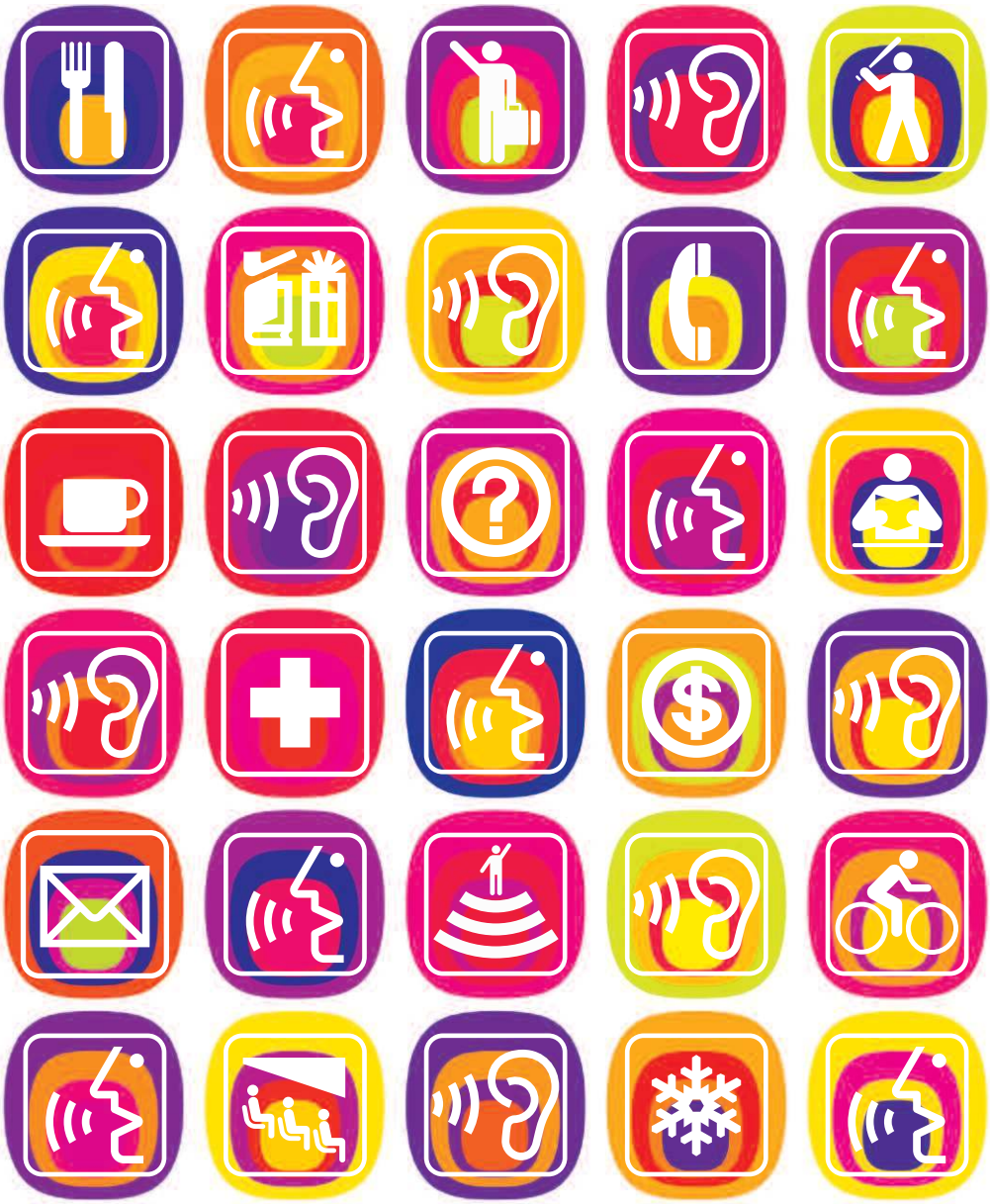
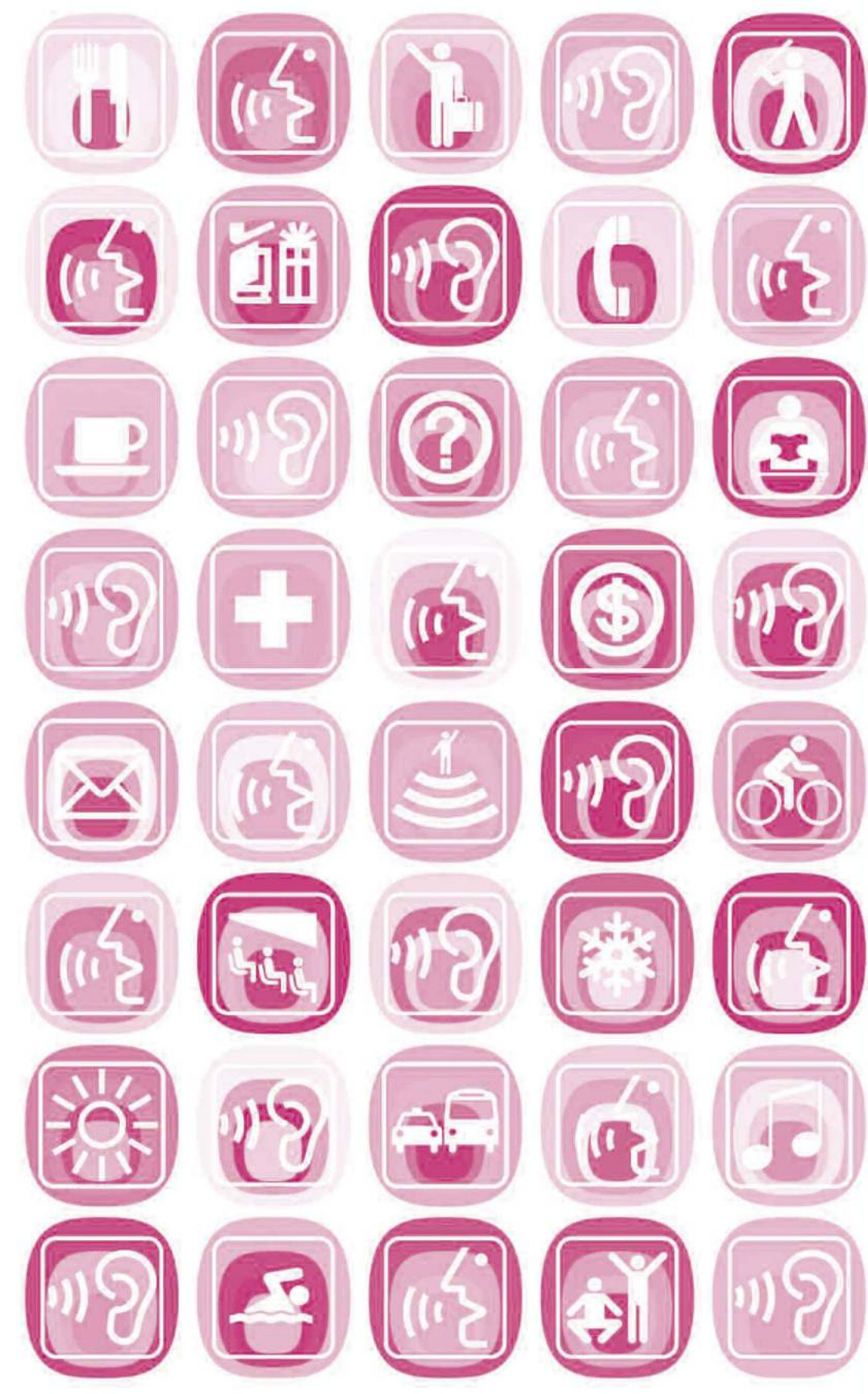
Dean Curry

