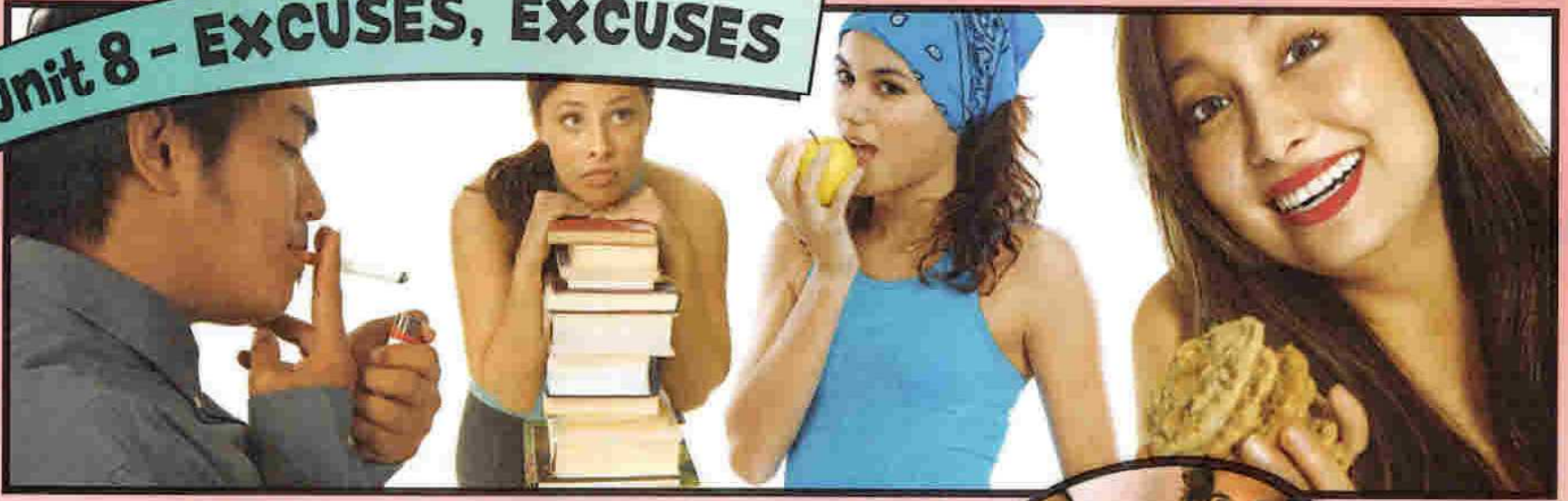


Unit 8 - EXCUSES, EXCUSES



CONVERSATION STARTERS

HEALTH HABITS



1



Tracks 51-55

FIRST LISTENING. What do they think about their health?
Circle a or b.



1. TJ thinks he's
a) healthy
b) unhealthy

because he
a) quit smoking. c) hates smoking.
b) likes to smoke.



2. Soon thinks she's
a) healthy
b) unhealthy

because she
a) is lazy. c) eats too much junk food.
b) has a healthy diet.



3. Simon thinks he's
a) healthy
b) unhealthy

because he
a) exercises every day. c) never plays sports.
b) doesn't have time to exercise.



4. Trish thinks she's
a) healthy
b) unhealthy

because she
a) eats too much junk food. c) doesn't like to exercise.
b) has a healthy diet.



5. Malik thinks he's
a) healthy
b) unhealthy

because he
a) eats too much. c) cooks dinner every night.
b) works out every day.

2

SECOND LISTENING.
Listen again.
What are their reasons?
Circle a, b, or c.

BONUS: Discuss with a partner.

1. Who are you most similar to?
2. Who do you think is the unhealthiest?

Check the script and try the **LANGUAGE AWARENESS** activity on page 88.



1 EXPRESSIONS. Match the questions with the best excuse.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ___ 1. Do you want to come jogging with me in the morning? | a) Sorry, but I'm too busy. |
| ___ 2. Do you want to order pizza for dinner? | b) I'd love to, but it's too cold. |
| ___ 3. Could you help me with the housework? | c) Nice idea, but I'm on a diet. |

2 VOCABULARY. In your opinion, are the excuses good or bad? Write G (good) or B (bad).

- | | |
|---|--|
| ___ 1. I can't take an early class. I'm not a morning person . | ___ 7. I can't make any new friends. I'm too busy . |
| ___ 2. I don't want to go jogging. It's freezing out . | ___ 8. I don't want any pizza. I'm on a diet . |
| ___ 3. I can't do my homework. I don't have enough time . | ___ 9. I'm not going to class today. I'm too tired . |
| ___ 4. I don't want to hang out with you guys. I'm not in the mood . | ___ 10. I don't want to play basketball. I'm out of shape . |
| ___ 5. I can't learn English. I'm too lazy . | ___ 11. I'm not going to do this exercise. I don't feel like it . |
| ___ 6. I can't go to the movies tonight. It's too expensive . | ___ 12. I can't go to bed yet. I've got more studying to do . |



HOW THE GRAMMAR WORKS:

Omitting words and phrases

You can omit the verb phrase of an offer if both speakers know what the topic is.

