Unit 1

How often do you look at old photos and videos?

Steven Once every two or three weeks.

Nitin I guess once every couple of months. Every two or three months or so.

Matthew I look at photos probably once a week. We've just had a baby, so we generally look at photos and videos quite a bit. I'd say at least once a week.

William As often as possible.

Constance Probably once a week.

What kind of photos and videos do you have?

Steven Photos of the children, wedding photos, holiday photos.

Nitin I've got videos of journeys and trips that I've taken with my wife and my family.

Matthew The photos and videos we have generally change over the years that we've been doing it, so my oldest photos will be me and my friends going out, and then it would change to holidays, and then me and my now wife, and obviously they change all the way through. Now it's mostly of my little baby, mostly photos and videos of her.

William I'm interested in old architecture.

Constance Mostly of my grandchildren.

Where do you keep your photos?

Steven They're on my computer at home.

Nitin I keep my photos on my computer.

Matthew All of my photos are stored on my laptop or my phone. Nowhere else really.

William Where do I keep my photos? On the computer and in files.

Constance In my cell phone.

Unit 2

Where do you come from?

Nitin I come from New Delhi, India.

Steven I come from Southampton in England, in the south of England.

Matthew I come from Reading in Berkshire.

William Brooklyn, New York.

Constance I live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

What do you like about your home town?

Nitin Delhi is a large and very diverse city, with people from all over the country and all over the world, that have come and settled over there. A very cosmopolitan city, a lot of culture, a lot of history.

Steven There's lots to do. It's easy for travel. I can get to lots of places from the motorways.

Matthew There are some really nice villages on the outskirts of the town – Pangbourne and some areas sort of in the south of Oxfordshire. Also, like, there's Reading Football Club at home there, so I do go to watch the football quite a bit. And I like the parks.

William What do I like about New York? Its diversity, cultural possibilities, 24/7 there's always something to do here. It's intellectually fascinating.

Constance It has a lot of hills and I like the change of seasons. It's very green.

How's your town changing at the moment?

Nitin It's becoming very urban and very developed, so there are a lot of buildings coming up and places where there used to be parks.

Steven There's a lot of new shops opening up, it's becoming more of a tourist place than it has been in the past.

Matthew Reading is growing massively because it is a big commuter town into London, so, yeah, you can see that the shopping's getting bigger. Everything's getting bigger, basically.

William How is it changing at the moment? That's a good question. New York has always been an international port if you will. How is it changing? I think there are more people here. There are more people from other countries here. I think New York has become much more attractive over the past 20 to 30 years. Yeah, it's a magnet, I think – one of the great cities of the world.

Constance The, the city has lost a lot of its retail and it's providing more condominiums and housing in the downtown area and restaurants.

Unit 3

When did you last feel nervous?

Emma The last time I felt nervous was yesterday when I arrived in London and had to find my youth hostel, and the station I needed to find was closed, so I had to find a different station. I found a subway map and was able to use it to find my youth hostel.

Dan I last felt nervous at a job interview I had a few months ago, before I moved here. I had to get it so that I could move here, and it was quite tough, quite complicated technical questions I had to pass. But I got it and now I'm here.

Sophie This morning I was travelling to a university open day alone, going up on the train, I was quite nervous to go by myself.

Ezra Last Thursday, I was taking a computer programming final and I was pretty nervous about that.

Jacob It was, I went to Chicago last week and gave a presentation at the university and there were some people there I wanted to impress, so I felt a little nervous.

Unit 5

What is your favourite possession?

Jez My favourite possession at the moment is my tablet.

Theodora Maybe my guitar or my ukulele.

Elizabeth My favourite possession is my smartphone.

Ryan I think my favourite possession would be the boat I just bought two years ago.

Craig My favourite possession is a violin.

Why is it special to you?

Jez It's special because it's got everything that I need on it. If I want to watch television, I can watch it on my tablet, I can watch a film, I can find out what's on the Internet, more information about my town, I can learn more about the world.

