

- A Present simple 1
- B Present simple: questions
- C **Communication strategies** Showing interest
- D **Interaction** Are you a people person?



Getting together



Present simple 1

Word focus: Special occasions

1 Work in pairs. Match each special occasion (1–6) to a picture (A–E). Then tell each other which three special occasions you like best.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 a college reunion | 4 a wedding reception |
| 2 an anniversary | 5 New Year |
| 3 a birthday | |



2 Match the verbs with the correct words and phrases. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 wrap | a a lot of shopping |
| 2 wear | b friends and relatives |
| 3 clean and decorate | c presents |
| 4 do | d cards |
| 5 cook | e a restaurant |
| 6 invite | f the house |
| 7 book | g special food |
| 8 send | h new clothes |

3 Work in pairs. Tell each other how you prepare for a special occasion in your family.

For a wedding we cook a lot of special food.

Reading: Everybody's birthday

4 In this magazine article, Linh Tran, a marketing manager from Hanoi, talks about New Year in her country. Find out which of the things in exercise 2 Vietnamese people do before or during New Year.

New Year in Vietnam

In Vietnam, our New Year is not on 1 January. It takes place* late January or early February, it depends on the moon, and it lasts* three days or more. We call this festival Tết. It is also our spring festival, and it is the top event of the year.

We prepare for Tết weeks before. We do a lot of shopping because shops close during the celebrations. We also clean and decorate the house, buy new clothes for the children and cook special holiday food.

On New Year's Day, children wear their new clothes and wish their parents and grandparents a happy new year. Then they receive a red envelope with 'lucky money' in it. We believe red is a lucky colour, but we don't use white or black decorations.

Tết is also everybody's birthday, because in Vietnam you are one year old on the day when you celebrate your first Tết!

After New Year's Day, we visit friends and relatives. Many people go to temples, play games, or watch dragon dancers and other street performances.

And during Tết, we don't say bad things and we don't do bad things!

takes place: happens

lasts: continues to happen for a period of time





5 These statements are false. Look at the article again and correct them.

- Tết lasts three weeks or more.
- People clean and decorate their clothes before Tết.
- Children get a red envelope with a photo of their grandparents in it.
- People believe white is a lucky colour.
- On New Year's Day, people visit friends and relatives.
- After New Year's Day, people don't go out.

Grammar: Present simple 1

6 Look at the table. Then look at the article again to complete the examples.

Present simple with I, you, we and they (+, -)

We use the present simple to talk about ...

1 things that we do regularly.

*I/You/We/They **buy** a lot of food before New Year.*

In Vietnam, shops ¹ _____ during New Year celebrations.

2 long-term situations.

*I/You/We/They **live** in Vietnam.*

3 things that are generally true.

People ² _____ for Tết weeks before.

To form negatives, we use *don't*.

*I/You/We/They **don't get up** late on Sunday.*

People ³ _____ white or black decorations.

During Tết, people ⁴ _____ bad things and they don't do bad things.

>> For more information on the present simple, see pages 142–143.

8 **1.9** Listen to the interviews with Rob and Jill. Look at the list in exercise 7 and find one reason why each speaker doesn't really like festivals and celebrations.

9 Listen to Rob and Jill again and complete these sentences.

- We _____ those big dinners where you just sit, eat and drink all day long.
- A lot of our colleagues _____ to work when there's a holiday.
- We _____ to work during the holiday season because we _____ more money.
- I _____ very happy when I'm not together with all my children and grandchildren.
- We _____ the computer on all day long. We chat, or we just smile or just _____.

Writing: A PowerPoint presentation

10 Write some notes for a short presentation about a festival or celebration which is unique to your country and which you like. Here are some ideas to help you.

The [festival / event] I want to talk about is ... [what's the name of this event?] in ... [which city / country?].

It takes place _____ [when? e.g. in winter / in May]. and it lasts _____ [how long? e.g. one day / two days].

On that day, people celebrate _____ [what?].

People prepare for this event _____ [how long?] before. For example, they _____ [how do they prepare?]. They also _____.

On that day, people _____ [how do they celebrate? what do they do?].

