

Lesson 1

Meeting a Friend by Accident

**1****Dialogue**

Listen to the dialogue and note the colloquial expressions.

[walking on the street]

Don: Hi, Jun! Long time no see! ¹ How's it going? ²

Jun: Oh, hi, Don . . . great, thanks. How's everything with you? ³

Don: Well, things couldn't be better. ⁴ As a matter of fact, I'm on my way to meet my fiancée.

Jun: FIANCÉE!!! Congratulations . . . I didn't know you were engaged.

Don: Yeah, actually we've been engaged for about a year.

Jun: A year? Wow! ⁵ When is the "big day"?

Don: Would you believe next Saturday?

Jun: Get outta here! ⁶ No way! I guess you must be pretty excited. ⁷

Don: You bet. ⁸ Say, ⁹ are you free on Saturday? We'd love it if you could come . . . can you make it?

Jun: Absolutely. ¹⁰ I'd be honored. Do you mind if I bring a date? ¹¹

Don: Of course not . . . the more, the merrier. ¹² I'll send you an invitation.

Jun: Great. Well, you must be pretty busy these days, so I'll let you go. I'm glad we ran into each other. ¹³

Don: Same here. ¹⁴ So I'll see you on Saturday, right?

Jun: For sure. See you later. Bye.

Don: Bye.

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Vocabulary Expansion

Check the meaning of the new words and expressions.

1. **Long time no see.** = I haven't seen you for a long time. / How have you been?
e.g. A: Long time no see. B: Yeah, it has been a long time. How are you?
2. **How's it going?** = How are you?
e.g. A: How's it going? B: Things are going well.
3. **How's everything with you?** = How are you?
e.g. A: How's everything? B: Everything is great. Thanks for asking.
4. **Things couldn't be better.** = Everything (in my life) is perfect.
e.g. Life is great. Things couldn't be better.
5. **Wow!** = Really!
e.g. Wow! You've lost weight. You look great!
6. **Get outta here!** = No way! / No kidding! I can't believe it.
e.g. A: I'm giving up my job. B: Get outta here! Why would you do that?
7. **pretty excited** = fairly or somewhat excited
e.g. I'm pretty excited about going to my high school reunion.
8. **You bet.** = Of course. / For sure.
e.g. A: Are you free on Saturday to go to the opera with me? B: You bet. I'd love to go.
9. **Say . . .** = Listen, I have an idea . . .
e.g. A: Say, I wondered if you could help me move next week. Are you free?
B: Yeah, no problem. What day?
10. **Absolutely.** = Yes, definitely.
e.g. A: Are you planning to go on vacation this summer? B: Absolutely. I need a break.
11. **Do you mind if I bring a date?** = Is it all right if I come with my girlfriend/boyfriend?
e.g. I went to a party with my date, Susan.
12. **The more, the merrier.** = The more people that come, the more fun it will be.
e.g. Please come to my party. The more, the merrier.
13. **I'm glad we ran into each other.** = It was nice to see you again.
e.g. A: It's so nice to see you. B: Yeah, I'm glad we ran into each other.
14. **Same here.** = Me too.
e.g. A: I'm so tired. How about you? B: Same here.

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Comprehension Questions

Answer these questions from the dialogue.

1. Who met Don on the street?

2. Where is Don going?

3. What is meant by the “big day”?

4. How does Don ask if Jun can come?



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Matching

Decide the best combination of sentences, choosing from Column A and Column B.

Column A	Column B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have you been? • How is the weather? • How are your parents? 	<p>Great. Things couldn't be better.</p>
<p>I've just been promoted to section chief.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great. How about you? • Get outta here! Congratulations. • So, when is the “big day”?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm glad we ran into each other. • How are you today? • Long time no see! 	<p>Me too. See you again soon.</p>
<p>You look pale. How are you feeling?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonderful. I have a headache. • It's getting cold, isn't it? • Pretty bad. I have a cold.

Listen and fill in the blanks, then role-play the dialogues with a partner.

A: Hey, Craig! Long time () ()!

B: Hi, Rajeev. Gosh, it has been a long time. How's ()
() you?

A: () are (), thanks. How's it () with you?

B: Pretty good. I can't ().

A: (), I'm on my way to get a cup of coffee. Do you want
to join me?

A: Maria, where are you going?

B: Oh, I'm () () () to a party.

A: Really? What's the occasion?

B: Well, actually, it's my birthday party.

A: () ()! Congratulations!

B: Yeah, thanks. Say, do you want to come? The (),
the ()!

A: Sure, I'd love to come. I'm glad I () () you.

A: I guess you must be () excited about the "big game" on
Wednesday.

B: Yeah, I guess so. I've been () really hard lately. In fact,
I'm () () () to the gym now.

A: ()! You really are dedicated, aren't you?

B: () (). This is an important game for the team.

A: Well, good luck on Wednesday.

B: Thanks.

Read about American culture and answer the questions using information from the reading.

American Weddings

Most often, people in America are invited to a wedding by a formal invitation that arrives in the mail. The names on the envelope will specify who is invited: the person, his or her spouse or partner, and usually their children.

If a single person is invited, the invitation will often include the person's name and the words "and guest." This means that the person who is invited can bring someone with him or her to the wedding and reception.

Generally, receptions in America usually tend to be less formal than in Japan. For instance, often food is served buffet-style, no long speeches are given, and there are not usually assigned seats for the guests. People can generally sit wherever they want to without worrying about the status and position of the other guests. The wedding couple, their parents, and the bridal attendants do have special seats, however. The groom's "best man" will often make a toast to the couple, which is very short. People are free to move around, eat, drink, and dance as they please.

Traditionally, the bride's family pays for the entire wedding and reception, but recently it has become common for both families to share in the costs. The guests are not asked to pay an "attendance fee" and the couple does not give gifts to the guests. Instead, the guests bring the new couple gifts (either something that they can use in their new home or money).

There are no specific rules concerning how much a gift should cost or how much money a guest should give to the new couple. Really close friends and family members may give the couple a kitchen appliance or a piece of furniture. Acquaintances and neighbors usually give smaller, less expensive gifts like dishes, towels, or an accessory for their new home. The bridal couple will often register with several department stores where they list the items they would like; the guests can then purchase something for the couple that is wanted and needed. It is customary in the United States for the bridal couple to send a handwritten "thank-you" note to all the guests who gave them gifts.



Vocabulary Builder

1. The word *formal* in line 2 is closest in meaning to:
(a) official (b) casual (c) simple
2. Which of the following is not an example of a *spouse* (line 5)?
(a) daughter (b) husband (c) wife
3. Food served *buffet-style* means guests serve themselves (lines 12–13).
(a) True (b) False
4. An example of a *kitchen appliance* (line 26) is:
(a) a CD player (b) a toaster oven (c) an electric shaver
5. In line 31, the word *customary* is best defined as:
(a) uncommon (b) usual (c) rare

Short Answer

1. What is often included on the envelope of a single person's invitation to a wedding?

2. What is the "best man's" role at the wedding reception?

3. Traditionally, who pays for an American wedding?

4. Do guests at an American wedding pay an "attendance fee" to the bridal couple?

5. What does the bridal couple send to guests after the wedding?
