


Featuring  Voice of America



“English in a Minute”

with fun and useful colloquial expressions



“English in a Minute” videos from  come after every three units, providing readers with fun and useful colloquial expressions. Extra worksheets that enhance learners’ listening and speaking abilities are available for teachers.



Caves WebSource

Caves WebSource is an online platform designed for users to access the materials whenever they want, wherever they are. Please scan the QR code to listen to the audio and watch the videos of the series.

Unit 1

Making Friends



Warm Up

Finding things in common

Find someone you don't know, introduce yourself, and ask one of the following questions:

- Do you have any hobbies?
- Where do you like to go with your friends?
- What do you like to do when you have free time?

Conversation 1 What are you into?

GET STARTED! 2

Listen to three people introduce themselves and fill in the blanks.



NAME:

INTO:



NAME:

INTO:



NAME:

INTO:

LISTEN AND PRACTICE 3

Maggie and Sarah see each other in line at the bookstore. Listen to their conversation and practice with a partner.

Maggie: Hi, we're in the same history class, right? **My name's** Maggie.

Sarah: Yeah, history class. I'm Sarah. Nice to meet you.

Maggie: Nice to meet you, too. I see you're buying a sports magazine. **Are you into** sports?

Sarah: Ah, not really. It's a gift for my brother. How about you? **What are you into?**

Maggie: I'm really into kung fu, so I'm buying a book about Bruce Lee's life.

Sarah: Oh wow. **Let me know** if you like the book.

Maggie: Sure.

Sarah: Well, I'm next to pay, so see you in class!

Maggie: Sounds good. See you!

YOUR OWN WORDS

In pairs, replace the underlined parts with your own words.

A: Hi, we're in the same history class, right?

B: Yeah, history class. Nice to meet you.

Culture Tip 4

Making eye contact and having a firm handshake
When meeting people, don't forget to make eye contact. This will make people think you are kind and trustworthy. Having a firm handshake expresses confidence.

FOCUS ON LANGUAGE

1. Introducing yourself

Practice using the language to introduce yourself to your classmates.

Hello,
Hi,
Hi there,

My name's
I'm

Maggie.

Hello, my name's Maggie.

Hi, I'm Sarah. Nice to meet you.

2. Asking about interests

Go around the class, introduce yourself, and ask about your classmates' interests. Then fill in the table below.

What are you into?

Are you into...?

So, tell me what you're into.

A: Hi, my name's _____.

B: Hello, I'm _____.

A: What are you into?

B: I'm into _____.

Name	Interest

3. Asking for more information

In pairs, read the example first. Then fill in the blanks with the language below. Try completing the last one on your own.

Let me know....

Keep me in the loop about....

Get back to me with....

Example:

A: I plan to ask Melody to the dance.

B: OK, let me know whether she says yes or no.

1 A: I'm going to watch the game tonight.

B: Cool, _____ who wins.

2 A: We're going to try to buy tickets for the concert this weekend.

B: OK, _____ if you get them or not.

3 A: _____

B: _____

Pronunciation Tip

"L" sound vs. "R" sound 5

To make the "L" sound, your tongue should touch the back of your front teeth and the top of your mouth, just behind your teeth. To make the "R" sound, pull your tongue back to the middle of your mouth, and your lips should be a little rounded when you say the sound. Now practice pronouncing some of the words in the conversation such as "like" and "right."

GET STARTED! 6

Listen to the conversations and number each picture below.



LISTEN AND PRACTICE 7

Maggie greets Sarah and invites her to join her and her friends after class. Listen to their conversation and practice with a partner.

Sarah: Hey, **how's it going?**

Maggie: Hey, Sarah, I'm okay, how are you?

Sarah: I'm fine.

Maggie: **What are you up to** after class?

Sarah: I don't have any plans. Why, **is something going on?**

Maggie: Some of us are going to the coffee shop later. Want to come?

Sarah: Yeah, that sounds nice. What time?

Maggie: Just right after class. If you want, we can walk together.