I like this celebration because _____.

Listening: Get together now?

7 Work in pairs. Think about a special occasion you do not like very much, and tell each other why. Add your ideas to the list.

*I don't like _____ I am always so busy!
very much because ... I can't relax.
I miss* some of my friends / relatives.
I spend a lot of money.
It's a lot of hard work. / It's boring.*

miss: if you miss your friends or relatives, you feel sad because they are not with you

11 Use the notes you wrote in exercise 10. Write some PowerPoint slides to accompany your presentation.

Speaking: Giving a mini-presentation

12 Work in pairs or in small groups. Take turns at making your presentations.

TALKING POINT

- In your country, on what other occasions do people get together and celebrate?
- In Vietnam, red is a lucky colour, black and white are not. In your country, which colours have a special meaning?

2 Present simple: questions

Word focus: Getting together after work

1 Discuss these questions.

In your country, how often do people get together with colleagues after work? What do they do? Where do they go?

2 Match the sentence halves to make definitions of the phrases in *italics*.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 If you <i>dress formally</i> , | a you go out with them to have fun. |
| 2 If you <i>discuss a problem</i> , | b you have fun, you have a good time. |
| 3 If you <i>enjoy yourself</i> , | c you pick it up when it rings. |
| 4 If you <i>socialize with colleagues</i> , | d you talk about it with somebody. |
| 5 If you <i>answer the phone</i> , | e you wear special clothes, e.g. for an important occasion. |

Listening: Life after work

3 1.10 Listen to an interview with Laura, a software designer. Tick (✓) the correct boxes in the table below.

Do you ...	Yes	No	It depends
1 socialize with colleagues at their homes?			
2 dress formally or informally on those occasions?			
3 discuss problems you have at work?			
4 make phone calls on your mobile?			
5 enjoy yourself?			

4 1.11 Listen to Laura's answers to other questions. Match each answer 1–5 to the correct question.

- | | |
|---|---|
| a Do you spend a lot of money? | — |
| b Do you talk about your private life? | — |
| c Do male and female colleagues socialize together? | — |
| d Do you play sports or play games together? | — |
| e Do you go home late? | — |

Grammar: Present simple: questions (yes/no)

Present simple: questions (yes/no)

Do	I	we	they	Yes,	I you we they	do.
	need to answer all the questions?			No,	I you we they	don't.
	go out every weekend?					
	arrive before nine o'clock?					
			spend a lot of money?			



In short answers, we use *do/don't*, not the verb.

Do you arrive before nine o'clock?

Yes, I arrive. No, I don't arrive.

>> For more information on present simple questions, see page 143.

5 Read the information in the table.

6 Work in pairs. Talk about the times when you get together with colleagues after work. Student A: ask Student B the questions in exercise 3. Student B: ask Student A the questions in exercise 4.

Reading: It's the journey, not the destination ...

7 Business meetings take place in an office. In pairs, think of more interesting, unusual places for meetings. Write down your list.

8 Read the article about an unusual place for meetings. Is the place on your list?

9 Complete the questions with words from the box.

How long What Where Why

- _____ do companies book dinner trains for meetings and parties?
Especially in North America.
- _____ do people like dinner trains?
Because they can have a good meal and admire spectacular scenery.
- _____ do passengers spend* on board dinner trains?
Two to four hours.
- _____ do people do on board dinner trains?
They eat, have fun or work.

spend: if you *spend an hour / a week / a month*, etc. somewhere, you stay there for that period of time.

It's the journey,

Do you sometimes dream of a very special place for a party? You are not alone!

That is why a lot of people, especially in North America, now have some celebrations on board a 'dinner train'. Dinner trains are often beautiful, old steam trains which have a restaurant car and take their passengers on a return journey* across spectacular scenery*. The return journey is usually two to four hours. The trains do not run very fast, they do between about 20 and 40 kilometres per hour. But for the people who book them, it is the journey itself that's important, not the destination.

