

## Unit

## 1

## Nice to meet you!


**Reading  
Platform**

Read the following speech script and answer the questions.

Hello, everyone. My name is Carla.  
Let me tell you a little about myself. I  
studied at Athens Primary School last  
year. It is a great school and I really  
5 enjoyed my time there.



I live with my parents and two **siblings**.  
I am the oldest child in the family. My  
dad is a web designer. He got a new job last year and he now designs for  
advertising agencies. I really like the work he does and I plan to follow in  
10 his footsteps. My mum is an illustrator. She does the art work for graphic  
books. She works from home, so she can take care of us all the time.  
My younger sister is called Rachel. She studies in Primary 3. My brother  
Kevin is only nine months old. He is good fun but sometimes he cries at  
night and keeps us all awake.

15 My favourite sport is **squash**. I like it because it teaches me to be aware  
of the **consequences** of my actions — as I am the only player in the game,  
if I hit the ball against the wall too hard, I may not be able to hit the ball  
back again and continue the game. Making an **impulsive** action is only  
going to affect myself! Besides squash, I also like swimming. I go to the  
20 pool every weekend.



I go to a brilliant drama class  
twice a week on weekdays. I am  
quite shy but the teachers there  
help me build my confidence.  
25 We do lots of role play activities  
and they are really fun. The

**Vocabulary  
highlights**

sibling (n)  
squash (n)  
consequence (n)  
impulsive (adj)

only thing I don't like is when we have to pretend to be animals. I just feel silly.

30 When I have time to relax, I love watching the cartoon channels with my sister and baby brother. The best thing is that mum often watches with us and she does drawings of the characters and then we can colour them in.

That is some information about myself. I hope we can all become great friends soon.

Thank you.

**A. Choose the best answer. Blacken the circle under the corresponding letter.**



1. Which school did Carla come from?
 

A. Athens Primary School				
B. Athens College				
C. Athens Secondary School	A	B	C	D
D. Athens School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
  
2. How many people are there in Carla's family?
 

A. 3				
B. 4				
C. 5	A	B	C	D
D. 6	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
  
3. What does Carla mean when she says 'I plan to follow in his footsteps' (lines 9–10)?
 

A. She plans to have children in the future.				
B. She plans to be a web designer.				
C. She plans to work for advertising agencies.	A	B	C	D
D. She plans to try a new job.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
  
4. What does Carla's mother do?
 

A. She writes novels.				
B. She is a housewife.				
C. She designs clothes.	A	B	C	D
D. She does drawings.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



## Grammar Corner

### Simple present tense

We use prepositions of time to say when something happens or to describe the length of time that something lasts.

We use the simple present tense:

1. to make a statement that is always true.

*Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.*

*The Earth revolves around the sun.*

2. to talk about things that are true now.

*I am a secondary school student.*

*He goes to school by bus.*

3. to talk about habitual actions. In this case, we often use adverbs of frequency and time phrases as well.

*I usually play basketball on Saturday afternoon.*

*I never eat hamburgers.*



#### Watch out!

Adverbs of frequency include: *always, usually, often, sometimes, occasionally, seldom, never.*

Time phrases include: *every day, three times a week, twice a month, once a year.*

#### Bonus

We usually put an adverb of frequency between the subject and the verb, and time phrases at the end of the sentence.

*I often go to a restaurant with my parents.*

*My uncle goes on holiday three times a year.*

4. to state how we feel or think.

*I like eating fast food.*

*My brother enjoys swimming.*

5. to give instructions and directions.

We often use sequencing words (e.g. *first, then, finally*).

*First, you crack the egg in a bowl and whip it. Then, you put some oil in the pan and heat it gently. Next, you pour the egg in and wait until ...*





Train your  
Integrated Skills

A. Some students are doing a survey about teenagers' habit of using the Internet to make new friends. Listen to the conversation between Jane Wong and York Chan. Complete the findings of the survey.



### Findings of the survey on online friends

Questions in the survey	Findings of the survey
1. How many online friends do you have?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no online friends: (a) _____</li> <li>1–2 online friends: (b) _____</li> <li>3–4 online friends: (c) _____</li> <li>5 or more online friends: (d) _____</li> </ul>
2. What are online friends to you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A: acquaintances (people only to (a) _____): 95</li> <li>(b) _____: mentors (people who give you (c) _____ on your (d) _____): 5</li> <li>(e) _____: friends (who you really care about): 30</li> <li>(f) _____: (g) _____ or (h) _____: 11</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>
3. What kinds of topics do you discuss with your online friends?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) _____: 94</li> <li>(b) _____: 87</li> <li>(c) _____: 88</li> <li>relationship: (d) _____</li> <li>hobbies and interests: 120 (the two most popular topics are: (e) _____ and (f) _____)</li> </ul>

## Writing Platform

### Writing a speech

- When you write a speech about your family, introduce the speech with a memorable sentence to attract the attention of the listeners.  
*If you ask me to describe my family in one word, I would say 'happy'.*
- Use questions to keep your audience's attention.  
*What comes to your mind when you hear the word 'family'?*
- Use *because* to give reasons for a statement.  
*I think my family is very special because they always know how I feel.*
- Use adverbs of frequency (e.g. *always, usually, sometimes, never*) to say how often things happen.  
*We usually go hiking on Saturdays.*
- Include interesting facts or amusing examples of family life to make your speech attractive.  
*I have a big family: my parents, my elder sister and four dogs!*

#### Watch out!

Do not start the speech with a long description of every member of the family. This will immediately bore the listeners.

