

15 I'm going to a soccer match.

1 SNAPSHOT

Making EXCUSES



I'm sorry. I have to wash my hair that night.

Some common excuses for not accepting an invitation

- I can't. My parents are visiting from out of town.
- I'm busy that night.
- I'm sorry. I can't find a babysitter.
- I'm not feeling well.
- I have to work.
- I just got a new puppy. I have to stay home with it.
- I have class that night.
- My favorite TV show is on that night.
- I have to get up early the next morning.

Sources: www.excuses.co.uk; interviews with people aged 18–45

Have you ever used any of these excuses? Have you ever heard any of them?
Which are good excuses and which are bad excuses? Check (✓) the good ones.
What other excuses can you make for not accepting an invitation?

2 CONVERSATION Making plans

A Listen and practice.

- Lynn: Say, Miguel, what are you doing tonight?
Do you want to go bowling?
- Miguel: I'd love to, but I can't. I'm going to a soccer match with my brother.
- Lynn: Oh, well maybe some other time.
- Miguel: Are you doing anything tomorrow?
We could go then.
- Lynn: Tomorrow sounds fine. I'm going to work until five.
- Miguel: So let's go around six.
- Lynn: OK. Afterward, maybe we can get some dinner.
- Miguel: Sounds great.

B Listen to the rest of the conversation.
When are they going to have dinner? Who are they going to meet after dinner?



3 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Future with present continuous and be going to

With present continuous

What **are you doing** tonight?
I'm **going to** a soccer match.

Are you doing anything tomorrow?
No, I'm not.

With be going to + verb

What **is she going to do** tomorrow?
She's **going to work** until five.

Are they going to go bowling?
Yes, they are.

Time expressions

tonight
tomorrow
on Friday
this weekend
next week

A Complete the invitations in column A with the present continuous used as future. Complete the responses in column B with *be going to*.

A

1. What you (do) tonight?
Would you like to go out?
2. you (do) anything on Friday night? Do you want to see a movie?
3. We (have) friends over for a barbecue on Sunday. Would you and your parents like to come?
4. you (stay) in town next weekend? Do you want to go for a hike?

B

- a. I (be) here on Saturday, but not Sunday. Let's try and go on Saturday.
- b. Well, my father (visit) my brother at college. But my mother and I (be) home. We'd love to come!
- c. Sorry, I can't. I (work) overtime tonight. How about tomorrow night?
- d. Can we go to a late show? I (stay) at the office till 7:00.

B Match the invitations in column A with the responses in column B. Then practice with a partner.

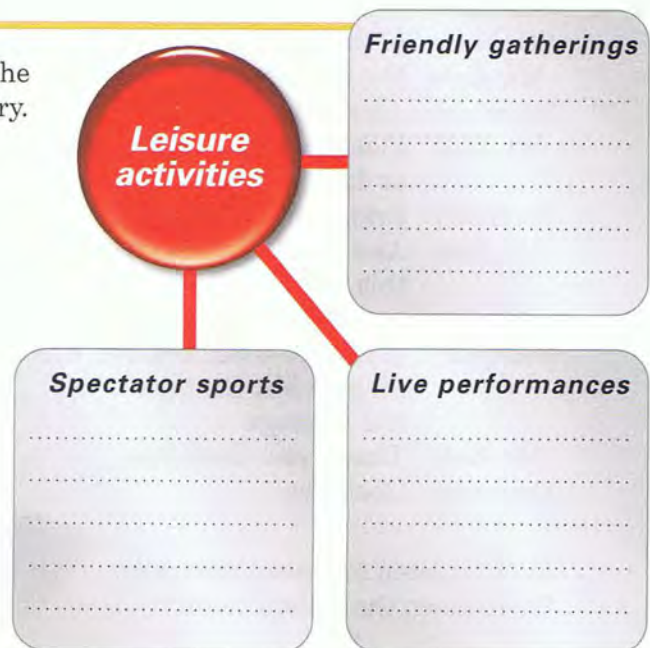
4 WORD POWER

A Complete the word map with phrases from the list. Then add one more example to each category.

barbecue	dance performance
baseball game	golf tournament
basketball game	picnic
beach party	play
birthday party	rock concert
comedy act	tennis match

B Pair work Are you going to do any of the activities on the chart? When are you doing them? Talk with a partner.

A: I'm going to see a tennis match.
B: Really? Who's playing?



5 **ROLE PLAY** *Accept or refuse?*

Student A: Choose an activity from Exercise 4 and invite a partner to go with you. Be ready to say where and when the activity is.

A: Say, are you doing anything on . . . ?
Would you like to . . . ?

Student B: Your partner invites you out. Either accept the invitation and ask for more information, or say you can't go and give an excuse.

Accept

B: OK. That sounds fun.
Where is it?

Refuse

B: Oh, I'm sorry,
I can't. I'm . . .

Change roles and try the role play again.



6 **INTERCHANGE 15** *Weekend plans*

Find out what your classmates are going to do this weekend. Go to Interchange 15.

7 **CONVERSATION** *Can I take a message?*

A Listen and practice.

Secretary: Good morning, Parker Industries.

Mr. Kale: Hello. May I speak to Ms. Graham, please?

Secretary: I'm sorry. She's not in. Can I take a message?

Mr. Kale: Yes, please. This is Mr. Kale.

Secretary: Is that G-A-L-E?

Mr. Kale: No, it's K-A-L-E.

Secretary: All right.

Mr. Kale: Please tell her our meeting is on Friday at 2:30.

Secretary: Friday at 2:30.

