



APEX ENGLISH

Your voice. Global.

B2 · GENERAL ENGLISH

UNIT 1 · 1A

First impressions

Theme · Around the World



Unit 1 · 1A

First impressions

Theme: Around the World



Learning objectives

- Form direct, indirect and negative questions accurately.
- Describe people and places using B2-level adjectives.
- Use intonation to sound genuinely interested in a conversation.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Class Book

Warm-up

In pairs (or on your own), think for one minute about each prompt, then share your answers.

When was the last time you met someone new from another country? Where were you?

What's the first thing you usually notice about a new place — the sounds, the smells, the people?

Have you ever had a strong first impression that turned out to be completely wrong?

Lead-in: four cities, four feelings

Look at the four photos. Match each one to the adjective that best describes it, then compare with a partner.

1. Top-left

2. Top-right

3. Bottom-left

4. Bottom-right

followUp: Which city would you most like to visit? Why? Use at least two adjectives from the list.

Reading: The seven-second rule

Psychologists often claim that we form a first impression of a new person in about seven seconds. The same is true, more or less, of new places: within minutes of stepping off a train, most of us have already decided whether a city feels welcoming or stand-offish, vibrant or sleepy, gritty or charming.

The problem, of course, is that these snap judgements are based on almost nothing — the weather on the day we arrive, a rude taxi driver, the strange smell of the metro. A bustling Tuesday afternoon in Lisbon feels nothing like a wet Monday morning in the same neighbourhood. And the laid-back local who chatted to us at breakfast may not be at all representative of the people we meet later.

So what can travellers do? Experienced travellers suggest two simple habits. First, give a new place at least 48 hours before you decide what you think of it. Second, ask questions — lots of them. The fastest way to move past a stereotype is to be genuinely curious about the person in front of you, and to show that curiosity in your voice.

1. According to the text, how quickly do we form first impressions?

(A) In about seven seconds.

(B) After 48 hours.

(C) Only after meeting several people.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



2. Why are these first impressions unreliable?
 - (A) Because people lie to travellers.
 - (B) Because they are based on small, accidental details.
 - (C) Because cities change every Tuesday.
3. What is the writer's main piece of advice?
 - (A) Avoid talking to locals on the first day.
 - (B) Trust your instincts and move on quickly.
 - (C) Be patient, and ask lots of questions.
4. The phrase "snap judgements" in paragraph 2 means...
 - (A) decisions made very quickly with little thought.
 - (B) judgements that change every day.
 - (C) official decisions made by a court.

Vocabulary in context

Find these words in the text and match them to the closest meaning.

- stand-offish** — cold and unfriendly towards strangers
- bustling** — full of busy activity
- laid-back** — relaxed and easy-going
- snap judgement** — a fast decision based on little evidence
- representative** — typical of a larger group
- genuinely** — in a real and honest way

Vocabulary: describing people and places

- gregarious** — highly sociable; drawn to the company of others
- unflappable** — unshakeably calm, even under pressure
- self-effacing** — modest; reluctant to draw attention to oneself
- unpretentious** — genuine and modest; free of airs or arrogance
- quick-witted** — sharp-minded; funny and perceptive in the moment
- aloof** — emotionally distant; deliberately detached from others
- teeming** — swarming with people or activity
- somnolent** — drowsy and slow-paced; seemingly half-asleep
- picturesque** — strikingly attractive in a quaint, photogenic way
- edgy** — unconventional and slightly raw, but culturally vibrant

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



panoramic — offering sweeping, unbroken views of the landscape

secluded — hidden away; far from crowds or through-traffic

practice

Complete the sentences with **ONE** word or phrase from the lists.

1. She's remarkably ____ — she can work a room of strangers within minutes.

2. The old quarter is genuinely ____ — cobbled lanes, wrought-iron balconies, flowers in every window.

3. Don't take it personally. He comes across as ____ at first, but he warms up.

4. We stumbled on a ____ mountain hamlet where the only traffic was the morning bread van.

5. Try to find somewhere ____ — the coastal resorts are impossibly crowded in August.

6. For all her achievements, she's astonishingly ____ — you'd never guess what she's done.

Practice 2 — collocations & rewrite

Rewrite each sentence replacing the underlined phrase with **ONE** word from this lesson's vocabulary. Keep the meaning identical.

