

1

Culture

▲ Look at the photo. Discuss the questions.

- What can you see in the photo?
- Where was the photo taken?
- What is the celebration?

▲ Work with a partner. Discuss the questions.

- What is the next holiday in your country?
- When is it?
- How are you going to celebrate?



In this Unit

SYSTEMS

adjectives for expressing opinions
comparatives with (not) as ... as
cultural activities
adjective stress
superlatives

SKILLS

skimming and scanning
identifying a speaker's opinion
linking sentences
talking about similarities and differences

THEMES

a movie review
a trip to San Antonio
customs around the world
small talk

A movie REVIEW

- **A** Skim the movie review. Would you like to watch this movie?

SKIMMING AND SCANNING

When you skim a text, you read it very quickly to get a general idea of what it's about. When you scan a text, you look for specific information. This means moving your eyes quickly over the text to find only the information you need. You don't read every word when you skim and scan.



RATING

★★★★★

Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom

by Gabriela López

The movie *Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom* is from Bhutan, a country north of India in the Himalayan Mountains. It tells the story of a young teacher named Ugyen. He goes to teach in a mountain village called Lunana. It's his first teaching job. It takes eight days to get to Lunana. It's a very pretty place, but has no electricity. There isn't even a blackboard at his school, so he writes on the walls. The people there are very friendly and welcome Ugyen. He finds everything strange at first and wants to leave, but he slowly starts to feel at home in Lunana.

I think this movie is fantastic. It has an interesting story that I feel

is never boring. Ugyen learns new things and makes lots of friends, even with a yak in his classroom! The children love Ugyen as their teacher and ask him to stay, but he goes back home in the end. The movie's message is that we sometimes find great things in unexpected places. I like this movie because it says that anyone can experience culture shock, even in your own country. This is true for Ugyen.

In my opinion, the best thing about the movie is the acting. The man who plays Ugyen isn't an actor, but he's as good as any professional actor. I hope everyone can watch and enjoy this movie.

LOST FOR WORDS?

culture shock (n) the feeling of confusion someone has when they go to a new place

message (n) the most important idea in a book, movie, or play

yak (n) a type of cattle with long hair and long horns

- **B** Skim the review again. What does Gabriela think of the movie?

- a She loves it.
- b She likes most things, but doesn't like some things.
- c She doesn't like it.

- **C** Scan the review. Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 The review is about a movie from **India / Bhutan**.
- 2 It takes Ugyen **less / more** than a week to reach Lunana.
- 3 When Ugyen arrives in Lunana, he **wants to go home / buys a yak**.
- 4 The author thinks Ugyen **experiences / doesn't experience** culture shock.
- 5 The man who plays Ugyen is **/ isn't** a professional actor.

- ▲ **D** How can you make someone feel welcome in a new community?

Adjectives for expressing OPINIONS

A Choose the correct word to complete the definitions.

- 1 A story that's **boring** is *surprising* / *not interesting*.
- 2 A **delicious** meal is one you *want* / *don't want* to eat.
- 3 A **fantastic** movie is *long* / *excellent*.
- 4 People who are **friendly** are *horrible* / *kind* to you.
- 5 Someone who's **funny** makes you *laugh* / *cry*.
- 6 Another word for very **pretty** is *high* / *beautiful*.
- 7 Something that is **strange** is *normal* / *unusual*.
- 8 If something is **terrible**, it's very *good* / *bad*.

B Complete the chart with the words in bold from Exercise A.

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE

C Complete the sentences with the words in bold from Exercise A.

- 1 **A:** This book is The story is really Nothing happens!
B: Well, do you want to watch a movie instead?
- 2 **A:** This fish looks good, but it tastes a little Is it OK?
B: Yum! It's! I think it's just something new to you.
- 3 **A:** This painting is really The mountains have such nice colors.
B: I agree. I know the painter. I like her a lot—she's really
- 4 **A:** I think Dr. Field's lecture was in every way. I loved it!
B: Me, too, but I didn't know he was so I laughed and laughed.

D Which movies, TV shows, songs, and singers do you like?
Write an answer for each. Then join a group and ask for their opinions.

MOVIE	TV SHOW	SONG	SINGER

What do you think of the movie ...?

