

Dialogue : **Weather Report**



JENNIFER: It's freezing outside! What happened to the weather report? I thought this **cold front** was **supposed to** pass.

GABRIELA: **Yeah**, I thought so too. **That's what I read online this morning.**

JENNIFER: I guess the **wind chill** is really **driving down** the temperature.

GABRIELA: Can we go inside? I feel like my toes are starting to go numb.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- A "**cold front**" means a large mass of cold air. It can be plural: There were multiple cold fronts this January.
- Here "**supposed to**" refers to something that is intended or expected to happen: I thought it was supposed to rain today. This phrase can be used for many situations: I thought the train was supposed to arrive at 9:00 a.m. sharp.
- **Yeah / Yup / Uh huh** are informal conversational cues used by native speakers in conversation. Each of these responses could be used here for "yes." Gabriela affirms what Jennifer is saying. The most polite way to affirm a response is to say "yes."
- Listen for the emphasis on "**That's what I read online this morning.**" This useful phrase can be used with other verbs to convey information: *That's what I heard on the radio. / That's what I saw on TV. / That's what I read online.*
- **Chill / freezing / cold:** *These words describe cold weather. I feel the wind chill. / I feel the chill. / I am freezing. / I am cold.*
- **Wind chill** is the effect of the wind making the temperature feel colder on a person's skin. This is an uncountable noun. The temperature is 4 degrees, but with the wind chill it feels like -8. These phrases are used in weather reports as well.
- The phrase "**driving down**" means "forcing to be lower" and can be used in many situations. *An oversupply of new houses is driving down sales prices in the area.*

Dialogue : Ordering a Meal

WAITER: Hello, I'll be your waiter today. **Can I start you off with something to drink?**

RALPH: Yes. I'll have iced tea, please.

ANNA: **And I'll have lemonade.**

WAITER: OK. **Are you ready to order, or do you need a few minutes?**

RALPH: I think we're ready. **I'll have the tomato soup to start, and the roast beef with mashed potatoes and peas.**

WAITER: How do you want the beef — rare, medium, or well done?

RALPH: **Well done, please.**

ANNA: **And I'll just have the fish, with potatoes and a salad.**



LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Can I start you off with something to drink?** Notice how the question starts with "Can." Since this is a yes/no question, the intonation rises at the end.
- **And I'll have lemonade.** Notice how Anna stresses "I'll" and "lemonade" to emphasize her choice.
- **Are you ready to order, or do you need a few minutes?** The word "or" signals a choice here. Notice the rising intonation on order, and the falling intonation on minutes (the first choice is "Are you ready to order?" and the second choice is "Do you need a few minutes?").
- **I'll have the tomato soup to start, and the roast beef with mashed potatoes and peas.** Notice that "tomato soup," "roast beef," "mashed potatoes" and "peas" are stressed because the food order is the important information here. Notice also that "tomato soup," "roast beef" and "mashed potatoes" are compound words. The stress falls on the second word in each phrase.
- **Well done, please.** Notice that the subject and verb are omitted in the response; only the necessary information is given.
- **I'll just have the fish.** Anna says "just" here to mean that she does not want a starter.