1. The manager is very calm even under pressure.

2. Despite his fame, the chef is completely down-to-earth and without airs.

3. My sister is sharp and funny in conversation.

4. The market was swarming with people on Saturday morning.

5. The neighbourhood felt unconventional and slightly raw.

Practice 3 — discursive writing

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

prompt: Describe a place that surprised you by turning out completely different from your first impression of it.

Use at least FOUR of the target words from this unit.

Include one indirect question and one negative question.

Aim for a reflective, cohesive C1 register.

sample: When I arrived in the old fishing village, I expected somewhere sleepy and forgotten, but the harbour was teeming with life from dawn until dusk. Fishermen unloaded their catch while gregarious stallholders called out prices, laughing with anyone who passed. I had imagined a picturesque but empty postcard; instead I found a community that was warm, loud and slightly chaotic. My guide, an unflappable woman named Rosa, navigated the crowds without ever raising her voice, even when a delivery truck blocked the only road. Later, we escaped to a secluded cove nearby, and the contrast could not have been sharper. What struck me most was how quick-witted the locals were whenever a tourist asked a silly question; they never mocked, only teased gently. Don't we all judge places, and people, far too quickly? I still wonder how I could have been so wrong.



Grammar focus: Question formation

1. Subject vs object questions — When the question word (Who / What / Which) is the SUBJECT, do NOT use do/does/did: • Who told you that? (Who = subject) When it is the OBJECT, use the normal auxiliary: • Who did you tell? (You = subject, who = object)

2. Indirect questions — After polite openers like Could you tell me..., Do you know..., I was wondering..., the word order becomes statement order and there is no do/does/did: • Where is the station? → Could you tell me where the station is? • What time does it open? → Do you know what time it opens?

3. Negative questions — Negative questions often show surprise, expectation or polite suggestion: • Haven't we met before? (I think we have) • Don't you like it? (I'm surprised you don't) • Why don't we sit outside? (suggestion)

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

**Exercise A — Make it indirect**

Rewrite each direct question as an indirect question starting with the words given.

1. Where is the nearest metro station?

2. What time does the museum close?

3. How much does a taxi to the airport cost?

4. Why is the café closed today?

5. Did the train leave on time?

Exercise B — Subject or object?

Make a question from each prompt. Decide whether the question word is the subject or the object.

1. Someone called you. (Who)

2. You called someone. (Who)

3. Something happened. (What)

4. She said something. (What)

5. One of the trains was cancelled. (Which)

Exercise C — Find and fix the mistake

Each question has ONE mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. Could you tell me where is the bathroom?

2. Who did told you about this place?

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



3. Do you know what time does the bus leave?

4. Why don't we to sit on the terrace?

Listening: Meeting on a train

Maya is travelling to a friend's wedding in Lisbon. She sits down opposite Tom, who has been to the city before.

audioKey: dialogue

Before you listen

What questions do you think Maya will ask Tom?

What advice do you think Tom will give about Lisbon?

First listen — gist

1. Why is Maya going to Lisbon?

2. Has Tom been to Lisbon before?

3. How would Tom describe the city in two words?

Second listen — detail

1. Which neighbourhood does Tom recommend?

2. Which area does he tell her to avoid?

3. Where is the most famous pastel de nata bakery?

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



4. Does Tom think the famous bakery is much better than the small ones?

Maya: Excuse me, is this seat taken?

Tom: No, go ahead. Are you heading to Lisbon as well?

Maya: Yeah, just for the weekend. Have you been before?

Tom: Once, years ago. What brings you there?

Maya: A friend's wedding, actually. I don't really know the city. What's it like?

Tom: Honestly? Charming. A bit sleepy in the mornings, but really lively at night. The food is incredible.

Maya: Oh, wow. Any neighborhoods I should check out?

Tom: Definitely Alfama — it's the old part, full of narrow streets and tiny restaurants. Avoid the really touristy spots near the castle if you can.

Maya: Good tip. Could you tell me where the best place to try pastel de nata is?