Theodora I think just to make music, even if it's not very good music. I'm not that good. It's still something lovely, it makes you feel good.

Elizabeth It's special to me because I can do many things with it. I can take pictures, I can go on the Internet, I can listen to music.

Ryan It's special to me because I love the outdoors, I love to fish, and it's a great time to spend time with my friends and family.

Craig Well, it is, it is a violin that I acquired from a luthier in Maine, who became a good friend of mine. I took up playing the fiddle several years ago, and, I, I, he, he is a gentleman who takes old fiddles that are in disrepair and rebuilds them, remakes them. And I've owned three or four of them, some much, much more profound and exciting than I felt I deserved. But I've most recently gotten one by an Italian violin maker, Carlo Carletti, from the, 19th century, and it's just a beautiful violin. I love it.

Unit 6

Do you prefer spending time alone or with other people?

Theodora I think I prefer to spend time with other people, with friends, good friends.

Elizabeth I like to be alone because it gives me time to think.

Jez A bit of both. It depends on the occasion. I think I need to have both. I like socialising, going out with my friends and my family, coming here into London, and there are other times where I'll need to spend time on my own. That's often with my tablet.

Ryan I prefer to spend time with other people, I'm, I'm more of a people person.

Craig It all depends on what my mood is, but usually with other people.

When do you like being alone?

Theodora If I have things to do, if I have a busy week of work, then I like to have a little bit of alone time somewhere in between to catch up on things.

Elizabeth I like being alone after I come home from work or after I spend a lot of time away from my home.

Jez Normally late in the evening, either after going out, that's probably the best time. First thing in the morning, that's probably when I spend the time on my own, but I normally plan my day ahead, I normally go out with friends, but my time on my own is first thing in the morning and end of the day.

Ryan I don't like being alone.

Craig I like being alone after I've had a hard day at work, and I like to come home and sometimes just sit by myself and process what happened through the day.

Do you think you are more introverted or extroverted?

Theodora I think a bit of both. With close friends, you're always going to be extroverted because you feel like yourself, but with strangers, then you'll always be a little bit introverted.

Elizabeth I think I am more introverted because I like to be alone or I like to be with a small group of people.

Jez Depends on the occasion. I sometimes can be quite extroverted, but most of the time, introverted.

Ryan I'm more introverted until I get to know somebody and then I'm more outgoing and extroverted. But I stay to myself until I get to know someone.

Craig I think that I'd have to call myself an extrovert.

Unit 7

What are you going to do for your holiday this summer?

Emma I'm going to visit some old friends in Germany.

Dan This summer, I'm going on a city break to Paris. I'm going to see the sights.

Sophie This year, we're planning to go to Budapest for a short city break, maybe four days or so.

Ezra I'm actually not going on vacation, I'm staying in New York, working a couple of different jobs. I'm going to be an RA for my dorm at school and working in an administrative position for ITS.

Jacob Well, first I have to go to Madrid, which is going to be great, I love Spain. I don't speak Spanish, but it'll be good anyway. And then I have to go home to Cleveland, my sister is taking her black-belt test, so I'm there to support. And then later, I have to go to Cambridge in England, but that's for work, but it'll still be fun.

Who are you going with?

Emma I'm going alone.

Dan I'm going with my mum, for a second visit, to Paris.

Sophie I'm going with my parents.

Jacob Well, to Madrid, I'm going with a lot of friends, so it's sort of, it is for work, but a lot of my friends from graduate school are going. So it, that'll be a lot of fun, and then my family in Cleveland and, and such.

Unit 8.1

How good are you at fixing things that are broken?

Emma I'm not very good at fixing broken things.

Dan I'm good at fixing computers, but I'm not so good at fixing shelves and furniture, that sort of thing.

Sophie I'm not very good at fixing things.

Kimberly Pretty good.

Jacob I'm pretty bad. I mean, I know how to use a screwdriver and that's about all I can say in the positive direction for my abilities.

Do you enjoy doing it? What was the last thing you fixed?

