

# 1

# Home and away!

The tense system • Informal language • Compound words • Casual conversations

## TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

- 1 Which time expressions from the box can be used with the sentences below? Make sure the sentences sound natural.

when I was born   never   for ages  
 tonight   frequently   in the 1980s  
 ages ago   the other day  
 in a fortnight's time   recently  
 during a snowstorm   for a year  
 since 1972   later   sometimes

- My parents met in Paris.
  - They travel abroad.
  - They were working in Canada.
  - I was born in Montreal.
  - My grandparents have lived in Ireland.
  - I wrote to my grandmother.
  - My brother's flying to Brazil on business.
  - He's been learning Portuguese.
  - I'll see you.
- 2 Talk to a partner about yourself and your family using some of the time expressions. **My parents met at a party thirty years ago.** Tell the class some things about each other.

## AWAY FROM HOME

### Tense review and informal language

- 1 **T.1.1** Listen and read 'Tyler's Tweets'. Is the style formal or informal? Where is Tyler from? What does he find strange in London?



## TYLER'S TWEETS

Tuesday, September 4, 1:42 p.m.  
 Still sitting in the airport in NYC. Been waiting three hours but seems like FOREVER!

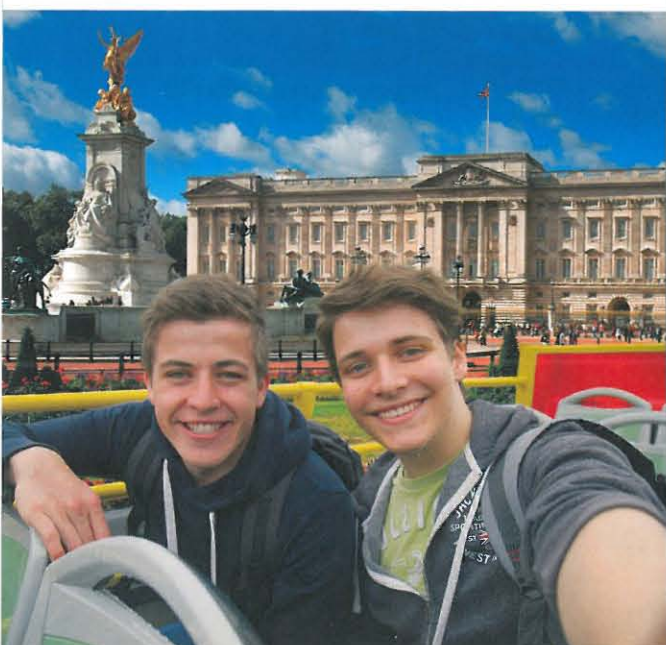
Tuesday, September 4, 3:20 p.m.  
 Just boarded the plane for London. My first trip abroad except for a week in Mexico last year. I'm going to stay with my buddy Dave for a few days in north London before I meet my host family. Dave lives in a place called 'Chalk Farm'. I don't get it – a farm in London?

Thursday, September 6, 4:35 p.m.  
 It's fun here but kind of weird. Dave doesn't live on a farm. His folks have a large apartment in a big old house. They call it a 'flat'. I asked for the 'bathroom' – they thought I wanted a bath. I'm learning fast.

Friday, September 7, 10:30 a.m.  
 Dave and I are hanging out together today. We're on a bus! Upstairs! OMG! Just drove past Buckingham Palace. But they drive on the WRONG side of the road here. Crazy! Also, people say 'cheers' all the time. Isn't that for making toasts? A guy just said it to me because I'd let him pass.

Saturday, September 8, 7:19 p.m.  
 First night with my host family, the Wilsons. They seem very nice, but their house is a million-mile walk to the subway! (They call it the 'Tube' here!)

Saturday, September 8, 11:10 p.m.  
 Big day tomorrow. We're visiting Shakespeare's hometown. He wrote plays and stuff hundreds of years ago. He's mega famous.





2 Complete the questions and answers. Then ask and answer them with a partner.

- 1 'Where is Tyler spending the year?'  
'In London.'
- 2 'Is this his first trip abroad?'  
'No, it \_\_\_\_\_. He \_\_\_\_\_ abroad once before.  
Last year he \_\_\_\_\_ to Mexico.'
- 3 'Where \_\_\_\_\_ Dave \_\_\_\_\_?'  
'In north London.'
- 4 'How long \_\_\_\_\_ Tyler \_\_\_\_\_ to stay with Dave?'  
'A few days.'
- 5 'Why \_\_\_\_\_ the guy say 'cheers' to Tyler?'  
'Because he \_\_\_\_\_ him pass.'
- 6 '\_\_\_\_\_ he like his host family?'  
'Yes, he \_\_\_\_\_. He \_\_\_\_\_ they're very nice.'
- 7 'What \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_ on Sunday?'  
'They \_\_\_\_\_ Shakespeare's hometown.'

