



## Unit



# University Life

### Objectives:

- ◇ Learn the basic words, phrases and sentence patterns often used in describing university life.
- ◇ Grasp quickly information about dates, numbers and prices.
- ◇ Understand education in different countries.
- ◇ Learn to listen for useful information.

## Task 1

### Script

Okay, Okay, let's begin. Hello, everyone. My name's Susan Hudson, and I'll be your teacher for this class, Intercultural Communication.

Uh, to begin with, please take a look at the syllabus in front of you. As you all should know by now, this class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 to 4:50. We will be meeting in this room for the first half of the course, but we will be using the research lab every other week on Thursday in Room 405 during the last two months of the class.

Uh, this is the text for the class, *Beyond Language*. Unfortunately, the books haven't come in yet, but I was told that you should be able to purchase them at the bookstore the day after tomorrow. Again, as you see on your course outline, grading is determined by your performance on a midterm and final test, periodic quizzes, uh, a research project, and classroom participation.

My office hours are from 1:00 to 2:00 on Wednesdays, and you can set up an appointment to meet with me at other times as well.

(Length: 1 min. 15 sec.)

### Key

#### A. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What are the name of the teacher and the name of the course?

**Key:** Susan Hudson and Intercultural Communication.



2) When and where will the class meet for the first half of the course?

**Key:** The class will meet in the room they are in now and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 to 4:50.

3) Where can the students get the textbooks?

**Key:** They can purchase the textbooks at the bookstore the day after tomorrow.

4) When are the office hours?

**Key:** The office hours are from 1:00 to 2:00 on Wednesdays.

### **B. Complete the following sentences with what you hear on the tape.**

1) We will be meeting in this room for the first half of the course, but we will be using the research lab every other week on Thursday in Room 405 during the last two months of the class.

2) Again, as you see on your course outline, grading is determined by your performance on a midterm and final test, periodic quizzes, uh, a research project, and classroom participation.

## Tips

This is how the teacher will introduce him/herself and the course in the first class. Brief as it is, it contains lots of information, so it's not very easy to fully understand and jot down the key points at the same time.

Remind students to list the key points—what is introduced first and what next. Words and phrases like “to begin with”, “again”, and pauses caused by “uh” will help them to understand better.

## Task 2

## Script

Librarian: Can I help you?

Student: Yes. I am a bit confused. My sociology class is supposed to read a chapter in a book called *Sociology and the Modern Age*. According to the syllabus, the book is in the library, but I haven't been able to find it.

Librarian: Do you have your syllabus with you? May I see it?

Student: Yes, uh... I put it in the front of my sociology notebook. Yes, here it is.

Librarian: Let me see. Oh yes. Your professor has placed this book on reserve. That means you cannot find it on the shelves in its usual place. You need to go to a special room called



the reserve room. It's down the hall and to the right.

Student: I'm sorry—I still don't understand what you mean by on reserve.

Librarian: You see, your professor wants everyone in the class to read the chapter. If one student removes the book from the library, it is likely that none of the other students will have the opportunity to read it. So, your professor has insured that all students have the opportunity to read it by placing it on reserve.

Student: So, will I be able to find this book?

Librarian: Yes, when a book is on reserve, a student can go to the reserve room and ask the reserve librarian for the book. The student can have the book for a few hours, and he or she **MUST** read it in the library during that time. That way, the book stays in the library, and all students have a chance to read it.

Student: OK. Thank you. I understand now.

Librarian: Will there be anything else?

Student: No! I am on my way to the reserve room. Thanks again!

(Length: 1 min. 40 sec.)

## Key

### A. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What's the student's problem?

**Key:** According to the syllabus, the book he is looking for is in the library, but he couldn't find it.

- 2) What's the meaning of "on reserve"?

**Key:** That means the student cannot find the book on the shelves in its usual place. She/He needs to go to a special room called the reserve room.

- 3) Why does the professor put the books on reserve?

**Key:** The professor wants every one in the class to read the chapter. If one student removes the book from the library, it is likely that none of the other students will have the opportunity to read it. So, the professor has insured that all students have the opportunity to read it by placing it on reserve.

### B. Decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the tape.

- 1) The student has the syllabus in his hand all the time. [ F ]



- 2) The reserve room is down the hall and to the right. [ T ]
- 3) Once the students find the book on reserve, they can read it for a very long time. [ F ]

## Tips

The library is very important for students. However, Chinese students studying in English-speaking countries may not know the language frequently used in libraries. Therefore, we have Task 2 and Task 3 in this unit. When dealing with Task 2, teachers are advised to make sure students know what “on reserve” is and why a book should be put “on reserve” in a library. After the second listening, the students should be able to pick out the detailed information in this task and answer Question B.

