

Module 1

Speaking, page 15, Exercises 6b and 6c

Both of these celebrations are obviously very proud family occasions and they both seem to be for one of the younger people in the family; in this one it's this girl's birthday – perhaps it's a special one – it could be her eighteenth – and this one clearly shows the girl's graduation ceremony.

The main difference between the birthday and the graduation is that this one is very informal – everybody's wearing casual clothes and laughing – whereas the graduation ceremony is a much more formal celebration.

The celebrations are important for different reasons. Although the graduation ceremony is very formal, I think it is an opportunity for the family to share in the girl's success at college. On the other hand, the birthday party is more relaxed and probably more fun than the graduation ceremony – and it's a good excuse for friends to get together.

Listening, page 16, Exercises 2 and 3

1

A: I first came out here to stay with friends for a few months after I left university, and I haven't been back home much! I was astonished to realise that you can eat outdoors for much of the year, which is great and also means you save on heating bills. It's very easy to get to know people as well. The only problem is that it's such a long way away from anywhere and I feel out of touch with what's going on at home. Strangely, the thing I miss most is the seasons – the leaves falling in autumn and the first daffodils in spring.

2

B: I went there to teach English and immediately fell in love with the lifestyle, so ended up staying for several years. Life is very different over there; for example, people regard it as important to take a break at lunchtime and eat homemade food all together with the family, whereas in the USA we just grab something on the move – people are always in a rush. Also, because of the climate, people tend to have a nap or relax in the afternoon and work late. I preferred this. Unfortunately, I ended up spending too much time with other Americans and so I didn't really become as fluent as I would have liked, which is a shame.

3

C: I originally came over here to learn English and then met my husband and got married, so I have been here ever since. Of course I miss my family and the problem is that after all these years here it feels odd to be back in Russia again and yet I don't feel totally British either! The people here are as I'd expected in some ways – they're polite and law-abiding in the way they queue for buses and so on, unlike where I come from. But I'd been told they were unfriendly, which couldn't be further from the truth. They may come across like that at first but once they get to know you, they're really warm and would do anything to help you.

Module 2

Speaking, page 28, Exercise 2b

continuous assessment
curriculum
degree
exams
head teacher
higher education
homework
lecturer
playground
playgroup
strict discipline
tutorial
undergraduate
uniform

Speaking, page 29, Exercise 6a

Now, I'd like you to talk about something together for about two minutes.

I'd like you to imagine that a school is considering making some improvements so that it's a better place for students to study. Here are some ideas they are thinking about and a question for you to discuss. First you have some time to look at the task.

Now, talk to each other about how these changes would benefit the students.

Speaking, page 29, Exercises 6b and 6c

A: OK, shall I start? Well, personally, I think they would benefit a great deal from having more teachers so classes could be smaller.

B: I couldn't agree more. But that means they would need extra classrooms. What about more up-to-date equipment so that students could work on their own more?

A: Yes, I suppose so. Mmm ... actually, I think smaller classes would probably be a bigger benefit.

B: Do you think so? I'm not so sure. Students these days work very well on computers.

A: I know what you mean, but many students are not as fit as they should be and I think extra sports facilities would be even more important.

B: That's true. Many schools have too few.

A: How about more space for play and relaxation?

B: No, I don't think that matters so much. For me, it would be the least important change in a day school. Obviously, it would be important in a residential college.

A: That must be true for food too. Good food would be much more important in a residential college.

B: Yes, I agree up to a point, but even in a day school, you need a good lunch if you are working in the afternoons!

