

New  
Edition

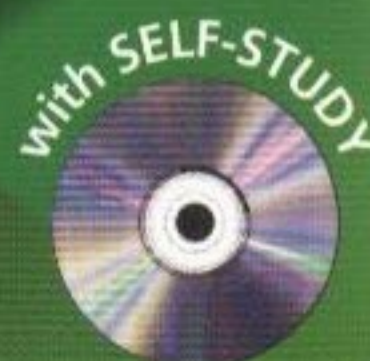
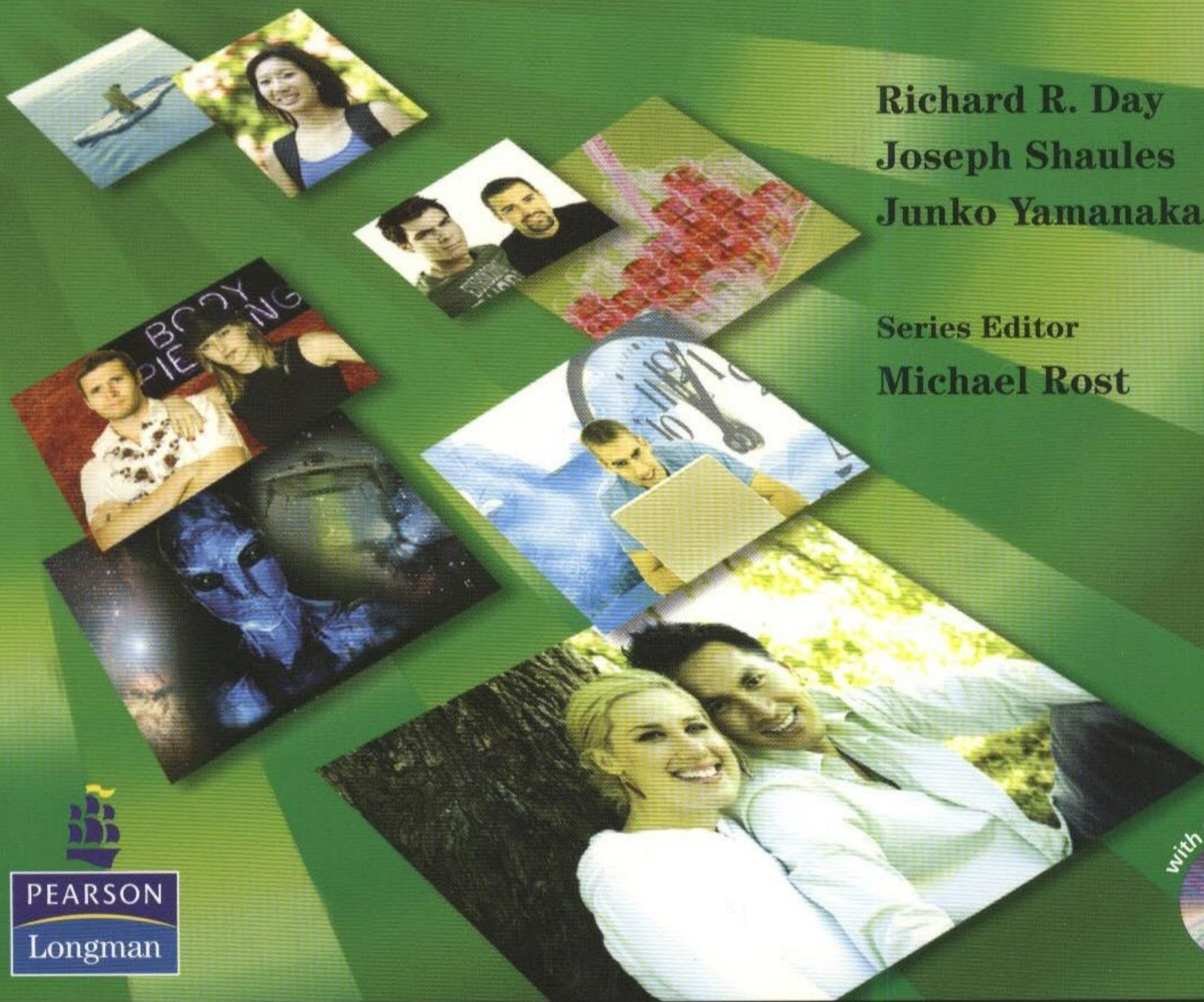