3 **T1.2** Listen and check your answers.

4 Read Teresa's email. Where is she? Is she working or on holiday? What are some of her likes and dislikes about the place?

5 Form the questions. Ask and answer them with a partner.

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 How long/Teresa/Africa? | 5 What/take home?              |
| 2 What time/start work?   | 6 How many/collect already?    |
| 3 What/just buy?          | 7 What/do at the beach?        |
| 4 Where/last Sunday?      | 8 What/sending to her parents? |

**T1.3** Listen and check your answers.

From: Teresa Sayers <teri.says@yoohoo.com>  
To: "mum n dad" <m.b.sayers@chatchat.net>  
Subject: Hotter and hotter in Tanga!

Hi Mum! Hi Dad!

Thanks for yours – always love news from home. Since I arrived here last September, it's been getting hotter and hotter. Wish we had air conditioning and not just two rubbish fans. Thank goodness I start work early, 7.00. It's the only cool (no – less hot) time of day in Tanzania. But hey, I have some cool news. I just bought a bike – well not exactly a bike, a 'piki-piki'. It's a kind of little motorbike. Everyone has one. Great for getting around. Don't freak, Mum! I'm really careful, 'specially on the bumpy road to school.

Last Sunday a group of us (on our piki-pikis of course!) headed up the coast to a really awesome beach, Pangani Beach. Incredible white sand, covered with fabulous shells. Did I tell you? 'Shelling' is a really popular pastime here. I've already collected hundreds – some are huge, all shades of pink and orange. I'm going to bring a few home. Anyway, we took a load of picnic stuff and barbecued fish and swam until the sun went down. The sunsets here are unbelievable – very quick but spectacular. I'm sending you some photos with this email.

So – that's it for now. Missing you millions. Can't wait to see you.

Love, Teri

PS Hey – I think I hear raindrops on the roof.



## LANGUAGE FOCUS

1 Name the tenses used in exercises 2 and 5. Why are they used?

2 Informal writing often has lots of colloquial language and missing words.

*Still sitting in the airport.* = I'm still sitting in the airport.

*kind of weird* = fairly strange

*guy* = man

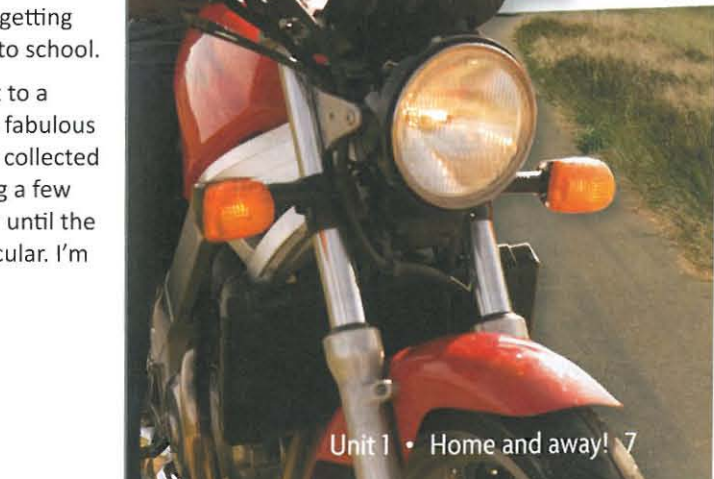
3 Read the tweets and email again.

1 What do 'my buddy', 'I don't get it', 'hanging out together', 'stuff', and 'mega famous' mean in Tyler's tweets?

2 Find colloquial words in Teresa's email and express them less colloquially.

3 Find examples in both texts where words are missing. Which words?

► Grammar Reference p139



# INFORMAL ENGLISH

**1 Write the words which have been left out in these informal sentences and questions, and indicate with **V** where the word should go in the sentence. There are two words for each line. (Contractions, e.g. haven't, count as two words.)**

- 1 **V** Heard the amazing news? Have you
- 2 Leaving already? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Goodbye. See you soon. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Want a coffee? I'm just making some. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Nice to meet you. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Just coming. Hold on! \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Having a break already? It's only 9.30 a.m.! \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Got any plans for the weekend? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Going anywhere special tonight? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Been swimming lately? \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 Got to go. \_\_\_\_\_

**Match the informal language 1–8 with the more formal language a–h. There is one extra phrase.**

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 ___ mega-famous      | a you might be right   |
| 2 ___ hang on          | b how unfortunate      |
| 3 ___ got              | c bought               |
| 4 ___ what a shame     | d too tired for        |
| 5 ___ that's as maybe  | e that's fantastic     |
| 6 ___ don't feel up to | f please enter         |
| 7 ___ great stuff      | g extremely well-known |
| 8 ___ come on in       | h wait a minute        |

