Unit 1 A hotel receptionist

Presenter Leila is a receptionist in a hotel.

Leila Hi, I'm Leila. I'm from Hong Kong, but I'm in England to study. On Saturdays and Sundays, I'm a receptionist in a hotel.

Presenter The hotel is in London and it's very busy.

Leila Yes, yes … thank you. Goodbye. I'm sorry, sir. How can I help you?

Richard I'm here for the conference. My name's Turville.

Leila And how do you spell that?

Richard T-U-R-V-I-L-L-E.

Leila And what's your first name?

Richard Richard.

Leila Ah, yes. The conference and a room for one night?

Richard That's right. Here's my credit card.

Leila Great. Thank you. And are you from England?

Richard Yes.

Leila And what's your address, please?

Richard It's number 11, Stanley Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Leila Great. Thank you. And are you here on business?

Richard Yes, I'm here for the conference.

Leila Yes, of course. I'm sorry. Great. Here is your room key and the conference is just over there.

Richard Thanks. Bye.

Leila Some guests are here on business. They're usually very busy. But some guests are here on holiday.

Fabienne Hi! Is check-in here?

Leila Yes. What's your name, please?

Fabienne It's Fabienne Leclercq.

Leila Sorry, what's your surname?

Fabienne Leclercq.

Leila And how do you spell that?

Fabienne It's L-E-C-L-E-R-C-Q.

Leila Er, where are you from Ms. Leclercq?

Fabienne I'm from France. My home address is 12 Rue Pasteur, Bordeaux, France.

Leila Great. That's one room for three nights?

Fabienne That's right. Here's my credit card.

Leila Thank you. Are you here on business?

Fabienne Oh no! I'm here on holiday!

Leila Great. Sign here, please, and here is your room key.

Fabienne Thanks. See you later.

Leila Goodbye.

Richard Morning!

Leila Good morning, sir.

Richard Here's my key.

Leila Thank you.

Richard I'm late again! And thank you, too.

Leila That's OK, sir. Goodbye!

Fabienne Good morning!

Leila Good morning.

Fabienne How are you?

Leila I'm fine thank you. And you?

Fabienne Great. It's very nice here. Now, where's breakfast?

Leila It's in the restaurant. Just over there.

Fabienne Excellent! See you later.

Leila Have a nice day.

Fabienne You, too!

Unit 2 Witney antiques

Presenter This is Witney Antiques. It's in a small village near Manchester, in the UK. This is Jonathan Witney. He's an English antiques dealer. This is his shop and these are Jonathan's favourite antiques.

Jonathan Hello, I'm Jonathan Witney and I'm an antiques dealer. I'm forty-five years old and this shop is thirty years old. The things in this shop are all very old.

This table is from France and it's 155 years old. And that chair over there is from England and it's 300 years old.

Presenter All the things in this shop are beautiful antiques and some are very expensive. But they aren't Jonathan's favourite objects. These things are.

Jonathan This is *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*. This is *Romeo and Juliet* and this is *Hamlet*. There are lots of collections of Shakespeare, but this one, in this fantastic bookcase, is my favourite. Both the books and the case are around 100 years old and they are both English. The case is nice, but the books … the books are beautiful. One of my other favourite things is this clock. This shop is full of clocks. That big clock is from England and that beautiful clock is from Austria. Now this clock is old, but it isn't very expensive. But it's very special to me because it's my grandmother's old clock. Wait … listen … It's amazing, isn't it? I love that sound. These antiques are all very nice, and some are expensive. But these things aren't for sale. They aren't amazing antiques, but they're my favourites.

Unit 3 A gadget-free life

Presenter Today, around 4.7 billion people have got a mobile phone and almost 2 billion people have got a smartphone. Twenty-five per cent of people have got a laptop. And around 6% of people have got tablets! And lots of people have got all three. But some people haven't got all these things. Christopher Jenkinson is from Oxford, in the UK. He's thirty and he's an artist. Christopher's friends have all got smartphones and tablets. But Christopher hasn't.

