

8

Old friends

Teacher's notes

Summary

This DVD programme can be used as support for materials in Unit 15 *Experiences* of the Student's Book. This is a film which follows two old school friends who meet up again after many years after getting in touch via a website.

Language focus

Grammar: past simple, present perfect.

Vocabulary: character adjectives: *clever, pleasant, funny, average height, long hair, trendy, cool, nice, popular, fashionable.*

Background information

This programme extends the topic of old school friends and shows what happens when two old friends meet again after 15 years. Mark is a supermarket manager in the bakery department. Mark speaks about the responsibilities he has managing a department such as 'bread'. But he is also aware in the conversation with Louise that managing bread is not very glamorous. He spends a lot of time telling her about bread. As modern British supermarkets have a huge choice of speciality breads, he mentions:

muffins – a small American cake, often eaten as a snack with coffee

croissants – a French sweet breakfast pastry

bagels – a traditional Jewish bread roll, often served with fillings

It is not necessary for students to understand this to do the exercises.

Procedure

Before you watch

- 1 Ask the students to work with a partner and describe people using the adjectives in the box.
- 2 Ask the students to work with a partner and look at the photos of Louise and Mark. Ask them to discuss the questions. Tell them that they are going to see a programme about these two people meeting after 15 years. Ask them to speculate about the outcome of such a meeting.

While you watch

Note that the programme is divided up into four parts. It is advisable to do one part at a time and stop and replay the part of the programme for that part only.

PART 1 (00:00–00:45)

- 3 Play Part 1 of the programme and ask the students to match the descriptions with the person.

a) M b) L c) M d) L e) M f) L

- 4 Tell the students they are going to watch the section again. Ask them to focus on the questions as they watch.

- a) Louise got in touch with Mark using the internet / by email.
- b) The last time they saw each other was 15 years ago.
- c) Students' own answers.

PART 2 (00:46–02:22)

- 5 Ask the students to look at the words in the box and guess, by looking at the pictures, which ones describe which person. Then play Part 2 and ask them to identify who is being described.

very popular	Mark
clever	Louise
funny	Mark
long hair	Mark
played in a band	Mark
nice	Louise
pleasant	Louise
average height	Mark
quite trendy	Mark
cool	Mark
long dark hair	Louise
very fashionable	Mark

PART 3 (02:23–04:17)

- 6** Play the next part of the programme without sound. Ask students to concentrate on the body language and expressions of Louise and Mark to answer the questions. Have a class discussion about it afterwards.
- 7** Play the section again with the sound up and ask students to check their answers.

Possible answers

- a) He looks happy but she looks uncomfortable and bored. They both look embarrassed at times.
- b) No, because they don't seem comfortable. Yes, for Mark, because he is animated and happy.

- 8** Ask students to read the sentences before they watch again. Then play Part 3 again and ask them to decide if the sentences are true or false. Elicit answers from the class.

- a) T b) F c) T d) F e) T f) F
g) T h) T

PART 4 (04:18–05:38)

- 9** Ask the students to read the sentences and try to guess who says what. Then play the final part of programme and get students to identify the speakers.

- a) Louise
b) Louise
c) Louise
d) Louise
e) Mark
f) Mark
g) Louise
h) Louise
i) Mark

If there is time, let the students watch the complete programme at the end so they can enjoy the whole film.

After you watch

- 10** Ask the students to think of something funny or embarrassing that happened at school. Ask them to read the questions and think about their answers.
- 11** Ask the students to think about what they want to say and the language they need to say it. Give help with vocabulary and further language.
- 12** Tell the students to work with a partner. They tell their stories and help each other by asking questions.

8

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DVD script (05:38)

Old friends

(I = Interviewer; L = Louise; M = Mark)

PART 1 (00:00–00:45)

I: Louise Brooks lives in London. She's a successful women's fashion designer and has worked for many of the top labels.

This is Mark Wilson. He is 33 and lives in Oxford. He's the manager of a local supermarket.

Mark and Louise were at school together. Louise got divorced last year and decided to contact some old friends using the internet. She got Mark's address, they exchanged emails, and in just a few minutes they're going to meet again for the first time in 15 years.

PART 2 (00:46–02:22)

I: What did you like about him?

L: He was very popular. He was cool. Erm, Mark was very funny, and he played in a band, which I thought was great.

I: What did he look like?

L: He was average height. He had long hair. Erm, and I liked the clothes he wore when we were outside of school. He was quite trendy. Very fashionable.

I: And why do you want to see him again?

L: Well, I got divorced last year, so I'm single. And I always really fancied him when I was at school so I thought, why not.

I: What did you like about her?

M: Well, she seemed nice enough. Erm, clever, pleasant.

I: What did she look like?

M: As far as I could remember, she had long, dark hair. But that was a while ago. I'm sure she's changed.

I: Why do you want to see her again?

M: Well, to be honest, she contacted me, but I was very glad when she did, because it's always interesting to find out what people are doing after all these years. And I'm sure we'll have lots to talk about.

PART 3 (02:23–04:17)

I: How are you feeling?

L: Erm, a bit nervous, but I'm really looking forward to it. Hope it goes OK. Do I look alright?

I: You look great.

L: OK. Wish me luck.

I: Good luck!

L: Thank you.

M: Wow, erm ...

L: Mark!

M: Louise! Hi.

L: Hi.

M: Good to see you.

L: Yes. Hello.

M: You look amazing.

L: Thanks.

M: Can I get you a drink?

L: Er, yes, a vodka and tonic would be nice.

M: Yup. Er, sorry, would be nice, or ice?

L: Would be nice!

M: And lemon?

L: Yes.

M: OK, sorry. Alright.

L: So, what do you do?

M: I'm departmental manager ...

L: Right.

M: ... which, you know, is kind of a big deal. It's a lot of responsibility.

L: OK, and which department is that?

M: Well, now if I say it, it's going to sound boring. But it's bread mostly. There's a bakery section. Muffins, croissants, bagels. You're doing what now?

L: I'm a fashion designer. Yup, I've worked for many of the top labels. I'm currently working for Gucci.

M: I don't know anything about fashion, sorry.

L: Right.

M: Bread ... I could talk to you about bread, you know, cakes. But, erm ... I've got my own parking space at the supermarket.

I've got to say, I was not prepared to enjoy this. Because, you know, you never know how these things are going to go.

L: No, no.

M: But it's really, it's just great, isn't it? I quite fancy another drink. Do you want another one?

L: Er, no, I'm fine thanks ...

M: In a minute then.

PART 4 (04:18–05:38)

I: How did it go?

L: Well, it was different to what I expected. Mark looked very different. He had long hair at school and now he seems to be losing his hair. I thought he would be working in the record business, but he's actually working in a supermarket.

M: ... I'm departmental manager, which, you know, is kind of a big deal ...

L: And he seems very interested in bread, which didn't really excite me. It was a bit difficult.

M: I really enjoyed being with her. I think she enjoyed being with me. She certainly listened to what I had to say and seemed interested. Smiled a lot. Our eyes met a lot.

L: Well, I'm a bit disappointed because I thought we'd have a lot in common, but we seem to be from two very different worlds. He's very sweet, he's very friendly, but I don't think he's for me.

M: I really hope we meet again. As soon as possible.