I think it's ...

I really like listening to ...
What do you think of...?

VOCABULARY



PLAY WITH WORDS

Which of the adjectives are similar in your language?

Which of the adjectives are different?

Complete the sentences:

- is boring.
- is delicious.
- is funny.
- is strange.
- is terrible.

Game



Adaptive Practice



Comparatives with (NOT) AS ... AS

A  **1.1** Listen to a conversation between two friends. Then answer the questions.

- 1 Which carnival would you prefer to visit—Venice or Rio? Why?
- 2 What's special about Venice's carnival?
- 3 Is Venice's carnival bigger than Rio de Janeiro's carnival?



Celia: What are you watching?

Ana: Oh, it's a documentary film on the carnival in Venice, Italy.

Celia: There's a carnival in Venice?

Ana: Yeah, it's huge, but it's not as big as the carnival in Rio de Janeiro. I think it's probably just as interesting as the one in Rio.

Celia: Why's that?


Ana: They have a lot of the same things—colorful costumes, street performances, and contests. But what makes the carnival in Venice really special is its masks. Most people wear them. Here, let me show you some.

Celia: Wow! There are so many different kinds!

Ana: The most popular ones are these—the simple white ones.

Celia: Those are nice, but not as nice as the more colorful ones. You know, I'd love to see Venice someday, but it looks really busy during the carnival.

Ana: I know. It isn't as crowded as the carnival in Rio, but it still attracts about three million people.

B  Watch the grammar video and read the explanation. What type of word do we use with *(not) as ... as*—a noun, verb, or adjective?

COMPARATIVES WITH (NOT) AS ... AS

We use *as ... as* to say that two things are equal in some way.

We use *not as ... as* to say that one thing is more or less than the other thing.

Affirmative

*The carnival in Venice is **as interesting as** the carnival in Rio.*

*The carnival in Venice is **just as fun as** the carnival in Rio.*

*The people of Venice are **just as friendly as** the people of Rio.*

Negative

*The carnival in Venice is **not as big as** the carnival in Rio.*

*The carnival in Venice **isn't as crowded as** the carnival in Rio.*

*The white masks **aren't as nice as** the more colorful masks.*

C Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 The morning radio show is **just as popular as** / **as popular like** the afternoon show. They have the same number of listeners.
- 2 The craft market isn't **as interesting than** / **as interesting as** usual today. There aren't many stalls.
- 3 This movie is **no as funny as** / **isn't as funny as** the original. The original is absolutely hilarious.
- 4 I don't think the new exhibit at the art museum is **as stranger** / **strange** as the critics say.
- 5 The desserts are **as pretty** / **prettier** as paintings.

D Complete the sentences with *as ... as* or *not as ... as* and the adjectives in parentheses.

- 1 Her acting in comedies is (good) her acting in dramas. She can do both equally well.
- 2 The food at street fairs is (expensive) the food in nice restaurants. It's cheaper.
- 3 I think Mexico's Day of the Dead costumes are just (interesting) Rio's Carnival costumes.
- 4 New Year's Day is (fun) New Year's Eve. In fact, New Year's Day is quite boring.
- 5 Do you think that Spanish food is (delicious) Mexican food? I'm not sure.
- 6 The author's second book was just (strange) her first one. I didn't really enjoy it.

E Correct the four errors with (*not*) *as ... as* in the text.

I love art. My favorite painting is *The Night Café* by Vincent van Gogh. It isn't as more famous as some of his other paintings, but I love it. I think it's just as beautiful than *The Starry Night*. I like Paul Gauguin as well. They have very different styles, but I think Gauguin is as just talented as van Gogh. Another artist I like is Frida Kahlo. Her paintings are as old as van Gogh's and Gauguin's. They are newer and more modern.

F Write sentences comparing these things with *as ... as* or *not as ... as* and the adjectives in parentheses. Then compare sentences in a group. Who has the same opinions?

- 1 action movies / animated movies (*interesting*)

.....