## Task 3

## Script

Hello and welcome to the university library. This taped tour will introduce you to our library facilities and operating hours.

First of all, the library’s collection of books, reference materials, and other resources are found on levels one to four of this building. Level one houses our humanities and map collections. On level two, you will find our circulation desk, current periodicals and journals, and our copy facilities. Our science and engineering sections can be found on level three. You can also find back issues of periodicals and journals older than six months on this level. Finally, group study rooms, our microfilm collection, and the multimedia center are located on level four.

Undergraduate students can check out up to five books for two weeks. Graduate students can check out fifteen books for two months. Books can be renewed up to two times. There is a 50-cents-a-day late fee for overdue books up to a maximum of \$15. Periodicals and reference books cannot be checked out.

The library is open weekdays, 8:00 am to 10:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 8:30 pm. The library is closed on Sundays.

(Length: 1 min. 45 sec.)



# Key

## A. Choose the best answer to complete each of the following sentences.

- 1) Level one houses \_\_\_\_\_. ( ← **C** )
- a) current periodicals and journals      b) our copy facilities  
c) our humanities and map collections      d) our science and engineering sections
- 2) Back issues of periodicals and journals older than six months are located on level \_\_\_\_\_. ( ← **C** )
- a) one      b) two      c) three      d) four

## B. Fill in the blanks with what you hear on the tape.

Undergraduate students can check out up to five books for two weeks. Graduate students can check out fifteen books for two months. Books can be renewed up to two times. There is a 50-cents-a-day late fee for overdue books up to a maximum of \$15. Periodicals and reference books cannot be checked out.

The library is open weekdays, 8:00 am to 10:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 8:30 pm. The library is closed on Sundays.

# Tips

In some countries, when you are visiting a museum, a library, or some ancient historic sites, you can have a taped tour, during which a rented tape is talking to you to help you know that place instead of a tour guide showing you around. This task is an example of that.

After the first listening, check students if they at least know what kind of books are placed on each level.

Then, students should get familiar with the following words and phrases: the humanities and map collections, circulation desk, current periodicals and journals, copy facilities, back issues of periodicals and journals older than six months, group study rooms, microfilm collection, and multi-media center, to check out books, to renew books, a 50-cents-a-day late fee for overdue books up to a maximum of \$15, etc.



## Task 4

### Script

Randall: Hi Faith. Do you have a minute?

Faith: Sure. What's up?

Randall: Well, I just wanted to go over the schedule for Wednesday's orientation meeting to make sure everything is ready.

Faith: Okay. Here's a copy of the tentative schedule. [OK.] Now, the registration starts at 8:30 and goes until 9:15. [All right.] Then, the orientation meeting will commence at 9:30.

Randall: Okay. Now, we had planned originally for the meeting to go until 10:30, but now we have someone from the international center coming to speak to the students on extra-curricular activities, so how about ending the meeting around 11?

Faith: Fine. And, uh, then students will take the placement tests from 11:15 until noon [OK.], followed by 20-minute break before lunch. [OK.] And, immediately after lunch, we have reserved a campus shuttle to give students a 45-minute tour starting at 1:30. [Oh. OK.] We want to show students around the university, including the union building, the library, and the student services building.

Randall: Great. Now, how about the oral interviews?

Faith: Well, we're planning to start them at 2:15.

Randall: Uh, well, teachers are going to be up to their ears in preparations, and they'll be hard pressed to start then.

Faith: OK, let's get things rolling around 2:45.

Randall: OK, here, let me jot that down. Uh, could you grab a pen off my desk?

Faith: Right. Finding anything on your desk is like finding a needle in a haystack. [Oh, it's not that bad.] Here, use mine.

Randall: OK. And we'll need a 150 copies of this programme guide by then.

Faith: Hey. That's a tall order on such short notice! How about lending me a hand to put things together [OK.] by this afternoon so we don't have to worry about them?

Randall: OK. And I think the manager has given the green light to go ahead and use the more expensive paper and binding for the guides this time.

Faith: OK. So the interviews will go from 2:45 until, let's say, 4:30. [OK.] I hope we can wrap things up by 5.



Randall: Great. I think the bottom line is to keep things running smoothly throughout the day.

Faith: I agree. I'll pass this schedule by the director for a final look.

(Length: 3 min. 15 sec.)

## Key

### A. Complete the following schedule according to the dialogue.

ACTIVITIES	TIME TO BEGIN	TIME TO FINISH
registration	8:30	9:15
the orientation meeting	9:30	around 11
the placement tests	11:15	noon
tour around the campus	1:30	2:15
the oral interviews	2:45	4:30

### B. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Why do they change the ending time of the orientation meeting?

