

## Presentation: School Orientation

Hello, everybody. Welcome to the American Language Center. I'm Gina Richards, your academic advisor. You can all just call me Gina. I know today is your first day at our school, so you're probably a little nervous and maybe a little shy, too. So, I want to tell you right at the beginning: if you don't understand something, please ask questions. OK? And listen very carefully because we're going to give you a lot of important information—information that will make your experience here enjoyable and useful. OK, here we go.

Let me tell you about the plan for today. There are three things on your schedule. First, you will take a placement test. This test will measure your English level. You'll take a reading, grammar, and composition test. Oh, and also listening. A listening test. The whole placement test takes three hours.

Next, you will meet in small groups, with a teacher, for an orientation. This orientation meeting will be about important things you need to know, like where to buy your books, what types of classes you'll have, how to find a roommate, things like that. This is where you can ask a lot of questions.

Then, finally, this afternoon, you will take a campus tour. We'll show you the main buildings where your classrooms are; you'll see some of the sports facilities, you know, the tennis courts, the swimming pool, places like that; and you'll also visit the library and the computer lab. I think you'll be surprised how large and how beautiful our campus is. All right. Are there any questions before we begin?

## Story: Camping

**Manager:** You're all wet and muddy. What happened to you?

**Wife:** You're not going to believe this! It's the most incredible thing! It all started when we decided to go hiking this morning.

**Husband:** Yeah, the weather was sunny and clear when we got up. So we put on shorts and

T-shirts and went hiking. Half an hour later it started raining cats and dogs!

**Wife:** So we hiked back to our tent as fast as we could. We couldn't wait to change into dry clothes.

**Husband:** Right. But when we went into our tent, we couldn't find our clothes! So we went back outside to look around. And then we saw the craziest thing. Two great big brown bears came out of the woods, and guess what? They were wearing our clothes!

**Manager:** Aw, come on. That's impossible! What do you mean, the bears were wearing your clothes?

**Husband:** Well, one bear had my T-shirt around his neck. And the other one had Mary's pants over his head. We still don't know where the rest of our clothes are!

**Manager:** [laughing]

**Wife:** I know it sounds funny, but we were so scared! Those bears were big! And now we have a big problem.

**Manager:** What's that?

**Wife and Husband:** We don't have any dry clothes to wear!

## Advice Show: Healthy Eating

**Bob:** Hi, everyone, I'm Bob.

**Pam:** And I'm Pam, and this show is about "Eating Right!"

**Bob:** You know, Pam, with people so busy today they don't have a lot of time to shop or plan what to eat.

**Pam:** That's true, but healthy eating might just give you a longer and happier life! So here are some things we all should think about regarding your diet.

**Bob:** First, eat lots of fruits and vegetables. Why? Well, they're a good source of vitamins, and minerals. . . .

**Pam:** Right, and they're a good source of fiber, too. Also, they're almost all low in calories and fat, and eating them may help protect you against cancer. So, put an apple or a banana in your lunchbox, or have a carrot for a snack—skip those potato chips.

**Bob:** That's right. Fruits make a great desert—you don't need all those sugary sweets and drinks, cookies, cakes, candies, sodas.

**Pam:** You bet you don't. So a second point to remember: too much sugar in your diet can lead to health problems like weight gain, tooth decay—that's trips to your dentist . . .

**Bob:** Owwww! Or even diabetes, and that's serious!

**Pam:** Now the third thing we want you to think about is reducing the fat you eat.

**Bob:** Uh huh. Cutting down on the fat in our diets would be good for many of us.

**Pam:** So true. It can help us lose weight.

**Bob:** Or *not gain* weight in the first place.

**Pam:** And it can lower our chance of getting heart disease, and cancer, too.

**Bob:** So cut back on all those cheeseburgers, French fries . . .

**Pam:** And chips—they're full of fat. . . .

**Bob:** And salt. Oh, I don't want to forget our

fourth suggestion: Eat more whole grains. You'll get plenty of fiber, vitamins, and minerals from them.

**Pam:** You mean, like, brown rice and whole wheat?

**Bob:** That's it. They're much healthier than white bread, white rice, and things like that.

**Pam:** Finally you don't want to drink too much coffee. Coffee can make you nervous, and keep you awake at night. Or even affect your heart—but we'll talk about coffee on another show. . . .

