

Companion to English Communication

大学生のための英語コミュニケーション入門

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FOREWORD by the author

With the whole world connecting instantly via the internet, the importance of a common language is more important than ever. To be able to connect and communicate effectively with ease in English is a valuable skill for both business and pleasure. This requires not only a knowledge of grammar and a broad vocabulary, but also confidence and the ability to express yourself clearly. This book will help you feel more confident speaking English by focusing on simple and practical conversations in situations that you are familiar with.

People who learn English the quickest are often those who have something they want to say. High interest topics have been chosen which will let you talk about your own experiences and learn more about your classmates. This will make the classroom not just a place to learn a language but also an opportunity to learn more about yourself and connect with other students in an enjoyable way, while acquiring valuable skills in English useful for life and study. Topics such as how to organize time, discussion about daily habits and routines will offer insights into each other's lives and also allow you to share your experiences and tips for how to do things better.

Each unit begins with a short dialogue including useful expressions, and an example of how the target grammar point is used naturally in daily conversational English. With an emphasis on active learning, this is followed by questions to ask other students in the class. The reading section aims to address an aspect of daily life while introducing a new angle to stimulate thought and discussion. The essay is followed by comprehension questions to check you have understood the passage. There is a small writing activity, where you will have time to gather your thoughts, look up new words and try writing about your experiences. This is a quiet time to prepare for final part of the lesson: the discussion section. This is where you can talk more in depth about the topic and share your ideas. It may seem difficult at first, but it will get easier as you work through the book.

Finally, we hope that this textbook can help create an enjoyable and enriching experience in the classroom. After all, learning should be fun, and building new relationships is at the core of English communication. This textbook can be studied independently and is even better when paired with Companion to TOEIC Bridge for a complete course.

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STAGE 1
Unit 1
Friend



Grammar Target: Present Tense

Activity 1 DIALOGUE  02

Listen and Repeat.

Clive: Hello, are you in Mr. William's art history class, too?

Anna: Yes, I am. It's a great class, isn't it?

Clive: Yes. I really like it. I'm Clive, nice to meet you.

Anna: I'm Anna, nice to meet you, too.

Clive: I'm new to this area. Do you know a good place for lunch?

Anna: I'm new, too. But, I heard the Blue Star café is good. I'm going now.
Would you like to join me?

Clive: That would be great, thanks!



Activity 2 In-Class Activity: WARM-UP

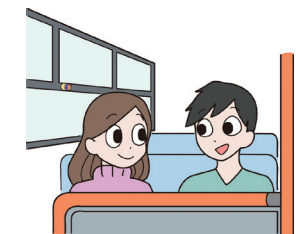
Ask your partner the following questions.

Do you ever feel lonely?

What do you do if you feel lonely?

Do you find it easy to talk to new people?

What do you think is a good way to start a conversation with a stranger?





Activity 3 ESSAY READING 03

Do you ever feel lonely? Most people sometimes feel lonely. It's very normal. There are many reasons why people feel lonely such as: moving to a new area, working from home, being out of work, not feeling very well, or the death of a close friend or family member. A survey called the BBC Loneliness Experiment, which was answered by 55,000 people, found that 27% of people over 75 years old and 40% of 16-24 year-olds often feel lonely.

Even though loneliness is an unpleasant feeling, 41% of respondents thought that loneliness can be positive. It can prompt someone to go out and connect with people, find new things to do, or make time to think deeply. Some people said because of a lonely time in their lives they read many good books, or discovered a new hobby.

The survey also reports ways people help themselves to feel less lonely. The first was to find something to do, something that absorbs you. Other ideas included joining a club, starting a new hobby, changing the way you think, or chatting with people in shops and parks.

In response to this survey, one lady decided to do something to help people and opened a conversation café. She distributed fliers, and on the first day nervously waited to see if anyone would join. Many different kinds of people of all ages came. She made question sheets to help people start talking and soon the room was full of lively conversation. She hopes more conversation cafes will start around the U.K. to help lonely people.



Activity 4 VOCABULARY QUIZ

Find the right word from the essay that matches each definition below.

- (1) not far from someone or something ()
- (2) to interest someone so much ()
- (3) to share things among a group of people ()
- (4) a reaction to something that has happened or been said ()
- (5) to talk in a friendly way ()

Activity 5 TRUE or FALSE QUESTIONS

Read the sentences and check true or false.

- (1) It's natural for people to feel lonely. ()
- (2) Loneliness prevents you from thinking deeply. ()
- (3) Quite a few people came to the conversation café. ()

Activity 6 COMPREHENSION CHECK QUESTIONS

(1) How can loneliness be positive?

