112 English in conversation

GRANDFATHER So, we're ready for your birthday dinner now, right?
DAD I think so, don't you Jonas?
JONAS Oh, yeah.
MUM You having beans, Jonas?
JONAS Mmm … don't really like them, Mum.
GRANDMOTHER Really? Some beans for you, Selina?
SELINA Not sure … yeah, I'll have some.

1 Speaking

There are a lot of differences between the way we speak English and the way we write it.

- We usually use short forms when we are speaking:
  *So, we**'re** ready for your birthday dinner now.*
  *I think so, **don't** you?*
  *Yeah, I**'ll** have some beans.*
- We don't always use pronouns (*I*, *you*, etc.) or auxiliary verbs (*do*, *is*, etc.):
  I don't know, Mum. → ***Don't know**, Mum.*
  Are you coming to the party? → ***You coming** to the party?*
  It's hot today, isn't it? → ***Hot today**, isn't it?*
  We only do this when we are talking to people we know very well.
  We don't do this in writing.
- We can use an extra word, (*right?* or *OK?*) when we want to check something:
  *We're ready for dinner now, **right?***
  *We'll order the taxi for seven o'clock, **OK?***
  We usually use *right?* to check that what we are saying is correct.
  We usually use *OK?* to check that an arrangement is good for the person we are speaking to.

2 Listening

When we are listening to someone speaking, we often make noises or say things to show we are listening:
'You know your friend Jake …' 'Mmm …'
'I've got tickets for the match on Saturday …' 'Really?' 'Yeah. Do you want one?'

NATURAL ENGLISH *Yeah* is a very informal way of saying *yes*.