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Meet the folks

Teacher's notes

Summary

This DVD programme is an alternative to three listening activities in Unit 2 of the Student's Book, on pages 18, 19 and 20. It can therefore be used instead of the class CD while following the exercises in the Student's Book, or with the worksheets in this book. The programme includes two interviews and two dramatised scenes about a boyfriend meeting his girlfriend's parents for the first time.

Language focus

Formal and informal register
Phrasal verbs

Background information

In Britain young people typically make their own decisions about when to introduce a boyfriend or girlfriend to their parents. Sarah's parents are middle class, with conventional views on suitable partners for their daughter. Andy is a DJ; Sarah's parents would probably think his job is not a respectable career with good prospects.

Procedure

PART 1 (00:00–02:38)

Before you watch

- 1 Ask the students to work in pairs. Ask them to look at the pictures and answer the questions.

Their clothing is very casual in b) and fairly smart in a). They appear quite relaxed in b), whereas in a) they look slightly stiffer and less relaxed. In a) they are meeting someone and the flowers suggest it is an important meeting.

While you watch

- 2 Tell the students they are going to watch an interview with Sarah's parents recorded before they met Andy. Ask the students to decide whether the statements are true or false. Play the programme and stop it after the interview with Sarah's parents.

a) True b) True c) False d) True
e) False f) False

- 3 Tell the students they are going to watch an interview with Andy recorded before he met Sarah's parents. Ask them to decide whether the statements are true or false. Play the programme and stop it after the interview with Andy.

a) True b) True c) False d) False e) False

After you watch

- 4 Ask the students to replace the underlined words with the verbs from the box. Allow them to compare answers with a partner before giving the answers.

a) get on with b) go off c) been out with
d) stand up to e) gave up f) go for

Ask the students to work with a partner and discuss the statements, saying whether or not they are true for them.

PART 2 (02:38–05:26)

Before you watch

- 5 Tell the students they are going to watch Sarah and Andy talking in Andy's flat, then the meeting with Sarah's parents. Ask them to choose the best alternative to complete the conversations. Do not check answers at this stage.

Conversation 1: 1 a 2 b 3 a 4 a 5 a
6 b 7 a 8 b 9 a 10 b
Conversation 2: 1 b 2 a 3 b 4 b 5 b
6 a 7 b 8 a 9 b 10 a

While you watch

- 6 Ask the students to watch and check their answers. Play the programme.

After you watch

- 7 Ask the students to work in groups to discuss the questions.
- 8 Ask the students to work in pairs. Ask each pair to choose one of the situations and prepare a conversation, using appropriate language. If there is time, ask the students to act out their conversations for the class.

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Meet the folks

DVD script (05:26)

(I = Interviewer; M = Mum; D = Dad;
A = Andy; S = Sarah)

PART 1 (00:55–02:38)

Sarah's parents

- I: So, you're going to meet Sarah's boyfriend tomorrow.
- M&D: That's right.
- I: How do you feel about that?
- M: Well, we're looking forward to meeting Andy at last – we've heard a lot about him, because Sarah's been going out with him for a while now. Several weeks, I believe.
- I: Does Sarah usually bring her boyfriends home to meet you?
- D: Well, it's difficult to know with Sarah really – she changes boyfriends like other people change their socks. We've met some of them.
- M: Yes, I'd say we've met ... half a dozen over the years.
- I: Have you liked most of her boyfriends?
- M: No, not really. I'm always amazed at how awful they are. She goes for very strange types. There was just one we liked, wasn't there?
- D: Oh, yes – you mean Jeremy. Lovely chap. We were impressed with him.
- M: But he didn't last long. As soon as we told her we liked him, she dropped him.
- I: What sort of person would you like Sarah to go out with?
- M: Well, I think it's essential for him to come from the same kind of background.
- D: Yes, and it's very important for him to have some kind of qualifications – you know, some ambition.
- M: He needs to be a strong character to stand up to Sarah – she'd soon go off somebody who lets her do what she wants all the time.
- D: Anyway, we're not going to take it too seriously. She's far too young to get married or engaged or anything like that. And the poor chap is unlikely to last very long.

Andy

- I: How do you feel about meeting Sarah's parents?
- A: A bit nervous. I'm worried about making a bad impression because I'm quite shy. So I find it difficult to get on with people straight away.
- I: But you're a DJ, aren't you?
- A: Yeah, but it's easy for me to hide behind my music decks at work. I'm not very good at making conversation, specially with older people.
- I: What are you most nervous about?
- A: Well, I gave up studying to become a DJ, and I don't think Sarah's parents will be very impressed with that. Also, I ... I dyed my hair last week, and they'll probably be a bit shocked by that.
- I: How are you going to try and make a good impression?
- A: Well, I'm going to wear clean clothes – not a suit or anything. I haven't got one. And I'll take her mum some flowers.
- I: Why are you going to meet Sarah's parents?
- A: Because Sarah fancies going to London for the day, and she feels like having Sunday lunch at home. And I always do what she wants.

PART 2 (02:39–05:26)

Andy and Sarah

- S: Hello!
- A: Hiya. The door's open!
- S: Here, I remembered to bring you that CD.
- A: Oh, cheers – that's great.
- S: How's it going?
- A: All right. I'm totally shattered.
- S: Why? What've you been up to?
- A: Nothing – it's just that I didn't finish work until five o'clock this morning.
- S: Oh right. Well, you'd better just chill out this evening. Do you want to watch telly, or shall I go and get a video?
- A: Whatever.
- S: Do you know what's on telly tonight?
- A: Oh, no idea. Rubbish as usual, I should think.
- S: Oh dear, you are in a bad mood. You're not nervous about meeting my parents, are you?
- A: No – why should I be? But I am a bit worried about the long drive – my car's on its last legs.
- S: Oh well, let's worry about that tomorrow. Come on – make me a nice cup of tea.

Andy meets Sarah's parents

- M: Hello. Welcome. Do come in.
- S: Mum, Dad, this is Andy.
- M&D: Nice to meet you.
- A: Nice to meet you. These are for you – Sarah says they're your favourites.
- M: Oh, thank you – that's very kind of you. And how are you, darling?
- S: I'm absolutely exhausted, actually.
- M: Oh dear. What's the matter? Have you been working too hard?
- S: Oh no, nothing like that – it's just a long drive, isn't it?
- M: Yes, of course. You must sit down and relax, both of you. Would you prefer coffee or tea, Andy?
- A: Oh, I don't mind. Whatever's easiest.
- D: How many miles is it exactly?
- A: Oh, I'm afraid I don't know. The journey's taken us five and a half hours, but my car is rather old.

- D: Oh yes. I always take the A420, followed by the A34, except during the summer when I tend to avoid motorways and go through Winchester on the backroads.
- M: Well, we're not going to talk about roads all day, are we? Now Andy, what exactly do you do? Sarah tells us you're in the music industry ...