Tom: Ha! Everyone asks that. There's a famous bakery in Belém, but to be honest, the small ones near the metro are just as good.

Maya: Sounds perfect. By the way, I'm Maya.

Tom: Tom. Nice to meet you.

Speaking: role-play

Choose *ONE* situation. Take turns being Student A and Student B. Use at least three indirect questions and two adjectives from today's lesson.

Scene: At an airport gate

A: You're waiting for a delayed flight to a city you've never visited.

B: You live in that city and are flying home.

Scene: At a hostel breakfast

A: You arrived last night and have one day to explore.

B: You've been staying for a week and know the area well.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Scene: On a long bus journey

A: You're moving abroad for a new job.

B: You grew up in the country your seatmate is moving to.

Writing mini-task

Write a short message (60–80 words) to a friend who is visiting your city next week. Include: one piece of advice, two adjectives describing the city, and one indirect question they should ask a local.

Wrap-up

One adjective from today you'd like to use this week.

One question form you're still not sure about.

One thing that surprised you in the dialogue.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Workbook — home practice



Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

First impressions - Workbook

Extra practice for home study · with answer keys

1. Vocabulary - people

Choose the adjective that best fits each description.

1. She never gets stressed, even before an exam. She's so...
(A) unflappable
(B) aloof
(C) quick-witted
2. He told three jokes in five minutes and they were all funny. Really...
(A) aloof
(B) quick-witted
(C) unpretentious
3. He's a famous actor, but in person he's so normal and friendly - really...
(A) gregarious
(B) aloof
(C) unpretentious
4. She barely said hello and walked straight past us. A bit...
(A) self-effacing
(B) aloof
(C) unflappable
5. He doesn't speak much, but he listens carefully. He's quite...
(A) gregarious
(B) quick-witted
(C) self-effacing

2. Vocabulary - places

Complete each sentence with ONE word from the box.

BOX: teeming · somnolent · picturesque · edgy · panoramic · secluded

1. On Sundays the town is completely ____ - even the bakery is closed.
2. We hiked along a ____ trail above the lake.
3. The old fishing port is full of small cafés and flower pots - really ____.
4. The market was so ____ I could barely walk through it.
5. The area near the docks is a bit ____, but full of great street art.
6. We rented a cabin ____, two hours from the nearest town.

3. Vocabulary - discursive writing

Is the first impression of a city always a reliable indicator of its true character? Discuss.

Checklist:

- ☐ Use at least 4 adjectives from the 'people' or 'places' sections
- ☐ Maintain a formal, discursive register
- ☐ Use cohesive devices to link your arguments

[] Check for varied C1-level grammatical structures

[illegible]

4. Grammar - indirect questions

Rewrite each direct question as an indirect one, starting with the words given.

1. Where is the bus stop?
Start: Could you tell me _____
2. What time does the shop open?
Start: Do you know _____
3. How long does the journey take?
Start: I was wondering _____
4. Why did they cancel the train?
Start: Have you any idea _____
5. Did Anna arrive on time?
Start: Could you tell me _____
6. Who paid the bill?
Start: Do you know _____

5. Grammar - subject vs object questions

Write a question from the prompt. Decide if the question word is the subject or the object.

1. Someone broke the window. (Who)
2. You met someone at the party. (Who)
3. Something woke you up. (What)
4. She bought something. (What)
5. One of the candidates won. (Which)
6. He chose one of the photos. (Which)

6. Grammar - find and fix the mistake

Each sentence has *ONE* mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. Could you tell me where can I find a taxi?
2. Who did wrote this email?
3. Do you know what time does the museum open?
4. Why don't we to take the early train?
5. Haven't you been here never before?

7. Reading - true / false / not given

Read the short text, then mark each statement *T* (true), *F* (false) or *NG* (not given).

Marta moved to Porto five years ago. At first she found the city stand-offish: people in the shops barely looked at her, and her neighbours took weeks to say hello. Slowly, though, she discovered a different side of the city - small, laid-back cafés in Cedofeita, lively conversations on the bus, a charming bakery whose owner now knows her order by heart. "You can't judge Porto in a week," she says. "You really need to ask questions, and you need to listen."

