

# Scenario

## Intro

### Getting Acquainted with People & Grammar

#### LANGUAGE NOTES: Getting Acquainted with People

In social conversation, you want to learn about people. You can ask questions. Listen well to the answers. They will suggest comments and more questions. You can add interesting information too. That will help the conversation.

HELLO THERE.  
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

#### EXAMPLES

I'M GREGORY.  
MY LAST NAME IS ACIDOFOLIS.

AND THE SPELLING?  
I MEAN, HOW DO YOU SPELL YOUR NAME?

IT'S G-R-E-G-O-R-Y. A-C-I-D-O-F-O-L-I-S. YOU CAN CALL ME GREG.

SO WHERE ARE YOU FROM, GREG?

I WAS BORN IN THESSALONIKI, GREECE. IT'S IN THE BALKANS.

SO WHERE ARE YOU LIVING NOW, PAL?

IN CULVER CITY, NOT FAR FROM HERE.

REALLY?  
CAN WE CARPOOL TO SCHOOL?  
CAN WE STUDY TOGETHER?

WHY NOT?  
BUT WHO ARE YOU, BUDDY?  
WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?

**0-A** Meet one classmate. Ask that person these questions. You can write notes on his or her answers.

1a. What's your name?

2. Where are you from?

3. Where are you living now?

4a. When did you arrive here?

4b. How long have you been here?

5. How long will you stay?

6. Why did you come here?

7. How do you like it so far?

8. What do (or will) you do for a living?

9. What are your main interests?

10. How are you unique (most different from other people)?

**\* 0-A Who did you meet? What did you learn about that person? Tell or write about him or her. EXAMPLES:**



I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT GREGORY ACIDOFOLIS. HE WAS BORN IN THESSALONÍKI, GREECE. IT'S IN THE BALKANS. NOW HE'S LIVING DOWNTOWN. HE ARRIVED IN THIS CITY IN 2004, SO HE'S ONLY BEEN HERE A SHORT TIME.



**GRAMMAR NOTES:  
Verb Tenses**

What is *grammar*?

It's the relationships and arrangements of words in phrases and sentences. *Verb tenses* are an important element of grammar.

What are *verb tenses*? They're verb forms (words and phrases) that show the time frame. EXAMPLES:

How do you spell it? = the present

When did you arrive here? = the past

How long are you going to stay in this country? = the future

Each verb tense also has a *continuous form*. A continuous verb phrase has a form of *be* before a main verb ending in *-ing*. EXAMPLES:

Where are you living now? = the present continuous

Where were you working last year? = the past continuous

What will you be doing a year from now? = the future continuous

Each verb tense also has a *perfect form*. A perfect verb phrase has a form of *have* before the past participle of a main verb. EXAMPLE:

How long have you been here? = the present perfect

**\*\*Modal verb phrases** also have tense forms. EXAMPLES:

You can write notes. = the present

I'll be seeing you. = the future continuous

I might not have said that correctly. = the perfect (The meaning is past.)

**0-B Tell or write the verb tense forms of Questions 1-10 in 0-A.**

EXAMPLES:

1a. the (simple) present      3. the present continuous

**\*Tell or write the verb tense forms of the information about your classmates in \*0-A.**

EXAMPLES: *WOULD LIKE* = the future. *WAS BORN* = the (simple) past. *IS* = the (simple) present. *IS LIVING* = the present

**\*\*0-B Here are some more getting-acquainted questions. Can you identify their verb-tense forms?**

- |   |
|---|
| 11. Where were you born?                            |
| 12. Where were you living last year?                |
| 13. How many countries have you visited?            |
| 14. Where are you working now?                      |
| 15. What will you probably do in the near future?   |
| 16. What's your family situation?                   |
| 17. How many (more) children are you going to have? |
| 18. What will you be doing this term?               |
| 19. How do you spend most of your free time?        |

**\*\*Ask someone else Questions 11-19.**

**\*\*\*From your notes, tell or write about that person. Can you identify the verb tense forms of your sentences?**

# GRAMMAR NOTES: Parts of Speech

*Parts of speech* are another element of grammar. The main parts of speech are *nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs*. These are called “content words.” They have many meanings.

What are *nouns*? They’re words for people, places, things, qualities, activities, or ideas.

*EXAMPLES: classmate, people, family, Gregory, city, country, Greece, relationships, conversation, interests, names, time, the present, the future.*

What are *verbs*? They’re words for existence, actions, or occurrences.

*EXAMPLES: be, spell, live, come, like, do, learn, ask, add, study, etc.*

What are *adjectives*? They’re words to describe, limit, or add to the meanings of nouns or pronouns.

*EXAMPLES: acquainted, Greek, interesting, long, short, main, free, continuous, perfect, negative, etc.*

What are *adverbs*? They’re words to describe or add meaning to verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.