More Dialogs for Everyday Use

Short Situational Dialogs for Students of English as a Foreign Language





More Dialogs for Everyday Use

Short Situational Dialogs
for Students of English as a Foreign Language

Dean Curry

United States Department of State
Office of English Language Programs

MORE DIALOGS FOR EVERYDAY USE
Short Situational Dialogs for Students of English as a Foreign Language

Dean Curry

First published in 1983
Second printing 1997
by the English Language Programs Division
of the United States Information Agency,
Washington, DC.

This printing published in 2004
by the Office of English Language Programs
of the United States Department of State.



United States Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Office of English Language Programs
Washington, DC 20547
http://exchanges.state.gov/education/engteaching/

Contents

Dialog 1 Greetings 1
Dialog 2 Early in the Morning 2
Dialog 3 Daily Needs 3
Dialog 4 Airport Bus 4
Dialog 5 Making a Date 5
Dialog 6 Catching a Bus 6
Dialog 7 Ordering Breakfast 7
Dialog 8 Near Accident 8
Dialog 9 Arrival Time 9
Dialog 10 After the Game 10
Dialog 11 Going for a Walk 11
Dialog 12 What's for Dinner? 12
Dialog 13 Academy Awards 13
Dialog 14 At the Hotel 14
Dialog 15 After the Movie 15
Dialog 16 At the Bank 16
Dialog 17 Discussing a News Story 17
Dialog 18 Talking It Over 18
Dialog 19 Weekend Plans 19
Dialog 20 Dinner Invitation 20
Dialog 21 Car Insurance 21
Dialog 22 Parents' Night Out 22
Dialog 23 Discussing the Economy 23
Dialog 24 Dental Appointment (by phone) 24
Dialog 25 Making Plans 25
Dialog 26 Neighborhood Problem 26
Dialog 27 Car Theft 27
Dialog 28 Getting Ready 28
Dialog 29 Making a Purchase 29
Dialog 30 Mail Time 30
Dialog 31 Bedtime 31
Dialog 32 Getting Something Fixed 32
Dialog 33 Family Plans 33
Dialog 34 Planning a Business Trip 34
Dialog 35 A Short Discussion 35
Dialog 36 Family Squabble 36

Foreword

The 36 dialogs in *More Dialogs for Everyday Use* are situation-based; they present spoken American English in a naturalness of style that will help students of English as a Foreign Language gain practice in hearing and understanding the stream of speech. There is no established order of difficulty in the arrangement of the dialogs within the text, and teachers are encouraged to use them as needed to supplement the more normal type of classroom learning activities.