# Impact Issues 2

20 relevant issues for discussion in English

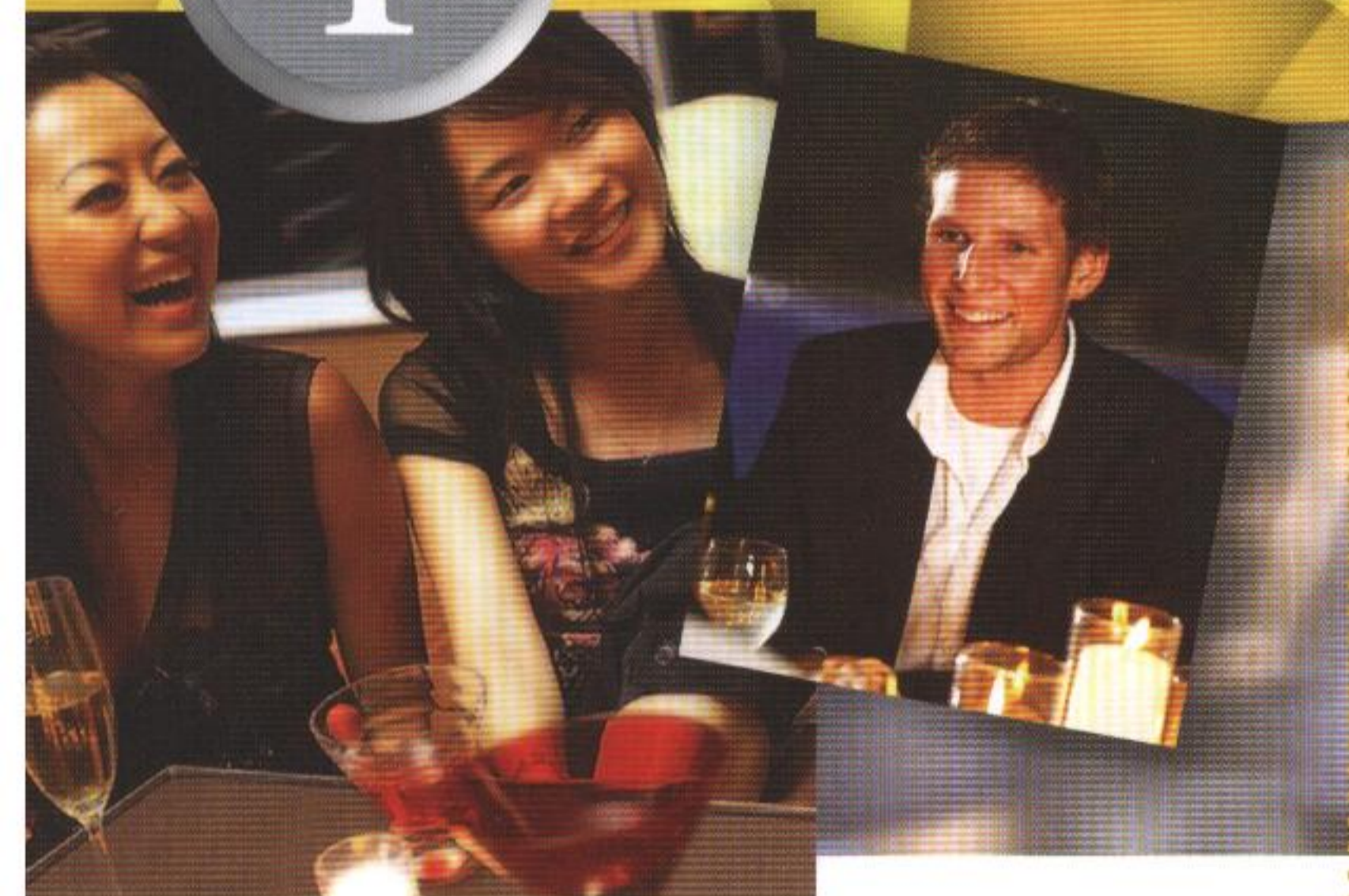
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# UNIT 1

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS



## Getting Ready



Work with a partner.  
Answer these questions.

1. A “first impression” is your first “opinion” of someone. What is your first impression of these people?



2. When are first impressions important?
3. What do people usually think of you when they meet you for the first time?

## Situation

Sandy and Tamara are at a party and have been talking to a cute guy. After the guy leaves, Sandy is upset at Tamara. Listen to their conversation.