**Key:** Because now they have someone from the international center coming to speak to the students on extracurricular activities.

- 2) What do they want the students to see during the shuttle tour?

**Key:** They want to show students around the university, including the union building, the library, and the student services building.

### C. Complete the following sentences with what you hear on the tape.

- Uh, well, teachers are going to be up to their ears in preparations, and they'll be hard pressed to start then.
- Okay, here, let me jot that down. Uh, could you grab a pen off my desk?
- Finding anything on your desk is like finding a needle in a haystack.
- Great. I think the bottom line is to keep things running smoothly throughout the day.

## Tips

An orientation is a good start for the freshmen in a university. In this dialogue, some phrases may not be easy for students to understand. So remind them the importance of previewing the Listen-



ing Aids before they come to the class.

Play the tape twice and see how well they can complete the schedule.

## Task 5

### Script

Receptionist: Good morning. Can I help you?

Student: Yes, please. I would want to have some information about the... erm... the courses at Swan School.

Receptionist: Is that a summer course you're interested in?

Student: Yes. Yes, please.

Receptionist: Yes. Fine. OK. Well, we have... erm... short intensive full-time courses during the summer.

Student: Mm-mm. I would want to know the length of one course.

Receptionist: Yes. Each course lasts for three weeks.

Student: How many hours per week, please?

Receptionist: Well, it's about 23 hours a week. Usually four and a half days each week.

Student: You must have a lot of students in the class, haven't you?

Receptionist: We have a lot of students in the school but in the classes only about between 12 and 14 students.

Student: 12 and 14. Could you please give me the dates of the first and the second course?

Receptionist: Yes, certainly. The first course begins on the 3rd of July and lasts until the 20th of July and the second course is from the 24th of July until the 10th of August.

Student: What about the fees per course?

Receptionist: Yes, each... each course costs £150 plus VAT, which is 15 percent, and a £5 registration fee.

Student: And deposit, please?

Receptionist: Yes. For each course we need a deposit of £20 and the £5 registration fee.

Student: Oh thank you. Do we have to find our... our own accommodation?

Receptionist: No, we can do that for you. We have a lady who arranges the accommodation for you with Oxford families.

Student: How much does it cost?



Receptionist: Well, you can choose to have bed and breakfast only which is £20 a week, or bed, breakfast and dinner which is about £27 a week.

Student: £27. Thank you very much.

Receptionist: You're welcome.

(Length: 1 min. 47 sec.)

## Key

### Answer the following questions.

1) What does the student want?

**Key:** The student wants to have some information about the courses at Swan School.

2) How long will a course last?

**Key:** Each course lasts for three weeks.

3) How many hours of classes are there in a week? And how many days?

**Key:** It's about 23 hours a week. Usually four and a half days each week.

4) What are the dates of the first and the second course?

**Key:** The first course begins on the 3rd of July and lasts until the 20th of July and the second course is from the 24th of July until the 10th of August.

5) What are the fees per course?

**Key:** Each course costs £150 plus VAT, which is 15 percent, and a £5 registration fee.

6) How much is the deposit for each course?

**Key:** For each course the deposit is £20.

7) Where will the students live?

**Key:** A lady arranges the accommodation for the students with Oxford families.

8) How much will the accommodation cost?

**Key:** They can choose to have bed and breakfast only which is £20 a week, or bed, breakfast and dinner which is about £27 a week.

## Tips

Before the tape is played, the teacher may first ask the students to read through the eight questions in the Exercises. Then students can have a vague structure in mind, rather than listen randomly. For this dialogue, more questions can be asked, for example: Who are the speakers? Is the student satisfied with the information he got from the talk?



## Task 6

### Script

Every year, high school juniors and seniors from across the US take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT I)

The SAT I is a three-hour exam that tests students' math and verbal skills. Most universities will not accept students without this test. It is also used to help decide how much financial aid should be given to each student.

Scores range from 200 to 800 for each part. There is a total of 1,600 points. The test is held every year from October to June. But seniors must take it before December in order to include their scores in their university applications. The average total score for an American high school student is around 1,000.

A poor SAT score can prevent a student from going to a good university. Students who want to go to one of American's best universities, such as Harvard or Yale, must score between 1,430 and 1,600.

The test can be taken over and over again, but all the scores will appear on the students' records. However, unlike Chinese universities, the score is not the only thing needed. American universities also look at a student's subject grades, what they do outside of school, and their teachers' recommendations.

In addition to the SAT I, some universities require high school students to take at least three SAT IIs. These one-hour exams can be taken in any subject, for example chemistry or French.