Christopher I haven't got a computer, a tablet, or even a television. I've only got a phone. I've got a lovely flat near the centre of Oxford. It's big and I've got my office here. It's a really nice workspace … with no computers! Just my desk, paper, pens, pencils and notepads. It's very quiet in here – it's great! I'm at my desk a lot. But I've also got other interests. I've got lots and lots of books: old books, new books and my favourite – comic books! I haven't got a television, so in the evenings I often see my friends. We eat … we chat … and we sometimes play games. It's great fun. I often go out on my bike, too. I haven't got a car, but that's OK – Oxford has got great cycle routes and lovely parks. My friends have all got smartphones and tablets and they think I'm a bit strange because I haven't got those things. But everyone is different. I've got everything I want – a great job, fantastic friends; I'm very happy with my gadget-free life!

Unit 4 A day in the life of a journalist

Portia Hi, I'm Portia Agney. I'm a journalist. I live in in Chinatown in New York City.

Presenter Portia gets up at about six o'clock. She checks her e-mails and reads the news. After that, she has a shower and has some breakfast. She doesn't have a big meal. She has some fruit with yoghurt or she has cereal with milk. At about seven thirty, she starts work. She works for a big news company and they have offices all over the world. But she doesn't work in an office, she works at home. First, she phones her boss – he lives in London – and they talk about the news. They decide on an interesting story and that's when her day really begins.

Portia OK, so I have an interview with a lawyer in two hours. It's about transport problems so it's a good story! OK, I have my bag, my pen, my phone. Let's go!

Presenter New Yorkers know a lot about transport problems! It's a very busy city with a lot of traffic! Portia travels a lot for her job but she doesn't go by car or by bus – she goes by bike. It's a great way to travel around New York and she doesn't need to park!

Portia OK, now I have all the information I need, it's time to go home.

Presenter When she gets home, Portia listens to her interviews and writes the story. Then, she sends it to her boss. After she finishes work, she cooks dinner and then reads or plays the guitar. She loves the guitar – it's a great way to relax. At the end of the day, Portia watches TV – but she doesn't watch the news!

Portia And that's my day. It's a hard job, but I love it! And every day is different! But now it's time for bed!

Unit 5 Architecture in Amsterdam

Amsterdam is the capital city of The Netherlands, in the north-west of Europe. It's a very popular place for tourists. Around 4.6 million people visit the city every year. But what do they do here?

When people visit Amsterdam, they often take a boat trip on the city's famous canals. From here, they see the canal houses. These buildings are hundreds of years old and today they are symbols of the city. A lot of these houses are now museums, and tourists sometimes go inside. But they usually just stay on the boat and enjoy the view. A lot of the city's important buildings are along here.

This is Amsterdam Centraal, the city's main railway station. It's in the city centre and it's about 130 years old. With about 250,000 passengers every day, it's usually very busy here. But visitors don't always come to travel. They often come to see the building itself. Amsterdam Centraal has wonderful designs on the walls and a very unusual clock.

Amsterdam's famous Rijksmuseum is very similar. It's about 140 years old and it's very near the centre. It has wonderful art on the walls. Tourists often come to enjoy the building's fantastic design. But not every building in Amsterdam is old. There are lots of exciting and modern buildings all over the city.

This is the Muziekgebouw – a concert hall for modern music. It is on the canal and it's very near Amsterdam Centraal. But this building is very different. It's a very interesting design and at the side is a large black box – the Bimhuis, a special space for jazz.

This is another unusual building in the city – the NEMO science centre. It's twenty-two metres tall and it has a huge copper roof. Visitors often go to the top because of the great views over the whole city.

Amsterdam has all kinds of architecture. From the Rijksmuseum to the Bimhuis, from Centraal to NEMO, the city is a fantastic mix of the old and the new.

Unit 6 House searching

Hi there. My name is Louise and I want to find a new house. I live in Bristol in the west of England and I love the place. Bristol has got a population of 437,000 and it's a great city for young people. There are a lot of things to do. There are cinemas, museums and lots and lots of shops. But one problem is that houses and flats are expensive. It isn't easy to find a good flat in Bristol. Lyndsay Mornay is an estate agent. She has got some houses and flats to show me today.