**Dave:** So, you ladies are students?

**Sandy:** Yes, I'm a chemistry major.

**Dave:** That sounds, uh, hard. Are you a student, too?

**Tamara:** Yeah, just taking a few classes. Enjoying life.

**Dave:** Oh, cool!

**Dave's Friend:** Hey, Dave! Come here!

**Dave:** Uh, I'm sorry, I'll be back. Don't go away.

**Sandy:** Oh, Tamara, I hate it when you do that!

**Tamara:** What?

**Sandy:** Whenever you talk to a cute guy, you hide how smart you are. You said, “I'm just taking a few classes,” but you are doing graduate research in physics!

**Tamara:** Guys don't like it if you sound too smart. Why did you tell them that you're a chemistry major?

**Sandy:** Because it's true! I want a guy to know that I'm intelligent. But you smile and pretend everything the guy says is brilliant. So they all talk to you and ignore me. It's not fair!

**Tamara:** It's just flirting.

**Sandy:** Guys are so predictable. Only interested in a woman's looks. You're smart and beautiful. Don't hide your abilities.

**Tamara:** Look, guys are afraid of women who are too smart. Besides, it's easier to control the guy if he thinks he's smarter than you are.

**Sandy:** You're terrible! A real man will appreciate you for your talent, not your looks.

**Tamara:** Maybe. Oh, look, he's coming back!

### Check Your Understanding

Complete the sentences. Circle a, b, or c.

- The cute guy is interested in talking to:
  - Sandy.
  - Tamara.
  - neither.
- Sandy is upset at Tamara because Tamara:
  - pretends she's not smart.
  - talks too much.
  - is too quiet.
- Tamara doesn't talk to guys about her studies because she:
  - doesn't like what she studies.
  - thinks guys don't like smart girls.
  - thinks Sandy is smarter.
- Sandy thinks women should:
  - be proud of their intelligence.
  - try to look good.
  - not talk to boys.
- Tamara thinks guys are:
  - interested in smart women.
  - scared of beautiful women.
  - scared of smart women.

## What Do You Think?



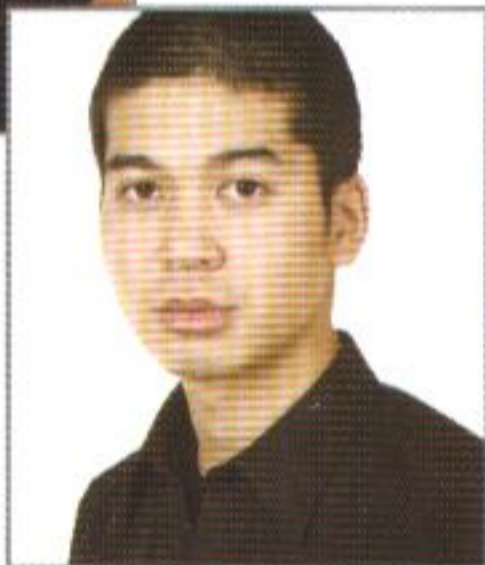
Listen carefully to the opinions of these four people. Check all of the opinions you agree with.



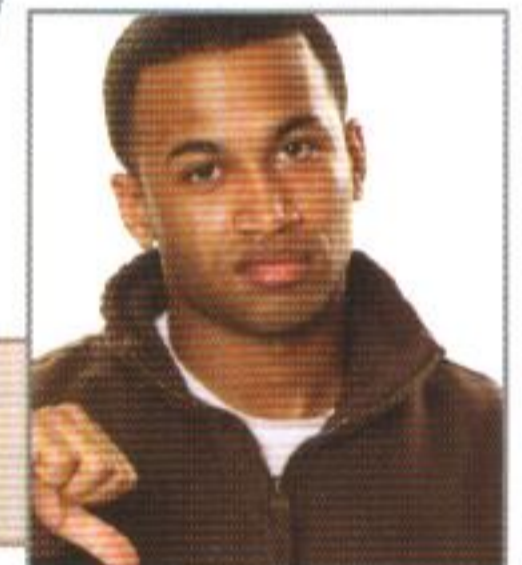
**Anna:** I would never change how I act in front of men. That's stupid!