Dialogue : At the Doctor's Office

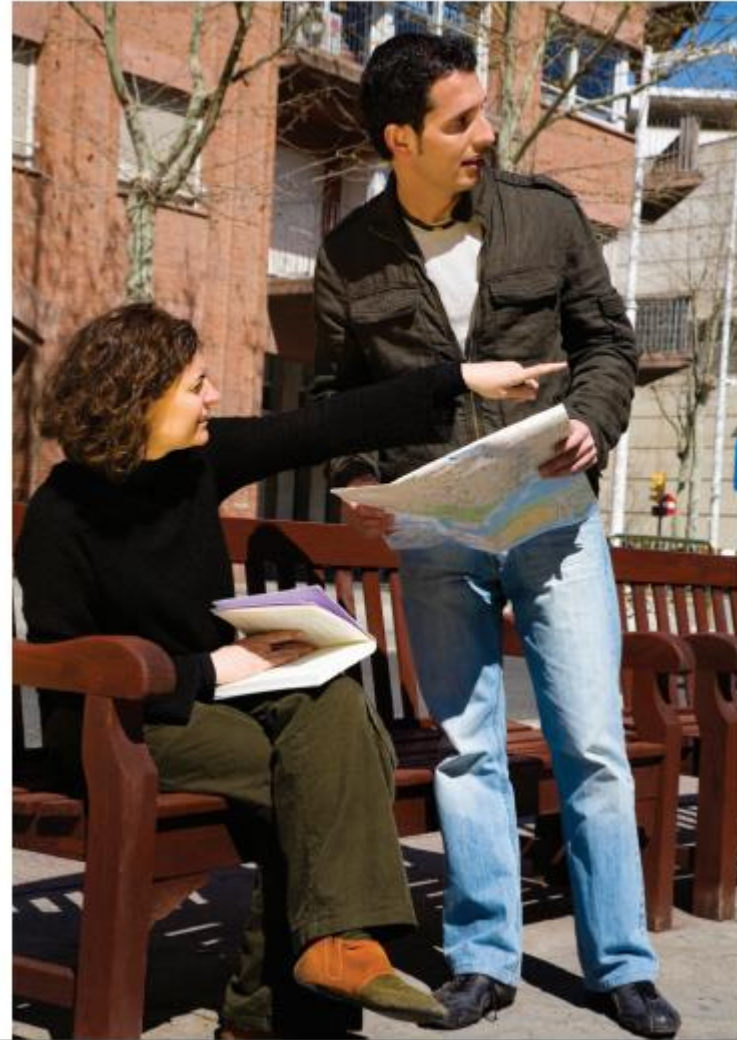


- DOCTOR:** What seems to be the problem?
- CATHY:** Well, I have a **bad cough** and a **sore throat**. I also have a **headache**.
- DOCTOR:** How long have you had these symptoms?
- CATHY:** **About** three days now. And I'm really tired, too.
- DOCTOR:** Hmm. It sounds like you've got the flu. **Take aspirin** every four hours and **get** plenty of **rest**. **Make sure** you drink lots of fluids. **Call me** if you're **still sick** next week.
- CATHY:** OK, thanks.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- **What seems to be the problem?** means "What is the problem?" Notice that the intonation falls at the end of the question. The doctor wants information, not a "yes/no" answer.
- **Well** is used as an introductory word. Notice how the vowel is drawn out, to sound like "Weeeeeell ...". This can be used as a way to "buy time" while you think about what you want to say next.
- **A bad cough ... a sore throat ... a headache:** Notice the article "a" before each symptom.
- **About** is used to mean "more or less." It's used here to give an estimate of time.
- **Take aspirin ... get rest ... Make sure ... Call me:** Notice the doctor uses the simple tense here to give instructions. This is the imperative form of the verb.
- **Still sick** means "continue to be sick."

Dialogue : Asking Directions



- MARK:** Excuse me. **Could you tell me where the library is?**
- NANCY:** **Yes, it's that way.** You go three blocks to Washington Street, then turn right. It's on the corner, across from the bank.
- MARK:** Thanks! I've only been in town a few days, so I really don't know my way around yet.
- NANCY:** Oh, **I know how you feel.** We moved here a year ago, and **I still don't know where everything is!**

LANGUAGE NOTES

- **Could you tell me ...** is slightly more polite than "Can you tell me ...?"
- **Could you tell me where the library is?** Notice that "library" is stressed here because it is the word with the important information. This is an indirect question, so the subject (the library) comes before the verb (is). The word order is reversed in a direct question (Where is the library?).
- **Yes, it's that way.** Notice the stress on "that." The speaker is pointing in a certain direction and wants to emphasize that direction.
- **I know how you feel** is a way of saying "I understand." Notice the emphasis on "feel." The speaker wants to show empathy and understanding.
- **I still don't know where everything is!** Notice the word order of where "everything is." The subject (everything) comes before the verb (is). This word order is different from the direct question (Where is everything?).

Dialogue : A Night at the Theater

SHANNON: What a fantastic performance! Thank you for inviting me to the musical.

ELENA: **You are welcome.** I'm happy you enjoyed the show. The choreography of the dancers was incredible. It reminds me of when I used to dance.

SHANNON: I know! **You were such a talented ballerina.** Do you miss dancing?

ELENA: Oh, **that's very kind of you,** Shannon. I do miss it sometimes. But I will always be a fan of the arts. That's why I love going to musicals because it's the perfect combination of song, dance and theater.

SHANNON: Absolutely! I'm glad you are still an art fan too. Thank you for the invitation. It's always a pleasure to attend an arts event with you and learn something new.



LANGUAGE NOTES

- **You are welcome.** Elena replies "You are welcome" in this dialogue. She could also say, "Don't mention it," which is an example of downgrading. Downgrading a compliment varies with culture. When in doubt, just say "You are welcome."
- When getting a compliment to someone (for example: "You were such a talented ballerina"), you can either accept the compliment ("That's very kind of you") or downplay the compliment ("Oh, I wasn't that good").
- Giving compliments in English often includes using superlatives ("the most ...," "the best ..."). This is the best musical playing on Broadway! / What's the most entertaining movie you've seen? However, compliments can also be given by using the construction "I'm a fan of ...": *I'm a fan of the arts. / I'm a big fan of theater. / I'm a huge fan of this band.* Notice the use of adjectives.