1. Marta has lived in Porto for more than three years. [T / F / NG]
2. Her first impression of Porto was very welcoming. [T / F / NG]
3. Her neighbours said hello on the first day. [T / F / NG]
4. Marta speaks fluent Portuguese. [T / F / NG]
5. The bakery owner remembers what she usually orders. [T / F / NG]
6. Marta advises new arrivals to be curious and patient. [T / F / NG]

8. Writing - guided task

Write 60-80 words. A friend is visiting your city next weekend. Send a short message including: (a) one indirect question they should ask a local, (b) two adjectives describing your city, (c) one piece of practical advice.

Checklist:

- ☐ Greeting / closing in informal style
- ☐ At least ONE indirect question (Could you tell me... / Do you know... / I was wondering...)
- ☐ TWO adjectives from Lesson 1A vocabulary
- ☐ ONE clear piece of advice
- ☐ 60-80 words

9. Audio: Listening - gist & detail

Play the dialogue. Cover the answers. Listen *ONCE* for gist, then again for detail.

Audio: Jess & Mike · first impressions of Porto (hostel)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

10. Audio: Listening - gap-fill (dictation)

Listen again and write the missing word in each line. Each ____ is *ONE* word.

Audio: Jess & Mike - full dialogue

Transcript with gaps:

A: So, Mike, you've been living in Porto for a while now, haven't you? Haven't you been here for, what, two years?

B: That's right, Jess. Two years this summer. Still loving it.

A: Good to hear! My first impression was that it's a bit gritty, especially the downtown area.

B: I know what you mean. But the riverside is completely different - really charming, isn't it? Very picturesque.

A: Absolutely. Speaking of downtown, if I wanted to find a truly authentic spot for a drink, could you tell me where the locals actually drink?

B: Ah, that's a good question! There's a tiny place in Cedofeita - totally off the beaten track. It's fantastic.

A: Oh, sounds intriguing. What's it called?

B: I can't remember the name, but you'll know it when you see it. The owner is a bit stand-offish at first, but he warms up fast.

A: I'll have to check it out. What about Bolhão market? Is that still worth seeing?

B: Bolhão? Bustling, but a bit of a tourist trap now, to be honest. It's lost some of its authenticity.

A: That's a shame. So, where would you recommend for food then?

B: For fresh seafood, I'd skip it and head to Matosinhos for grilled fish. Best in the region, hands down.

1. My first ____ was that it's a bit gritty.

2. The riverside is completely different - really ____.
3. Could you tell me where the ____ actually drink?
4. There's a tiny place in ____ - totally off the beaten track.
5. The owner is a bit ____ at first, but he warms up fast.
6. Bolhão? ____, but a bit of a tourist trap now.
7. I'd skip it and head to ____ for grilled fish.
8. Haven't you been here for, what, ____ years?

11. Audio: Intonation challenge

Play the intonation drill. Decide if each reaction sounds *INTERESTED (I)* or *BORED / SARCASTIC (B)*. Then practise saying each one yourself.

Audio: Intonation drill · five short reactions

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

12. ■ Challenge - sentence transformation

Rewrite the second sentence so it means the same as the first, using 2-5 words including the **KEYWORD**. Do **NOT** change the keyword.

1. 1. "Where do you live?" she asked me. → She asked me _____ lived. (KEYWORD: WHERE)
2. 2. I don't know the time the film starts. → Do you know _____ starts? (KEYWORD: WHAT)
3. 3. Why don't we take the early train? → How _____ the early train? (KEYWORD: ABOUT)
4. 4. I'm surprised you haven't been to Lisbon. → _____ to Lisbon? (KEYWORD: HAVEN'T)
5. 5. Tell me the price of the ticket, please. → Could you tell me _____ costs? (KEYWORD: HOW)
6. 6. Someone left the door open last night. → _____ the door open last night? (KEYWORD: WHO)

13. ■ Challenge - word formation

Complete each sentence with the **CORRECT** form of the word in **CAPITALS**.