**Iris:** Guys just care about looks. It's too bad women have to adapt to them.



**Shingo:** Intelligence is really sexy in a woman! Smart women should be themselves!



**Mark:** Smart women should hide their intelligence. Men like to feel smarter than women.



Work with a partner. What do you think of the opinions above?

opinion NETWORK			
What	do you think	of	Iris's opinion?
		about	her idea?
I disagree	with Iris.	She's	totally wrong.
I agree			right.

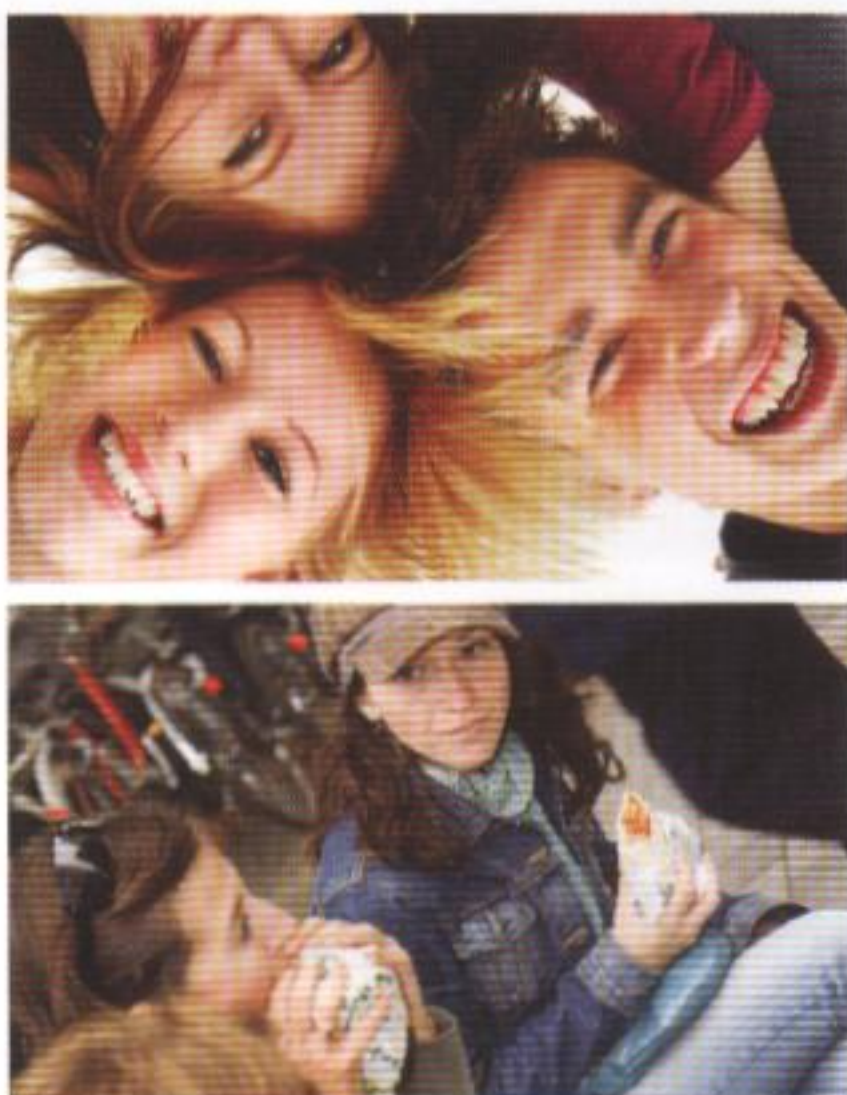
What do you think of Iris's opinion?

I disagree with her. I think guys care about personality, too.

## Extending the Topic *What do you look for in others?*




When you meet someone for the first time, what is important to you? What do you look for in a person? Rank these features in order of importance to you (1 = very important, 5 = not important).



Appearance	Rank	Personality/Lifestyle	Rank
hair style/color		intelligence	
height		sense of humor	
smile		common interests	
eyes		education	
clothes		job	
my idea:		my idea:	



 Discuss your rankings with two or three classmates.

BASIC

A: When I meet a man/woman for the first time, I always look at his/her clothes first.

B: Really? I don't care at all about clothes.

EXTENSION

B: Why are clothes so important to you?

A: Well, you can learn a lot from a person's clothes. What's important to you?

B: A sense of humor is definitely the most important to me. I like people who can make me laugh!