## Conversation: In the City

**Kenji:** Peter, are you going downtown today?

**Peter:** Uh-huh. Why?

**Kenji:** Can you give me a ride? I have to run some errands.

**Peter:** Where do you need to go?

**Kenji:** Uh, a lot of places. First, I have to go to the bank. Could you drop me off at the corner of King Boulevard and Second Avenue?

**Peter:** King and Second? Oh, sure. I know where that is. But why are you going to the bank? Why don't you use the ATM machine on campus?

**Kenji:** 'Cause my debit card isn't working; I've got to get a new one. And the cleaner's is next door to the bank. I have to pick up some clothes there anyway.

**Peter:** Why don't you use the laundry room here in the building?

**Kenji:** I'm not picking up laundry. It's dry cleaning. By the way, is there a computer repair shop near there? I need to drop off my laptop.

**Peter:** Computer repair? Oh, yeah. There's a Good Buy across the street from the bank. They fix computers there.

**Kenji:** Oh, that's convenient. So what are you going to do downtown?

**Peter:** I'm going to the courthouse. I've got to pay a traffic ticket.

**Kenji:** No kidding! I have to pay a ticket, too. I just got a ticket last week.

**Peter:** But, Kenji, you don't drive!

**Kenji:** I know. I got a ticket for jaywalking!

**Peter:** Really?!

**Kenji:** Yeah. I didn't know it's illegal to cross in the middle of the street!

## Conversation: Comparing Cities and Towns

**Peter:** Phew . . . I'm glad I don't live downtown. The traffic is terrible. I have a headache from the noise and all the smog.

**Ming:** You think our downtown is bad? Ask Kenji about Tokyo.

**Kenji:** Yeah, Tokyo is noisier and much more crowded.

**Ming:** Yeah, and I hear the smog's worse, too.

**Kenji:** That's right.

**Peter:** So, I guess you don't miss *that*, huh?

**Kenji:** Well, I don't miss *those* things. But a big city like Tokyo can be very exciting.

**Peter:** Yes, I'm sure that's true. But I prefer the peace and quiet of a small town like ours.

**Kenji:** Yeah, I like it here, too. The people are friendlier and things are cheaper.

**Ming:** Small towns can be so boring. When I graduate, I want to live in a big city like New York or Chicago. You can make more money there, too.

**Peter:** Yeah, but it's more dangerous there.

**Ming:** Yeah, that's a disadvantage. But there are also lots of advantages.

**Peter:** Like what? The long lines at the bank or in the stores?

**Ming:** Waiting in line doesn't bother me. I really love shopping in the city. You can find anything.

**Kenji:** Great! Then next time we need something downtown, we'll send *you*.

## Conversation: Touring an Apartment

**Mr. Azizi:** So, here's the living room. Oh, and please don't touch the walls; we just painted them. I hope you like green.

**Beth:** Well, green is not my favorite color . . .

**Mr. Azizi:** As you can see, there's lots of light in here. And here's the fireplace. It's great in the winter.

**Beth:** Whew, it's warm in here, isn't it? Is there any air conditioning?

**Mr. Azizi:** No, there isn't. Just keep this window open. Oh, it's almost never this noisy.

**Beth:** I'm sorry, what did you say?

**Mr. Azizi:** Come this way. Here's your kitchen, an electric stove, a dishwasher . . . This big refrigerator is included, and there's room for a breakfast table here . . .

**Beth:** That's nice. Could I see the bedroom?

**Mr. Azizi:** Sure, it's over here. We just put in new carpeting, so . . . uh . . . we raised the rent \$25.

**Beth:** Oh, really? Hmm . . . the bedroom looks a little small.

**Mr. Azizi:** But look at all the closet space! And here's the bathroom, with a shower and bathtub.

**Beth:** Oh, what about that leak?

**Mr. Azizi:** Hmm. I can't believe it. The plumber just fixed it last week.

**Beth:** Uh, if I decide to take this apartment, when can I move in?

**Mr. Azizi:** It's available on the first of the month. So that's actually the day after tomorrow.

**Beth:** I see. And, uh, do I have to sign . . . I mean, is there a lease?

**Mr. Azizi:** It's up to you. You can sign a one-year lease or you can pay month-to-month. So uh, are you interested?

**Beth:** Possibly. I need to think about it a little more. And I have a few more questions.

**Mr. Azizi:** No problem. Let's go to my office and talk.

## Real-World Tasks: Caring for Someone's House

**Uncle:** So Beth, you're sure you have time to do some things for us while we're away?

**Beth:** No problem. Just let me know what you need done.

**Uncle:** OK. First, can you get our mail from the mailbox, and any newspapers in the yard—and just put them inside the front door in a bag.