*EXAMPLES: well, now, here, far, often, very, really, quickly, etc.*

Some other parts of speech are *pronouns, prepositions, and conjunctions*. These are called “function words” because they serve grammatical purposes.

What is a *sentence*? It’s a grammatical unit with a subject (a noun or pronoun) and at least one verb phrase. It may also include an object of the verb, adjectives, adverbs, prepositional phrases, and/or other elements.

**O-C** From this *Intro*, tell or write down ten or more *nouns*, eight or more *verbs*, six or more *adjectives*, and four or more *adverbs*.

**EXAMPLES:**

*NOUNS: PERSON, QUESTIONS, PAPER, NOTES, NAME, . . .*

*VERBS: GET, WANT, SPELL, CALL, LIVE, CARPOOL, . . .*

*ADJECTIVES: THESE, ONE, HIS, MORE, INTERESTING, . . .*

*ADVERBS: THERE, HERE, NOW, FAR, CAREFULLY, . . .*

**\*\*Tell or write *pronouns, prepositions, and conjunctions*.**

**EXAMPLES:**

*PRONOUNS: HE, SHE, YOU, IT, THAT, SOMEONE, . . .*

*PREPOSITIONS: IN, FROM, FOR, ABOUT, TO, . . .*

*CONJUNCTIONS: AND, OR, SO, BUT, . . .*

**\*O-C** For each of these questions about grammar, circle the letter of the correct answer: *a, b, or c*.

**\*\*Tell reasons for your answers.**

1. What’s a good definition of *grammar*?

- a. the study of units of measure (weight)
- b. the study of how words go together
- c. a name for the mother of my father

2. What are *parts of speech*?

- a. descriptions of language classes
- b. statements, questions, short answers
- c. classifications of words according to their meanings or functions

3. Which words make a sentence *negative*?

- a. *yes, of course, certainly, sure, yeah, . . .*
- b. *a few, some, any, more, most, lots of, . . .*
- c. *no, not, isn’t, aren’t, doesn’t, don’t, . . .*

4. What’s an *affirmative statement*?

- a. a contradiction, refusal, or objection
- b. a question with a negative contraction
- c. a declaration that something is true.

5. Which of these words can't be a <i>noun</i> ?	6. Which of these words can't be a <i>verb</i> or part of a <i>verb phrase</i> ?
a. <i>describe</i> b. <i>study</i>	a. <i>meet</i> c. <i>living</i>
c. <i>examples</i> d. <i>statement</i>	b. <i>unique</i> d. <i>visited</i>
7. Which of these words can't be an <i>adjective</i> ?	8. Which of these words can't be an <i>adverb</i> ?
a. <i>interesting</i> c. <i>will</i>	a. <i>together</i> c. <i>were</i>
b. <i>long</i> d. <i>main</i>	b. <i>now</i> d. <i>quickly</i>
9. Which of these words isn't a form of the verb <i>BE</i> ?	10. Which of these verb tenses has continuous and perfect forms?
a. <i>is</i> c. <i>can</i>	a. the present b. the past
b. <i>aren't</i> d. <i>was</i>	c. the future d. all of these
11. Which of these groups of words are <i>prepositions</i> ?	
a. <i>have, has, do, doesn't, am, isn't, aren't, was, weren't, can, won't, should, . . .</i> b. <i>and, but, or, so, because, when, while, until, although, if, unless, also, . . .</i> c. <i>in, on, at, over, under, near, to, from, around, with, without, for, about, . . .</i>	
12. Which of these groups of words are <i>pronouns</i> ?	
a. <i>can, can't, could, couldn't, will, won't, would, wouldn't, may, might, must, . . .</i> b. <i>I, mine, myself, we, us, ourselves, he, him, she, hers, it, itself, somebody, . . .</i> c. <i>next to, in front of, in back of, on top of, to the left of, in between, inside of, . . .</i>	
13. In grammar, what's a definition of a <i>sentence</i> ?	
a. a word or phrase that describes, limits, or adds to the meaning of a noun b. a grammatical unit with a subject and at least one verb c. the penalty of a convicted person	
14. In grammar, what's a definition of a <i>sentence subject</i> ?	
a. an academic course or topic of language study b. the "doer" of the action (a noun or pronoun) c. the part of a clause with the verb and its object	
15. In grammar, what's <i>the object of a verb</i> ?	
a. a noun or pronoun receiver of the action of a verb b. something stated; a sentence with a period at the end, not a question mark c. a phrase in a continuous or perfect verb tense	

**\*\*\*Can you define or explain some or all of these grammar terms?**

***grammar, parts of speech, noun, pronoun, verb, modal verb, object of the verb, adjective, adverb, prepositional phrase, conjunction, clause, sentence, statement, question, subject-verb agreement, verb tenses, the continuous form, the perfect form, singular, plural, negative, affirmative.***

