



Pre-Intermediate (A2)  
student's course book



# English Level Booster!

- ✓ Learn over 500 useful words and expressions!
- ✓ Increase your range of vocabulary!
- ✓ Improve your listening, language and reading skills!
- ✓ Develop your pronunciation and speaking fluency!

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**english**

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# UNIT 0 Getting started



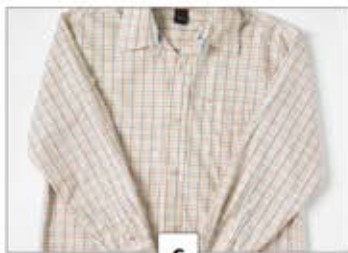
Don't worry about making "mistakes". Even native speakers get things wrong when speaking. It happens when you're talking fast and naturally.

Welcome to the Hot English *Level Booster!* (Pre-Intermediate level).

## 1 Vocabulary matching

Match the words below to the pictures.

1. hat ☐
2. T-shirt ☐
3. jacket ☐
4. trousers ("pants" in US English) ☐
5. shoes ☐
6. dress ☐
7. tracksuit ☐
8. shirt ☐
9. socks ☐
10. cap ☐



## 2 Classroom language

Match the questions (1 to 10) to the answers (a-j).

1. Can you repeat that, please? ☐
  2. I'm sorry but I don't understand this word. ☐
  3. Can you spell it, please? ☐
  4. What does this expression mean, please? ☐
  5. How do you pronounce this word, please? ☐
  6. How do you say this expression in French? ☐
  7. Can I borrow a pen, please? ☐
  8. What page is it on, please? ☐
  9. Is this for homework? ☐
  10. How do you translate this expression into German? ☐
- a. It's the same as the pronunciation of the colour "red" – "read".
  - b. Yes, it's A B S E N T.
  - c. Yes, of course. I'll say it more slowly: it's "259, 683"
  - d. The French would be "C'est la vie!"
  - e. The German equivalent would be "Ich habe zwei."
  - f. Page sixty five.
  - g. It means, "It's your choice. / It's your decision."
  - h. Try looking it up in a dictionary.
  - i. No, I'm sorry but I don't have one.
  - j. Yes, it is. And I want you to do it for next week!



## 3 Clock times

Match the clocks (1 to 5) to the times (a-e).



- a. a quarter past five
- b. one o'clock
- c. half past eleven
- d. twenty past eleven
- e. a quarter to eight



# READING

## EXPENSIVE CITIES

### 1 Pre-reading

Answer the questions about prices in your city: *How much is a daily newspaper? How much is a cup of coffee? How much is a drink in a bar? How much does lunch cost in a restaurant? How much does a trip on public transport cost?*

### 2 Reading I

Read the text once. How do the prices compare to your city or town?

### 3 Reading II

Read the text again. Then, complete the table.

Information	Answer
1. Most expensive city in the world	
2. Cost of cup of coffee	
3. Cost of newspaper	
4. Most expensive city in Europe	
5. Cheapest place to live	

### Expensive Cities

What's the most expensive city in the world? According to a new survey, it's Tokyo. A cup of coffee in the Japanese capital costs €6.40, and a newspaper can be as much as €5. The most expensive city in Europe is Moscow, followed by Geneva and Zurich in Switzerland. But overall, the cost of living in Europe has gone down since last year. Why? "European cities are getting cheaper because of the economic crisis," explained one economist. And where is the cheapest place in the world to live? Karachi, in Pakistan. The cost of living there is one third of what it is in Tokyo.



# LISTENING

## THE PHONE CALL

### 1 Pre-listening

Look at these numbers. How do you say them when you're speaking?

- 122
- 0.4
- 1,098
- 0137 8593 (a phone number)
- 10,004

### 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to a phone conversation. Faith is calling a colleague, Paul Barker. She wants to speak to him. Listen once. What is Faith's mobile phone number?

### 3 Listening II

Listen to the conversation again. Then, answer the questions Yes or No.

- Is Paul in the office?
- Is he at home?
- Has Paul got Faith's number?
- Has Faith got a new mobile phone?
- Does Mason repeat back Faith's phone number correctly?
- Is Mason going to leave the message on Paul's chair?



## UNIT 0



 VIDEO

## ALL ABOUT ME!



### 1 Pre-viewing

Write three sentences on the town, city or region that you're from. How big is it? What can you do or see there? How hot or cold is it? What's the weather like? Etc.

## 2 First viewing

Watch the video once. How does your place compare to Maria's?

### 3 Second viewing:

Watch the video again and choose the correct answers.

