



Everyday English


Casual conversations

1 Work with a partner. Match a line in **A** with a line in **B**.

A	B
1 Great to see you! Come on in.	a Let me see. No, actually, I don't think I'll bother with dessert.
2 Excuse me, don't I know you from somewhere?	b I was just passing, and I thought I'd drop in.
3 What d'you mean, you're not coming?	c Really! That's a shame. I was hoping to meet her.
4 I think I'll have the chocolate mousse. What about you?	d No, I don't think so.
5 My flatmate can't make your party.	e Well, I just don't feel up to going out tonight.
6 How come you're not having a holiday this year?	f Great stuff! I knew you'd swing it for us.
7 You really should take it easy. You look stressed out.	g We just can't afford it.
8 I've got you the last two tickets for the show.	h That's as maybe, but we have a lot on at work at the moment.

2  1.11 Listen and check. Pay attention to the stress and intonation. Practise the lines with your partner.

3  1.12 Read and listen to a conversation. Where are the people? Do they know each other?


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- A Excuse me, is this yours?
 B Let me see. Yes, it is. Thank you. I must have dropped it.
 A Are you going far?
 B Yeah, all the way to London. What about you?
 A I'm getting off at Bristol.
 B Oh, d'you live there?
 A Actually, no. I work in Bristol, but I live in Bath.
 B Lucky you! I think Bath's a beautiful city!
 A Yeah, you and thousands of others!
 B What d'you mean?
 A Well, you know, the tourists. There are so many, all year round.
 B Ah yes, that's a drag. You don't like tourists then?
 A Well, I shouldn't really complain.
 B How come? You can complain if you want.
 A I can't. Not really – you see, I'm a travel agent so I make a living from tourists.

4 Work with your partner. Read the conversation aloud, using the stress marks to help your pronunciation.

 1.12 Listen again and practise it again.

5 The stressed words are given in these conversations. Try to complete the lines. Practise saying them as you go.

- 1 A Tony! Hi! Great ...
 B Well, ... just passing ... drop in ... 'hello'
 A ... in! ... drink!
 B ... sure? ... too busy?
 A Never ... talk ... you.
 B Thanks, Jo. ... really nice ... chat.
 A Great! Let ... take ... coat.
- 2 A Excuse ... know you ... somewhere?
 B No, ... think so.
 A ... Gavin's party last week?
 B Not me. ... know anyone ... Gavin.
 A Well, someone ... looked just like ... there.
 B Well, that's ... maybe ... certainly wasn't ...
 A ... am sorry!

6  1.13 Listen and compare your ideas and your pronunciation.