Kimberly Yeah, I get satisfaction out of it. Oh, gosh. There's a lot. So we just moved, so there's been a lot of things. Oh, the closet door yesterday, put it back on track.

Who do you ask for help? What was the last thing they fixed?

Emma I normally ask my dad for help. The last thing he helped me with was changing a tyre on my car.

Dan I ask my dad for help with practical things. Last thing he fixed was my desk.

Sophie I ask my dad for help, and the last thing he fixed for me was a wardrobe that had broken.

Jacob Anyone, anyone I can find!

Unit 8.2

What three things do you think are important for a good education?

Emma Having a family that values education; having exciting, inspiring teachers; and putting aside time to study.

Dan I think a broad range of subjects is important to cover a lot of different areas, and I think a good environment, school environment or, or a college environment, and good teachers is most important, I think.

Sophie Good teachers, self-motivation and a good environment to work in.

Kimberly I think support system, inside the school and outside of the school. Mostly I think, parents, I think, so, supportive parents and family, determination and desire.

Jacob OK, so for me, I found discipline was really important. You know, 'cos it's hard to force yourself to do all the studying that you need to do, 'cos there's always more studying than you think. You have to be thinking critically as opposed to just taking in whatever the professor or teacher is telling you, then you don't really understand what's going on. And you have to think creatively, because if you can't produce new things with what you learn, then still you haven't really learned it. So those are the three important things for me.

What subjects do students have to study in your country?

Emma I, I'm from New Zealand and we only have to study English, mathematics and science.

Dan We have to study English, maths, sciences, some humanities, such as geography, and I think we have to study a foreign language. I'm not sure, though.

Sophie English, maths, sciences and at least one humanity and possibly a language.

Kimberly English, math, history – what else, have to? I think that's it. Oh, chem-, like chemistry – sciences, I guess.

Jacob Well, of course there's like the standard, like, history, English – which is actually just literature – 'literature' –math, or arithmetic at least, and then you usually have to learn Spanish or French. Maybe *learn* is a strong word but you have to take classes in Spanish or French, sometimes German. That sort of thing, but you get to take electives, I mean of course you have to take biology and chemistry and physics and you know, depending.

How long do pupils have to stay in school in your country?

Emma In New Zealand, you must stay in school until you're 16, but most people stay until they're about 18.

Dan I think we have to stay up until the age of 16. We did when I was at school.

Sophie Pupils normally begin school at four or five and they finish school around 17, 18.

Kimberly Until 18.

Jacob It's usually like from five until 17 or 18.

Unit 9

How do you greet people in your country?

Steven With a handshake or a kiss on the cheek or a hug.

Joakim Well, I am from Gothenburg in Sweden, and it's a little bit different to, to here in the UK.

Cindy I usually shake hands and say 'good morning' or 'hello' or 'good afternoon', depending on the time of day.

Andrew I shake hands with men. And I, when I greet a woman I, a woman who I know, I kiss her on both cheeks. If it's a woman I don't know, I would shake her hand.

Elizabeth It's usually a casual hello. If it's a formal, it's a handshake. And if it's a good friend, it's hugs and kisses.

How do you greet your friends, family and colleagues?

Steven Colleagues, we'll shake hands. Male friends, we hug. Female friends, we kiss on the cheeks.

Joakim In Sweden, we, we greet by, by, by hugging, whereas here in the UK, you greet by kissing on the cheeks. Colleagues, it's the same – we shake hands.

Cindy Family, we greet by hugging. Colleagues, it depends. Inform-, I mean, colleagues I don't know well, it's the shaking hands. Because of the line of work I do, colleagues that I'm very close to, it's like, they're close friends, so we might hug.

Andrew Friends and family, a hug, kiss, kiss on both cheeks. My dad actually kisses me on both cheeks when he sees me. Colleagues, always a handshake.

Elizabeth Oh, family and friends, it's hugs and kisses. The grandchildren jump up on me. My daughter and son, we just hug and kiss. If I'm close to them, have a good warm relationship, again it's a hug and a kiss. Otherwise, if it's more professional, it's a handshake.