The Language Notes concentrate upon words and expressions that are either colloquial or idiomatic in nature. The dialogs themselves are kept short so that if teachers feel that memorization of the dialogs can be a part of the pedagogy of presentation, students will not have to face a seemingly insurmountable task of memorizing long passages. Memorization is encouraged since it often helps to develop both listening and reading comprehension.

An audiocassette is available with this booklet and is a necessary component of the audio-study unit.

Dialog 1

Greetings

A. (Acquaintances)

Matt: Good morning.

Maxine: Good morning. How are you today?

Matt: Just fine, thanks. How are you?

Maxine: Wonderful. Things couldn't be better.

B. (Good Friends)

Dotty: Hi. What's up?

Vivian: Nothing much. What's new with you?

Dotty: Not too much. I've been pretty busy.

Vivian: Me too. Seems like all I do is eat and sleep.

Dotty: Gotta go. Call me tonight.

Vivian: Okay. Check you later.

C. (Family)

Mother: Good morning.

Son: Morning. What's for breakfast?

Mother: The usual. Eggs, toast, and cereal. Coffee, if you want.

Son: I think I'll just have cereal for a change.

Mother: Help yourself. The cereal and sugar are on the table. The milk's in the refrigerator.

Language Notes

- **Acquaintance** = *a person one knows but not a close friend* ◍ **Things couldn't be better** = *Everything is going well.* ◍ **Hi** = *informal way to say hello* ◍ **What's up?** = *What's new?* Used informally.◍ **Pretty** = *rather; somewhat* ◍ **Me too** = *has meaning of I have been busy, too.* ◍ **Seems** = *It seems* ◍ **Gotta** = *I've got to* = *I must* ◍ **Check you later** = *I'll call you later.* ◍ **What's for breakfast?** = *What are we having for breakfast?* ◍ **Just** = *only* ◍ **Help yourself.** = *Serve yourself.*

Dialog 2

Early in the Morning

Gene: It's time to get up!

Ed: I just went to bed!

Gene: You shouldn't have stayed up so late watching TV. I told you we had to get an early start.

Ed: I know, but that movie was just too good to leave. I guess I'll just have to pay the price and be sleepy.

Gene: Do you want to eat breakfast here?

Ed: No. Why don't we just grab a bite at the coffee shop next door?

Gene: Okay by me.

Language Notes

- **TV** = *television* ◍ **get an early start** = *leave early in the morning* ◍ **just** = *simply* ◍ **pay the price** = *suffer the consequences* ◍ **grab a bite** = (Informal) *get something to eat* ◍ **coffee shop** = *a type of restaurant* ◍ **Okay by me.** = *It's all right with me.*

Dialog 3

Daily Needs

Judith: This is the last of the milk.

Mother: I know. I intend to go to the store today.

Judith: Would you get some of that new cereal we saw advertised on TV?

Mother: Which one?

Judith: You know the one with the silly ad about how vitamins jump up and down.

Mother: Oh, you mean "KIKIES"?

Judith: Yeah. That's the one.

Mother: Well, I'll see. Sometimes the stores don't have some of the new kinds of cereal.

Language Notes

- **last of the milk** = *exhausts the supply of milk* ◍ **silly** = *foolish* ◍ **ad** = *advertisement* ◍ **Yeah** = (Informal) *Yes* ◍ **I'll see** = *I'll examine the possibility.*

Dialog 4

Airport Bus

Stan: What time does the bus leave for the airport?

Harry: I don't know. It used to leave every half hour, but I think the schedule's been changed.

Stan: Do you know the telephone number to call?

Harry: It's Enterprise 7-4700. At least that's what it used to be.

Stan: Yeah, I'll try it. ***(Pause)*** They don't seem to answer.

Harry: I expect that it's a little too early. I don't think they open until nine o'clock.

Language Notes

- **At least** = *In any case*
- **Note:** *On most telephones in the U.S., letters appear with each number on the keypad. When those letters are combined, we often use easy-to-remember words of names in place of the letter combinations. In this example, the letters are EN which correspond to the numbers 3 and 6. So the number here is 367-4700. The use of only numbers has become more common today.*

Dialog 5

Making a Date

Drew: What time are you leaving tomorrow?

Paul: You mean to go to the graduation ceremony?

Drew: Yes, I'd like to go with you if I may.

Paul: I'd be delighted to take you. I plan to leave here about nine-thirty.

Drew: Fine. I can be ready by then.

Paul: Okay. I'll pick you up at your house.

Drew: See you tomorrow, then, about nine-thirty.

Language Notes

- **Making a date** = *making a social appointment* 🌐 **I'll pick you up** = *I'll come to your house.*

Dialog 6

Catching a Bus

Steve: Is this where I catch the bus for the zoo?

Alan: You can take a T-30 from here, but then you have to walk about six blocks.

Steve: That doesn't sound too bad.

Alan: Actually, if you go to the bus stop in the next block, you can take a Z-8 which will let you right off in front of the zoo.

Steve: Maybe that's what I'll do. Thanks a lot.

Alan: You're welcome.