Grammar: Present simple: questions (wh-)

10 Look at the examples in the table. Then complete Rule 1 with the items from the box.

do
 subject (e.g. you, they, people)
 question word (e.g. how, who)

Present simple: questions (wh-)

What	do	I you we they	do on Friday evenings?
Where			spend the weekend?
Why			stay at home?
Who			have dinner with?
How			go to work?
How long			want to stay?

Rules

1 The word order in *wh-* questions is
 1 ____ 2 ____ 3 ____

2 We do not answer *wh-* questions with *yes* or *no* – we need to give some information about *what, where, why, how, etc.*

>> For more information on present simple questions, see page 143.

11 Complete the mini conversations. Look at the table in exercise 10 if you need help.

- 1 A: ____ _ you work with?
 B: With Clara and Federico.
- 2 A: ____ _ ____ do on your wedding anniversary?
 B: I have a meal with my wife in a special seafood restaurant I know.
- 3 A: ____ _ you spend New Year's day?
 B: At home!
- 4 A: ____ _ ____ want to learn English?
 B: Because I want to travel.

12 Work in pairs. Ask each other the questions in exercise 11. Give your own answers.

Speaking: Time at work and time off work

13 Work in pairs. Take it in turns to ask each other questions about your daily life. Student A: Turn to File 3, page 108. Student B: Turn to File 33, page 116.

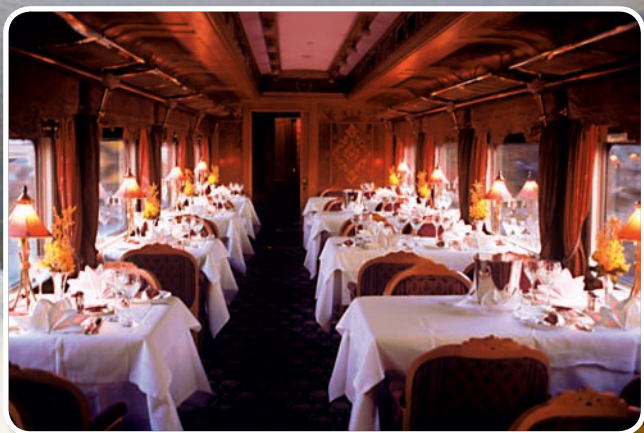
not the destination ...

People go on those trains to enjoy a good meal and the slow journey, and also to look out of the window and enjoy the scenery. Some people even have wedding receptions and birthday parties on them.

But dinner trains are not just restaurants on wheels: companies now book them not only for staff parties and company anniversaries, but also for business meetings!

return journey: a journey to a place and back again

scenery: the things that you see around you in the country



TALKING POINT
 What special places can you use for celebrations in your country?

Listening: Developing a conversation

1 **1.12** In the lunch break, Helen meets a new colleague (David), in the company cafeteria. Listen to two conversations. Which one do you prefer? Why?

2 Listen to Conversation 2 again and write in the missing words below.

Helen: Hi! Is this seat free?

David: ¹ _____. Go ahead.

Helen: Do you work in Accounts, too?

David: No, I don't. I'm in IT.

Helen: ² _____?

David: Yes, I'm the new graphic designer.

Helen: ³ _____, that's ⁴ _____. ... Do you have lunch here every day?

David: ⁵ _____, not every day. Sometimes I just have a sandwich at my desk.

3 To sound friendly and to show that we are interested in the conversation, we do not answer just yes or no. We give some more information to keep the conversation going. Match these questions and answers.

- 1 Do you go to work by car?
 - 2 Do you go out a lot in your free time?
 - 3 Do you travel a lot?
 - 4 Do you do a lot of sport?
 - 5 Do you read the papers?
 - 6 Do you watch TV a lot?
- a Well, I play tennis, and I go swimming at the weekend.
 - b Well, I watch gangster films and football.
 - c Yeah. I read *The Financial Times* online every day.
 - d Well, I go abroad two or three times a year.
 - e No. ... Well, I visit friends, but I don't go to restaurants.
 - f No, I take the bus or the metro.



Well can be a very useful word when you answer a question. It gives you time to think, and it tells your listener that you want to explain something.

