

## Preface

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Welcome to *Chat and Share! Topic Starters for Today's Students*. In this four-skills book, students will improve their basic conversational skills while following the lives of six college students in Japan. Mai and Yuya (from Japan) share their ideas, hopes, and dreams with four foreign students: Sophie (from the US), Jack (from Australia), Kaira (from India) and Angelo (from the Philippines). In 15 chapters, these characters will discuss topics that are of interest to college students all over the world, ranging from free time activities, food, and fashion to Japanese culture, the environment, and modern families. This provides a springboard for students to start expressing their own ideas on these topics. Most students want to talk about important things, but they often lack the language skills that enable them to do so in English. This textbook is aimed at lower-level students (CEFR A1 and A2). Approximately 85% of the vocabulary is at K-1 on AWL (Academic Word List) and the grammar structures are fairly simple. Even students who lack confidence or who have fallen behind in their English studies should be able to start talking immediately, and before they know it, they will be able to have real conversations in English. English is not just a “subject” to study in school, but it is a language spoken by millions of people in the world. This book aims to motivate students and to show them that it is never too late to master English!

Many thanks to Victoria Yoshimura and to Suzanne Kamata for providing photos for Chapters 8 and 14. And most importantly, I would like to thank Michi Tsutahara for her keen eye for details and her wonderful editing skills. This book would not have been possible without her and I owe her a great deal of gratitude.

Finally, here is an important message for all students: Remember, you can speak English if you learn the basics and if you keep on trying. Follow your dream and you will find that nothing is impossible!

# Chapter Overview for Students

## Breaking the Ice

This warm-up exercise gets you to start thinking about the topic. You will be asked to give your own answers to some simple questions. Later, you will put your thoughts and opinions to use!

## Getting the Topic

### Vocabulary Matching

You can expand your vocabulary by matching key words from the reading with English definitions.

### Reading

The short readings will introduce you to perspectives of culture, fashion, travel, family, lifestyles and diversity that you might not have considered before. The vocabulary and grammar is easy, so you should be able to read most of them easily without a dictionary.

### True or False

You can check your understanding of the reading by answering the true-false questions.

## Speaking Up

### Conversation A

Conversation A ❶ provides reading, listening, and speaking practice. The natural conversations are like those carried out by college students everywhere. You will listen to the characters' dialogs, fill in some missing information, and then practice with your friends.

Then in ❷, you will take the words and expressions from the previous section to create and practice your own mini conversations. This will help you build confidence to make your own original conversations on various topics.

### Conversation B

Conversation B provides more reading, listening and speaking practice. You will complete two key sentences by listening to the speaker. Here's a hint: the number of words you will need is given at the end of each sentence. These sentences are useful in everyday conversations. They will help you express your own opinion. Then, you will put to use all the expressions you have learned so far in the chapter to create your own conversations.

## Expressing Yourself

### Your Opinion

This section provides you with the opportunity to express your own opinions. Through guided exercises, you will learn how to support your opinion with an example or a reason.

### Writing

Each chapter has a different writing task that is very practical. You will fill out an application, send an email, write an online review, and send text messages. These simple exercises reflect many kinds of writing you will have to do in the real world.

## Character Profiles



### Mai (Japan)

- Sophomore majoring in Sociology
- Head of the International Student Association
- Loves English and meeting new people

### Yuya (Japan)

- Freshman majoring in Economics
- A little quiet, but a really nice guy
- Likes computers and watching YouTube



### Jack (Australia)

- Junior majoring in Hospitality Management
- Outgoing and adventurous
- Loves sports and eating

### Sophie (the US)

- Sophomore majoring in Japanese
- Organized and ambitious
- Loves books and is interested in Japanese literature



### Kaira (India)

- Junior majoring in Business
- Loves traveling
- Crazy about Japanese pop culture

### Angelo (the Philippines)

- Junior majoring in Law
- Likes to try new things
- Good at cooking and using computers



## Chapter I

# Campus Life

- Topic — Talking about campus life
- Opinion — Meetings in the morning or in the evening

### Breaking the Ice

Fill in the blanks with your information, and then practice asking and answering the questions with your partner.

DL 02 CD1-02

1. What time do you wake up every day?  
—I wake up at \_\_\_\_\_ every day.
2. How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?  
—It takes me about \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Do you spend more time studying or hanging out with friends?  
—I spend more time \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Do you prefer studying in the morning or at night?  
—I prefer studying \_\_\_\_\_.

### Getting the Topic

**Vocabulary Matching** Match each word or expression with its meaning.

- |                |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|
| 1. manage time | • | • a. to turn in                             |
| 2. recommend   | • | • b. to put things into a bag               |
| 3. submit      | • | • c. to decide what to do and when to do it |
| 4. practical   | • | • d. to advise                              |
| 5. pack        | • | • e. useful and helpful                     |

**Reading** Read the passage for information.

## How busy are you?

DL 03 CD1-03

Learning how to manage time is important. Experts recommend planning ahead and dividing days into blocks of time. It is important to not only schedule time for school, part-time jobs, and study, but also for meeting friends, exercising, and even playing video games.