1. She made a really good ____ on the interviewer. (IMPRESS)
2. Don't ____ a book by its cover. (JUDGE)
3. Their reaction was completely ____ - they barely smiled. (ENTHUSIASM)
4. He spoke ____, with a wide pitch range. (EXPRESS)
5. Lisbon has a very ____ nightlife. (LIVE)
6. The neighbourhood is full of ____ little shops. (CHARM)
7. Our first ____ of the city was wrong. (IMPRESS)
8. She greeted us very _____. (WARM)

14. ■ Challenge - odd one out

Three of the four adjectives are close in meaning. Pick the **ODD ONE OUT**.

1. 1. Describing a friendly person:
(A) outgoing
(B) down-to-earth
(C) stand-offish
(D) warm
2. 2. Describing a busy place:
(A) bustling
(B) lively
(C) sleepy
(D) buzzing
3. 3. Describing a quiet person:
(A) reserved
(B) witty
(C) shy
(D) quiet
4. 4. Describing a rough but interesting area:
(A) gritty
(B) scenic
(C) edgy
(D) rough-around-the-edges

15. ■ Challenge - extended writing

Write a 120-150 word blog entry titled "My honest first impression of ____" (your city or a city you've visited). Use AT LEAST: 3 lesson adjectives, 2 indirect questions, 1 negative question.

Checklist:

- ☐ 120-150 words
- ☐ At least 3 adjectives from Lesson 1A
- ☐ At least 2 indirect questions
- ☐ At least 1 negative question (Haven't you...? / Don't you...?)
- ☐ Clear opening impression and final reflection

16. Self-check

Tick the things you can now do confidently.

- ☐ I can form direct, indirect and negative questions.
- ☐ I can tell the difference between subject and object questions.
- ☐ I can describe a person using at least 4 new adjectives.
- ☐ I can describe a place using at least 4 new adjectives.
- ☐ I can use intonation to sound interested, not bored.
- ☐ I can transform B2 sentences while keeping the meaning.
- ☐ I can hear and write missing words in a B2-level dialogue.

First impressions — Workbook

Extra practice for home study · with answer keys

1. Vocabulary — people

Choose the adjective that best fits each description.

1. She never gets stressed, even before an exam. She's so...
(A) unflappable
(B) aloof
(C) quick-witted
2. He told three jokes in five minutes and they were all funny. Really...
(A) aloof
(B) quick-witted
(C) unpretentious
3. He's a famous actor, but in person he's so normal and friendly — really...
(A) gregarious
(B) aloof
(C) unpretentious
4. She barely said hello and walked straight past us. A bit...
(A) self-effacing
(B) aloof
(C) unflappable
5. He doesn't speak much, but he listens carefully. He's quite...
(A) gregarious
(B) quick-witted
(C) self-effacing

2. Vocabulary — places

Complete each sentence with ONE word from the box.

BOX: teeming · somnolent · picturesque · edgy · panoramic · secluded

1. On Sundays the town is completely ____ — even the bakery is closed.
2. We hiked along a ____ trail above the lake.
3. The old fishing port is full of small cafés and flower pots — really ____.
4. The market was so ____ I could barely walk through it.
5. The area near the docks is a bit ____, but full of great street art.
6. We rented a cabin ____, two hours from the nearest town.

3. Vocabulary — discursive writing

Is the first impression of a city always a reliable indicator of its true character? Discuss.

Checklist:

- Use at least 4 adjectives from the 'people' or 'places' sections
- Maintain a formal, discursive register
- Use cohesive devices to link your arguments

- Check for varied C1-level grammatical structures

[illegible]

4. Grammar — indirect questions

Rewrite each direct question as an indirect one, starting with the words given.

- 1. Where is the bus stop?**

Start: Could you tell me _____

- ## 2. What time does the shop open?

Start: Do you know _____

- ### 3. How long does the journey take?

Start: I was wondering _____

- #### 4. Why did they cancel the train?

Start: Have you any idea _____

- 5. Did Anna arrive on time?**

Start: Could you tell me _____

- ### 6. Who paid the bill?

Start: Do you know _____

5. Grammar — subject vs object questions

Write a question from the prompt. Decide if the question word is the subject or the object.