This is a typical city flat. This is the living room. It's big and it's got a large window so there's a lot of light. It's got a table, chairs, an old sofa and a bookcase. Next to the living room is the kitchen. It's very small. It's got an oven, a fridge, a sink and a washing machine. The bedrooms are very different. The big bedroom's got a double bed, a wardrobe and a chest of drawers. In the small bedroom there's a desk and a sofa. In the bathroom there's a bath, a shower, a toilet and a sink.

OK, it's a nice flat. It's got everything and it's in a lovely area. But it's small and at 850 pounds a month it's very expensive. Flats in the city aren't cheap. But there are other places. Flats and houses outside of the city are usually quite big and the rent is cheap. So, let's go and see one.

This house has got two bedrooms and a lovely garden, and is around ten minutes from the village shop. This is the living room. It's a really nice room. There's a sofa, a TV and a coffee table. This is the dining room. There's a large, wooden table and six chairs. And this is the kitchen. It has an oven, a big sink and an old table and chairs. This is the master bedroom and this is the guest bedroom. They are both quite big and they have both got a bed, a wardrobe and a chest of drawers. But my favourite thing about the house is the garden. It's beautiful and it's got lovely flowers.

I love Bristol. It's a great city and there are lots of things to do. But the flats are very expensive. This village is small. There's only one shop. There aren't any cafés or restaurants, and there isn't a cinema or a gym. But it's really pretty and the house is amazing. I love it here!

Unit 7 An unusual hobby

Presenter We all have different hobbies. Some people play football, others listen to music. But some people have unusual hobbies. I'm here to meet James Carcaterra. From nine to five, he's an IT consultant, but in his free time he juggles. And he can juggle very well. He can juggle three balls with two hands and he can juggle two balls with one hand. Hello.

James Hi!

Presenter So James, first of all – why?

James I like juggling. It's hard, but it's fun, too. Actually, it's fun because it's hard. I like trying new things and learning new tricks.

Presenter And you're in a juggling group. Is that right?

James Yes. We meet every week and we often go to events and festivals. It's really nice because we've got very good jugglers and beginners, too.

Presenter Beginners? Really?

James Well, yeah. Everybody can learn!

Presenter Everybody? Can you teach me?

James Yeah, sure. First of all, can you catch one ball?

Presenter Er, I think so …

James Here you go. Now, can you throw it from one hand to the other?

Presenter Yes, that's easy.

James But can you do it with your eyes closed?

Presenter Ah! OK, that's hard!

James Try again. That's it! Excellent! OK, open your eyes. Here's another ball. Now try with two.

Presenter OK … OK, I can do this …

James Fantastic! Now you can juggle, it's time to try three balls!

Presenter No. I can't do that!

James Come on. Try!

Presenter No. I definitely can't do that!

James OK. You just need to look and catch quickly.

James: Now it's your turn.

Presenter I can do it … I can do it … Well, James. What's the secret?

James That's easy – practice.

Presenter Well I think I need a lot! Right, time for some more. Juggling is a great hobby. Everybody can do it. It's difficult, but it's great fun!

Unit 8 The Wright siblings

Dayton is a small city in Ohio, in the USA. It only has a population of around 140,000 people, but it's famous all over the world. Why? Because the Wright brothers lived here.

Orville and Wilbur Wright were the first people to fly an aeroplane. As young men, they started a printing business and then opened the town's first bicycle shop. They even invented their own bicycle. But their dream was to fly.

In 1899, they started to make a glider and they soon added engines and a propeller. In 1900, they moved to Kitty Hawk in North Carolina. Here they tested different machines and on 17th December 1903 they were successful with the Wright Flyer I.

