

Unit 1 So We Are College Students Now!

Warm-up



Presentation

Say a few words about your school.

Example:

I'm a student of Jianghe University. It's located in the eastern part of Wuhan city. We've got a beautiful campus, with many trees and flowers. Our university isn't very big, but there are good teachers. I'm a freshman here. I've been here only about two weeks, but I've already fallen in love with this place where I'm going to live and study in the next four years.

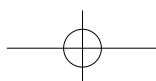


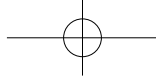
Pair work

You are new students who have just arrived at campus. Ask each other questions that are of interest to you.

Examples:

- You are a new student here, aren't you?
- What's your name?
- Where do you come from?





- When did you get here?
- Have you been to this city before?
- How did you come, by plane or train?
- How long did it take you to get here?
- How was your journey?

Dialog 1

Chen Chen: Excuse me, can you tell me where Building 3 is?

Hu Hai: The girls' dorm? Follow this road and turn left at the first intersection. You'll see the building on your right.

Chen Chen: Thank you very much!

Hu Hai: Guess you're a freshman, aren't you?

Chen Chen: Yeah, I'm Chen Chen from Yunnan. I'm in the Foreign Languages Department.

Hu Hai: How do you do? I'm Hu Hai from Jiangsu. I'm also a freshman, in the Chinese Department. I arrived yesterday. Since then I've spent a lot of time walking around here.

Chen Chen: No wonder you know the campus so well. Nice to meet you!

Hu Hai: (*Looks at Chen Chen's luggage*) Do you need a hand?

Chen Chen: No, thanks. I can manage by myself.

Hu Hai: See you around then.

Chen Chen: Bye.

Notes

at the first intersection

在第一个交叉路口

Do you need a hand?

你需要帮忙吗?

No, thanks. I can manage by myself.

不, 谢谢。我自己能行。

Tasks



Group work

Do you still remember your first day at college?

Work in groups of four. Take turns to ask and answer the questions below. Then have one student in each group report to the class how their group members remember that day.

Suggested questions:

- Do you still remember your first day at college?
- What was the weather like that day?

- When did you arrive at the school? Did you have any trouble finding the school?
- Did you come all by yourself?
- Did anybody from the school meet you at the station?
- What was your first impression of the school?
- Did you get to know anybody at school that day? Who was the first person you met?
- How did you feel the first day at school?
- What were your biggest worries during the first few days at school?



Role play

Work in pairs. Student A has just arrived at college, whereas student B arrived a few days earlier. A wants to know from B where he/she is supposed to have his/her meals. B tells A that there are quite a few choices. They introduce themselves and decide to go and eat together.

Dialog 2

Li Xin: Room 314... This is it. (*Knocks at the door*) May I come in?

Chen Jin: Yes, come on in!

Li Xin: Hi, I'm Li Xin from Henan. I believe we're going to be roommates.

Chen Jin: Welcome. How do you do? I'm Chen Jin from Fujian.

Li Xin: How do you do? Where are the other two? There are four of us, right?

Chen Jin: Yes. I don't know where they are. I haven't met them yet. They may not have arrived. Actually, I arrived only two hours ago myself.

Li Xin: Which bed is mine?

Chen Jin: Which one do you prefer?

Li Xin: Any one will do. Makes no difference to me.

Note

Makes no difference to me.

我无所谓，怎么都行。

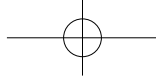
Tasks



Group work

Say something about your dormitory room. When describing it, you may bear the following questions in mind.

- Where is your room? On which floor?



- How big is the room?
- How many people share the room?
- Does it have a desk for each student?
- Does it have a closet or cupboard?
- Does it have a private bathroom?
- Is there a TV set in each room?
- Are you happy with the room?



Role play

Situation 1: A and B are both freshmen in a university, but B had arrived a little earlier than A did. A wants to find out where he/she can put his/her luggage and whether there is a private bathroom. B tells A that the trunk should be put under the bed and there is a public toilet down the corridor.

Situation 2: A has already moved into the dorm room and is trying to help B, who has just arrived, to settle in. The newcomer obviously comes from a well-to-do family and is not happy with the room. A tries to make B look on the bright side.

Dialog 3

Jiang Tao: So this is our room! Pretty small, isn't it?

Zhou Ming: Yes, hardly enough space for four people. But it's just a place to sleep in.

Jiang Tao: Do you mind my opening the window?

Zhou Ming: Not at all. I could do with some fresh air, too.

Jiang Tao: I'm from the south. I may have habits that are different from the others. I don't mean to be difficult.

Zhou Ming: When the other two come, we can have a little talk...get to know each other, you know.

Jiang Tao: Sure. Perhaps we should lay down a few rules so that we can live like a happy family.