1. Where was Maria born?
  - a) Chicago
  - b) Wisconsin
2. Why didn't Maria want to live in Wisconsin anymore?
  - a) Because of the weather.
  - b) Because all her friends had left.
3. She moved to Thailand to...
  - a) Be a bartender
  - b) Teach English
4. She first worked as an actress in...
  - a) Wisconsin
  - b) Los Angeles
5. She once did a modeling campaign for...
  - a) Dove shampoo
  - b) An American football team

#### 4 Speaking

**Tell a colleague about your friend, or describe Maria's friend.**

## Watching videos in English – top tips!

The most important thing to remember when watching a video in English is this: **you won't understand every word.** But this isn't a problem. Simply listen out for the key words – the most important words in the conversation: *the nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.* By doing this, you'll be able to guess what the speakers are saying. Also, before watching the video, think about the topic. If you do this, you'll be able to predict what the speakers might say, and also guess the meaning of words or expressions, even if you don't understand them!



# UNIT 1 Descriptions!

**Vocabulary:** Work, describing someone, character words, describing a film

**Language structures:** To be, there is / there are, question words, the present simple



Write in English every day! It's good practice as it forces you to use the language you know. Also, you get to see where the gaps are in your knowledge. You could practise writing out stories or anecdotes. This would be good preparation for telling the stories later in conversation.

## 1 Famous people

Write the names of as many people from below as you can. What do they do? Who are they? Why are they famous?



### Think about it!

Are any of these people famous in your country? Why? Who are some of the most famous business people in your country? Are any sports stars from your country internationally-famous? Who? Why? Which actors or actresses are famous overseas? Which films have they starred in?



# UNIT 1 Descriptions!

## Listening – top tips!

The most important thing to remember when listening to a conversation is that you won't understand every word. So, you should only listen out for the key words – the most important words in the conversation: the nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. Then, you can use your intuition to guess what the people are saying – just as you do in your own language. Knowing the context and topic of the conversation will help with this."

## LISTENING

### DESCRIBING AN EMPLOYEE

#### 1 Pre-listening

Think of three questions you could ask someone about their job. For example: Where do you work?

#### 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to Hannah describing a work colleague. Listen once. Did you hear any of the questions you thought of?

#### 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, complete the table.

#### Fact file: Abigail

1.	Age	
2.	University	
3.	Company name	
4.	Department in company	
5.	Job title	
6.	Employees in dept.	
7.	Type of company	
8.	City where she's based	
9.	Adjectives to describe her	
10.	Employees in London office	

## VOCABULARY

### 1 Character words

Read over the definitions. Then, write one of the words next to each sentence (1 to 7).

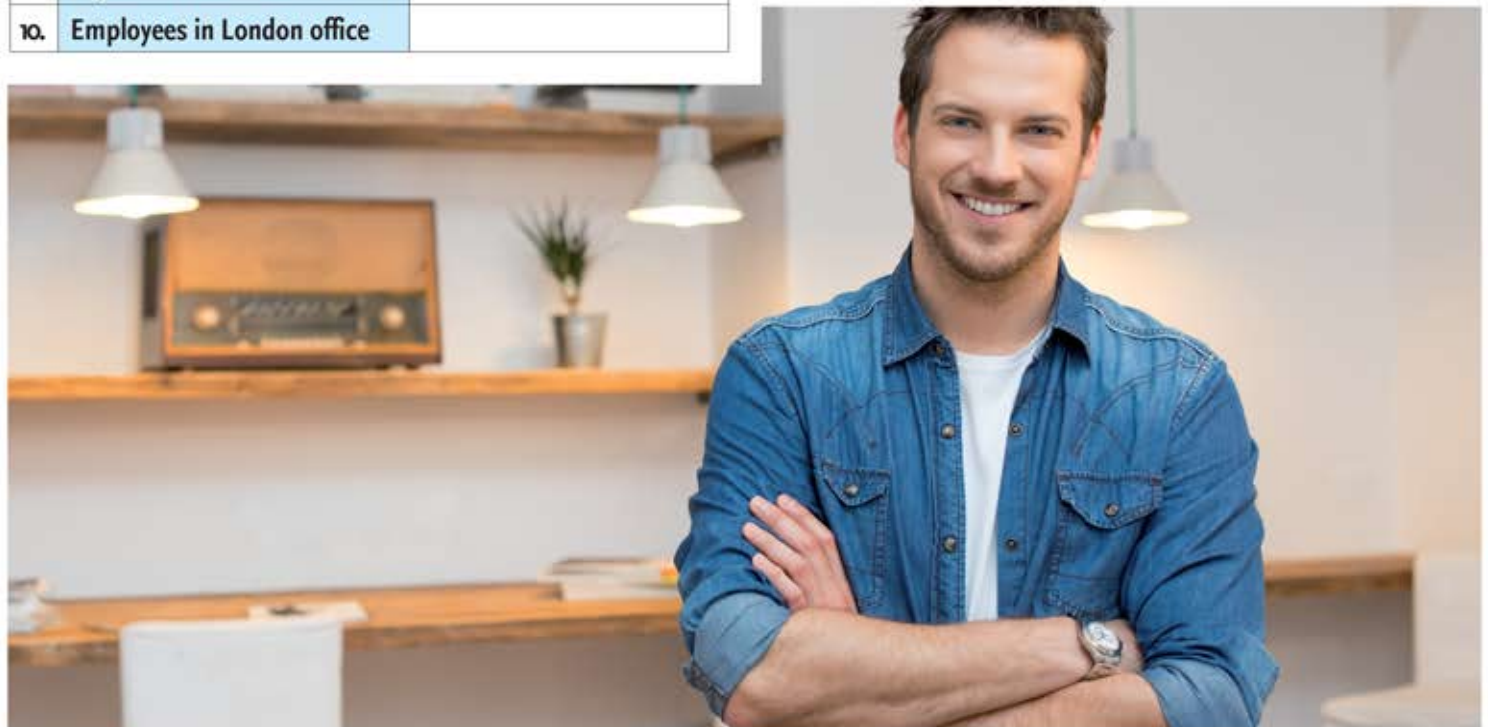
- **Honest:** an "honest" person always tells the truth.
- **Messy:** a messy person makes things dirty or untidy.
- **Clever / smart:** intelligent.
- **Creative:** someone who is "creative" has the ability to invent and develop original ideas.
- **Boring:** if someone is "boring", they aren't interesting.
- **Kind:** someone who is "kind" is gentle, caring and helpful towards other people.
- **Lazy:** if someone is "lazy", they don't want to work or make any effort.