Today, almost everybody knows the Wright brothers' story, but most people don't know about their sister, Katharine. Katharine Wright was born in the Wright family home on 19th August 1874. She studied at Oberlin College, which was unusual at the time because there weren't a lot of colleges for women. She finished her degree in 1898 and moved back to Dayton. Here, she started work as a teacher in the local high school. But after Orville and Wilbur's famous flight, everything changed. Suddenly, the brothers were famous all over the world. This was difficult because they were both very shy. But luckily Katharine wasn't. She was an excellent businesswoman and she helped to build the Wright Company. She even started to fly with the brothers. She was an important part of the family business and travelled across the United States and Europe with her brothers.

After that, the siblings returned to their home in Dayton and they all helped with the business. The brothers created their third aeroplane – the Wright Flyer III – and tested it here at the Huffman Prairie flying field. Orville and Wilbur Wright lived in Dayton for the rest of their lives, but life was very different. They were American heroes and they were famous all over the world. They started a company and were very successful.

Wilbur died in 1912. Katharine married the journalist Henry Haskell and moved to Kansas in 1926. Sadly, she died three years later. Orville continued to work with planes. He even helped to re-make the Wright Flyer III. His last flight was in April 1944 and he died in 1948.

Wilbur, Orville and Katharine were very close and together they changed the world forever.

Unit 9 Whatever the weather

It's April in Paris, France. It's spring, and the weather is warm and sunny. The city is full of visitors from all over the world. They visit the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and the Musée D'Orsay, an art museum by the river Seine. They often relax in the city's many cafés and restaurants, too. These tourists are very lucky because the weather is lovely. It's often cloudy and rainy here in spring, but today is a great day to see the city and take lots and lots of photos.

It's January in Auckland, New Zealand. It's the middle of summer and it's twenty-five degrees Celsius. The weather is hot and very sunny, and there aren't any clouds in the sky. The long school holidays started in December and the city is very busy. Auckland is next to the ocean and it has lots of beautiful places. This is Mission Bay, near Auckland city centre. It's very busy today because the weather is good. People spend time in the park and relax by the fountain. They often go sailing, too. It's sometimes cold and windy on the boat, but it's very exciting. It's a great way to see the city and the views are beautiful!

It's autumn in Seattle, on the north west coast of the USA. The weather is cold and very wet. It rarely snows in Seattle, but it often rains. Tourists don't usually visit Seattle in the winter because the weather is so bad. The traffic is terrible and there isn't a lot to do when it's rainy.

It's winter in Stroud, in the UK. British winters aren't very cold or snowy. It often rains, but the temperatures are usually around four or five degrees Celsius. A few years ago, however, it was very cold and the temperatures were around minus fifteen degrees Celsius. But it was a lot of fun! Children played in the snow and the countryside looked beautiful.

The weather changes all the time and it's different in each season. But people always find ways to have fun whatever the weather.

Unit 10 A New York café

New York is a great city for coffee lovers. There are thousands of cafés in the city.

The Frog's Crown is a small café in Soho. The owner – Krikor – is from Venezuela. He opened the café here in New York three years ago. Krikor and his employee, Rocío, start work at 6 a.m. every morning. It's early, so it's usually very quiet. They know they're going to be busy later, so it's important to prepare now. They make coffee, cook food and put snacks on the shelves. Then, at around 7 a.m., the customers arrive.

There are many different shops and businesses in Soho. A lot of people work in the area, and for many of them, their morning coffee is very important! They buy coffee, tea, cakes and pastries. Most people want a quick takeaway, but some stay for breakfast.

At around ten o'clock, Krikor and Rocío relax and have a coffee. But at lunchtime, it all starts again. A lot of people come to the café on their lunch break. Some people have a drink, but most buy food. The café is famous for its empañadas – a kind of pastry with a meat, vegetable and cheese filling. It's a typical Latin American dish and it's delicious. After lunch, it's still busy. Customers come in for a drink, something to eat or just somewhere to relax.

The Frog's Crown is a typical New York café. It's popular with both tourists and locals. They come for its coffee, food and relaxed atmosphere. It's the perfect place to rest after a busy day in the big city.