Report your group's ideas to the class. What was the most important quality in your group? What was the least important?



### Culture Corner

#### How to Create a Good First Impression



Dress modestly.  
(not overdressed or underdressed)

Communicate clearly.  
(don't be too shy or too talkative)

Show interest by remembering people's names.

Avoid jokes.  
(jokes can hurt someone's feelings)

Source: askmen.com

# Sharing My Ideas *Introduce yourself*

**STEP 1**

**Choose**

Select one topic:

- The real me
- Who am I?
- My idea:

**Language Hints:**

Beginning and ending your presentation:

First, I'll talk about...

In conclusion,...

Giving opinions:

I think...

...is important to me (because)...

**STEP 2**

**Prepare**

Speaking notes:

What do other people think about me?

I'm ..... and ..... and .....

What am I really like?

I am .....

Example: .....

I love .....

I'm very interested in .....

What are my future plans?

I want to .....

Someday I hope to .....

Adjectives to help you:

outgoing shy kind unkind talkative quiet honest dishonest  
friendly cheerful selfish mature immature thoughtful mean  
generous stingy patient impatient

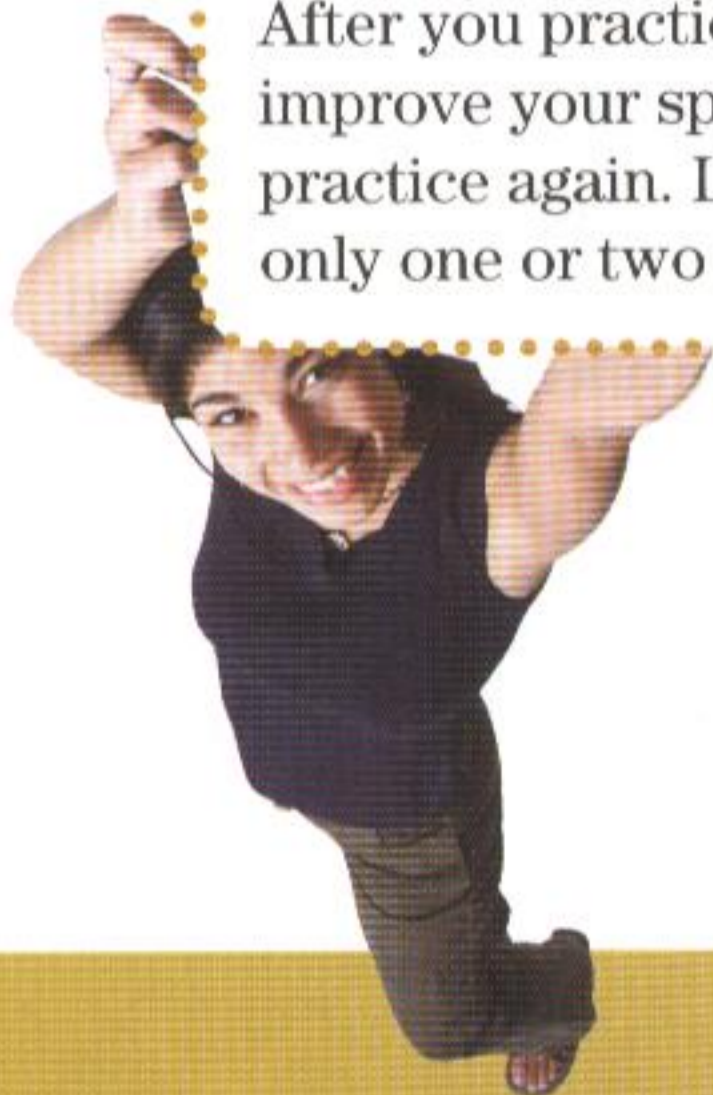


**STEP 3**

**Rehearse**

Practice saying your ideas silently while looking at your notes.

After you practice once, improve your speaking notes. Then practice again. Look at your notes only one or two times!



**STEP 4**

**Present**

Present yourself to a partner or to a group.



Listener task: Write one question you would like to ask the presenter.

**Presentation Tip:**

Take a deep breath before you begin speaking. Sit/Stand up straight.

Getting Ready



Work with a partner.  
Answer these questions.

1. How do you get around every day?  
(bus, train, bicycle, etc.)
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

Situation



In many big cities traffic jams create big problems. Listen to the solutions that some cities have found.

