

- T Didn't you want to go?  
 L No, they forced me to. We drove to the countryside and stopped to have our picnic by the river ... my dad put a rug down on the grass and wanted me to join them, but I refused to. I wouldn't get out of the car.  
 T Why not?  
 L Oh you know, I felt embarrassed. I didn't like the idea of sitting with my mum and dad on a rug, eating egg and tomato sandwiches. It just wasn't cool.  
 T Your poor mum and dad.  
 N Well, I remember standing in our kitchen yelling, 'I hate you! I hate you!' at my parents.  
 T Why, what had they done? Or more to the point, had you done?  
 N Oh, I'd persuaded them to let me go to this big party – and it was near my exams and I promised to be home by midnight and ...  
 T And of course you weren't!  
 N No, it was two o'clock and they kept calling me and I didn't answer my phone. I was grounded for a month.  
 L Well, I remember when I'd just passed my driving test and I begged my mum to let me borrow her car and I crashed it – turned it over in a ditch.  
 T Whoa! You two were horrible! Me, I was such a boring teenager. I didn't behave badly at all – my mum and dad were kind of cool – so maybe I didn't need to.

### 7.5 Best of friends

**Kate** I had a best and worst friend ... she was called Carly Robson. Everyone wanted to be Carly's friend – she could pick and choose her friends. She was really athletic – great at all sports, especially running and hockey. Teachers loved her because she won so many trophies for the school. She could do no wrong. Every now and then, when there was no one more interesting around, she'd let me be her friend and we'd go shopping together or something. Stupid me! Then she'd just drop me – walk past me in the corridor. I hate myself now for being so upset – but it took years for me to realize that she just wasn't worth it. She got bored with sport eventually – I'm not sure what she's doing these days. Last I heard she was working in a pub.

**Dave** Well, I met my best friend on my first day at university. I'd just moved into my student room when this huge family arrived to move Danni into the room next to mine. I'm an only child, so three small boys kicking off in the corridor outside my room filled me with horror. And then ... when they finally left, there were so many tears and hugs as they all said goodbye to their precious Danni. My dad had brought me to uni, and he had left after five minutes after a quick hug. Anyway, Danni and I introduced ourselves and in no time we were talking and laughing together ... so that was the beginning. Then we discovered we had a lot in common – we were on the same course and we both loved cooking. We ended up doing a lot of cooking for the other guys on our corridor. Well, that was 12 years ago ... and we're still best friends ... in fact ... erm ... we're married and expecting our first baby. You see, Danni, is Daniella. She's my best friend and my wife!

**Molly** My best friend started out as a penfriend. It's a remarkable story in a way. When I was 12, our teacher, Miss Potts (we had fun with that name) started a penfriend club at school. She had the names of lots of 12-year-old girls in America and Canada who wanted English pen pals and I got Carol

– Carol Swift from Toronto. We started exchanging letters about school and sports, and then we just kept on writing and eventually emailing. We exchanged birthday and Christmas cards and wrote about all sorts – boyfriends, driving lessons, marriage, babies, divorce – good times, bad times. I felt that I really knew Carol – I could tell her anything and everything, but we didn't actually meet until we were 45. Carol came to London and we had a great two days together. I felt I'd known her all my life – well ... I suppose I had in a way. Now, of course, we Skype as well and I've been over to Toronto twice.

**Sam** When I was in nursery, Marfa (sic) was my best friend – I loved Marfa, but I'm not her best friend any more. She's a girl and I don't want a best girl friend ... sooo ... Oliver's my best friend now, we met in Class 1. 'Marfa cried when I told her ... she did ... really, but she's got lots more best friends now. I don't know why I like Olly – that's what we call him – but maybe it's 'cos we do stuff together, like football and stuff. Mrs Morgan, she's our teacher, calls us the terrible twins because we look the same – we've both got blonde, spiky hair, and we make a lot of noise – well she says we do. We have sleepovers at each other's houses – I kind of like that, but I miss mummy. I take my bunny blanket and Olly brings his monkey when he comes to us, so it's OK.