- 2 hip-hop music / rock music (*popular*)

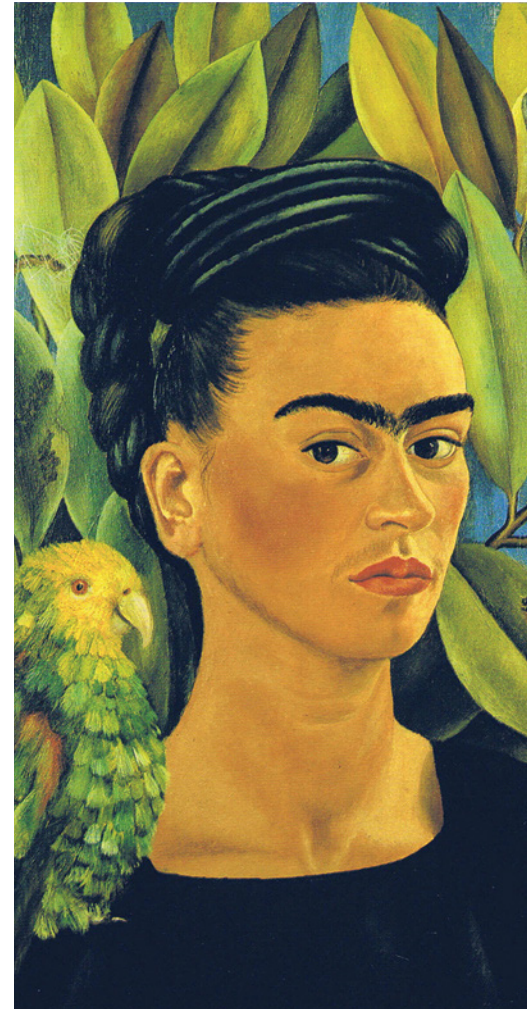
.....

- 3 modern dance / ballet (*difficult*)

.....

- 4 the guitar / the piano (*easy to play*)

.....



Adaptive Practice



Cultural ACTIVITIES

PLAY WITH WORDS

Think of one more example for each of the verbs.

Cover the words. Test your partner.



Game

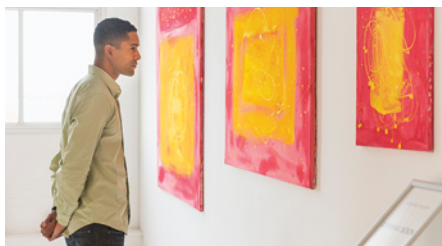
A Look at these cultural activities. Choose the word or phrase that doesn't belong.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 go to | a sports event / a painting / a local festival |
| 2 take | a cooking class / a dance performance / a boat ride |
| 3 see | a comedy show / live theater / an amusement park |
| 4 visit | a concert / an art museum / an outdoor market |
| 5 learn to make | pottery / jewelry / another language |

B Work with a partner. Write activities from Exercise A under the pictures.



1 2 3



4 5 6

C Work with a partner. Imagine you're free this weekend. Which activities in Exercise A would you like to do? Which wouldn't you like to do? Give reasons.

Adaptive Practice



*I'd like to learn to make jewelry because
I can give it to my friends as gifts.*

*Not me. I'd like to visit an art museum because
I want to learn about modern art.*

PRONUNCIATION

Adjective STRESS

A 1.2 Listen to four people give their opinions about modern art. Notice that the stress is on the adjective, not on *as ... as*.

B Choose four adjectives from the box and write sentences with (not) *as ... as*. Compare your ideas in a group.

dangerous
fun

delicious
funny

expensive
good

famous
healthy

A trip to SAN ANTONIO

- A** 1.3 Listen to Marcus and Sarah discussing a trip. Put the things Marcus did in order (1–5). One activity is extra.

Activity	Enjoyed?	Words that helped you understand his opinion
..... went to a local festival	Yes / No	
..... visited an art museum	Yes / No	
..... took a cooking class	Yes / No	
..... went to an outdoor market	Yes / No	
..... ate at a Mexican restaurant	Yes / No	
..... learned to make jewelry	Yes / No	

- B** Listen again and complete the chart in Exercise A. Did Marcus enjoy each activity? Use the audio script at the back of the book.