Sarah: Could I meet you guys there a little later?

Maggie: Sure, no problem. We'll be there for a few hours, so take your time.

Sarah: Cool. Thanks for inviting me.

YOUR OWN WORDS

In pairs, replace the underlined parts with your own words.

A: Some of us are going to the coffee shop later.
Want to come?

B: Yeah, that sounds nice. What time?



Culture Tip 8

Staying positive
When making small talk, you should avoid getting too serious. Even if you are having a bad day, it is better to respond "I've been better" or "Not great" instead of "I'm doing very poorly today." Sometimes softening language is more polite and makes people feel more comfortable.

FOCUS ON LANGUAGE

1. How's it going?

In pairs, take turns asking and responding with the sentence patterns and words from the Word Bank.



Word Bank 1

well | okay | pretty well | poorly | very well | great | fine

Word Bank 2

great | good | okay | excellent | fantastic | fine | stressed | tired | hungry

2. What are you up to?

Find out what your classmates are doing by asking the questions below. Record their answers and share with the class.

What are you up to
What's going on
What are you doing

later tonight?
tomorrow?
this weekend?

Example:

A: What are you up to later tonight, Tim? B: I'm going to Larry's party.

Name	Time	Activity
Tim	later tonight	going to Larry's party

3. Is something going on?

Take turns asking and responding with the times and activities below. You can use your own plans as answers.

Is something going on?

We are planning on....
We are going to....
Ben invited us to....

- 1 tonight / go to the KTV
- 2 this Sunday / try that new Italian restaurant
- 3 next Friday / watch the game at his house
- 4 tomorrow afternoon / go shopping
- 5 the day after tomorrow / see a movie
- 6 this coming Saturday / a BBQ party

Example:

A: What are you doing this Friday night?

B: Not sure. Is something going on?

A: We are planning on going to the KTV. Are you in?

B: Sounds good.



Speaking Skills

Talking to yourself 9

The more you speak English, the more fluent you become! When you are home, just read an English book out loud. Try pronouncing each word carefully and really acting out whatever you are reading. This will give your mouth the exercise it needs and help you become a much more fluent speaker.

I. Fill in the chart below with three of your hobbies and tell everyone why you like them.

Hobby	Why you like it
Swimming	Good exercise and keeps me in shape
1.	
2.	
3.	

II. Design your own poster profile. When you are finished, take turns presenting your profiles to the class.

(picture)

Hello, everyone, my name is _____.

I'm from _____.

There are three things that I'm really into.

The first thing is _____.

I like this activity because _____.

_____.

The second is _____. This activity is fun because _____.