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Adults often tell teenagers what to do and when to do it. But college students must learn how to manage time themselves. They must wake up, go to class, and submit assignments on time. Unfortunately, this is difficult for many students to do.

Here are two practical tips that can help you. Prepare everything you need for school the night before. Pack your bag and decide what you will wear. By doing these things, you can save a lot of time in the morning. Another useful tip is using a timer. Set it for twenty minutes and focus on a task that must be done. Don't check your phone! You can do a lot in twenty minutes. After that, take a five-minute break. Soon the job will be finished and you can spend time on things you like.

**True or False** Answer if the statement is true or false.

1. It is a good idea to make a schedule for work, study, and leisure. [ T / F ]
2. College students find it easy to manage time. [ T / F ]
3. Checking your phone often can help you get a lot done. [ T / F ]
4. It is good to focus on a task for twenty minutes. [ T / F ]

## Speaking Up

**Conversation A** Mai and Yuya like to practice English with each other. Here, they are talking about after-school activities.

① Listen to their conversation and fill in the blanks. Next, practice it with your partner.

DL 04 CD1-04

**Mai:** What do you do <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ school, Yuya?

**Yuya:** I usually study in the library. Then I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ go home or go to my part-time job.

**Mai:** Wow. I <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ you're a loner.

**Yuya:** I'd like to make new friends, but to tell the <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, I'm a <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ shy.

**Mai:** You should <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ us at the International Student Association.

**Yuya:** What do you do there?

**Mai:** We have discussions about <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ cultures. We visit some interesting <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in Tokyo. We have parties. It's a lot of fun! Why don't you come to our next <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_?

**Yuya:** Maybe I will. It sounds interesting. I want to study abroad next year, so a club <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that might be good for me.

► Now list the International Student Association's activities.

- have discussions about ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
- visit some ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) in Tokyo
- have ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

② Using the expressions you have learned so far, fill in the blanks and then practice these three mini-conversations with your partner.

1. **A:** What do you do \_\_\_\_\_ school?

**B:** I usually \_\_\_\_\_ home, but today I'm going to do some shopping.

2. **A:** You want to \_\_\_\_\_ new friends? OK, you \_\_\_\_\_ join our English club.

**B:** What do you do there?

3. **A:** \_\_\_\_\_ don't you come to our club meeting this Friday?

**B:** I think I \_\_\_\_\_. It sounds \_\_\_\_\_!

**Conversation B**

The members of the International Student Association are introducing themselves to Yuya.

1 Listen to their conversation and complete the two key sentences.

Conversation  DL 05  CD1-05 **Key Sentences**  DL 06  CD1-06

**Mai:** Before we start our meeting, let's welcome Yuya. Tell him where you're from and say one interesting thing about yourself.


**Jack:** I'm from Sydney. I like sports and eating!

**Sophie:** I'm from the U.S. I want to be a novelist.

**Kaira:** I'm from India. I'm crazy about Japanese manga!

**Angelo:** I'm from the Philippines. I'm majoring in law.

**Yuya:** Nice to meet you all! I'm from Japan and I want to study abroad someday.

**Mai:**  **Yuya, we** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (9 words)  
 at 5:00.

**Yuya:** Oh. I work every Wednesday evening.

**Sophie:**  **Why don't** \_\_\_\_\_ (7)?

**Jack:** In the morning? Before nine? You can't be serious!



2 Take turns being A, B, and C and practice this conversation with two friends. You can choose expressions from the hints or think of your own.

**A:** Before we start our meeting, please introduce yourself to **name**.

**B:** I'm **name**. I'm from **hometown**. I'm majoring in **a**, and I'm crazy about **b**!

**C:** Nice to meet you, **name**. My major is **a**.

**B:** Nice to meet you too, **name**.

**C:** How often do you have meetings?

**A:** We usually meet **c**.



**a** literature / management / economics / physics / computer science

**b** video games / Italian food / American TV dramas / photography

**c** once a month / every other day / every day except Tuesdays and Sundays

## Expressing Yourself

**Your Opinion** Express your own view by answering the following question. Review the key sentences you learned on the previous page, if you like.

### ? Question

Which would you prefer, having club meetings in the morning, afternoon, or evening?

—I prefer \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

—I don't want to \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

**Writing a Self-introduction** Imagine you want to join the International Student Association. Fill out this application form and write a short paragraph about yourself.

► First, fill out the application form.

International Student Association Application Form		
• Name	[	]
• Nickname	[	]
• Major	[	]
• Interests	[	]
• How many classes?	[	]
• Busiest day of the week	[	]

► Next, complete this short paragraph by filling in your own information.

### ● About Me ●

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. Everyone calls me \_\_\_\_\_.

I'm majoring in \_\_\_\_\_.

My interests are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

I have \_\_\_\_\_ classes. The busiest day of the week for me is \_\_\_\_\_.