In big cities all over the world—Seoul, Taipei, Tokyo, Shanghai, New York, Paris, São Paulo—there is a flood of cars, trucks, buses on the streets. This has caused terrible traffic jams that pollute the air.

But in Singapore there are no traffic jams and its air is free from pollution. In downtown London, traffic circulates more freely than in the past, and in Amsterdam you'll find streets full of bicycles, not cars.

This happy situation is no accident. It is the result of government programs to fight air pollution and traffic jams. Put simply, governments are making it expensive and inconvenient to own a car.

For example, in Singapore, because of taxes and cost of permits, residents might pay over US\$250,000 to own a car. And drivers must pay to enter downtown on weekdays. In London, those who drive into the center of the city must pay a per-day fee of up to US\$47. In Amsterdam,

owning a car is inconvenient. There are few parking places and the maximum speed limit is only 50 kilometers per hour. Bicycles and trams are more convenient, so many city residents don't even own cars.

What do you think of these systems? They may work, but some people might feel they are not fair. Cars have become so common in our lives that people, rich and poor, feel they have a right to use them.

There might be other problems. Does the public transportation system work well? In some big cities—Los Angeles, for example—the answer is certainly “no.” Because the system is so limited, only about 10% of Los Angelenos commute by public transportation. It's easier and faster to drive a car.

Certainly, something must be done to fight pollution and traffic in the world's large cities. What's the solution where you live?

### Check Your Understanding

Are the sentences true or false? Circle T or F.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1. Every big city in the world has problems with traffic jams.                              | T / F |
| 2. Traffic problems in Singapore are controlled by making cars expensive.                   | T / F |
| 3. There are fewer cars in downtown London than there used to be.                           | T / F |
| 4. The Los Angeles public transportation system sets a good example for other large cities. | T / F |
| 5. Cities everywhere can use the same system for controlling traffic.                       | T / F |

## What Do You Think?

Track 4



Listen carefully to the opinions of these four people. Who do you agree with most? Rate the opinions from 1 to 4 (1 = strongly agree, 4 = strongly disagree).

**Ken:** Every city should do what these cities have done. It can't be that difficult.



**Susan:** These things are impossible in my city! People love their cars too much.



**Luis:** We should do these things, but only step by step. People don't like change.



**Yeon-Suk:** There are other ways to solve the problem. Let's get rid of gasoline cars and use electric cars!



Work with a classmate. Discuss the opinions above.

### opinion NETWORK

I	completely	agree with	Susan.
	somewhat		Luis.
Whose	opinion	do you	agree with?
	idea		think is right?
I	am not sure.	I think they all	make a good point.
	don't know.		have good ideas.

I completely agree with Susan. Who do you agree with?

I think Ken is right. Every city should make these changes.

## Extending the Topic *How “green” are you?*



Do you have a car? How do you go from home to these places? You may check more than one box.

Destination	Car	Taxi	Bus	Train	Subway	Bicycle	Walking
school							
work							
shopping mall							
movies							
friend's house							
favorite restaurant							
grocery store							
other place: .....							
other place: .....							



Compare answers with two or three classmates. Give reasons for your answers. Who is the “greenest” person in your group? Who drives their car the most?

BASIC

A: How do you get to school?

B: I always take the subway. It's the fastest way to get there. What about you?

EXTENSION

A: I usually walk. I live close by.

C: You're lucky. I have to take the bus. It takes (me) 45 minutes to get here!



Report your group's results to the class. Who has the easiest commute?



### Culture Corner

#### The Most Aggressive Cities for Drivers in the U.S.



Source: Automobile Association of America



# Sharing My Ideas *My daily commute*

STEP 1

## Choose

Select a place you commute to every day:

- school     work



STEP 2

## Prepare

Prepare a visual aid. Make a map or diagram that shows your daily commute. Be sure to show your starting point, your ending point, how you get there, and how long it takes.

Speaking notes:




Questions to help you: Do you like your commute? Why/Why not? I (like/don't like) my commute because .....  
 Would you prefer to get to school or work in a different way?

STEP 3

## Rehearse


Practice your presentation with a partner. Show your partner your visual aid.