IDENTIFYING A SPEAKER'S OPINION

To understand a speaker's opinion or attitude, listen for positive and negative adjectives, such as *fantastic* or *terrible*. Also, listen for verbs such as *like* and *don't like*. Sometimes a speaker's tone (excited, bored, upset, etc.) can help you know what their opinion is.

A friendly EMAIL

LINKING SENTENCES: BECAUSE AND SO

We use the words *because* and *so* to link ideas. We use *because* to give a reason, and *so* to give a result.

- I liked it *because* it was real Mexican food.
- The dresses were pretty, *so* I took photos.

- A** Complete the email with *because* or *so*.

Hi Louisa,
Nice to hear from you. You asked me about interesting things to see and do in my city. Here are some ideas. I suggest you go to a soccer match ¹..... I know you love sports. Buy tickets online before you arrive ²..... they aren't as expensive as on the day of the match. Also, try to visit the National Museum ³..... you can learn about our history. And, finally, take a boat ride on the river. Go in the evening ⁴..... you can enjoy the city lights. It's a fantastic way to end the day. Those are just three ideas. I have more if you want them.
Chen

- B** List some interesting things to see or do in your town or city. Write why you recommend them.
- C** Write your own email to Louisa. Give your ideas. Link the ideas with *because* or *so*.

LOST FOR WORDS?

guide (n) a person who shows a place, thing, or route to other people

influence (n) the power to have an effect on people or things

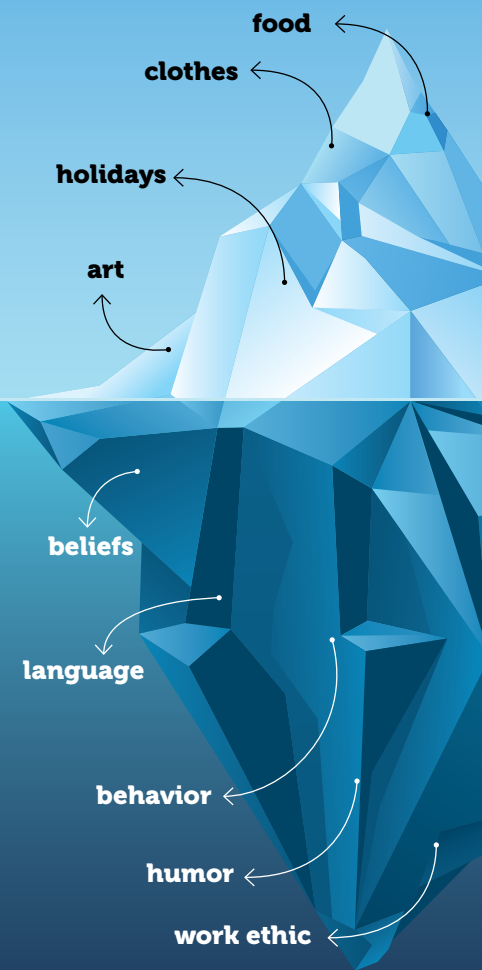
rich (adj) having a lot of something, e.g., money

WRITING



SUPERLATIVES

- ▲ **A** Read the article. Which changes faster, Big C or Little C culture?



Big C and Little C Culture

When we talk about culture, we can talk about "Big C" culture and "Little C" culture. Big C culture is the culture that we can see. It's what we learn in school. What's the most popular book of all time? Who's the greatest singer of all time? It includes art, food, clothes, holidays, music, dance, books, movies, and TV. These are things that large groups of people share. Big C culture changes slowly over time.

Little C culture is the culture that we can't see easily. It focuses on smaller groups within a larger group, such as youth culture, ethnic communities, or online groups. Little C culture includes things like language, beliefs, humor, work ethic, and behavior. What's the most common way to greet people? How do young people act around their parents? This type of culture can change quickly.

It can be useful to think of culture like an iceberg, with Big C culture above the surface for all to see, and Little C culture under the surface. When you understand both, you can understand how different groups of people live. In short, you can appreciate cultural differences.

- ▲ **B** Which is more important to you, Big C or Little C culture?
- **C** 📺 Watch the grammar video and read the explanation. Do we use superlatives to compare two things or more than two things?

SUPERLATIVES

We use superlatives to compare three or more things. Notice the different ways to form the superlative.