In a complete speech, you need to:

1. Greet your audience.  
*Good morning, teachers and fellow schoolmates.*
2. Introduce yourself and what you are going to talk about.  
*I am James Wong of Class 1B. Today, I am going to talk about my family.*
3. Talk about what you want to say.  
*If you ask me to describe my family in one word, I would say 'happy'.  
I have a big family ...*
4. End your speech by summarizing what you said or expressing your wish.  
*I hope that I will make a lot of money in the future so that I can buy a bigger home for my parents and pets.*
5. Thank the audience for listening to you.  
*Thank you.*





## Giving advice

A. Read the dialogue in a **phone-in** programme for teenagers on the radio. Put the lines of the host in the appropriate spaces provided.

- A. Where do you live?
- B. It's quite a rough area, isn't it? And where do you usually go at night?
- C. Hello, Daisy.
- D. Maybe you could also try asking her or your brother to come and pick you up from Susie's flat once in a while.
- E. Have you tried talking about this with her?
- F. How can we help you, Daisy?
- G. Do you have to walk a long way home?
- H. Why don't you find a time when she is less busy, and just have a quiet chat about it? She'll probably explain why she worries about you.
- I. Sorry, Daisy, how old are you?

**Host:** Good evening. Welcome to our phone-in session. Today, we're going to focus on your problems with your parents. Now, let's have our first caller on the line.

**Host:** (1) \_\_\_\_\_

**Daisy:** Hello.

**Host:** (2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Daisy:** Well, it's my mum. She won't let me stay out after eight, but all my friends can stay out until eleven or at least ten. I always have to go home first. Otherwise, she'll be calling me like every five minutes. It's so embarrassing. She ...

**Host:** (3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Daisy:** I'm 15 already. My brother's only one year older, but he can come home any time ...

## Understanding drama scripts

### I. The lines

In a script, the dialogues in the story are called the lines.

A. *Look at the following script. Circle the correct answers about the lines between Paul and his mother.*

Paul: Mum, can I go out and play? Terry and Jack are having a football game.

Mother: Not until you've finished your homework.

Paul: I've been working for the whole morning.

Mother: Just an hour then.

Paul: Bye.

In a drama script, the names of the speakers are given on the (1. top / bottom / left / right) of the page, followed by a (2. colon / semicolon / quotation mark / comma). Then, we have the lines the speakers need to say.

### II. Stage directions

In a drama, the actors and actresses do not only speak. They also need to move around on the stage, and use their faces and bodies to express their emotions. These are called stage directions. They are sometimes put between brackets in a script.

B. *Match the faces with the appropriate emotions. Write the emotions in the spaces provided.*

in pain

scared

very happy

sad

angry

confused



1



2



3



4



5



6

\_\_\_\_\_

- A. *Some people collect stamps of different shapes and sizes as a hobby. Do you collect stamps? How much do you know about stamps? Read the following article to find out.*

## Philately: Learning about History from Stamps

Philately is the study of stamps and postal history. It is a hobby that can last a lifetime.

Most people collect stamps for enjoyment. Stamps can

5 come in different shapes.

Most are rectangles, but one of the most famous stamps — the Cape of Good Hope stamp, issued in 1861 —

10 is a triangle. Even rectangular stamps come in different sizes. A

standard \$20 stamp in Hong Kong, for instance, is bigger than a standard \$1 stamp.



Stamps are not just attractive items to look at, they are also a guide to

15 the important events of a place. For example, in 2011, the Hong Kong Post Office produced beautiful and original stamp designs to celebrate its 170th anniversary. Special stamps were also issued to **commemorate** the opening of Hong Kong International Airport (1998) and to support the **victims** of the Sichuan earthquake (2010).

20 Valuable stamps mark history in their own way. The world's most expensive stamp is called the Treskilling Yellow. It records a mistake made in the history of stamp printing in Sweden in 1855: it was printed on yellow paper instead of the normally-used green paper. Penny Black is a stamp issued in Britain in 1840. It was the world's first postage stamp that

25 could be stuck onto an **envelope**.

Philately tells us a lot about geography, history, science and many other things. Collectors may also be lucky and find a stamp that is **unique**, which, in a few years' time, may be worth a lot of money.

### Vocabulary highlights

philately (n)  
 commemorate (v)  
 victim (n)  
 envelope (n)  
 unique (adj)