1. Someone broke the window. (Who)
2. You met someone at the party. (Who)
3. Something woke you up. (What)
4. She bought something. (What)
5. One of the candidates won. (Which)
6. He chose one of the photos. (Which)

6. Grammar — find and fix the mistake

Each sentence has *ONE* mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. Could you tell me where can I find a taxi?
2. Who did wrote this email?
3. Do you know what time does the museum open?
4. Why don't we to take the early train?
5. Haven't you been here never before?

7. Reading — true / false / not given

Read the short text, then mark each statement *T* (true), *F* (false) or *NG* (not given).

Marta moved to Porto five years ago. At first she found the city stand-offish: people in the shops barely looked at her, and her neighbours took weeks to say hello. Slowly, though, she discovered a different side of the city — small, laid-back cafés in Cedofeita, lively conversations on the bus, a charming bakery whose owner now knows her order by heart. "You can't judge Porto in a week," she says. "You really need to ask questions, and you need to listen."

1. Marta has lived in Porto for more than three years. [T / F / NG]
2. Her first impression of Porto was very welcoming. [T / F / NG]
3. Her neighbours said hello on the first day. [T / F / NG]
4. Marta speaks fluent Portuguese. [T / F / NG]
5. The bakery owner remembers what she usually orders. [T / F / NG]
6. Marta advises new arrivals to be curious and patient. [T / F / NG]

8. Writing — guided task

Write 60–80 words. A friend is visiting your city next weekend. Send a short message including: (a) one indirect question they should ask a local, (b) two adjectives describing your city, (c) one piece of practical advice.

Checklist:

- Greeting / closing in informal style
- At least ONE indirect question (Could you tell me... / Do you know... / I was wondering...)
- TWO adjectives from Lesson 1A vocabulary
- ONE clear piece of advice
- 60–80 words

9. ■ Listening — gist & detail

Play the dialogue. Cover the answers. Listen *ONCE* for gist, then again for detail.

■ **Audio:** Jess & Mike · first impressions of Porto (hostel)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

10. ■ Listening — gap-fill (dictation)

Listen again and write the missing word in each line. Each ____ is *ONE* word.

■ **Audio:** Jess & Mike — full dialogue

Transcript with gaps:

A: So, Mike, you've been living in Porto for a while now, haven't you? Haven't you been here for, what, two years?

B: That's right, Jess. Two years this summer. Still loving it.

A: Good to hear! My first impression was that it's a bit gritty, especially the downtown area.

B: I know what you mean. But the riverside is completely different — really charming, isn't it? Very picturesque.

A: Absolutely. Speaking of downtown, if I wanted to find a truly authentic spot for a drink, could you tell me where the locals actually drink?

B: Ah, that's a good question! There's a tiny place in Cedofeita — totally off the beaten track. It's fantastic.

A: Oh, sounds intriguing. What's it called?

B: I can't remember the name, but you'll know it when you see it. The owner is a bit stand-offish at first, but he warms up fast.

A: I'll have to check it out. What about Bolhão market? Is that still worth seeing?

B: Bolhão? Bustling, but a bit of a tourist trap now, to be honest. It's lost some of its authenticity.

A: That's a shame. So, where would you recommend for food then?

B: For fresh seafood, I'd skip it and head to Matosinhos for grilled fish. Best in the region, hands down.

1. My first ____ was that it's a bit gritty.

2. The riverside is completely different — really ____.
3. Could you tell me where the ____ actually drink?
4. There's a tiny place in ____ — totally off the beaten track.
5. The owner is a bit ____ at first, but he warms up fast.
6. Bolhão? ____, but a bit of a tourist trap now.
7. I'd skip it and head to ____ for grilled fish.
8. Haven't you been here for, what, ____ years?

11. ■ Intonation challenge

Play the intonation drill. Decide if each reaction sounds *INTERESTED (I)* or *BORED / SARCASTIC (B)*. Then practise saying each one yourself.

■ **Audio:** Intonation drill · five short reactions

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

12. ■ Challenge — sentence transformation

Rewrite the second sentence so it means the same as the first, using 2–5 words including the **KEYWORD**. Do **NOT** change the keyword.