Language Notes

- **catching a bus** = *getting a bus* ◍ **T-30** = *number of a bus* ◍ **That doesn't sound too bad.** = *That doesn't appear to be difficult.* ◍ **Z-8** = *number of a bus* ◍ **let you right off** = *take you exactly to*

Dialog 7

Ordering Breakfast

Waitress:	Would you like to order now?
Phil:	Yes. I'd like bacon and eggs with buttered toast. No jelly.
Waitress:	What would you like to drink?
Phil:	Do you have hot chocolate?
Waitress:	Yes, we do.
Phil:	Then, I'll have a cup of hot chocolate.
Waitress:	How do you want your eggs?
Phil:	Over easy, please.

Language Notes

- **How do you want your eggs?** = *How do you want your eggs prepared?* 🌐 **Over easy** = *egg fried on one side and slightly on the other with the yolk left uncooked or partially cooked, not hard.* Other ways to prepare eggs are scrambled, fried (hard), boiled (soft or hard), and poached.

Dialog 8

Near Accident

Quinn: How about that!

Kerwin: What? What happened?

Quinn: Did you see what that guy did?

Kerwin: No. I was looking the other way.

Quinn: He made a U-turn right in the middle of the block and almost hit a kid on a bicycle.

Kerwin: Drivers get crazier every day!

Quinn: Right. Nobody wants to drive by the rules anymore!

Language Notes

- **Near accident** = *almost an accident* ◍ **How about that!** = *Just consider what happened!* ◍ **guy** = *man* ◍ **I was looking the other way** = *I was looking in the opposite direction.* ◍ **U-turn** = *turn a vehicle such as a car or truck in the shape of a U.*

Dialog 9

Arrival Time

Pat: What time does Mother's plane get in?

Cliff: I'm not sure, but I think at 2:35. I'll call the airline to make sure.

Pat: Why don't you do that while I change my clothes?

Cliff: Do you think Dick or Brenda will want to go?

Pat: I don't know. I guess we could call them.

Cliff: I know Dick has to work, but maybe Brenda can go.

Pat: Okay. Call her first, then the airline. I'll go get ready.

Language Notes

- **get in** = *arrive*

Dialog 10

After the Game

Gloria: Did you watch the game last night?

Roy: I sure did. I wouldn't have missed it for anything!

Gloria: I think it was one of the best games I've ever seen.

Roy: Me too. I thought both teams played super ball. Too bad one had to lose.

Gloria: Yeah. I thought they were evenly matched. It could have gone either way!

Roy: That shot that won in the last fifteen seconds was really something.

Language Notes

- **I sure did** = *I certainly did* (watch the game) ◍ **played super ball** = *played extremely well* ◍ **Too bad** = *Unfortunately* ◍ **It could have gone either way!** = *Either team could have won!* ◍ **really something** = *extraordinary; quite unusual*

Dialog 11

Going for a Walk

Roger: What did you say?

Claire: I said that it's a lovely day. Why don't we go for a walk?

Roger: Can you wait a few minutes? I have to finish this letter.

Claire: Don't take too long. It would be a shame not to take advantage of such lovely weather.

Roger: I won't be long. No more than ten minutes. Why don't you go on ahead and I'll meet you in the park.

Claire: Believe I will. Look for me near the rock garden.

Language Notes

- **Don't take too long** = *Don't delay.* 🌐 **go on ahead** = *proceed (to the park)* 🌐 **Look for me...** = *Meet me...*

Dialog 12

What's for Dinner?

Mother: I wonder what we should have for dinner this evening?

Mona: Are you asking me?

Mother: Yes, I am. I really don't feel much like cooking, but the family must eat.

Mona: Well, you know me. I can always eat pizza—or spaghetti.

Mother: So I've noticed. You're putting on a little weight, aren't you?

Mona: I know. Don't remind me! I'm starting a new diet day after tomorrow.

Mother: It's about time!

Language Notes

- **I wonder…** = *I wish to know about…* ◍ **pizza** = *A spicy Italian dish made like a pie from bread dough and covered with cheese, tomato sauce, meat, spices, etc.* ◍ **putting on a little weight** = *gaining weight* ◍ **Don't remind me!** = *Don't call it to my attention!* ◍ **It's about time!** = *It's the right time (to begin)!*

Dialog 13

Academy Awards

Janice: Did you see the Academy Awards program last night on TV?

Rob: I watched for awhile; then I had to go to bed.

Janice: You missed a good show. I didn't agree with the selection for best picture, though.

Rob: I guess I missed that part. What happened?

Janice: Oh, they chose some picture that was so avant-garde that no one understands it.

Rob: Well, I don't go to the movies very often. You know me. I prefer more active-type things.

Janice: Too bad. I really wanted to discuss it with someone.

Language Notes

- **Academy Awards** = *awards in the film industry given annually for the best movie, best actor, best director, etc. The awards, small statues, are called Oscars.* **Avant-garde** = *in the arts, having to do with creative ideas, methods, designs, etc., that are ahead of all others.*

Dialog 14

At the Hotel

Clerk: Yes, sir. May I help you?

Tony: I have a reservation for tonight. Tony Davis.

