it comes to being truly happy, it's about doing things that have meaning. You can't just sit around, waiting to be happy.

Marta As far as happiness is concerned, it's all about relationships, I think. You know, you need strong social networks. There's a lot of research that shows people who are lonely aren't just unhappy, but their health is affected, too.

Unit 10

Lesson B

Presenter Today we're asking experienced travelers what special items they take with them on a trip.

Carl Well, people I meet often ask me whether I'm married or have any kids, so I always have a few family photos to show them.

Hugo I find traveling so exhausting. A friend told me to try green tea. It energizes you. I always take some with me now.

Teri My co-worker wanted to know if I had any tips for sleeping better in hotel rooms. I advised her to take an eye mask and earplugs. I always carry them with me.

Hannah People often ask me why I always take a scented candle with me when I travel. It makes a hotel room feel more like home.

Erkan My sister asked me to lend her a flashlight for a road trip she was taking. Up until then, it had never occurred to me how useful it could be – especially if you go out at night and there are no streetlights. So now I always take one with me.

Raquel I always take my own favorite shampoo and conditioner. A friend of mine who's a

hairstylist told me not to use the ones that you find in cheap hotels. They can damage your hair.

Lesson C

Shane I read this article that said people would be taking vacations in space within a couple of decades. Can you imagine going into space? It would be such a weird sensation.

Ginny Weird in what way? Isn't it just like being on a plane, only higher up?

Shane Yeah, but imagine being weightless and floating around.

Ginny Oh, you mean eating your lunch upside down? Yeah, that would be weird.

Shane But it'd be fascinating – like the trip of a lifetime. A voyage into the unknown.

Ginny So what you're saying is you could live out your Star Trek fantasy. Hmm. I think I'd prefer to keep my feet on the ground.

Shane So, I guess you won't be coming, then, when I blast off into outer space?

Ginny I doubt it. You know I don't even like roller coasters!

Unit 11

Lesson A

Presenter Weddings can tell you a lot about a culture. So we asked people around the world about the wedding traditions in their country. Here's what they said. When is a good time to get married?

Björn The best time here in Sweden is in the summer, when it stays light all night.

Ming Wei It depends. Here it's often decided by a fortune-teller, whose job is to choose the best day.

Alex Any weekend when you can get off work.

Presenter What's your favorite part of the wedding?

Rodrigo There's a very touching moment when the bride walks down the aisle with her bridesmaids, and the groom turns and sees her in her wedding dress for the first time.

Gosia My favorite part is when they go to the reception, where the couple is met by their parents. The parents give the newlyweds a gift of bread and salt, which in Poland symbolize the prosperity and hardship of life.

Manny It's when the bride and groom exchange their vows.

Presenter How have weddings changed in recent years?

Kumiko There was a time when weddings were very traditional in Japan, but that changed in the 1980s, when western-style ceremonies became more popular.

Jun Ho In South Korea, marriages were traditionally arranged by a matchmaker, whose responsibility was to find the right partner for you. I have lots of friends back home whose parents met that way, but arranged marriages aren't as common there nowadays.

Cassidy There aren't as many religious weddings. Some people go to Hawaii, where they get married on the beach, or there are actually places in the States where a celebrity look-alike, like Elvis, performs a civil ceremony.

Chris They go on longer. They have all these bachelor and bachelorette parties now, where you celebrate with your friends. Sometimes they go on all night, and some last the whole weekend. Then there's the rehearsal dinner, where the parents of the groom host a dinner for everybody who's involved – the bridesmaids, the best man and groomsmen.

Lesson C

Guy So that was interesting at your birthday party – when everyone sang “Happy Birthday” out of tune. It was kind of unusual.

Ann Yeah. It's a tradition here. It's weird, huh?

Guy Well, yeah, it's a little strange. Though I guess we have some odd traditions, too. Like where your friends pull your ear – once for every year of your age, which is also sort of silly.

Ann Yeah, no. A lot of traditions are a bit odd like that. Here people punch you! I'm not quite sure why we do that.

Guy Yeah? And I heard there are some countries where they throw flour all over you.

Ann Which is definitely weird.

Guy Yeah, no. I guess traditions can seem slightly bizarre if they're not from your own culture.

Ann Actually, they can seem kind of bizarre even if they are!

Unit 12

Lesson B

Presenter We went to the park to ask people how they improved their skills. Here's what they said.

Linda Actually, one thing I've gotten better at is speaking in public. I used to hate doing presentations at work – it was the worst thing. And you know, the more I thought about it, the worse I'd feel. I'd just get so nervous. But then I took a public-speaking course – it seemed the best and most sensible thing to do. And that helped, so, yeah, I definitely feel happier now. I'm more confident and less nervous than I used to be, which is good.

Lucy I took up the flute a year or so ago, and I am improving . . . more slowly than I'd hoped, but hey – it's not an easy instrument. It's like anything, the harder you practice, the better you get. I probably don't play as often as I

should. It's hard to find time with my job – work just gets busier and busier.

Bryan I started mountain biking a few years back, and I just got really into it and decided to race competitively. It was actually much more difficult than I thought it would be. My biggest challenge will be a 50K race next year. It'll be the furthest I've ever cycled. I've been training harder than ever – most often on weekends – so I'm cycling faster. I'm not as fast as I'd like to be, but I'm doing better.

Lesson C

- Jenna* Did you see that movie about that kid? She was three years old, and she did all these paintings and things and sold them for thousands of dollars.
- Sam* Yeah, I heard about that. Unbelievable, huh?
- Jenna* I mean, do you learn to paint and draw and stuff? Or are you just born with that kind of talent?
- Sam* Good question. It's the nature versus nurture thing. Her parents were probably always pushing her and everything.
- Jenna* It's like those six-year-old pianists that play classical concerts and that kind of thing. You have to be gifted.
- Sam* No doubt. But I'm sure they still have to do a lot of hard work and practice and all that.
- Jenna* True. But I still can't do paintings and that kind of thing.
- Sam* I know. Me neither. It's too bad when a six-year-old is more talented than you!