Zhou Ming: That's a good idea.

Notes

I could do with some fresh air, too.

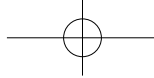
我也想来点新鲜空气。

I don't mean to be difficult.

我不想显得挑剔难相处。

lay down a few rules

定下几条规矩



Tasks



Study the following patterns

When you share a room with others, you often need to ask for their permission or help to do certain things. How can you make requests politely? Here are some expressions you might use:

Asking for permission	Responding
May/Can I open the window?	Yes, please do! Yes, of course. Sure. Go ahead.
Do you mind if I open the window? Do you mind my opening the window?	Not at all. Certainly not. Of course not.

Asking for help	Responding
Will you please open the window? Can/Could you open the window? Do/Would you mind opening the window?	Okay. Sure. All right. With pleasure. (<i>formal</i>) I'd rather not if you don't mind. It's terribly cold.



Role play

Situation 1: You want to borrow your roommate's book. He/She readily agrees because he/she has finished reading it.

Situation 2: You want to turn on the TV to watch a basketball game, and your roommate readily agrees, because he/she is also interested in the game.

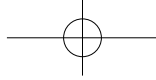
Situation 3: You see your roommate going out. You want him/her to post a letter for you, but he/she says no because he/she is in a hurry to meet an appointment.

Situation 4: You ask your roommate, who is sitting by the window, to open it, but he/she says he/she would rather not because it's noisy outside, and he/she is trying to do some serious writing.



Group work

Work in groups of four. Make a list of "dos and don'ts" for your dorm. Then express them orally in a polite way.



Dos and Don'ts:

Take turns to clean the room.

Take turns to fetch hot water.

Smoking is forbidden in the room.

Add more:

Polite ways to make suggestions:

I think we must...

I suggest we...

Shall we...?

We should..., shouldn't we?

We shouldn't..., should we?

I don't think it's a good idea to...

I think we shouldn't...

Dialog 4

Yang Jie: Are those your parents I saw you talking to?

Deng Yun: Yes. I told them not to come with me. You see, we live in this city; it's quite easy for me to handle all these by myself. But they insisted on driving me here in that new car. It's embarrassing. People will think I'm showing off.

Yang Jie: Well, I quite understand why they wanted to come. It's an important day for them.

Deng Yun: But sometimes I really wish they would realize that I'm no longer a child.

Yang Jie: Don't worry. You'll have more freedom than you know what to do with soon.

Notes

embarrassing

让人尴尬的

show off

有意炫耀

Tasks

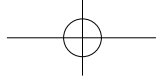


Group work

Stand in a circle. Move around and talk to at least three classmates to find out whether their parents came with them on the first day in college and how they felt about this.

Example:

A: Did your parents come with you for registration?



B: Yes, they did.

A: How did you feel about it?

B: I felt proud, because I wanted my parents to see our campus. What about you?



Role play

Situation 1: A is a freshman who doesn't want B, his mother, to come with him on his first day in college.

Include the following in the conversation:

A's reason(s) that B shouldn't come

B's reason(s) that she should come

A's consent in the end

Situation 2: A is unpacking with the help of his/her mother B, and C, a roommate A has not met yet, has just come back to the dorm.

Include the following in the conversation:

greetings

introductions and self-introductions

asking about the journeys

talking about their first impressions of campus life in general

giving wishes that the roommates will get along well

C's wish that B will have a safe journey home

Dialog 5

Wang Yan: How do you feel—being a college student now, I mean?

Li Jun: Very excited. You don't know how hard I've worked to get into this university. How about you?

Wang Yan: It's a dream come true for me, too. You know, not many young people from where I come from can get a chance to go to college. My home village is deep in the mountains, quite out of the way.

Li Jun: Don't tell me it's been your first time in Beijing.

Wang Yan: In fact, it's been the first time for me to be out of my home village.

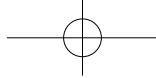
Notes

a dream come true (= a dream that has come true)

终于实现了的梦想

out of the way

十分偏僻的；交通不便的



Tasks



Pair work

Tell each other your experience on the following topics.

- Describe how you waited for the admission notice.
- Describe how people came to congratulate you when they heard you had been admitted.
- Describe how you went around to say good-bye to your teachers and friends.
- Describe how your parents prepared for your leaving.
- Describe your journey to the new school.



Group work

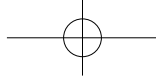
Work in groups of four. Discuss things about college life that may upset or worry you.