### 7.6 Body language

- Bob's hopeless at all sports. He can't even kick a football.
- The cat got up the tree easily enough, but I had to climb a ladder to get her down.
- Daniel, stop staring out of the window and get on with your work!
- Since you whistled that tune I can't get it out of my head.
- I hate it when my Aunt Mary hugs me tight. She wears this disgusting perfume and I smell of it afterwards.
- Daisy! You'll get brain freeze if you eat your ice cream so fast. Lick it gently.
- Do people kneel down to pray in all religions?
- I keep trying to stop biting my nails, but I can't. I can't kick the habit.
- I'm terrified of blowing up balloons in case they go 'pop'.
- Don't scratch that insect bite! You'll get an infection.
- By the end of the concert, we were all clapping our hands in time with the music.
- The CCTV camera showed the gunman pointing a gun at the bank clerk.
- My dad's useless at doing DIY. He can't even hit a nail with a hammer.
- My two-year-old nephew is so cute. He loves marching up and down like a soldier.

### 7.8 Exclamations

- His lectures are so boring! I can't help falling asleep.
- Is it for me? How lovely! That's so kind of you.
- What a coincidence! I didn't know Tom was your cousin.
- You won £1,000! What luck! I never win anything.
- That's such a stupid idea! It'll never work.
- We had such terrible weather! It rained every day.

### 7.9

#### Conversation 4

- A I hear you aren't coming to Max's 18th. What a pity!  
 B Yes it is, but it's my grandpa's birthday, too.  
 A But everyone's going to Max's. It'll be such fun!  
 B I know, but it's Grandpa's 80th and he hasn't been well lately.

- A Ah, well – don't worry! Max'll understand.  
 An 80th birthday is more important than an 18th!

#### Conversation 5

- A Carl texted Anna to say that he'd dumped her.  
 B How dreadful! He couldn't tell her face to face?  
 A Yeah. He's such a coward!  
 B Well, I think she's well rid of him, don't you?

#### Conversation 6

- A My Wi-Fi keeps disconnecting.  
 B How frustrating! But you know what they say ...  
 A What?  
 B Just try turning everything off and on again.  
 A Yeah, I know, but I have to do that two or three times a day. It's so annoying.  
 B Time to call an engineer!

## Unit 8

### 8.1 Questions to Siri

- A Are you human, Siri?  
 B Close enough, I'd say.
- A What are you doing after work?  
 B What am I doing? I'm talking with you.
- A Where have I put my keys?  
 B They'll probably be in the second-to-last place you look.
- A When will pigs fly, Siri?  
 B When they figure out how to buy tickets.
- A When is the world going to end?  
 B As long as you keep me charged, we should be just fine.

### 8.2 AlphaGo – a breakthrough for artificial intelligence

Why was it so important when the computer program AlphaGo beat a human at the Chinese game of Go in 2016? A computer had beaten a world chess champion 20 years before, so what was new?

Well, Go is more difficult and demanding than chess, and the computers that used chess programs could only do what humans had programmed them to do. AlphaGo was a new kind of program, which learns by itself. It learned 150,000 human games of Go, and then played against itself, over a million times each day. It quickly learned from its mistakes and developed a style of play that was so individual, it shocked even its creators. Real artificial intelligence had truly arrived, along with all the hopes and fears of what it might mean for our future.

### 8.3 Experts give their views on artificial intelligence

#### Lee Sedol Professional Go player

'Robots will never understand the beauty of the game the same way that we humans do.'  
 After his defeat, Lee said that he hadn't expected AlphaGo to play the game so perfectly.

#### Demis Hassabis Creator of AlphaGo

'It's very exciting to start imagining what it might be able to tackle next.'

Hassabis thinks AI is still decades away from human level intelligence, but could soon help solve problems such as climate change and cancer.

#### Nick Bostrom Philosopher

'Machine intelligence may be the last invention that humanity will ever need to make.'

Bostrom says that the machines will then be better at inventing than we are. But he warns us that we must make sure they follow our preferences, not their own.