Clerk: Just a moment, please, while I check. That is correct. You have a reservation for a three-room suite for tonight.

Tony: I'm afraid there's been a mistake. I only asked for a single room, not a suite.

Clerk: I'm sorry, Mr. Davis, but we have only the suite available. Your request arrived too late to reserve a single. There's a large convention in town this week and we're full up.

Tony: Well, if that's the way it is, I'll have to take it.

Clerk: Just sign the register here and I'll have your bags sent up later. It's suite 718.

Language Notes

- **May I help you?** = *May I serve you?* 🌐 **We're full up.** = *All of our rooms are taken.*

Dialog 15

After the Movie

Pamela: I really enjoyed that movie!

Scott: I did, too. At first I thought it was going to be a drag, but then it really got good.

Pamela: What part did you like the best?

Scott: Oh, I don't know. I guess the scene that grabbed me the most was the one in which the old man was dying.

Pamela: I liked that one, too. In fact, I cried.

Scott: To tell you the truth, I had a few tears in my eyes.

Pamela: Now what?

Scott: How about a coke and a hamburger?

Pamela: Super!

Language Notes

- **be a drag** = *be boring or uninteresting* ◍ **the scene that grabbed me the most** = *the scene that most moved me emotionally* ◍ **coke** = *Coca Cola or any soft drink* ◍ **Super!** = ***Wonderful!***

Dialog 16

At the Bank

Teller: May I help you?

Nancy: I'd like to cash this check, please.

Teller: Do you have an account with us?

Nancy: Yeah. Here's my identification card.

Teller: Do you want large or small bills?

Nancy: Actually, I want to buy some traveler's checks.

Teller: What denomination?

Nancy: Twenties would be fine.

Teller: Do you want the whole amount in traveler's checks?

Nancy: Yes, please.

Language Notes

- **to cash this check** = *to receive money for this check* ◍ **large or small bills** = *bills of large or small denomination* ◍ **traveler's checks** = *special checks issued by banks for a special amount and which can only be used by the buyer.*

Dialog 17

Discussing a News Story

Helen: Did you hear about that guy who was struck by lightning?

Mavis: You mean that man up in Maine?

Helen: That's the one; the blind guy who could see again.

Mavis: I read about him in the paper this week. He'd been blind for about eight or nine years.

Helen: Uh-huh. Wasn't he also able to hear again after the lightning hit him?

Mavis: Right. He didn't have to wear a hearing aid anymore.

Helen: I think it was a miracle!

Mavis: Me too!

Language Notes

- **Maine** = *state in the northeastern part of the United States* ◍ **Uh-huh.** = *That's right.* ◍ **Right.** = *Correct.* ◍ **hearing aid** = *device to help deaf or partially deaf persons hear* ◍ **Me too!** = *So do I!*

Dialog 18

Talking It Over

Jeff: Can't we go someplace and talk? It's so crowded in here.

Sonia: Well, there's a little park down the street about three blocks. It's usually not crowded this time of day.

Jeff: Let's go. I need to get some fresh air anyway.

Sonia: Just what is it you want to talk about?

Jeff: You remember that note you sent me last month?

Sonia: Which one? The one about the trip out west?

Jeff: Yeah. That's the one. Listen. I've got a terrific idea about the whole project and we need to discuss it.

Sonia: Wonderful! I'd like to hear some of your ideas.

Language Notes

- **Talking it over** = *Discussing a matter or problem* ◍ **anyway** = *in any case* ◍ **Just** = *Exactly*

Dialog 19

Weekend Plans

Al: Hi. I'm glad I ran into you.

Bob: Why? What's up?

Al: How'd you like to go on a hike this weekend?

Bob: All weekend?

Al: Well, just Saturday and Sunday.

Bob: I'm not sure I can be gone all weekend. I promised to help my sister move Saturday.

Al: How about Sunday, then? We could start early in the morning.

Bob: I might be able to do that. Tell you what. Let me check and I'll call you at home tonight.

Al: Great! I'll talk to you later.

Bob: So long.

Language Notes

- **I'm glad I ran into you.** = *I'm glad I met you* ◍ **What's up?** = *What's happening?* = *What's going on?* ◍ **to help my sister move** = *to help my sister move her household effects to another house or apartment.* ◍ **How about Sunday, then?** = *Is Sunday a good day, then?* ◍ **Tell you what** = *Here's my opinion/reaction.* ◍ **Let me check…** = *Let me verify…* ◍ **Great!** = *Wonderful!* ◍ **So long** = *Good-bye for now.*

Dialog 20

Dinner Invitation

Laura: Don't forget. We're invited out to dinner tonight.

Ted: Oh. I almost forgot. Thanks for reminding me. What time?

Laura: Seven-thirty. We should leave the house by six-thirty. You know how bad the traffic is that time of night.

Ted: Uh-huh. It's informal, isn't it?

Laura: Yeah. You can wear your new sports jacket.

Ted: Okay. I'll try to get home a little early.

Laura: Good. Bye-bye.