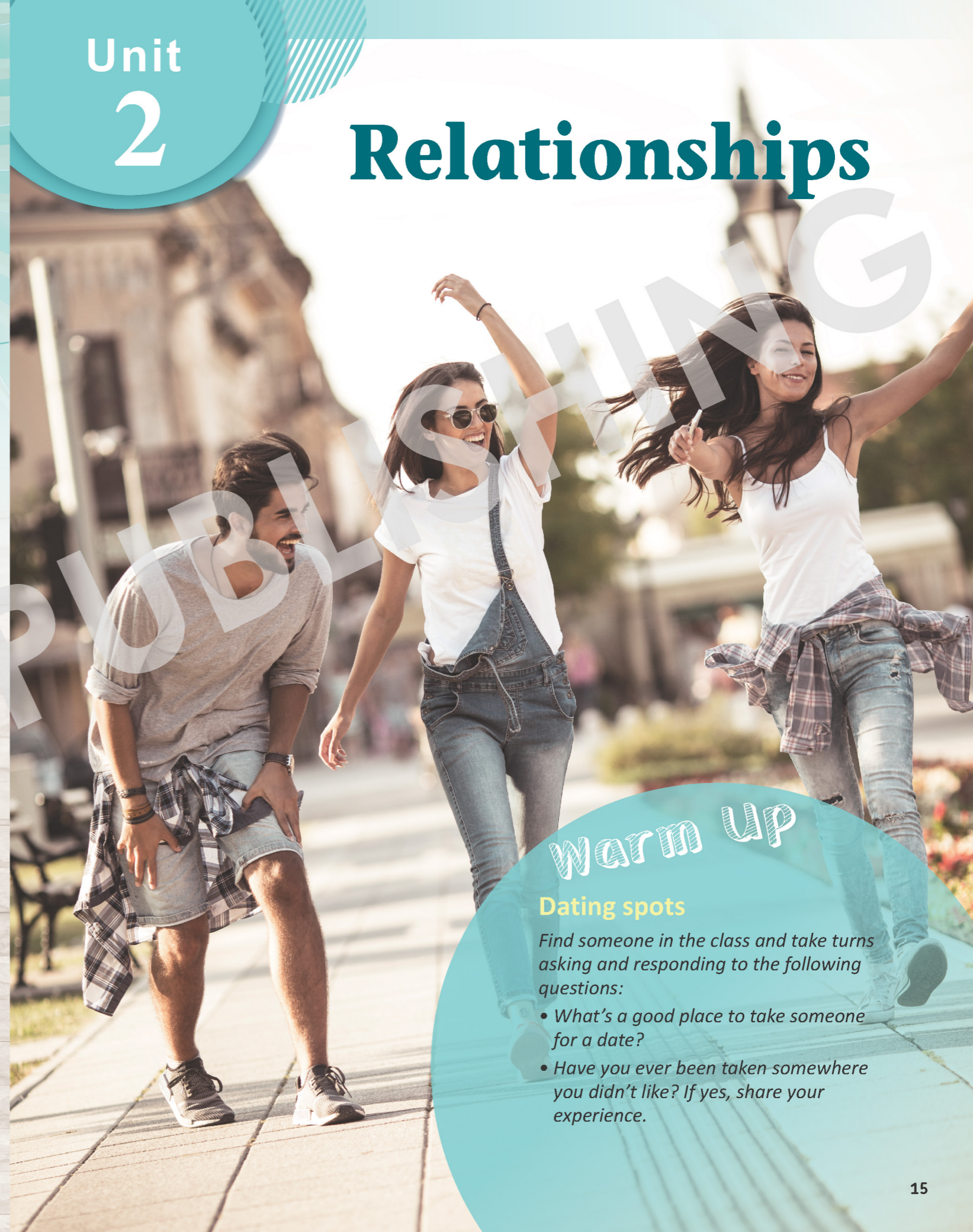
_____.

The third is _____. This is one of my favorite things to do because _____.

_____.

Unit 2

Relationships



Warm Up

Dating spots

Find someone in the class and take turns asking and responding to the following questions:

- What's a good place to take someone for a date?
- Have you ever been taken somewhere you didn't like? If yes, share your experience.

Work in small groups. First, select a situation. Then try to figure out a way to solve it and create a conversation. Finally, act out the situation in front of the class.

Situation 1:
Someone insulting you

You accidentally knock a man's coffee out of his hand. He says hurtful things and pushes you hard. The goal is to avoid further confrontation without accepting the man's horrible attitude.

Situation 2:
Someone cutting in line

You are in line to get a ticket for a popular movie, and someone jumps ahead of you and gets the last ticket for the evening. The goal is to avoid an argument without being taken advantage of.

Possible responses & solutions

- Excuse me, you have no reason to speak to me like that.
- Sorry I knocked your coffee over, but you don't have to be so rude.
- I get why you're so angry. Can I buy you another cup?
- Let me help you clean that up.
- Excuse me, that last ticket should be mine.
- Excuse me. It's not fair for you to just cut in and get the last ticket.