Would you like to go jogging together?
I'd love to...but I'm busy.

Can you hang out with us this weekend?
I'm sorry. I can't...I'm tired.

You can use "would" and "can't" to reply to offers.

Do you want to see a movie?
I can't...I have to work.

Would you like to go out for dinner?
I would...but I'm on a diet.

Note: Don't say "I don't want to..." That's impolite.

3

LET'S PRACTICE.

Which excuses would you use for the questions in step 1? Work with a partner.

Example:

A: Do you want to come jogging with me in the morning?

B: I'd love to, but...



CONVERSATION MODEL

I'M TOO BUSY.

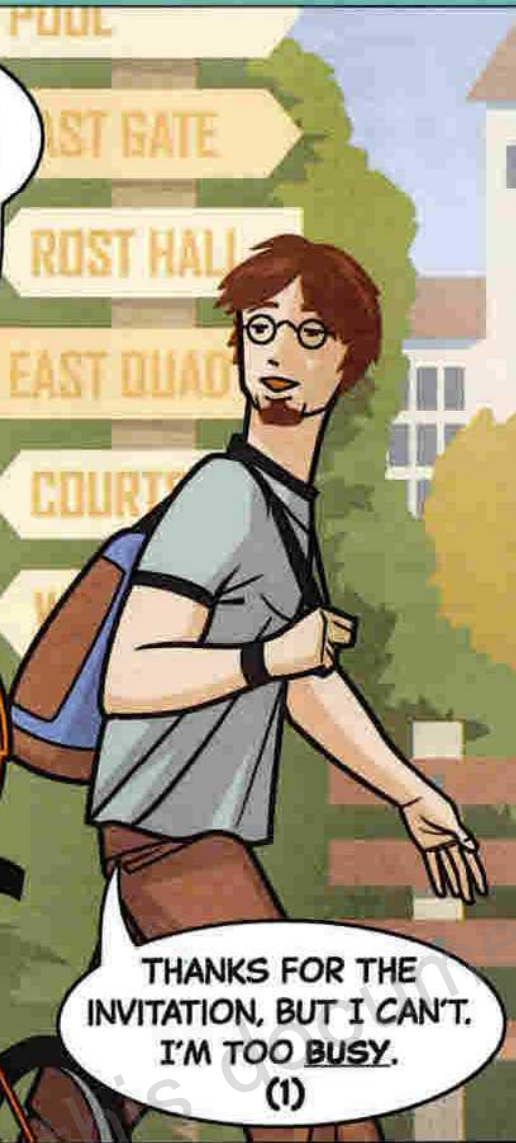
1



Track 56

SITUATION. Listen to the conversation.

HEY! WE'RE HAVING A BASKETBALL GAME TOMORROW. DO YOU WANT TO PLAY?



THANKS FOR THE INVITATION, BUT I CAN'T. I'M TOO BUSY.
(1)

BUT IT'LL BE GOOD EXERCISE.



I KNOW, I KNOW, BUT I REALLY HAVE TO STUDY FOR NEXT WEEK'S TEST.
(2)

2

SUBSTITUTION. Connect the words and phrases in the columns.

(1)

tired

out of shape

busy

(2)

watch my favorite TV show

practice more first

get some rest



HOW THE PRONUNCIATION WORKS:

Jump /t/ and /d/ sounds:

but I ⇒ bu-tai (bu-dai)

good exercise ⇒ goo-dexercise

3

PRACTICE. Work with a partner.

Practice the conversation.

Use the substitutions.

Then use your own ideas.



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

HOW HEALTHY ARE YOU?

1 GET READY. Work with a partner. Ask the questions. Write your partner's answers and reasons.

	YES/NO	WHY OR WHY NOT?
1. Do you eat at least two pieces of fruit a day?		
2. Do you drink less than one can of soda a day?		
3. Do you exercise at least three times a week?		
4. Do you get at least six hours of sleep a night?		
5. Do you watch less than 2 hours of TV a day?		
6. Do you eat junk food less than once a week?		
7. Do you cook with fresh vegetables daily?		
8. Do you avoid tobacco and alcohol?		
9. Do you relax at night?		
10. Do you laugh regularly?		

2 LET'S TALK. Analyze your scores: how many "yes" answers does your partner have?

8-10 You lead a healthy life.

5-7 You should try to be healthier.

2-4 You need to make some major lifestyle changes.

0-1 Warning! You may have some serious health problems in the future!



3 FOLLOW UP. Work in a group of 4. Compare your answers with another pair. Who is the healthiest person in your group?



BONUS: Speaking Activity

- When was the last time you went to see the doctor for a check-up?
- What can you do to be healthier?
- Do you think healthy people are happier than unhealthy people?



ERIK'S HUMOR TIP

Classic Excuses

Here are 2 "classic" excuses in English. Try these and you'll make people laugh. (But of course nobody will believe your excuse!)

A: Where is your homework, John?

B: I'm sorry, ma'am, but my dog ate it.

A: Hey Sarah, would you like to go to the movies with me tonight?

B: Sorry, Bill, but I've got to wash my hair.