**Beth:** Fine. How often do you want that done?

**Uncle:** Every day, actually. But you'll need to feed and walk the dog twice a day, so you'll be over there anyway.

**Beth:** I see. What do I feed the dog, and how far should I walk him?

**Uncle:** A cup of dry dog food around 8:00 in the morning, and another around 5:00 should be fine. I'll leave a big bag of dog food in the kitchen. Walk him around the block when he's done eating. Oh, and keep his water bowl filled up, if you could.

**Beth:** Sure. Anything else?

**Uncle:** Well the garbage collector comes Tuesday, and I'm going to leave the garbage can down by the street today, but Tuesday night, can you put it back in the back yard for us?

**Beth:** I suppose so. . . .

**Uncle:** Oh, and can you water the rose bushes in the front yard?

**Beth:** How often should I do that?

**Uncle:** Two or three times a week if it doesn't rain . . .

**Beth:** So is that all?

**Uncle:** Just one more thing—you're welcome to enjoy the swimming pool, the house—you know we just got a giant new plasma TV—just clean up, OK?

**Beth:** How about the keys to your BMW?

**Uncle:** Sorry but the car's not included. . . .

## Lecture: Coming-of-Age Ceremonies

At what age does a child become an adult? The answer depends on your culture. Here are a few examples.

First, in some North American Indian cultures, a boy becomes a man around the age of 13. At that time, he goes into the woods alone, without food or water, for several days. When he returns safely, he becomes an adult man. Girls become adult women as soon as they are old enough to have babies, also around the age of 12 or 13.

In Japan today, young people become legal adults at age 20. Each year on the second Monday in January, they celebrate "Coming-of-Age Day," when all the twenty-year-olds in a town are invited to attend a special ceremony. They wear traditional clothes, listen to speeches, and visit with old friends.

Finally, in the United States, the passage into adulthood takes several years. American teenagers look forward to their 16th birthday, because in most states that is the age when they can get a driver's license. The *legal* age of adulthood is 18, when Americans can vote, get married, and work full-time.

# Vocabulary

## Chapter 1

advisor  
call me  
came over  
(come over)  
facilities  
move into  
No kidding!  
orientation  
placement test  
schedule  
sound  
stop by  
take

## Chapter 2

chance of  
chilly  
clear  
couldn't wait (can't wait)  
degrees  
extra  
fair skies  
fall  
freezing  
get a tan  
hiking  
how come  
incredible  
it's raining cats and dogs  
muddy  
overnight  
partly cloudy  
scared  
showers  
sick of (verb + *ing*)  
spring  
summer  
weather forecast  
winter

## Chapter 3

aisle  
beat  
calories  
cut down on  
decay  
dip  
fiber  
fry  
gain  
groceries  
in line  
ingredients  
melt  
pound  
produce  
quart  
serve  
skip  
source  
take checks  
tofu  
vitamins and minerals

## Chapter 4

advantage  
convenient  
crowded  
debit card  
disadvantage  
drop off (something  
or someone)  
dry cleaner  
give (someone) a ride  
have got to  
jaywalking  
laundry  
run errands  
smog

## Chapter 5

available  
closet  
fireplace  
fix  
furnished/unfurnished  
landlord  
leak  
lease  
month-to-month  
move (in/out)  
pretty  
raise  
stressed out  
studio  
vacancy

## Chapter 6

adult  
adulthood  
amazed  
ceremony  
doggie bag  
exotic  
handle  
impression  
lay  
leftovers  
logical  
look forward to (something)  
napkin  
passage  
patio  
responsible (for something)  
serve  
set the table  
silverware  
so far  
used to  
utensil  
the woods