4 Work in pairs. Practise the questions and answers in exercise 3. Give your own answers.

5 **1.13** Listen and match the answers (a–f) that you hear with the correct questions (1–6).

- 1 Do you speak any foreign languages?
- 2 Do you go to bed late?
- 3 Do you drive a lot?
- 4 Do you work on Saturday?
- 5 Do you have a long summer holiday?
- 6 Do you surf the internet a lot?

6 Work in pairs. Ask each other the questions in exercise 5. Give your own answers. Do not answer just yes or no! Use *Well* if you need some time to think.



7 When people give us extra information, we react to this information to show interest. Study these dialogues and match them with the strategies (a–d) people use to do this.

- 1 A: We celebrate New Year on a train.
B: On a train?
- 2 A: I always listen to music on my way to work.
B: Really?
- 3 A: My best friend plays in a jazz band.
B: Oh, that's interesting.
- 4 A: We spend our weekends on a farm.
B: Mm. And what do you do there?
- 5 A: Our next staff party is in a castle.
B: In a castle? Which one?

Showing interest

To show interest in the conversation, we can:	Dialogue:
a ask an extra question	_____
b repeat some words	_____
c use phrases like <i>Really?</i> , <i>That's interesting</i> , etc.	_____
d use a combination of the above	_____ and _____

8 Work in pairs. Take turns telling each other about your favourite place for a holiday. Use the strategies in exercises 3 and 7 to show interest.

Speaking: The conversation game

9 Work in pairs. Student A: choose a conversation starter; Student B: express interest; Student A: respond; Student B: react with an extra question, etc. Then change roles. How long can you keep the conversation going in a natural way?

Conversation starters

- I read a lot in my free time.*
- I visit my friends every weekend.*
- This is a photo of me with my parents.*
- My colleagues are fantastic.*
- I don't like this.*
- I want to celebrate my New Year abroad.*

Reminder

Grammar reference page 143

We use the present simple to talk about regular activities.

I go to work by car.

We use the present simple to talk about long-term situations.

They live in Vietnam.

We use the present simple to talk about things that are always true.

During Tết, we don't say bad things.

Speaking: Questionnaire

1 Complete the questionnaire in pairs and discuss your answers.

Make a note of your answers and of your partner's answers, too. Perhaps you will learn something about yourselves!

2 Turn to File 4, page 108. Add up your partner's score and read your results together.

3 Tell the class whether you agree or disagree with the results, and why.



Me, you and them

1 Two friends invite you and some other people to dinner at the weekend. You do not know the other people. What do you do?

- a** ... I go and have dinner with my friends but I only talk to them.
- b** ... I say I am busy. I do not want to have dinner with people I don't know.
- c** ... Great! I accept the invitation. It's good to get to know other people.

2 How do you like to spend your time off?

- a** ... With your best friend or your family.
- b** ... With a group of friends.
- c** ... Alone.

3 How do you meet new people?

- a** ... I just wait. There is always someone who wants to meet me.
- b** ... I use Facebook or other online social networking sites.
- c** ... I go out with friends and go to clubs where I can enjoy my hobbies.

4 How many times do you go out with friends in a year?

- a** ... 0–15 times.
- b** ... I do not go out with friends, we visit each other at home sometimes.
- c** ... 15 times or more.

5 How many people from work or college have your private phone number?

- a** ... Everybody. My phone number is on Facebook, Bebo and Hi5.
- b** ... Nobody.
- c** ... Only my friends.

6 What do you usually do on a long bus or train journey?

- a** ... I try to talk to other passengers.
- b** ... I talk on my mobile phone because I get a lot of business and private calls.
- c** ... I turn on my iPod, play games, read or sleep.

7 You are in a shopping centre at the weekend. You see your English teacher. Do you ...

- a** ... hide behind other customers, then leave quickly?
- b** ... walk up to him/her, say 'hello', and start a conversation?
- c** ... smile, say 'hello' from a distance, then walk away?

8 Which of these sentences is the most true for you?

- a** ... When I have some time off, I want to be with other people.
- b** ... Friendship is very important. We all need two or three best friends.
- c** ... It is so good to be alone after a week's work!