

# Your unique style

1A

LANGUAGE

## GRAMMAR: Present forms; *like, as if, and as though*

- 1 Complete the sentences with the words in the box. There are two you do not need.

know am knowing thinks 's thinking play  
are playing feels 's feeling have are having

- Felipa \_\_\_\_\_ worried at the moment because her dad is ill.
- Gabriel \_\_\_\_\_ that classical music is boring.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ some problems at work at the moment.
- It's a difficult question but I \_\_\_\_\_ the answer.
- Renata may come to the cinema with us. She \_\_\_\_\_ about it.
- It \_\_\_\_\_ as though it's getting colder.
- At the weekends they \_\_\_\_\_ volleyball on the beach.
- My grandparents \_\_\_\_\_ more than thirty grandchildren now.

- 2 Use the prompts to complete the sentences with the present simple or present continuous.

- Lucia says that Daniel isn't speaking to Pablo.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(sound / as if / he / be / angry about something)
- Hi, Julieta. Good to see you!  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(where / you / work / at the moment)
- Don't touch that laptop. It  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(belong to / Victoria)
- My granddad has a smartphone but  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(he / not understand / how to use it)
- What is that vegetable? It  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(look / a bit like cabbage)
- My brother plays the piano really well. He  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(practise / for three hours / every day)
- \_\_\_\_\_ and  
it's annoying because she never asks.  
(Mia / always / use / my pens)
- \_\_\_\_\_ because she has a new job in Chicago.  
(Rafaela / learn English)

## VOCABULARY: Body language and communication

- 3 Match sentences 1–6 with a–f.

- |                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 Alejandro had to raise his voice. | _____ |
| 2 Pablo frowned.                    | _____ |
| 3 Matias gazed at the painting.     | _____ |
| 4 Diego winked at me.               | _____ |
| 5 Juan Pablo stared at the photo.   | _____ |
| 6 Emmanuel waved at me.             | _____ |
- a It was absolutely beautiful.  
b He knew I would find the situation funny, too.  
c He wanted to get my attention.  
d It was very noisy in the room.  
e He was shocked at what it showed.  
f The letter contained news he did not want to hear.

- 4 Complete the missing words in the sentences.

- When I arrived at the party, he k\_\_\_\_\_ me on the cheek.
- He introduced me to his friends and we all s\_\_\_\_\_ hands.
- When I asked her if she spoke English, she n\_\_\_\_\_.
- When I asked him if he had broken the window, he s\_\_\_\_\_ his head.
- She looked very unhappy and refused to make eye c\_\_\_\_\_ with me.
- The old man just s\_\_\_\_\_ his shoulders when she asked him if there was a hotel nearby.
- As I was leaving the train, someone t\_\_\_\_\_ me on the shoulder.
- When he met his daughter at the airport, he gave her a big h\_\_\_\_\_.

## PRONUNCIATION: /ə/

- 5  1.1 Read the sentences aloud. Pay attention to the /ə/ sound in *as*. Listen and repeat.

- It looks as if we've missed the bus.
- Tom sounds as though he's disappointed.
- Do you feel as if we're being unfair?
- I feel as though I'm in a dream.
- Those animals look as if they're hungry.
- It sounds as if you need some help.

## LISTENING: Identifying attitude



1 **▶1.2** Listen to a conversation between Sophia and her friend Joe. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Sophia reminds Joe that Elon Musk recently put a sports car in space. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 At first, Joe says that putting a car in space was a good thing to do. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Sophia says that the car in space was Elon Musk's biggest achievement. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Sophia says that Elon Musk's company will help the human race. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Joe suggests that exploring space is bad for the environment. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Sophia believes that people will not always be able to live on Earth. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Sophia says that environmental scientists don't have a good opinion of Elon Musk. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 In the end, Joe still doesn't agree with Sophia that Elon Musk is cool. \_\_\_\_\_

2 **▶1.2** Listen again. Focus on the way Sophia and Joe use words and phrases to say how certain their opinions are or how much they agree with each other. Complete the sentences.

