

REACTING TO WHAT PEOPLE SAY

- 1 Read the three conversations. Match the conversations to the photos.



- 1
- A:** I've just had an email with our travel plan for our trip to the USA next month.
- B:** Oh, awesome!
- A:** I know. I'll forward the email to you, so you can check it out yourself.
- B:** Great! I'm really looking forward to going! It will be such fun!

- 2
- A:** Is that for me?
- B:** Yes. I hope you like it.
- A:** Oh, how kind!
- B:** Well, I wanted to cheer you up because you've been ill.
- A:** That's so thoughtful of you! Thank you!

3

- A:** You won't believe what's happened! The festival's been cancelled!
- B:** Oh, that's such a shame! I was really looking forward to it!
- A:** I know. Me, too.
- B:** Oh, well. I'm sure we can find another event to go to.

- 2 Read the conversations again. In which conversation does someone express ...

- 1 gratitude?
- 2 disappointment?
- 3 excitement about a future event?

KEY LANGUAGE FOR REACTING TO WHAT PEOPLE SAY

Expressing gratitude

Oh, how kind! That's (so) thoughtful of you! You (really) shouldn't have! I really appreciate that.

Expressing disappointment

Oh, that's (such) a shame! I was (really) looking forward to ... That's really disappointing.

Expressing excitement

Cool! Oh, awesome! I can't wait to ... I'm so excited! I'm really looking forward to ...

- 3 Read the *Key Language* box. Which expressions do people use in the conversations in Exercise 1?

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- 4 Look at the phrases in the *Key Language* box again. How do you think you can use your tone of voice and intonation to express each of the feelings?

- 5 Choose the correct words in italics to complete three more conversations.

1

- A:** Hi, Tanya. I've just had a message from Leo.
- B:** Have you? How is he?
- A:** He's not very well. In fact, that's why he messaged – to say he's cancelling his party this evening.
- B:** Oh, that's ¹*so* / *such* a shame!
- A:** I know. I was really looking forward to it, too.
- B:** Me too. That's really ²*disappointed* / *disappointing*. But he needs to get better, and there's plenty of time for parties.

2

- A:** Emma, there's a parcel for you!
- B:** Is there? ³*Cool!* / *Very cool!* That'll be my new fitness tracker. It's a really good one.
- A:** Oh, we can expect to see a new super-fit you, then?
- B:** That's right. I'm ⁴*so* / *such* excited. I ⁵*won't* / *can't* wait to start using it!

3

- A:** Ooh, what have you got there?
- B:** It's a ticket for a concert next month. Don't worry, I'll pay!
- A:** Will you? Oh, I really ⁶*appreciate* / *thank you* that. I'm completely out of money at the moment!
- B:** That's what I thought. Anyway, it's to say 'thank you' for looking after my cat while I was away.
- A:** Oh, you really ⁷*shouldn't* / *shouldn't have!* That's ⁸*so* / *such* kind!

- 6** Look at the underlined echo questions in the conversations in Exercise 5. Read the rules below for forming and using echo questions. Then find the verbs that the echo tags respond to in conversations 1–3.

- 1 We use echo questions to check we have understood what someone is telling us, or to express a strong feeling.
- 2 We form echo questions with the auxiliary verb that the other speaker has just used. If there is no auxiliary verb, for example in present simple or past simple verbs, we use the correct form of *do* or *did*.

- 7** Write the correct echo questions to respond to what the people say.

1

- A:** I've bought you some chocolates.
- B:**? How kind!

2

- A:** I'm afraid I can't come with you to the cinema tonight.
- B:**? Oh, that's a shame!

3

- A:** Matt and Rohan are organising a movie evening at the weekend.
- B:**? Cool!

4

- A:** I couldn't get tickets for the Concert in the Park.
- B:**? Oh, I was really looking forward to that!

5

- A:** The new shopping mall opens this Saturday.
- B:**? Cool! I can't wait to see what shops there are!

6

- A:** I booked the tickets last night.
- B:**? Awesome!

7

- A:** I'll help you clear up after the party.
- B:**? Oh, I really appreciate that.



- 8** Work in pairs. One of you is Student A and the other is Student B. Take turns to tell your partner your news. React to what your partner says using echo questions and phrases from the Key Language box.

Student A

- 1 Tell Student B that you have a present for them for their birthday.
- 2 You were planning to invite Student B and some other friends round for a barbecue on Saturday, but the weather forecast looks terrible, so you're going to cancel it.
- 3 Tell Student B that you have a backstage pass for a concert you are both going to, so you will be able to meet the band.

Student B

- 1 Tell Student A that the trip you are both planning to South America can now go ahead.
- 2 Tell Student A that you have ordered a new phone case for them, because their old one got damaged.
- 3 Tell Student A that a sports event you were both planning to attend has been cancelled.

ACTIVE LISTENING

Listen while your partner is speaking. What echo questions does your partner use? What phrases does he/she use to react to what you are saying?