**2 Replace the words in *italics* with a more informal expression from the box. There are two extra expressions.**

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buddy	can't make it	drop in	drop out
hang on	<del>hang out</del>	hop in	how come
just passing	take it easy	that's a drag	

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- 1 I'm going to *spend some time* **hang out** with friends over the summer.
- 2 You've been working too hard. You should *relax* \_\_\_\_\_ for a while.
- 3 I'm going backpacking with my *friend* \_\_\_\_\_ around India this summer.
- 4 'Can I get a lift with you to the station?' 'Sure, *get in the car* \_\_\_\_\_.'
- 5 *Why is it that* \_\_\_\_\_ you and Jamal aren't seeing each other any more?
- 6 Hi, Sumalee. I was *in the area* \_\_\_\_\_ so thought I'd stop by for a chat.
- 7 They're really sorry, but they *won't be able to come* \_\_\_\_\_ to the party after all.
- 8 'He's got loads of work to do at the weekend.' 'Yes, *how annoying* \_\_\_\_\_!'
- 9 'Anders! What a surprise!' 'Well, I thought I'd just *make an unexpected visit* \_\_\_\_\_ for a quick chat.'

# Idioms from People

## Reading

Read the story. Then discuss the questions.

### The Real McCoy

Our boss Virgil is a very original person. He started a business from nothing, and now he's a millionaire. Although he is such **a man of means**, he remains a sincere, helpful person. If any of his friends needs help, he's the first to give it. He's a true friend, **the real McCoy**.

He does all sorts of jobs in his company, from typing out his own letters to repairing big machines. He's **a jack of all trades**. And he doesn't bother about **keeping up with the Joneses**. He doesn't care what people think of his life-style; he doesn't have to have a lot of expensive things. He still drives the old car that he bought ten years ago, and he sometimes wears jeans to work.

1. If someone is **a man or woman of means**, what does the person have a lot of?
2. What can **a jack of all trades** do?
3. If you want to **keep up with the Joneses**, what do you do?

## Meanings

Each example has an idiom with people or a person's name. Read the example carefully to find the meaning of the idiom. Then look at the definitions that follow the examples. Write the idiom next to its definition. **Note:** You will use the same definition for two idioms.

### to go Dutch

When I go out to eat with my friends, we usually **go Dutch**.  
This way everyone knows what he or she is spending.

### a jack of all trades

Louise can fix TVs, paint houses, and build shelves. She's **a jack of all trades**.

### to keep up with the Joneses

Kate and Ken just bought the same car as Mavis and Mick, the same drapes as Dinah and Dick, the same chihuahua as Antonio and Antonia. They're really **keeping up with the Joneses**.

### a man/girl Friday

Griselda wants to get some work experience, and she likes to do a lot of different things. So she's gotten a job as a **girl Friday** at the local TV studio.

**a man/woman of means** My cousin has a business that makes a large profit every year.

**He's a man of means.**

**the real McCoy** The large diamond in her ring isn't an imitation. It's **the real McCoy.**

**to run in the family** Omar and his sister are both very thin. Being skinny must **run in the family.**

**a smart aleck** Alexandra is such **a smart aleck.** She always thinks she's right about everything and always makes you think that you're wrong.

**Tom, Dick, or Harry** The boss was very careful about whom he hired for the job, and he interviewed several people. He didn't just hire any **Tom, Dick, or Harry.**

**a wise guy** Don't be such **a wise guy** and act as if you know it all. Other people won't like you.

- 1. a true example of *something* .....
- 2. to want the same nice things that other people have .....
- 3. a person who can do many things .....
- 4. a rich person .....
- 5. to share the cost, to pay one's own bill .....
- 6. someone who acts as if he or she knows everything and is often rude about it .....
- 7. nobody special, just any person .....
- 8. someone who does a large variety of tasks on the job .....
- 9. to be characterized by something common to many members of a family .....

## Practice

### A. Answer each question with yes or no. Explain your answer.

1. When the neighbors bought a Mercedes, Frieda told her husband they had to have one too. Is Frieda trying to keep up with the Joneses?
2. George always wears the same old pants and shirt, and he drives a broken-down old car. Does George look like a man of means?
3. Fabian spends a lot of time and money trying to look different from anyone else. Does he want to look like Tom, Dick, or Harry?
4. Kevin and Mary went out on a date, and Kevin paid for the meal and movie. Did they go Dutch?
5. Chung is always polite and is willing to listen to other people's opinions in discussions. Is Chung a wise guy?

### B. Each example has the correct idiom, but there is one error with each idiom. Find the error and correct it.

1. This ring is real McCoy. It's genuine.
2. Bart is broke because he wants to keep up with the Jones.
3. The president of our company is a woman of mean.
4. What we need in this office is a girl on Friday.
5. Be careful with Ben. He's somewhat of wise guy.
6. Being good at math goes in my family.