Language Notes

- **We're invited out to dinner tonight** = *We're invited to have dinner with friends or acquaintances.* **Uh-huh.** = *Yes, (I do).* **Bye-bye.** = *Good bye; so long.*

Dialog 21

Car Insurance

Dick: I need to get car insurance. Ya got any ideas?

George: Well, you could try my company. It seems to have fair rates.

Dick: Do they insure older cars?

George: As far as I know, they insure all kinds of vehicles.

Dick: How long have you had a policy with them?

George: Oh, I don't know. Maybe five years.

Dick: And you say their rates are low?

George: Not low, reasonable. I've always gotten good service from them. Let me give you their phone number and you can call them.

Language Notes

- **car insurance** = *insurance on automobiles in case of accidents, theft, bodily injury, etc.* 🌐 **As far as I know…** = *To the extent of my knowledge…*

Dialog 22

Parents' Night Out

Joe: Can you get a baby-sitter for tonight?

Susan: I don't know. Why?

Joe: Well, I thought we could go out for dinner and then go to a movie afterward.

Susan: I can call Debbie and see if she's available. She usually doesn't like to sit during the week, but she might make an exception.

Joe: Well, do that, and then call me at the office if you have any luck.

Susan: Okay, but don't get your hopes too high. It's hard to find a good baby-sitter these days.

Language Notes

- **night out** = *evening away from home for the purpose of recreation or relaxation* ◍ **baby-sitter** = *woman or young girl hired, usually by parents, to watch small children while the parents are away from home* ◍ **to sit during the week** = *to baby-sit on weekdays* ◍ **if you have any luck** = **if you are successful** ◍ **don't get your hopes too high** = *don't expect success*

Dialog 23

Discussing the Economy

Gordon: The economic news doesn't look good, does it?

Hobart: Not according to the newspaper yesterday. I saw a similar report last night on TV.

Gordon: I saw that, too. The analysis seemed to be quite realistic.

Hobart: I hope they're wrong. We really need to get the rising price structure under control.

Gordon: Well, costs seem to be rising in so many categories that it appears to defeat any efforts at stabilization.

Hobart: That's my feeling, too. Raw material now costs more. Labor is demanding higher wages and production costs continue to soar.

Gordon: There may be some relief this summer. I understand the price of some foodstuffs will decrease.

Language Notes

- **That's my feeling, too** = *That's my opinion, too* **soar** = *rise beyond what is common and ordinary*

Dialog 24

Dental Appointment

(by phone)

Dental Assistant: Dr. Katuna's office. May I help you?

Karen: Yes. I'd like to make an appointment for a dental checkup.

Dental Assistant: Are you one of the doctor's regular patients?

Karen: No, I'm not. I recently moved to this area and a friend of mine recommended Dr. Katuna.

Dental Assistant: I see. Dr. Katuna can see you next Thursday. Do you prefer morning or afternoon?

Karen: Morning is best for me.

Dental Assistant: Would 10:30 be all right?

Karen: That would be fine.

Dental Assistant: Good. We'll expect you then at 10:30 on Thursday.

Karen: Thank you very much.

Language Notes

- **I see** = *I understand* 🌐 **Would 10:30 be all right?** = *Would 10:30 be acceptable?*

Dialog 25

Making Plans

Alice: When shall we meet?

Sofia: You mean to talk about the party?

Alice: Right. We really need to plan better this time. Remember what a mess it was at the last party?

Sofia: I sure do. I hope we'll do much more planning this time.

Alice: Well, that's why we're going to meet tomorrow at my house. How does 7:30 sound to you?

Sofia: Fine by me. I'll call Jan and Judy. We'll see you tomorrow.

Language Notes

- **Right.** = *Correct.* ◍ **mess** = *unpleasant or unsuccessful affair or event* ◍ **How does 7:30 sound to you?** = *How do you react to meeting at 7:30?* ◍ **Fine by me.** = *It's all right with me.*

Dialog 26

Neighborhood Problem

Wife: We've got to do something about the neighbor's dog!

Husband: Why? Has he been into your flower garden again?

Wife: The flower garden, the garbage can, and yesterday he started digging holes in the yard!

Husband: Did you talk to Mrs. Gorham about it?

Wife: You know how she is. All sweetness and light to your face but then she never does anything. They should either keep that animal in the house or tied up!

Husband: I'll talk to Hank about it tonight. He usually listens.

Wife: We need more than listening, dear. We need action!

Language Notes

- **All sweetness and light to your face…** = *Excessively agreeable and pleasant in the direct confrontation…* ⊕ **Hank** = *Mr. Gorham*

Dialog 27

Car Theft

Byron: Did you hear about what happened to Howard?

Vance: No, what?

Byron: Someone stole his car!

Vance: Really? When did it happen?

Byron: Last night. He left it parked in front of his girl friend's house and when he came out to go home, it was gone.

Vance: Wow! That's really tough. He just bought it last month, didn't he?

Byron: Uh-huh. Fortunately, he's got insurance and the police think they already have a good lead.

Vance: Well, I certainly wish him luck.

Language Notes

- **theft** = *act of stealing* ◍ **Wow!** = *Exclamation of amazement, surprise, joy, etc.* ◍ **That's really tough.** = *That's too bad.* ◍ **a good lead** = *a strong clue*

Dialog 28

Getting Ready

Bill: We don't have much time!