Who's **the greatest** singer of all time?

What's **the biggest** festival in the world?

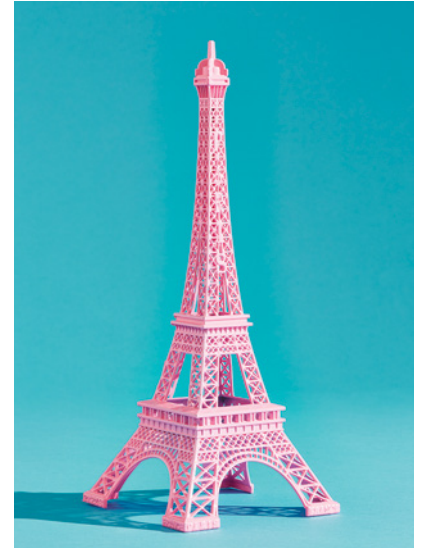
Which is **the happiest** age group?

What's **the most common** way to greet people?

What's **the most popular** book of all time?

What are **the best** shows on TV right now?

What's **the worst** type of music?



D What do you know about cultural landmarks? Match the sentence parts. Then compare with a partner.

- 1 One World Trade Center
- 2 The Eiffel Tower
- 3 The Great Wall
- 4 I think Sydney's opera house
- 5 In my opinion, Machu Picchu
- 6 Stonehenge

- a ... is the most romantic place in Paris.
- b ... is the most fascinating place to visit in China.
- c ... is the most interesting building in Australia.
- d ... is one of the oldest monuments in Britain.
- e ... is the tallest building in New York City.
- f ... is the most mysterious place in the Andes Mountains.

E Write the superlative form of the adjectives in the correct column of the chart.

bad / worst most beautiful saddest		friendliest most boring smallest		good / best most comfortable sunniest		highest prettiest thinnest			
add <i>-est</i>		double final letter, add <i>-est</i>		change the <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> , add <i>-est</i>		add <i>most</i> after <i>the</i>		irregular adjective	

F Complete each sentence with the superlative form of the adjective in parentheses.

- 1 Who is the (*funny*) person in the class?
- 2 My grandmother makes the (*interesting*) gifts for her family.
- 3 The (*bad*) thing you can do is come to class when you are sick.
- 4 My brother has the (*strong*) work ethic in our family.
- 5 Is the fist bump the (*common*) way that young adults greet each other?
- 6 I think the (*good*) thing to take to someone's house is a box of chocolates.
- 7 What is the (*big*) compliment you can give someone?
- 8 I think turkey is the (*delicious*) part of the American Thanksgiving Day meal.

G Work in a group. Discuss the questions in the grammar box in Exercise C. Do you agree on any of the answers?

Who's the greatest singer of all time?

That's a difficult question. I'd say it's ...

Do you think so? I would say it's ...

Adaptive Practice



Talking about CULTURE

A Complete the mini-quiz about culture where you live.

1 Do people greet each other with a hug?	2 Do grand-parents live with the family?	3 Do people have dinner late?	4 Is it ever OK to arrive late?
Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No

LOST FOR WORDS?

custom (n) a way of behaving

nervous (adj) feeling worried or anxious

tip (v) to give a small sum of money for good service

B Watch and listen. Why does Becky need advice?

Becky: So my boyfriend's parents fly in from the UK tonight.

Sandra: That's great. I bet you're so excited.

Becky: Yes, except ... I'm so nervous. What if they don't hug and kiss like we do here?

Sandra: Yeah, true, sometimes the customs there are different from here. Lots of British people shake hands or just wave when they greet you.

Becky: And what about dinner? We eat quite early here.

Sandra: Oh, don't worry. That's the same as here. They won't want to eat really late.

Becky: Do they know we tip in restaurants—we tip everywhere!

Sandra: That's just like in the UK. You'll be fine.

Becky: I hope so. I really want them to have a nice time here.

C Watch and listen again. Which things are the same and which are different?

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 greeting someone | 2 meal times | 3 tipping |
| a same b different | a same b different | a same b different |

D Work with a partner. Complete the culture quiz on page 11.