- 1 These are products that will have far-reaching benefits for the whole of humankind! I \_\_\_\_\_ that.
- 2 Joe: That's not very green, is it?  
Sophia: Oh, no, it \_\_\_\_\_ can be!
- 3 ... if Earth is destroyed, people can go and live there. I \_\_\_\_\_ that this will happen one way or another.
- 4 I \_\_\_\_\_ that anyone with *that* much money who does *good* things with it is cool.
- 5 It's better than hanging out on yachts \_\_\_\_\_!

3 **▶1.3** Look at the sentences. Use the mark    to show where consonant sounds between two words have merged. The first one is done for you. Listen, check and repeat.

- 1 I just    can't imagine living like that.
- 2 Nick calmly handed her the papers.
- 3 He's the fattest dog I've ever seen.
- 4 I don't expect to see him there.
- 5 She said that she was leaving.
- 6 Tom was sitting at the next table.

4 Complete the compound adjectives in the sentences with the words in the box.

thinking moving famous minded changing  
aged respected looking

- 1 Her parents were both good- \_\_\_\_\_, so it's no surprise that she's attractive.
- 2 It's only forward- \_\_\_\_\_ businesses like these that will survive going into the future.
- 3 She was one of the most highly- \_\_\_\_\_ lawyers of her generation.
- 4 He was middle- \_\_\_\_\_ – I'm guessing about fifty.
- 5 The article featured the diets of ten world- \_\_\_\_\_ athletes.
- 6 In such a large organisation, changes are slow- \_\_\_\_\_ and that can be frustrating.
- 7 Winning a sum of money as large as that would be completely life- \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 I like to think that I'm open- \_\_\_\_\_ and willing to change my opinions about things.

## GRAMMAR: Narrative tenses

- 1 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.
- I wanted to tell them my news, but I \_\_\_\_\_ for the right moment.  
a waited      b was waiting      c had waited
  - I knew she was disappointed with her exam results and I could see that she \_\_\_\_\_.  
a cried      b had cried      c had been crying
  - Luisa was surprised when I \_\_\_\_\_ her the letter.  
a showed      b was showing      c had showed
  - He went online and \_\_\_\_\_ a ticket for the show.  
a booked      b had booked      c had been booking
  - I had no idea that Jack \_\_\_\_\_ to China before.  
a was going      b had been      c had been going
  - We realized that she \_\_\_\_\_ for months to protect her friend.  
a lied      b was lying      c had been lying
  - When I went to get my passport out, I realized that I \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
a lost      b had lost      c had been losing
  - I \_\_\_\_\_ a bath when someone rang the bell.  
a had      b was having      c had had

- 2 Complete the story with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Last Saturday, I <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (go) with a group of friends to our friend David's flat. It was his birthday, and we <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (want) to organize a surprise party. He wasn't there because he <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (play) football, as he always did on Saturday evenings. However, his mum <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (give) us a key to his flat, so we went in and <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (get) everything ready for the party. There was so much food – we <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (prepare) it all day! When David came home he was so shocked – he <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (not have) any idea about our plans. There was lots of music and dancing, and we <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (have) a great time when we suddenly noticed that David <sup>9</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (fall) asleep. He <sup>10</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (run) around so much at his football practice, he was exhausted!

## VOCABULARY: Expectations

- 3 Complete the sentences with the verbs in the box.

fail be make get lower meet

- Unfortunately, the hotel didn't \_\_\_\_\_ our expectations.
  - This café is just what the area needs. I'm sure it will \_\_\_\_\_ a success.
  - These flowers are for my new boyfriend's mum. I want to \_\_\_\_\_ a good first impression!
  - Flats are really expensive here. You may have to \_\_\_\_\_ your expectations.
  - With a fantastic performance like that, you can't \_\_\_\_\_ to win the competition!
  - If you don't take this opportunity, you won't \_\_\_\_\_ a second chance.
- 4 Complete the second sentence to mean the same as the first. Use a noun or a verb from the same family as the underlined word.
- My parents are very proud of me so I don't want to disappoint them.  
I don't want to be \_\_\_\_\_ to my parents because they're very proud of me.
  - I met my brother's new girlfriend and she made a good impression on me.  
My brother's new girlfriend really \_\_\_\_\_ when we met.
  - If the business succeeds, we'll all become rich.  
We'll all become rich if the business is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - What expectations did you have when you took the job?  
What \_\_\_\_\_ when you took the job?
  - He was very upset when he failed to get into the team.  
He was very upset by \_\_\_\_\_ get into the team.
  - I wasn't at all impressed by the hotel.  
The hotel \_\_\_\_\_ bad \_\_\_\_\_ on me.