Jerry: I'm hurrying as fast as I can!

Bill: Well, try to hurry a little bit more, will you? I don't want to be late.

Jerry: Oh, we won't be late. You know how these affairs are. They never start on time.

Bill: Maybe so. But I always like to get there on time.

Jerry: Oh, you're such a fuddy-duddy. Don't worry. I'll get you there with time to spare.

Bill: Is that a promise?

Jerry: It's a promise. Now leave me alone while I finish getting ready.

Language Notes

- **such a fuddy-duddy** = *an extremely fussy, hard-to-please, or very particular person.* 🌐 **time to spare** = *excess time*

Dialog 29

Making a Purchase

Joan: How much is this?

Clerk: You mean the large one or the small one?

Joan: The large one.

Clerk: They're on special this week. They've been reduced to five dollars.

Joan: Is this the only kind you have?

Clerk: No. We have some that are different in style but not in color. They're over there. Do you see the sign?

Joan: Oh, yes. I think I'll look at those over there before I decide.

Clerk: Very well. Just take your time.

Language Notes

- **on special** = *special low price* 🌐 **Just take your time.** = *Don't be in a hurry.*

Dialog 30

Mail Time

Barbara: The mail has arrived.

Norma: Did I get anything?

Barbara: I think so. Let me look. You got something from the bank and an advertisement from a health spa.

Norma: Give me the letter from the bank. It might be important.

Barbara: Here. Maybe you've overdrawn your account.

Norma: No danger of that. I don't have any money to overdraw. I hope it's an offer of that job I applied for.

Language Notes

- **health spa** = *health resort* ◍ **Maybe you've overdrawn your account.** = *Perhaps you've spent more money than is in your checking account at the bank.* ◍ **No danger of that.** = *That's not a possibility.*

Dialog 31

Bedtime

Angela: Did you lock the doors?

Frank: All except the back door. I left that open for Tim. He took the dog for a walk.

Angela: Well, I'm going on to bed. I'm bushed.

Frank: Okay. I'm going to stay up a while. I've got to go over the household budget. We're a little overspent this month.

Angela: Please tell Tim to close the door to the basement. I don't want the dog down there tonight.

Frank: Okay. Good night. See you at breakfast.

Language Notes

- **I'm bushed** = *I'm exhausted, very tired.* **stay up** = *remain awake* **I've got to go over…** = *I must read to examine…* **overspent** = *expenses in excess of income*

Dialog 32

Getting Something Fixed

Lee: How long do you think it'll take to fix it?

Repairman: Hard to tell. Sometimes we can find the problem right away and sometimes it may take an hour or two.

Lee: Should I wait or come back later?

Repairman: Suit yourself, but it's probably better to come back later.

Lee: You will get it fixed today, won't you?

Repairman: I don't see any problem. We should have it ready for you by three at the latest. But, better call before you come.

Lee: Okay. Thanks a lot.

Language Notes

- **Hard to tell.** = *Difficult to predict.* ◍ **right away** = *immediately* ◍ **Suit yourself…** = *Do as you please…* ◍ **by three at the latest** = *no later than three o'clock*

Dialog 33

Family Plans

Wife: The gas company phoned this afternoon.

Husband: About the gas stove that we ordered?

Wife: Yes, and also about the gas furnace you asked about.

Husband: What did they say?

Wife: They're going to send someone out to talk with us about the furnace.

Husband: Good. I think we're doing the right thing. The old furnace just isn't very efficient anymore.

Wife: I agree. We should be able to afford a new furnace now that you got that raise in salary.

Husband: Exactly my thoughts.

Language Notes

- **gas company** = *public utility company providing natural or manufactured gas for heating, cooking, etc.* ◍ **I think we're doing the right thing.** = *I think we are proceeding correctly.* ◍ **afford a new furnace** = *pay for a new furnace* ◍ **Exactly my thoughts.** = *I agree.*

Dialog 34

Planning a Business Trip

Dave: When shall I say that you will arrive?

Don: Tell them that I plan to be there by tomorrow afternoon.

Dave: Shall I have them make a hotel reservation for you?

Don: No need. I made one last week by telephone.

Dave: Do you plan to stay longer than three days?

Don: I don't think so. I can take care of all the necessary business in three days.

Dave: Well, have a good trip.

Don: Thank you.

Language Notes

- **No need.** = *It's not necessary.* **Have a good trip.** = *Have a pleasant, successful trip*

Dialog 35

A Short Discussion

Rosalie: Don't forget, Jim and Adrian are coming over tonight.

Tracy: I thought they were coming next week.

Rosalie: No. Tonight's the night. I told you at least a half a dozen times!

Tracy: Well, I forgot.

Rosalie: You forget all too easily if you ask me.

Tracy: Anyway, I've made other plans.

Rosalie: Like what?

Tracy: I told Frank I'd help him work on his car.

Rosalie: Then, you'll just have to tell him you can't come!

Language Notes

- **coming over** = *coming to visit* ◍ **Like what?** = *For example?* ◍ **work on his car** = *help repair his car*

Dialog 36

Family Squabble

Brother: Come on! It's time to go!