(Length: 2 min. 05 sec.)

### Key

#### A. Decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the tape.

- 1) Only the students who are going to graduate from high school will take the exam. [ F ]
- 2) The SAT I is a three-hour exam that tests students' math and verbal skills. [ T ]
- 3) The average total score for an American high school student is around 1,600. [ F ]

#### B. Answer the following questions.

- 1) How important is the test?

**Key:** Most universities will not accept students without this test. It is also used to decide how much financial aid should be given to each student.



2) How much should the score be for those who want to go to Harvard or Yale?

**Key:** They must score between 1,430 and 1,600.

3) What else will the American universities look at besides the score?

**Key:** American universities also look at a student's subject grades, what they do outside of school, and their teachers' recommendations.

4) What is the SAT II?

**Key:** The SAT II is the one-hour exam that can be taken in any subject, for example chemistry or French.

## Tips

After listening to this kind of material, students should get the main ideas. Freshmen are accustomed to focusing all their attention on the questions, but not the content of the material. So remind students that the questions here are only a means to the end. They listen to enrich their mind and widen their horizon, not to simply answer the questions.

Teachers may ask them to give a brief introduction about SAT, or maybe a general comparison between the SAT and the Chinese College Entrance Examination they passed not long ago.

## Task 7

## Script

Japanese students need 12 years of study before entering universities.

They choose the places they want to go and apply before January of their final year. The university entrance exam is a standard nationwide test held every year in January. It provides tests for 31 subjects in six subject areas: Japanese language, geography and history, civics, math, science and a foreign language. All national and public universities, as well as some private ones make use of this exam. But many places also have their own tests in February or later, before the new school year starts in April.

In order to pass the exam for the best universities such as the National University of Tokyo, many students attend special preparation schools on top of their regular classes. These extra schools can last for one to two years between high school and university.

Although every student has the chance of going to a Japanese university, only 50 percent of high school seniors actually choose further study.

(Length: 1 min. 25 sec.)



# Key

## A. Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1) The Japanese students will apply for a university before \_\_\_\_\_ of their final year. (←**a**)  
 a) January      b) February      c) April      d) July
- 2) The university entrance exam provides tests for \_\_\_\_\_ subjects in \_\_\_\_\_ subject areas.  
 (←**c**)  
 a) 30; 6      b) 30; 7      c) 31; 6      d) 39; 16
- 3) What kind of universities will make use of this exam? (←**d**)  
 a) All national universities.      b) All public universities.  
 c) Some private universities.      d) All of the above.
- 4) How many high school seniors will choose further study? (←**c**)  
 a) All of them.      b) More than half.  
 c) Only half of them.      d) Less than half.

## B. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Why do many students attend the special preparation school?  
**Key:** Many students attend special preparation schools besides their regular classes, in order to pass the exam for the best universities such as the national University of Tokyo.
- 2) How long do these extra schools last?  
**Key:** These extra schools can last for one to two years between high school and university.

# Tips

This task is a supplementary material to the previous one. Draw students' attention to the difference of the three educational systems, Chinese, American and Japanese.

## Task 8

# Script

The School was opened in 1955 and is part of a non-profit-making educational foundation. Its 200 students, from 30-40 countries, work in large, attractive buildings set in extensive, beautiful gardens, within easy reach of the centre of Cambridge. The School has dining rooms, a library, video



filming studio, language laboratories, listening and self-access study centres, computers, as well as facilities for tennis, table tennis, volleyball, basketball, badminton and football.

General English classes are for students aged 17+. Complete beginners are not accepted. Students have classes for 21 hours a week. Other subjects available within the General English timetable include English for Business and English Literature. The cost of tuition, materials and books per term is £1,130. Accommodation is with local families. Lunch is provided in the School Monday to Friday. All other meals are taken with the family. There is a full range of social activities including excursions, discos and theatre-visits. The total cost of all non-tuition services is £670 per term. There are 3 terms of 10 weeks and summer courses of 9 weeks and 3 1/2 weeks.

(Length: 1 min. 55 sec.)

## Key

### A. Answer the following questions.

1) What kind of school is it?

**Key:** It's a non-profit-making educational foundation.

2) Do they accept complete beginners?

**Key:** No, complete beginners are not accepted.

3) What other subjects within the General English timetable do they have?

**Key:** Other subjects available within the General English timetable include English for Business and English Literature.

### B. Complete the following sentences with what you hear on the tape.

1) Its 200 students, from 30-40 countries, work in large, attractive buildings set in extensive, beautiful gardens, within easy reach of the centre of Cambridge.