## PRONUNCIATION: Stress in narrative tenses

- 5  1.4 Underline the stressed syllable in the verb in each sentence, then read the sentence aloud. Listen and check.

- They'd seen the man somewhere before.
- The children were jumping up and down.
- The police had been searching for evidence.
- She had given him all the relevant documents.
- We'd been expecting her to call.
- My mother was planning to quit her job.

## WRITING: Making a narrative interesting

# An unexpected HOBBY



- 1 About this time last year, my manager said, 'You look exhausted, Simon. Why don't you take a holiday?' It was true that I had been working very hard and, when I looked in the mirror, I could see what she meant. The skin around my eyes was so dark that I looked like a panda. I hadn't slept properly for weeks.
- 2 I decided to go on a skiing trip with some friends. I thought the exercise and mountain air would be good for me. On the way, I looked out of the window of the plane at the snow sparkling like diamonds on the mountains below. Before long, I was feeling more relaxed than I had done in months, and I couldn't wait to get my skis on.
- 3 However, when we eventually arrived at the resort, we had a huge shock. 'I'm sorry,' the receptionist at our hotel said, 'but the only snow is at the top of the mountains. And I'm afraid the ski lifts are closed because of strong winds.' Lying in bed that night, I could feel my disappointment like a black cloud over my head.
- 4 At first, I was sure the holiday would be a disaster. However, the following morning I noticed a sign in the hotel advertising salsa classes. I was nervous because I'd never danced before, but when I anxiously opened the door the teacher called, 'Come on in, you'll love it!' In a matter of minutes, I'd learned some basic steps, and the loud rhythms of the music immediately made me feel more cheerful.
- 5 After that, I went back every day, even after it snowed more and I was able to go skiing. As time went on, I realized I had found an activity I absolutely loved. When I got home, I found a local class and I've been doing it twice a week ever since.

- 1 Read Simon's blog post about a holiday that didn't turn out as expected. According to the post, are the sentences below true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Simon didn't want to go on holiday, but his boss made him go.
- 2 He was excited about going skiing.
- 3 He was surprised to discover that he wouldn't be able to ski.
- 4 He knew he would enjoy salsa dancing.

- 2 Which paragraphs include the following?

- 1 a prediction or comment about the future
- 2 an interesting comparison
- 3 direct speech

- 3 Complete the paragraph with the time linkers in the box or in Simon's post. There may be more than one answer, but do not use the same linker twice.

to begin with    in a matter of minutes  
after a while    eventually    in no time

We set off up the mountain path, expecting to reach the top by midday. <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, everyone was cheerful and we made good progress but we hadn't got very far when the weather changed and it started to get cold and foggy. <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ the fog was as thick as soup and we could hardly see anything. We continued on our way, but <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ we became less and less enthusiastic about the climb. There didn't seem much point if we couldn't see anything from the top. However, when we <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ reached the top of the mountain, the fog suddenly disappeared. The view was like a picture postcard, and <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ everyone was happy again.

- 4 Write a blog post about an experience that didn't turn out as you had expected.
  - Include different narrative tenses and time linkers.
  - Use comparisons, predictions and direct speech to make your story more interesting.



HOME

BLOG

PODCASTS

ABOUT

CONTACT



Tom and Sam talk about handshakes.



## LISTENING

1 1.5 Listen to the podcast and number a–f in the order that you hear them (1–6).

- a smiling when you shake someone's hand \_\_\_\_\_
- b an article Sam read on handshakes \_\_\_\_\_
- c the two-handed handshake \_\_\_\_\_
- d Tom saying that Sam shook his hand \_\_\_\_\_
- e how hard you should squeeze the other person's hand \_\_\_\_\_
- f the peaceful origin of the handshake \_\_\_\_\_

2 1.5 Listen again and choose the correct options.