Examples:

- I feel lonely. I don't know anyone here.
- I've never been away from home. I'm going to miss my family terribly.
- My mother used to tell me what to do and what not to do. Now I feel a bit lost (感到有些不知所措) being totally on my own.
- I've never shared a room with others. I don't know how I can live in such a small room with three roommates.
- I'm rather particular about food (吃东西很挑剔). It's said that food at our dining halls is terrible.
- I don't know what kind of classmates I'm going to have. Will they like me?
- I am afraid I will not do very well in my studies.
- I come from the countryside. I wonder if those who come from big cities will laugh at me.
- I'm told that professors at universities are very severe (严厉).

Passage





Something very funny happened to me once.

I was still at the army school at that time. One day, the school invited a well-known general to speak to us. All of the students had to go and listen to him. I, of course, was also there. The man may have been a good general, but he certainly was not much of a speaker. He talked and talked, but few of us were really listening. Nobody knew what the man was trying to say. It was the most boring speech I had ever heard. Sitting beside me was a well-dressed lady, and I said to her in a whisper, "What an asshole he is!" The woman's face turned red with anger. "Do you know who I am?" she said.

"No," I answered.

"I happen to be the wife of the man you called an 'asshole'!"

You can imagine how shocked I was.

"And do you know who I am?" I asked her.

"No."

"Thank god," I said and quickly walked away.

Notes

The man may have been a good general, but he certainly is not much of a speaker.

那人也许是个不错的将军，但他作为一个演讲者，实在不怎么样。

asshole

(俚语) 笨蛋；傻瓜

The woman's face turned red with anger.

那女人气得脸都红了。

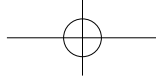
Tasks



Pair work

Work with your partner to practice Q & A using the following questions.

- Where and when did the story take place?
- What did the school invite the general to do?
- Did the general give an interesting talk?
- How did the student feel about the talk? What did he say to the woman sitting beside him?
- How did the woman respond when the student told her that the general was an asshole? Who did the woman turn out to be?
- What did the student do next? Did he apologize? How did he get out of the embarrassing situation?
- Do you find the story interesting? Have you ever been in a similar situation?



Group work

Work in groups of four to make up a story using one of the following two openings. Each person should add two sentences to develop the plot of the story until you can't continue. See which group has the most interesting story.

- Once I had the most unexpected experience (出乎意料的经历) in my life. It was winter, and it was snowing heavily...
- I know you don't believe in ghosts (鬼魂), but after what happened to me once, I wasn't so sure. It was many years ago. I was a little kid then. One night, ...

Language Bank

Introductions

Hi, I'm...from... Nice to meet you!

I believe we're roommates now. Pleased to meet you! My name is...

We haven't met before, have we? I'm... How do you do?

David, may I present Shelley?

Jim, I'd like you to meet my friend Jenny.

Tom, let me introduce you to my best friend Ben.

You two haven't met before, have you? Mary, this is Tony. Tony, this is Mary.

Situational Dialog

(On the telephone)

Yuanyuan: Hello, Dad! This is Yuanyuan.

Dad: Hi, Yuanyuan. So you arrived in Beijing safe and sound.

Yuanyuan: Yes, safe and sound.

Dad: How was the journey?

Yuanyuan: It was wonderful. The train was clean and comfortable, and most of the passengers were like me, students going to college.

Dad: Did you have any trouble finding your school?

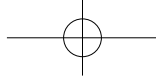
Yuanyuan: No. The school had sent some people to meet us at the station. The school bus took us to the campus.

Dad: What's the weather like now in Beijing? Is it hot? How do you feel?

Yuanyuan: The weather is fine and I'm fine. Don't worry, Dad. I know how to take care of myself.

Dad: Is the food okay?

Yuanyuan: Food is a problem, but I'll get used to it. How are you and Mom? I miss you.



Dad: We miss you too. Be sure to call us every day.

Yuanyuan: I will. I have to go to class now, Dad. Give my love to Mom. Bye.

Dad: Bye.

Tasks



Role play

A is a freshman in college. B is A's mom or dad. A calls B to talk about his/her experience in the first few days at college.



Guessing

You heard A talking to her mother on the phone. You could not hear what A's mother said of course, but you make guesses and fill in the following blanks.

Mother: _____?

A: Yes, it's me, Mom.

Mother: _____?

A: No trouble at all. I arrived at school safe and sound.

Mother: _____?

A: The university is big. I hear there are more than 30,000 students. It's beautiful, too. I'm impressed.

Mother: _____?

A: The food? It's all right, but of course, nothing like the food you cook at home.

Mother: _____?

A: Yes, I share a room with three others. One is from Shandong, one from Hubei, and still another one from Guangdong. We get along fine.

Mother: _____.

A: I know, Mom. Don't worry. I can take care of myself. How are you and Dad?

Mother: _____.

A: Yes, tell him that.

Mother: _____?

A: No, not yet. Classes begin next Monday. But we have been very busy.

Mother: _____.

A: Bye.