

INTRODUCTIONS IN INFORMAL SETTINGS

Vocabulary

basics – the most important and necessary facts about something

unprepared (for something) – not ready to deal with something

freshman – a student in the first year of high school or university

transfer (student) – someone who stops studying at one university and starts studying at another

undergrad (short for undergraduate education) – the post-secondary education previous to the postgraduate education; includes all the academic programs up to the level of a bachelor's degree

major – the main subject that a student studies at college or university (the opposite of minor)

assignment – a task or piece of work assigned to someone as part of a job or course of study

friend – someone who you know and like very much and enjoy spending time with, typically exclusive of sexual or family relations

(phone) number – a series of numbers which you use to call a particular telephone

schedule – a plan of what someone is going to do and when they are going to do it

roommate – a person occupying the same room as another

chill (person) – someone who is laid back and not overly emotional

midterms (short for midterm exams) – exams in the middle of an academic term

elective – an optional course of study

buddy (informal) – a close friend

cute – attractive in a pretty or endearing way

Verbs

to wait for someone – to stay somewhere until someone arrives

to socialize with someone – to spend time with other people in a friendly way

to text someone – to send a text message to someone

to introduce someone (to someone else) – make someone known by name to another in person, especially formally

to struggle through something – to experience difficulties and make a great effort in order to do something

to regret something – to feel sad or disappointed over something

to get along (with someone) – to have a friendly relationship with someone

Phrases

- to sign up for a class/to take a class** – to join a class
- to have time on one's hands** – to have spare time in which one has nothing specific to do
- to make friends (with someone)** – to begin a friendship with someone
- to have enough on one's plate** – to have a lot of work or things to deal with
- It's been tough.** – to experience difficulties
- If you don't mind.** – a phrase used to check that someone is willing to do someone or let you do something
- to exchange numbers** – to give your phone number to someone and vice versa
- to grab a cup of coffee** – to invite someone to drink coffee and chat
- to have something in common** – to share the same interests or hobbies with someone
- Come on!** – a phrase used to encourage someone to do something

Grammar Corner

We use various conjunctions to indicate consequences or causes of something. The most common conjunctions are *because, so, so that, since, as*.

- e.g. I don't want to call him back **because** I'm mad at him.*
- I'm going to Italy next month, **so** I'm trying to learn some simple Italian phrases.*
- Jane asked her friend to go to the party with her **so that** she wouldn't be totally alone there.*
- Peter didn't make many friends in college **since** he was studying and working a full-time job at the same time.*
- It was obvious that they liked each other **as** they spent a lot of time together.*

We can also use 'hence' to indicate that the statement we are about to make is a consequence of what we have just said.

- e.g. My mother is really into gardening, hence my name – Rose.*
- I didn't sleep at all last night, hence the dark circles under my eyes.*

Real Life Situations

(P1 – Person 1, P2 – Person 2, P3 – Person 3)

Introducing Yourself (1)

- P1: Are you waiting here for Mrs. Owen?
- P2: Yes. I signed up for her Elementary Spanish classes.
- P1: Me too! Do you know if she's already here?
- P2: Mmm no idea? I haven't seen her yet.

P1: Hmm I see. I'm Ann, by the way.

P2: I'm Ian. Nice to meet you.

P1: Nice to meet you too, Ian! I guess we'll be studying together?

P2: It looks like that. Do you know any Spanish?

P1: Just a tiny bit. I took Spanish classes in high school, but I don't remember anything. So I decided to study it again since I have a bit of free time on my hands.

P2: Any particular reason for that?

P1: I want to go to Spain this summer, so I felt like it'd be nice to know the basics, you know?

P2: Yeah, that's true.

P1: What about you?

P2: Actually, I'll be working there for a couple of months, and I didn't want to go unprepared.

P1: What do you do for work?

P2: I'm an English teacher. I'll be teaching English there.

P1: Oh, that is so cool! Are you teaching children or adults?

P2: Mostly adults. I'm not that great with kids!

P1: I see! Oh, I think this is Mrs. Owen walking down the hall.

Introducing Yourself (2)

P1: Excuse me! Umm I mean, hello!

P2: Yeah? Hi?

P1: Hi! My name's Alex, I'm a freshman here. I've noticed that you're reading Shakespeare, and have the same book as me!

P2: Oh, that's nice! I'm Katie, I'm a transfer. Nice to meet you!

P1: Nice to meet you too! And a transfer? Where did you study before?

P2: I studied at my local community college, but now I'm doing my undergrad here.

P1: That's cool! What's your major?

P2: History, hence I'm reading Shakespeare for one of my classes. And what about you?

P1: Oh, I see! I'm actually studying English, so I'm here working on my assignment. Have you made any friends here yet?

P2: Honestly, not really. There's been enough on my plate, so it's tough trying to find time for socializing.

P1: Yeah, I completely get that! Well, if you don't mind, we could exchange numbers and maybe grab a cup of coffee sometime? I think we have some things in common!

P2: Yeah, that would be great! I'm just not sure about my schedule this week, but I guess we could text here and there and see how it goes?

P1: Absolutely! So, what's your number?

Introducing a Friend

P2: Hey, who's that guy over there?

P1: That's Steve. He is my roommate's friend, I met him a couple of times. He's a chill guy.

P2: Oh, I see.

P1: Do you want me to introduce you to him?

P2: No, it's fine.

P1: Come on, it'll be totally OK!

a little later

P1: Hi Steve! How's it going!

P3: Alex! It's been good, thanks! How are you doing?

P1: It's been alright, struggling through the midterms though!

P3: I totally get that! I chose this one history class as an elective, and now I'm regretting it!

P1: Really? Maybe you need a study buddy? My friend Katie over there is a History major.

P3: I don't think I've seen her before.

P1: She's new to here. She's such a sweet and smart girl! I think you two could get along.

P3: She's cute too.

P1: Let me introduce you to her.

P3: Alright!