 **Listener task:** Was the visual aid helpful? Is it missing anything? Tell your partner.

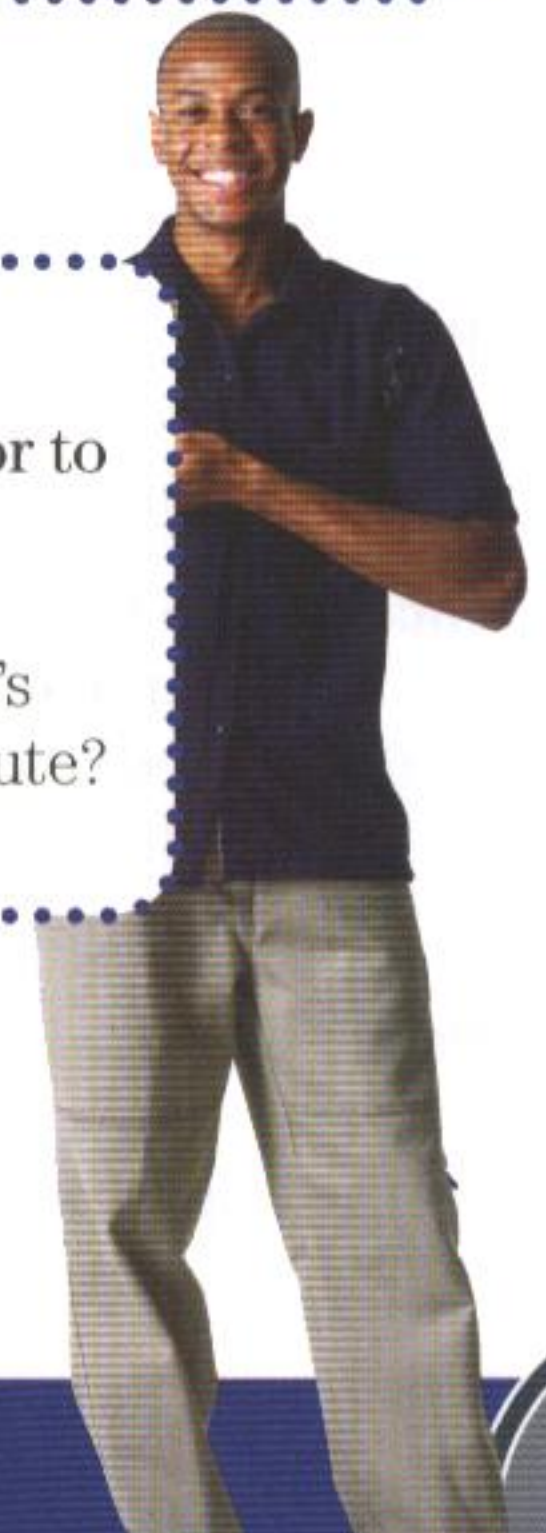
STEP 4

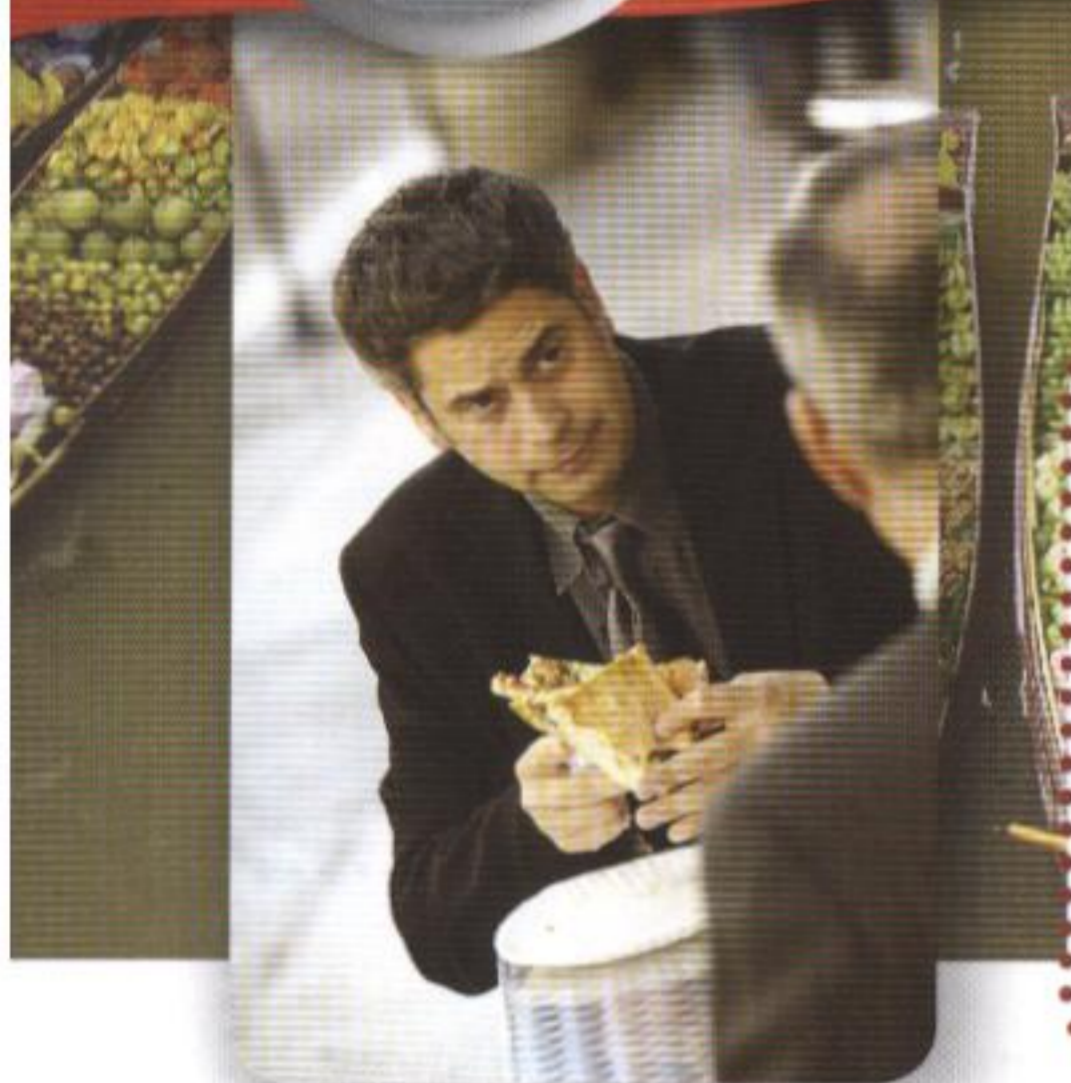
## Present

Give your presentation to a new classmate or to a group. Use your visual aid.

 **Listener task:** How does the presenter's commute compare to your own commute? Faster? Easier? Cheaper?

**Presentation Tip:**  
 Make sure your visual is clear and easy to read.





Getting Ready



Work with a partner.  
Answer these questions.

1. English is an official language in how many countries?  
a) 13 b) 33 c) 53
2. Which two languages have more native speakers than English?
3. What language is spoken by the most people in the world (native and non-native)?

Answers at bottom of page.

Situation

Track 5

Peter is an Australian employee who started working in Thailand at a foreign bank. He and his new American colleague Richard discover that they disagree about language learning. Listen to their conversation.

**Richard:** Peter, I'm going to lunch. Care to join me?

**Peter:** I'd love to, but I've got my Thai language lesson during lunch hour today.

**Richard:** Well, I admire your effort. I've been here for four years and I just know the basics.

**Peter:** Doesn't that create any problems?

**Richard:** Well, you don't really need to speak Thai to work here. After all, English is the company's working language.

**Peter:** Well, I used to work in Hong Kong. The local staff spoke excellent English, but I think studying Chinese helped me a lot.

**Richard:** In theory, I suppose that's true. But foreigners look pretty silly trying to speak such difficult languages. In Thai the pronunciation and the polite language are really hard. I've given up.

**Peter:** Well, I think the local staff do appreciate the effort. I've seen a lot of problems because foreign staff don't understand local conditions.

**Richard:** Well, if I need help, I'll just ask one of the local staff. Besides, studying takes so much time. I'd rather spend that time being productive.

**Peter:** Yeah, it's true. It does take a lot of time.

**Richard:** Besides, we're in the banking business. Money is something everyone understands. It would increase efficiency more if the local staff spoke better English.

**Peter:** I don't know. They spend a lot of energy learning English—I think we should do the same.

**Richard:** Well, that's not going to help them get along in a global world. Anyway, I'm hungry! I'll leave you to your books and go get something to eat.

**Peter:** OK, enjoy.

"Getting Ready" answers: 1. c 2. Mandarin Chinese and Spanish 3. English