- 1 Sam is thinking about handshakes because
  - a she has recently written an article about shaking hands.
  - b she has recently read an article about shaking hands.
  - c she has just shaken Tom's hand.
- 2 Originally, shaking someone's hand showed that
  - a you did not want to hurt them.
  - b you knew them.
  - c you wanted to work with them.
- 3 Sam claims that
  - a all handshakes are basically the same.
  - b there are many different handshakes.
  - c there are two different handshakes.
- 4 The chief executive clearly thought
  - a that people should shake hands more.
  - b that the way someone shakes hands isn't important.
  - c that the way someone shakes hands is very important.
- 5 Sam says that when you shake someone's hand, you should
  - a look at them.
  - b smile at them.
  - c look at them and smile at them.
- 6 Tom says he never
  - a shakes hands using both hands.
  - b presses the other person's hand.
  - c shakes hands with anyone.

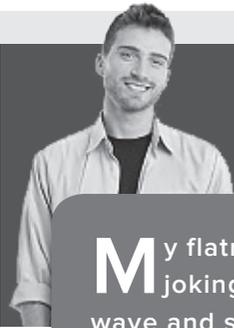
## READING

1 Read Daniel's blog on page 7 and choose the best summary.

- a He would like to become a better person generally.
- b He would like to make more friends and generally be more sociable.
- c He would like to be better at telling jokes.

2 Are the sentences true (T), false (F) or doesn't say (DS)?

- 1 Daniel blogs regularly on a variety of subjects. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Daniel shares a home with at least one other person. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Daniel sometimes goes out with Charlie. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Charlie is popular because he is good at listening to people. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Daniel's neighbour was pleased to see him smiling more. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 He tried telling people about his unusual interests. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 He succeeded in listening more than talking at the party the previous night. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Using people's names more had been a great success. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 He isn't looking forward to the pirate party. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 He hasn't prepared for the pirate party. \_\_\_\_\_



## Being a bit more like Charlie

**M**y flatmate, Charlie, is the most sociable person I've ever met. He has – I'm not joking – more friends than he can count. Walk down a street with him and people wave and shout his name. Sit down in a café with him and an old friend will tap him on the shoulder. I've always been – I'm not going to lie – a *bit* jealous of Charlie with his army of friends.

**As some of you know, my new year's resolution was to try and widen my circle of friends. Determined to be a bit more like Charlie, I found a website about self-improvement last week and came up with the following five-point action plan for myself:**

- 1 Smile and make eye contact to establish that you're both friendly and confident.
- 2 Be yourself. Tell people about your unusual interests and experiences! Apparently, what makes you different makes you interesting!
- 3 Listen. Forgotten all your funny stories? Can't think of anything to contribute to the conversation? Relax! Listen and let the other person do the talking.
- 4 Use people's names (even though it feels strange). People feel special when you say their names.
- 5 Accept invitations even though you'd much rather stay at home.



**So how am I doing? Mm ... I'll let you be the judge:**

- 1 This has been a struggle. It must be said, I'm not by nature a smiler. Two days into my 'be a bit more like Charlie' project, my neighbour asked me what the joke was. I explained there was no joke and that I was just pleased to see her. She looked a little uncomfortable and cut short the conversation. That said, I've had two very enjoyable, smiley chats with strangers (friends of friends). One of them even resulted in a party invitation – result! (See no. 5 below.)
- 2 Bit of a disappointment, this one. It turns out *nobody* wants to know about my love of old maps.
- 3 Interesting ... I went to a party last night feeling tired (I'd been studying all day) but instead of desperately trying to think of entertaining stories, I *listened*. To begin with, it felt strange. Would people think I was shy or, worse, boring? But, as the evening went on, I started to relax and actually *enjoy* the experience.
- 4 Note to self: people don't feel *special* when you get their names wrong. Enough said.
- 5 That invitation was to a *pirate-themed* party this Saturday. Not my usual thing – it sounds a bit like a nightmare to be honest – but I'm going! And, yes, I've got the hat and the (toy) parrot.

**So, a mixed experience in all but I feel as if I should continue. Will let you know how Week 2 goes ...**