Are the rules the same for men and women?

Steven No, women are less formal. Women will kiss friends, and maybe in business, shake hands. But lot, lot less formal.

Joakim Yes, the rules are the same for both men and, men and women.

Cindy Yes, actually – at least in my part of the country.

Andrew No, it, at, at work … no, they're different, I think there's, there's different greetings. But it depends on the situation.

Elizabeth In terms of greeting, I think so.

Unit 10

Do you enjoy eating home-cooked food or eating in a café/restaurant?

Steven I prefer to eat out.

Joakim I prefer to eat home-cooked food, but I cannot cook, so I ea-, I eat out a lot in restaurants.

Cindy I actually enjoy home-cooked food more, but I rarely get it.

Andrew I prefer to eat in a restaurant. I love eating out. But I think, I think it's just good to eat at home as well. In, living in New York, you can eat out all the time. But it's a nice discipline just to eat in, spend some time, make something really nice. It feels good to do that.

Elizabeth I love home-cooked food. I love gathering around a table and being with family. The last home-cooked meal that I had was at my daughter's house. It was king-crab legs – put the newspaper out on the table; we got buttery and gooey and it was wonderful.

Are you good at cooking?

Steven Yes, I am. I like to cook spicy foods, but my best dish is a roast dinner.

Joakim Unfortunately, I am very bad at cooking.

Cindy If I have time and feel like following directions, yes.

Andrew I'm good at cooking some specific dishes. There's a few things that I do well. But I'm not a good generalist cook. I'm not someone that you can give things to and I'll just make, make something, magically rustle something up. I need to have a recipe.

Elizabeth I am good at cooking. I don't follow recipes, so I just start with something and start throwing things in. But now that I'm living alone, I prefer to eat with family and not do my own cooking.

What's your favourite meal?

Steven It's roast chicken with roast potatoes and plenty of veg.

Joakim I'm Swedish, so I like a lot of fish, and we serve it with potatoes and lettuce, tomatoes, etc.

Cindy My favourite meal would probably be, let's see, sch-, schnitzel, wiener schnitzel.

Andrew I really love risotto.

Elizabeth I love Thai food. And I love simple food and salads and meat, chicken; simple food.

Unit 11

How often do you read, listen or watch the news?

Dan I read or listen to the news every day.

Andrew I listen to the news once a day at midnight on BBC Radio 4, and perhaps some days in the week I might watch the news on the television.

Phyllis I watch the news every day. If I don't get it in the morning, then I turn on the ra-, radio and listen to it there.

Sophie Every other day, I read the news.

Bruce Every day. I read a newspaper in the morning. I watch the news in the evening, and also get clips through the day.

Do you prefer to get the news from the television, newspapers or online?

Dan I usually read the news online because it's very convenient for me and I can access it at any time.

Andrew I prefer to listen to the news on the radio, and as communication in the world is now so fast, being online you get the news almost instantly.

Phyllis Television, because you can watch it and listen to it and it doesn't take much concentration.

Sophie I prefer to get the news online because if I don't understand anything, I can always look it up and find out what it means.

Bruce I like a combination. I guess it, it, I mainly get it from online, digital devices.

Unit 12

What was the last interview you had?

Sophie I had an interview this morning for a university. I think it went quite well, and hopefully I'll get a place.

Bruce It was a year ago, an IT Manager's position for a telecoms company. I did a lot of research and, and prepared myself quite well and was lucky enough to get the job. I'm still there today.

Phyllis The last interview I had was for a play. I was interviewed by a very famous director, he liked me. I came away thinking I had the part, but I did not get the part.

Dan I had a big interview for a computer job and it took all afternoon, and I had a whole series of people come in and question me but the last guy started telling jokes, so I felt that I'd, I'd done well.

Andrew The last interview I had was with a health professional because of my disability. I had an interview to see if I was fit for work and a medical test, and I was told that I could go and do voluntary work.