E Work in groups. Talk about what you learned in the quiz and say what's the same or different in your country.

Use these phrases.

DISCUSSING SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES	
That's ...	like ...
	just like ...
	similar to ...
	the same as ...
	not the same as ...
	different from ...



What a wonderful world!

1 In which country is it impolite to arrive at someone's home an hour late?

a *Switzerland*

b *Brazil*

c *Greece*

2 When you have dinner in Argentina, when is the best time to talk about business?

a *soon after you sit down*

b *after the meal*

c *after some polite conversation*

3 A family in Egypt invites you to their home for dinner. You eat and get full, but the host offers you more food. Do you accept?

a *No.*

b *Yes, but you only eat a little.*

c *Yes, and you eat everything on the plate.*

4 At a business meeting in South Korea, you give your host a small gift to say thank you, but he refuses it. What do you do?

a *You say you are sorry.*

b *You insist he take the gift.*

c *You keep the gift.*

5 In India a friend invites you to have a curry at her home. What's the best way to eat it?

a *with your right hand*

b *with your left hand*

c *with both hands*

6 In which country do students sometimes knock on their desks to show that they enjoyed a lecture?

a *Vietnam*

b *Germany*

c *South Africa*

7 What do people throw during Thailand's New Year Songkran festival?

a *flowers*

b *money*

c *water*

8 In Bulgaria, what does it mean when someone nods their head?

a *yes*

b *no*

c *I love you.*

9 In China, what's the most polite way to point?

a *with a closed fist*

b *with an open hand*

c *with a thumb*



▲ A Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- What is small talk?
- How often do you make small talk?
- What can be difficult about small talk?



HOW TO MAKE SMALL TALK WITH ANYONE FROM ANYWHERE

by Melissa Hahn and Andy Molinsky
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Imagine that you're attending your first international conference. You are all set to meet new global colleagues in your industry, but you realize that there's just one problem: You aren't sure how to strike up a conversation with a stranger from a different culture. In this article, we'll present a mindset for how to think about small talk and a series of behaviors for how to do small talk.

Mindset: How to think about small talk

1. Your country's norms aren't universal—but neither are anyone else's.

Our interviews revealed a broad spectrum of norms around who could make small talk with whom, which topics are considered appropriate to discuss, and how long a conversation should last.

2. Aim for a human connection.

Remember that you aren't networking with countries, you're networking with people. As a result, the person you're interacting with may turn out to be exactly what you expected, or the complete opposite.

Behaviors: How to Do Small Talk

1. _____

Commonalities are like the bricks that build a bridge toward another person. For example, in our opening story, you have something very specific in common with everyone else: You are all at the conference. Given this basic commonality, you might break the ice with a stranger by asking them questions

about the conference: What brought them to the event, what sessions they are interested in attending, do they plan to listen to the keynote later?

2. _____

A closed-ended question would be: "Do you like the conference?" The person could elaborate, but they could also simply say yes or no, and while that's not terrible, you haven't made progress. In contrast, imagine asking them: "What do you think of the conference so far?" This change in phrasing opens up a wide range of potential answers.

3. _____

When you share semi-personal information, you allow them to feel like they're getting to know you. (Remember, they're trying to figure out how to talk to you, too.) Reveal some "likes" or "dislikes," or sprinkle in biographical details (like that you're originally from Jamaica)—this can bring the conversation to life and encourage reciprocation, where the other person can feel comfortable sharing something as well.

4. _____

While the above approaches suggest ways to initiate a conversation, a final tool is to simply say hello, especially if you find small talk hard to navigate.

LOST FOR WORDS?

break the ice (phr) make people who have not met before feel relaxed
commonalities (n) things you have in common
elaborate (v) to add extra information
mindset (n) the way someone thinks
network (v) to meet people, especially professional contacts
reciprocation (n) giving somebody something because they gave you something

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Communication

- **B** Read the article Match the headings below to paragraphs 1–4 in the text.

- a Just say "hello."
- b Use commonalities and your environment.
- c Ask open-ended questions.
- d Share something about yourself.

- **C** Read the article again. Choose Do or Don't for the advice.