(2) What did a lonely time make some people do?

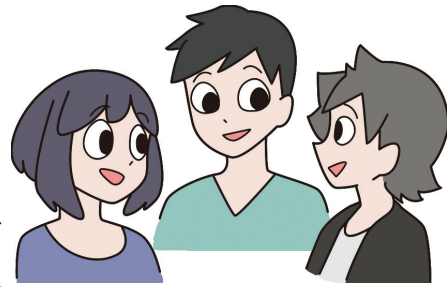
(3) What did the woman do to help her customers start conversations?

Activity 7 WRITING

Write about what you do if you feel lonely.

Activity 8 DISCUSSION

(1) Do you prefer to have many friends or just a few very close friends?



(2) Think of five ways to meet new people.

(3) Discuss and decide the best three ways to make friends.



**Unit 2
Hobbies**



Grammar Target: Infinitive and Gerund, Adverbs of Frequency

Activity 1 DIALOGUE



Listen and repeat.

Chisato: What do you like doing in your free time?

George: I like running.

Chisato: How often do you run?

George: Almost every day. How about you? What do you like doing?

Chisato: I don't like exercising at all. I love going to the movies.

George: What kind of movies do you like?

Chisato: Anything except horror. I can't stand watching horror movies! How about you?

George: I don't watch movies very often. But I do enjoy watching science documentaries.



Activity 2 In-Class Activity: WARM-UP

Ask your partner the following questions.

What do you like doing in your free time?

What do you hate to do?

What do you like to do in winter?





Activity 3 ESSAY READING 05

A hobby is an activity people do regularly for pleasure, not for pay. It seems that people all over the world enjoy doing similar things. The most popular hobbies are reading, watching TV or movies, and listening to music.

5 However, not all hobbies are equal. There are high-value and low-value activities. Low-value hobbies are more passive, a way to pass time, such as watching TV, playing video games or surfing the Internet. Whereas high-value hobbies are more active. They have meaning and often involve learning a new skill or creating something. High-value hobbies are important as they add interest and enjoyment to people's lives away from work and household chores.

10 They can be a topic of conversation, and can increase your social circle with people with the same interests. They give a feeling of satisfaction and achievement.

15 Occasionally, people's hobbies turn into paid work. For many, this can be a dream come true, to get paid to do what you love doing. These people say that they work more hours than a regular job, but that it is more satisfying. However, the downside is that they no longer have an activity to enjoy in their free time. In fact, one of the problems of turning a hobby into a job is that there is no clear time when work finishes. The hobby they once enjoyed can even become a source of stress. But most say that they still enjoy their work.



Activity 4 VOCABULARY QUIZ

Find the right word from the essay that matches each definition below.

- (1) to give someone money for a product or a service ()
- (2) the same in size, number, amount, or value ()
- (3) a small job that you have to do regularly in the home ()
- (4) sometimes, but not regularly, not often ()
- (5) the negative part or disadvantage of something ()

Activity 5 TRUE or FALSE QUESTIONS

Read the sentences and check true or false.

- (1) Hobbies can vary according to the regions people live. ()
- (2) High-value hobbies often involve your work and household chores. ()
- (3) Making your hobby a paid job can sometimes be stressful. ()

Activity 6 COMPREHENSION CHECK QUESTIONS

(1) What are the most popular hobbies?

(2) What do high-value hobbies often involve?

(3) Why are high-value hobbies important?

Activity 7 WRITING

Write about things you like, love, enjoy, don't like, can't stand doing in your free time. Give reasons why.

Activity 8 DISCUSSION

(1) What do you like doing to relax?



(2) What do you think are the benefits of having a hobby?

(3) What are your hobbies? Are they high or low value?

(4) Would you like your hobby to also be your job? Why? Why not?



Unit 3 Commuting



Grammar Target: How Questions

Activity 1 DIALOGUE



Listen and Repeat.

Tetsuo: Sorry, I'm late. I got stuck in traffic on the bypass. There was a bad accident.
Rachel: No problem. I stopped driving to work. The roads are so congested. It was too stressful.
Tetsuo: So how do you come to work now?
Rachel: I ride my bicycle. It's not too far. It only takes 30 minutes. It's good exercise.
Tetsuo: That sounds like hard work. Driving is so much more convenient.
Rachel: Not really. I feel great riding my bike and I see more of the city. When it rains, I catch the train, and I can relax and read a novel.



Activity 2 In-Class Activity: WARM-UP

Ask your partners the following questions.

How do you come to school?
How long does it take?
How far is your commute?
Can you think of one thing you like and one thing you don't like about your commute?