Listening, page 30, Exercise 2*(P = Presenter; L = Leanne)*

- P:** Today we've invited into the studio a university student in her final year, Leanne Wilson, to give tips on surviving those first few weeks. Were you nervous about going off to university, Leanne?
- L:** In a way. I'd been really looking forward to it but my main worry was that I didn't know anyone.
- P:** But you made friends fairly quickly?
- L:** Oh, absolutely. Many of my friends initially were on my course but you've got to be careful you don't stick with just them all the time – you really miss out if you do. And try and be open-minded. Just because people don't speak to you doesn't mean they're unfriendly. They could just be shy. The main thing is to get involved with anything and everything. Even if you can't play tennis to save your life, have a go. Join the Scrabble® club, drama society, whatever – just so you meet a wide variety of people.
- P:** Which clubs did you join?
- L:** Well, that's the silly thing. I didn't! And I really wish I'd taken more advantage of the social life in that first week and enjoyed myself more. I think I was a bit scared of getting left behind in my work – when, really, that shouldn't be a priority at first. I didn't have a lot of cash to splash around either. But the thing is, you have to remember that it won't be such a social whirl for the whole term – things do calm down and you won't be spending money like this all the time. The first week you need to get out and enjoy yourself and not worry about it.
- P:** While we're on the subject of money, how did you manage on your student budget?
- L:** Well, some people choose to save on food and accommodation by living at home. I live quite near York, so that was an option but I felt it was important to stand on my own two feet, so I was in a hall of residence for my first year. My parents didn't put any pressure on me either way but it was tough at first because our family is quite close. It was the right thing to do for me to leave, though.
- P:** So did you have to get an evening job in York?
- L:** The thing is, with my subject, the workload is very high, so a job would mean very little time for a social life. So I just cut costs by sharing books with friends, shopping in charity shops, eating cheaply, that kind of thing. Although I do get a job in the holidays at home, so I can save up.
- P:** And is going to lectures very different from being at school?
- L:** It is, really. Where I went wrong at first was trying to write down every word the lecturer was saying and not really listening. In fact, you can normally get the notes online later anyway, so it's really not worth it – unless it helps you concentrate. Some of my friends don't bother going much at all, actually, but personally, I think that – even though you only get a basic overview in an hour – it makes you aware of the main areas that you need to read around.
- P:** Is it difficult to get used to structuring your day?

- L:** I found it's very easy to waste time unless you're disciplined. It's not that you aren't interested in the subject but life has a habit of getting in the way and it's tempting to stay in bed late and have a coffee with friends instead of getting stuck into what you have to do.
- P:** I can imagine! And the worst aspect of university life?
- L:** Mmm ... I thought it would be the cooking and washing and so on but that's not been too bad – although I do appreciate my mum more in the holidays! Probably, it's getting totally stressed as the work piles up. To be fair, that's only at certain times of year – exam times – but terms are short, so it feels as if it happens more.
- P:** Well, thanks very much, Leanne, and good luck in your final exams.

Module 3**Speaking, page 43, Exercise 8a**

In this part of the test, I'm going to give each of you two photographs. I'd like you to talk about your photographs on your own for about a minute, and also to answer a question about your partner's photographs.

Emil, it's your turn first. Here are your photographs. They show people working with animals. I'd like you to compare the photographs and say why you think the jobs might be difficult.

Speaking, page 43, Exercises 8b, 8c and 8d*(E = Emil; I = Interlocutor)*

- E:** In the photo on the left the man – he's a farmer, probably – is in the country with the sheep, whereas in the other one there's a woman in a white coat – she's a ... a kind of doctor who looks after animals. People bring in ... er ... small animals who live in the home, when they are ill or when they hurt themselves. She has to make them better. Sometimes there are emergencies when animals are injured in car accidents. This must be very ... upset ... it must upset her a lot. Personally, I think both jobs must be very hard work. A doctor for animals has to study for a long time to learn about the different animals and she has a lot of patients in a day. A farmer has to get up very early in the morning and go out in the fields in summer and winter. He has to work a lot – it must be very tiring and not very nice when it's raining hard and very cold and windy.
- I:** Thank you. Now, Tania, can you imagine doing either of these jobs?

Listening, page 44, Exercise 2b

Thanks, Paul, for the introduction, and hello, everybody.

Well, when I first went out to the Brazilian rainforest, I certainly never intended to stay there for any length of time. It was meant to be a quick visit to research and write a piece about tropical birds for the nature magazine I worked for. While I was there though, I also became fascinated by many of the other inhabitants, such as the huge variety of monkeys and snakes. However, the reason I stayed on was my love affair with the jaguar.