Situation _____
Your responses and solutions:

Your conversation:

Task 1

Listening 26

Listen to the conversation and circle "T" if the statement is true or "F" if it is false.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Debbie's favorite subject is math. | T | F |
| 2. James loves math class. | T | F |
| 3. Debbie likes history class. | T | F |
| 4. James is into English. | T | F |
| 5. Debbie needs help with her English homework. | T | F |
| 6. Debbie isn't free to meet James after class. | T | F |

Matching

Match the responses in the box with the sentences below.

- a. I have no plans.
- b. Pretty well, but I'm busy recently.
- c. I will when I get home and check my notes.
- d. I really like basketball.
- e. I'm free to meet up this Saturday.
- f. Okay, let me ask what time they're going.

- _____ 1. Let me know what the homework is.
- _____ 2. Keep me in the loop about the coffee shop.
- _____ 3. What are you up to later?
- _____ 4. How's it going?
- _____ 5. So, tell me what you're into.
- _____ 6. When are you free then?

Speaking time!

Now, find a partner and find out when he/she is free to meet up. Create a conversation asking about doing something together. Use at least five sentence patterns in Units 1-3.

Your Notes

Task 2

Listening 27

Listen to the conversation and circle "T" if the statement is true or "F" if it is false.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Doug asked Alice to go out with him. | T | F |
| 2. Alice didn't want to go out with Doug. | T | F |
| 3. Sally is sorry to hear about the news. | T | F |
| 4. Sally doesn't feel like going out with Dean. | T | F |
| 5. Doug thinks Sally shouldn't go out with Dean. | T | F |
| 6. Sally has some feelings for Dean. | T | F |

Matching

Match the responses in the box with the sentences below.

- a. We have to cancel it due to the typhoon.
- b. What? What did I do?
- c. Oh, sorry. I'll put on my headphones.
- d. Really? I don't mind it.
- e. I'm so upset because someone broke my locker.
- f. I don't think that's a good thing to do. I don't like it.

- _____ 1. I hate it when people ask me why I don't get married.
- _____ 2. Could you stop being so rude?
- _____ 3. What's wrong?
- _____ 4. How do you feel about gossiping?
- _____ 5. What's happening with the party this Saturday?
- _____ 6. Excuse me, could you turn the music down? I'm studying here.

Speaking time!

Now, work with a partner. Tell him/her about three unhappy things that have happened to you like the example.

Example:

A: I'm so sad.

B: Why? What's wrong?

A: I feel so sad because some students like to call me names.

Oprah Winfrey 28

Oprah Winfrey isn't just the host of a talk show; she is a self-made media billionaire from humble beginnings. How has she been able to achieve such great success? Added to her intelligence and talents, she has an amazing ability to connect with people.

Every time Winfrey presents, she shows that she has developed a deep understanding of her audience. Based on her audience, she tailors her message to connect and get the response she wants. For example, when speaking to university students, she talks about the secrets to her success in order to motivate them to achieve success for themselves.



CHANGE
WE CAN BELIEVE IN

Always think about who your audience is and what you need to say to make a good impression. Instead of just sharing who you are and where you're from, talk about things that your audience will find interesting. Choose one topic to complete the following presentation.

Example topics:

- Three hobbies that I like to do
- Three things I have learned that make me a better person
- My three biggest successes
- What my three favorite movies/TV shows tell you about me
- A topic of your choice: _____

Introduction

1. Greet your audience and introduce yourself
2. Introduce your topic and preview your main points:
Today I'm going to talk about my three biggest successes that help explain who I am. The first success I'm really proud of is completing a 42K marathon. The second one is....

- _____
- _____
- _____

Body

Introduce each of your points one by one and expand on your points:
Completing a 42K marathon shows that I'm a determined person. Being determined is a quality that shows others I can achieve what I want....

- _____
- _____
- _____

Conclusion

Conclude by saying thank you and giving a final thought:
Thank you very much for your attention. By talking about these three things about me, I hope you all now understand better who I am.

- _____
- _____

Eating Out



Warm Up

Food and restaurants

In pairs, take turns asking and responding to the following questions:

- How often do you eat out?
- What kind of food do you like to go out for?
- What's your favorite restaurant?