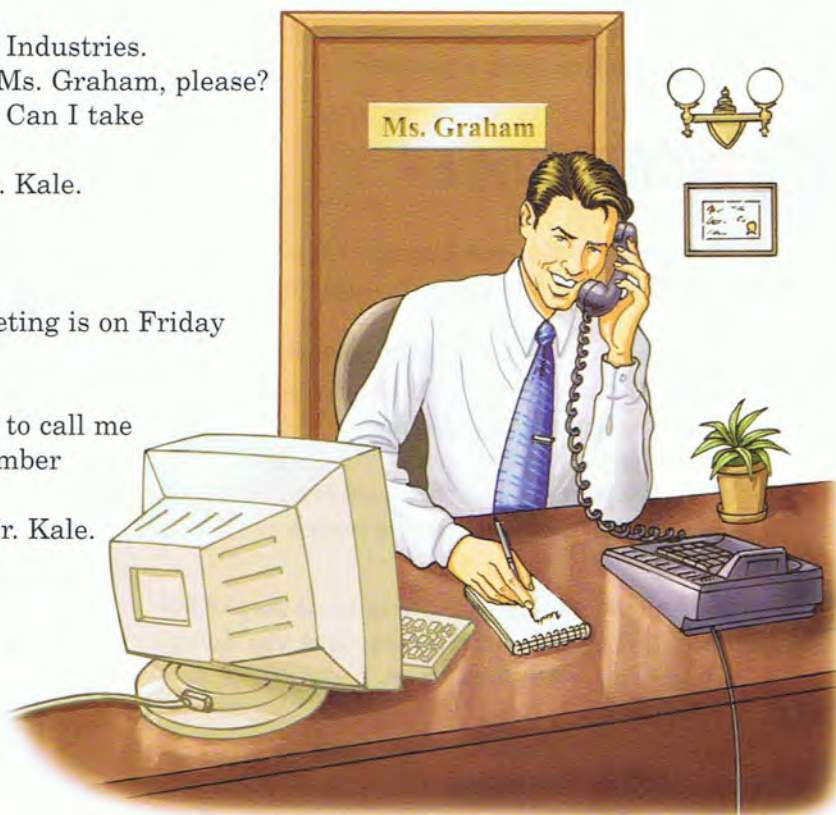
Mr. Kale: And could you ask her to call me this afternoon? My number is (646) 555-4031.

Secretary: (646) 555-4031. Yes, Mr. Kale. I'll give Ms. Graham the message.

Mr. Kale: Thank you. Good-bye.

Secretary: Good-bye.

B Listen to three other calls. Write down the callers' names.



Messages with tell and ask

Statement

The meeting is on Friday.

Request

Call me this afternoon.

Messages with a statement

Please tell Ann (that) the meeting is on Friday.

Could you tell her (that) the meeting is on Friday?

Would you tell her (that) the meeting is on Friday?

Messages with a request

Please ask him to call me this afternoon.

Could you ask him to call me this afternoon?

Would you ask him to call me this afternoon?

Look at the message slips. Ask someone to pass on these messages. Use the words in parentheses. Then compare with a partner.

1.

Joel -
The movie
is at 7:00.

(could) *Could you tell Joel
the movie is at 7:00?*

2.

Mitch -
Pick me up
at home
around 4:00.

(would)

3.

Eva -
The concert
on Saturday
is canceled.

(please)

4.

Jim -
Bring the tickets
for the hockey
game tonight.

(would)

5.

Ann -
The museum
opens at 10:00
tomorrow morning.

(would)

6.

Jerry -
Meet us in front
of the cafeteria
at 12:15.

(please)

WRITING Unusual favors

Pair work Think of unusual messages for three people in your class. Write a note to your partner asking him or her to pass on the messages.

Dear Su Hee,

It's my birthday tomorrow. Could you please tell Ms. King that I want to have a party during class? Also, could you ask Steve to buy a birthday cake?
Thanks.

Juan

Cell Phone Etiquette

Scan the article. Is it OK to use a cell phone in a movie theater? in a restaurant? on the street?

What do you do in a situation like this? You're eating dinner with friends at a nice restaurant. You're having a great time when a phone rings at the table next to you. A man takes out his phone and starts talking loudly about problems he's having with his girlfriend. He talks for almost ten minutes! This happens all the time – on buses, in restaurants, everywhere!

Many people find cell phones useful in their day-to-day lives. But we've all sat next to someone talking too loudly on a cell phone. You may want to tell the loudmouth to end the conversation, but let the management take care of noisy customers. You can only control your own behavior. Here are a few rules:

- **Off means off!** Respect the rules of restaurants and other public places. If a sign says "turn off cell phones," don't use your phone.
- **Keep private conversations private!** Speak softly and for a short time. Try to move away from other people.



- **Lights off, phone off!** Never take calls in a theater or at the movies.
- **Pay attention!** Talking on a cell phone while driving is dangerous. And watch where you're going when you're walking down the street and talking on the phone.

As more people use cell phones, things are only going to get worse. So, the next time you're getting ready to make a call, stop and consider the people around you.

A Read the article. Then complete the summary with information from the article.

Many people talk too on cell phones. While you control their behavior, you can follow a few simple rules. For example: turn your phone in public places, speak on phone calls, and take a phone call in a movie theater.

B Check (✓) the statements the writer would probably agree with.

- 1. You should never use a cell phone in public.
- 2. Cell phone users are very rude people.
- 3. Turn off your cell phone if someone asks you to.
- 4. You should challenge people who talk too loudly on cell phones.
- 5. It's OK to talk on the phone while driving a car.
- 6. You can use a cell phone in public if you speak quietly.
- 7. Don't shout into the phone.
- 8. Don't stand close to other people when you are using a cell phone.

C Pair work Do you agree with the writer's opinions? Why or why not?