Sister: Wait a minute! Just hold your horses! What's your hurry, anyway?

Brother: Well, I've got to stop and get gas in the car, first.

Sister: That won't take long.

Brother: Well, it won't if there's no line at the pump.

Sister: Well, I'm not quite ready.

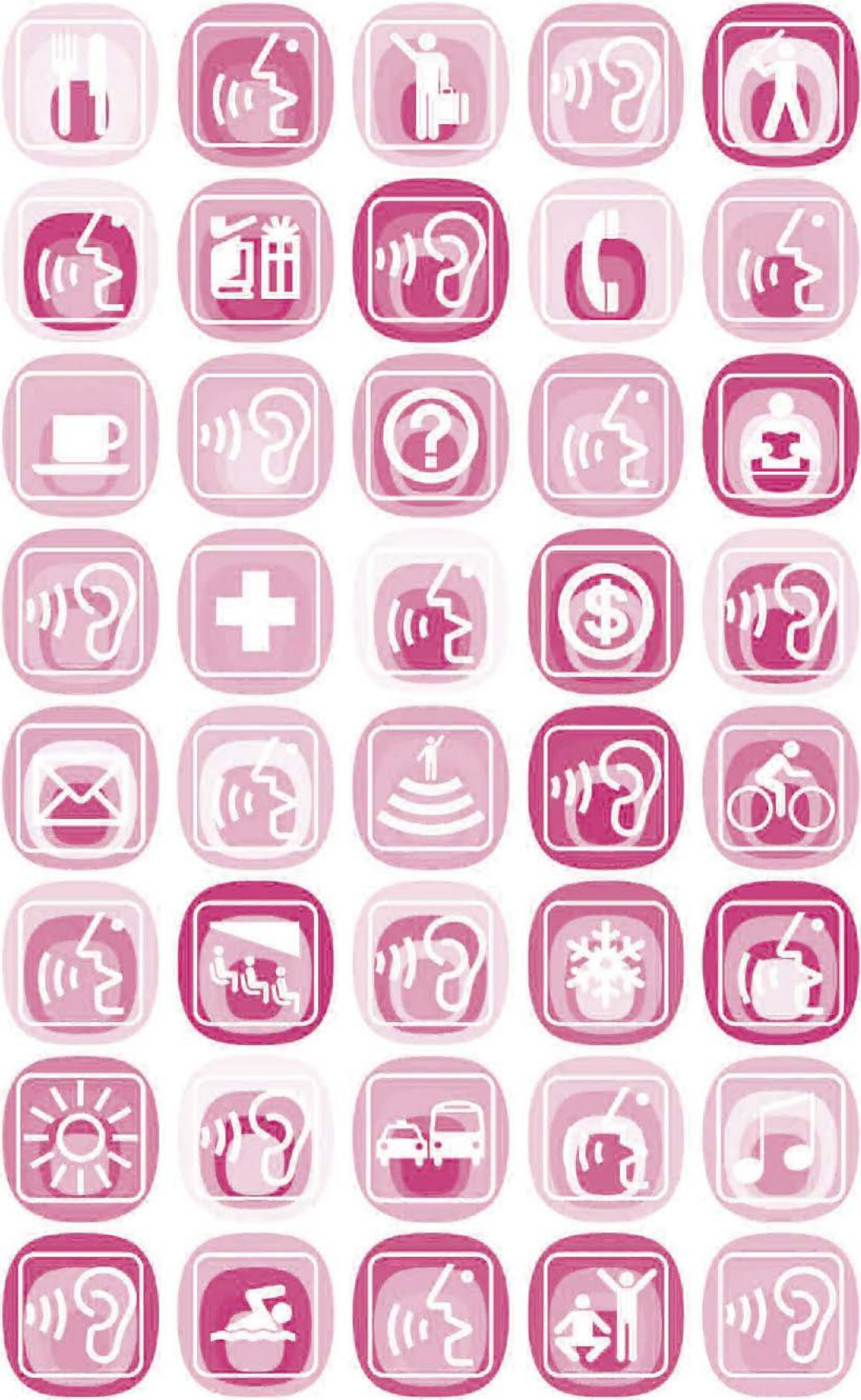
Brother: I'll give you five more minutes, then I'm going on without you!

Sister: You wouldn't do a thing like that!

Brother: Oh, yes I would!

Language Notes

- **squabble** = *noisy quarrel having little importance* ◍ **Just hold your horses!** = *Don't be so impatient!* ◍ **line at the pump** = *line of waiting cars at the gasoline pump* ◍ **not quite ready** = *not completely ready*



More Dialogs for Everyday Use

Short Situational Dialogs
for Students of English as a Foreign Language

Dean Curry

The 36 situation-based dialogs aim to present spoken American English in a relatively natural way. It is similar in format and pedagogy to *Dialogs for Everyday Use,* but with longer conversational episodes. Each dialog is accompanied by language notes that provide useful information on grammar and intonation patterns. Also available with this book and *Dialogs for Everyday Use* is an audiocassette of all the dialogs which allow students to use this book for self-directed study programs.



United States Department of State
Office of English Language Programs