- 1 **Do / Don't** expect the same norms in every country.
- 2 **Do / Don't** think of people as countries.
- 3 **Do / Don't** ask open-ended questions.
- 4 **Do / Don't** reveal biographical details.

- **D** Read the dialogue between Karla and Luis at a career event. Check (✓) which topics they discuss.

☐ The weather

☐ The event they're at

☐ What they study

☐ The time



Karla: Hey, do you know what time the lunch break is?

Luis: Hi. I think it's at one thirty, so in ten minutes.

Karla: Oh thanks! I'm so hungry.

Luis: Me too! I'm Luis, by the way. Are you enjoying the event so far?

Karla: I'm Karla. Nice to meet you. Yes, It's really interesting. How about you? Did you see the presentation about choosing your career?

Luis: Yes, I did. I'm graduating from college soon, so it was really useful for me.

Karla: Ah! So am I! Do you go to college near here?

Luis: Yes, I do. I'm studying Marketing at

- **E** Read the questions and decide if they would be appropriate (✓) or inappropriate (✗) for small talk. Compare your answers.

- ☐ Do you live near here?
- ☐ Do you know any good restaurants near here?
- ☐ How much did your shoes cost?
- ☐ How much do you weigh?
- ☐ Is it going to rain this afternoon?
- ☐ Is this your first time at this event?
- ☐ What are your political beliefs?
- ☐ What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Finding commonalities:

Me too!	Neither do I!
So do/am I!	Yes, I agree!

Ending the small talk.

Anyway, it was lovely to meet you. Hope to see you again.

I've got to go now, but it was great to talk.

- ▲ **F** You go to a conference and meet these people. With a partner, decide which questions from Exercise E you could ask each of them to make small talk. What other questions could you ask?

Someone you used to go to school with



The CEO of a major company

The organizer of the event



A famous journalist

- ▲ **G** Work with a partner. Imagine you are at the conference. Choose one of the people in Exercise F and take turns making small talk with your partner.

A Choose the correct words to complete the conversation.

Adam: I loved this movie! It was ¹ **terrible** / **fantastic** in every way. I like how the main character was so ² **friendly** / **delicious** to everyone, even to people he didn't like. That was ³ **pretty** / **funny**.

Chloe: You liked it? The costumes were ⁴ **boring** / **pretty**, but that's all I liked. I thought the story was ⁵ **delicious** / **boring**. The ending was ⁶ **friendly** / **strange**, too. Maybe I didn't understand it.

B Complete the sentences with words from the box. One word is not used.

cooking live	event museum	jewelry pottery
-----------------	-----------------	--------------------

- I want to go to a sports tomorrow, probably a soccer match.
- This paella is absolutely delicious. Did you take a class to learn how to make it?
- I want to see theater this weekend. There are two plays that look interesting.
- Every time I visit an art, I spend a lot of time in the gift store!
- I want to learn to make Maybe I'll make you some earrings for your birthday.

C Complete the opinions with *as ... as* or the superlative form of the adjective in parentheses.

- I think Florence is (*beautiful*) city in Italy. I like Rome, but I don't think it's (*pretty*) Florence. And (*delicious*) thing to eat there is *gelato*!
- Getting news from TV isn't (*convenient*) getting it from my phone. (*bad*) thing is the commercials. They aren't (*funny*) the ones from my childhood.
- (*tasty*) food in Mexico is, of course, local food. I like enchiladas, but they aren't (*good*) street tacos. (*good*) city to get them is Mexico City.
- The people in Spain are just (*friendly*) the people in Greece. I think Greece has (*pretty*) beaches in Europe, but Spain has (*exciting*) cities.

≡ Wordlist ≡

boring (adj)	go to a local festival
delicious (adj)	go to a sports event
fantastic (adj)	learn to make jewelry
friendly (adj)	learn to make pottery
funny (adj)	see a comedy show
pretty (adj)	see live theater
strange (adj)	take a cooking class
terrible (adj)	take a boat ride
	visit an art museum
	visit an outdoor market

PLAY WITH WORDS

Test your partner. Cover the words. How many can they remember?

Work in groups. Mime the verb phrases. Can your group members guess what you're doing?

Level-up challenge. Do you know the opposites of any of the adjectives?