1. She loves to spend all day lying on the sofa. \_\_\_\_\_
2. He stayed up all night helping us. \_\_\_\_\_
3. She loves to talk about herself. \_\_\_\_\_
4. He wrote a children's book, and a series of songs to go with it. \_\_\_\_\_
5. She passed the medical exams when she was just 16. \_\_\_\_\_
6. He never puts his things away. \_\_\_\_\_
7. She told us exactly what happened. \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Company departments

Complete the sentences with names of people from your company (or any other company). Can you think of any more company departments?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ works in the Marketing Department.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ works in the Customer Services Department.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ works in Human Resources.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ works in the Sales Department.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ works in the Accounting Department.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ works in the Legal Department.





# UNIT 1 Descriptions!

## 1 Types of business

Think of the names of three famous companies. Say what type of business they are. Use the categories below.

construction company, pharmaceutical company, sports goods company, clothing company, insurance company, real estate agency, telecommunications company, publishing company, media group, cosmetics firm, legal firm, financial services company, accounting firm, manufacturing company, music company, film company, hotel group, chemical manufacturing company, oil company, mining company, PR agency, advertising agency

For example: *Arthur Andersen is an accounting firm.*

## 4 Company hierarchy

Complete the sentences with names of people from your company (or any other company).

- \_\_\_\_\_ is the CEO (Chief Executive Officer).
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the President / COO (Chief Operating Officer).
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are Executive Vice Presidents.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the owner of the company.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is in charge of \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are managers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a supervisor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is head of \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is an employee.

## SPEAKING

Discuss these questions with a partner.

- How many employees are there in the company you work for?
- How many people are there in your department? What are they like?
- What do you like or dislike about your company?
- What do you like about the people who work there?
- How many people are there in your family?
- Which family members are you closest to? Why?
- How often do you go out with friends? What do you do with them?



## READING

### A FAMILY BUSINESS

#### 1 Pre-reading

You're going to read a text about a family business. What is special or different about a family business? What are the pros and cons? Make notes.

#### 2 Reading I

Read the text once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading task.

#### 3 Reading II

Read over the text again. Then, answer the questions.

- When was the business founded?
- Where is it based?
- Who is in charge of the New York City office?
- How often are there meetings?
- How many people work there?

#### businessmatters

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#### A family business » »

Josh is in a family business. He's here to tell us what it's like.

We are a family business. My dad founded it 20 years ago. It's based in London, but we have offices in New York City and Melbourne too. My uncle is in charge of the office in New York City, and one of my cousins runs the Melbourne operation.



It's fun, but it isn't always easy. There are meetings every week. We discuss important issues. We have lots of clients overseas, so we talk about ways to increase sales. We've got a good website, but there are always new things to add to it. There are often discussions about this.

There are six of us in the business. I am in charge of sales and marketing in the UK. My brother is in charge of overseas sales and marketing. My sisters and parents also work here. We are all good friends, but there are sometimes differences of opinion.

When there is a problem, we organise a meeting. In general, we've got similar ideas, values and attitudes to life and the business, so there aren't too many problems. The important thing is to respect everyone's opinion.