2) The School has dining rooms, a library, video filming studio, language laboratories, listening and self-access study centres, computers, as well as facilities for tennis, table tennis, volleyball, basketball, badminton and football.

3) Students have classes for 21 hours a week.

4) The cost of tuition, materials and books per term is £1,130.

5) Lunch is provided in the School Monday to Friday. All other meals are taken with the family.

6) The total cost of all non-tuition services is £670 per term. There are 3 terms of 10 weeks and summer courses of 9 weeks and 3 1/2 weeks.



## Tips

Tasks 8, 9, and 10 are all introductions to schools, but the schools are introduced in different ways. Remind students of these differences.

Task 8 is not long, but the wording and long lists of nouns make it sound very formal. After the first listening when students have a general idea, ask them to fill in the blanks.

## Task 9

### Script

This school has a capacity of 220 students. It occupies a 19th century building in a quiet tree-filled square close to Victoria Station in central London.

General courses, either in the mornings or afternoons, comprise 15 50-minute periods per week. We cater for a wide range of classes from beginners to advanced, enabling us to place students at the level indicated by the special entry test which all students take. There are usually no more than 14 students in a class. In addition to the 15 lessons, there are daily individual laboratory sessions and lectures on life in Britain at no extra cost.

There are 8 classrooms, a multi-media learning centre, language laboratory, video, computer, lecture hall, canteen. We are open from January to December for courses of 3 to 14 weeks. There is a special 2-week Easter Course and Refresher Courses for overseas teachers of English in summer. Fees are approximately £46 per week for general courses. Accommodation can be arranged with selected families with half board. There is a full social programme and regular excursions.

(Length: 2 min.)

### Key

#### A. Answer the following questions.

- 1) How many students can this school have?

**Key:** This school has a capacity of 220 students.

- 2) Where is this school located?

**Key:** It is located in a quiet tree-filled square close to Victoria Station in central London.

- 3) What do they have besides the 15 lessons?

**Key:** In addition to the 15 lessons, there are daily individual laboratory sessions and lec-



tures on life in Britain at no extra cost.

- 4) What kind of special courses do they have in summer?

**Key:** There is a special 2-week Easter Course and Refresher Courses for overseas teachers of English in the summer.

**B. Decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the tape.**

- 1) This school accepts only beginners. [ F ]  
2) Generally speaking there are 24 students in a class. [ F ]  
3) Accommodation can be arranged with selected families with half-board. [ T ]

## Task 10

### Script

This school, founded in 1953, is a non-profit making Charitable Trust. Situated in residential North Oxford, 3 km from the city centre, the College occupies a complex of purpose-built blocks and 14 large Victorian houses providing academic and residential accommodation. Facilities include an excellent library, video room, language laboratories, computer room, science laboratories, assembly hall and coffee bar.

A particular benefit for the EFL student is the opportunity to live and study with native English speakers taking the two-year International Baccalaureate course, or courses at university level.

All students are encouraged to participate in social and extracurricular activities including sports, horse riding, drama, art, crafts, photography, films, concerts and excursions.

Academic Year Courses (21 hours per week) leading to all principal EFL examinations, concentrate on language with selected studies in Literature, Politics, History, Art History, and Computing. Most students live in college houses each supervised by a resident warden, but some prefer family accommodation.

(Length: 2 min. )

### Key

**A. Answer the following questions.**

- 1) What kind of school is it?



**Key:** This school, founded in 1953, is a non-profit making Charitable Trust.

2) Where is the school?

**Key:** It is situated in residential North Oxford, 3 km from the city centre.

3) What is the benefit for the EFL student?

**Key:** A particular benefit for the EFL student is the opportunity to live and study with native English speakers taking the two-year International Baccalaureate course, or courses at university level.

4) What extracurricular activities do they have?

**Key:** Their extracurricular activities include sports, horse riding, drama, art, crafts, photography, films, concerts and excursions.

## **B. Complete the following sentences with what you hear on the tape.**

1) Facilities include an excellent library, video room, language laboratories, computer room, science laboratories, assembly hall and coffee bar.

2) Most students live in college houses each supervised by a resident warden, but some prefer family accommodation.

## Task 11

### Script

Cindy Farrow is Andy and Kate Morgan's American cousin. She is 18 years old. She comes from California, on the west coast of the USA. She lives with her parents in San Francisco. She is a student at Berkeley College where she is studying modern languages. She wants to be an interpreter when she leaves university.

She has many interests and hobbies. She loves reading, swimming and surfing but her favorite hobby is white-water rafting on the Colorado River. She thinks it's very exciting.

At the moment Cindy is on her way to England to stay with the Morgans in Dover.

(Length: 1 min. 10 sec.)