1. 1. "Where do you live?" she asked me. → She asked me _____ lived. (KEYWORD: WHERE)
2. 2. I don't know the time the film starts. → Do you know _____ starts? (KEYWORD: WHAT)
3. 3. Why don't we take the early train? → How _____ the early train? (KEYWORD: ABOUT)
4. 4. I'm surprised you haven't been to Lisbon. → _____ to Lisbon? (KEYWORD: HAVEN'T)
5. 5. Tell me the price of the ticket, please. → Could you tell me _____ costs? (KEYWORD: HOW)
6. 6. Someone left the door open last night. → _____ the door open last night? (KEYWORD: WHO)

13. ■ Challenge — word formation

Complete each sentence with the **CORRECT** form of the word in **CAPITALS**.

1. She made a really good ____ on the interviewer. (IMPRESS)
2. Don't ____ a book by its cover. (JUDGE)
3. Their reaction was completely ____ — they barely smiled. (ENTHUSIASM)
4. He spoke ____, with a wide pitch range. (EXPRESS)
5. Lisbon has a very ____ nightlife. (LIVE)
6. The neighbourhood is full of ____ little shops. (CHARM)
7. Our first ____ of the city was wrong. (IMPRESS)
8. She greeted us very _____. (WARM)

14. ■ Challenge — odd one out

Three of the four adjectives are close in meaning. Pick the **ODD ONE OUT**.

1. 1. Describing a friendly person:
(A) outgoing
(B) down-to-earth
(C) stand-offish
(D) warm
2. 2. Describing a busy place:
(A) bustling
(B) lively
(C) sleepy
(D) buzzing
3. 3. Describing a quiet person:
(A) reserved
(B) witty
(C) shy
(D) quiet
4. 4. Describing a rough but interesting area:
(A) gritty
(B) scenic
(C) edgy
(D) rough-around-the-edges

15. ■ Challenge — extended writing

Write a 120–150 word blog entry titled "My honest first impression of ____" (your city or a city you've visited). Use AT LEAST: 3 lesson adjectives, 2 indirect questions, 1 negative question.

Checklist:

- 120–150 words
- At least 3 adjectives from Lesson 1A
- At least 2 indirect questions
- At least 1 negative question (Haven't you...? / Don't you...?)
- Clear opening impression and final reflection

16. Self-check

Tick the things you can now do confidently.

- I can form direct, indirect and negative questions.
- I can tell the difference between subject and object questions.
- I can describe a person using at least 4 new adjectives.
- I can describe a place using at least 4 new adjectives.
- I can use intonation to sound interested, not bored.
- I can transform B2 sentences while keeping the meaning.
- I can hear and write missing words in a B2-level dialogue.



Answer key — Class Book

Lead-in: four cities, four feelings

1. bustling
2. sleepy
3. gritty
4. scenic

Reading: The seven-second rule

1. (A) In about seven seconds.
2. (B) Because they are based on small, accidental details.
3. (C) Be patient, and ask lots of questions.
4. (A) decisions made very quickly with little thought.

Vocabulary: describing people and places

1. gregarious
2. picturesque
3. aloof
4. somnolent
5. secluded
6. self-effacing
1. The manager is unflappable.
2. Despite his fame, the chef is unpretentious.
3. My sister is quick-witted.
4. The market was teeming on Saturday morning.
5. The neighbourhood felt edgy.

Grammar focus: Question formation

1. Could you tell me where the nearest metro station is?
2. Do you know what time the museum closes?
3. I was wondering how much a taxi to the airport costs.
4. Have you any idea why the café is closed today?
5. Could you tell me whether the train left on time?
1. Who called you?
2. Who did you call?
3. What happened?
4. What did she say?
5. Which train was cancelled?
1. Could you tell me where the bathroom is?
2. Who told you about this place?
3. Do you know what time the bus leaves?
4. Why don't we sit on the terrace?

Listening: Meeting on a train

1. For a friend's wedding.
2. Yes, once, years ago.
3. Charming, but a bit sleepy in the mornings and lively at night.
1. Alfama.
2. The touristy spots near the castle.
3. In Belém.
4. No — he says the small ones near the metro are just as good.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Answer key — Workbook

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

First impressions - Workbook — Answer Key

1. Vocabulary - people

1. **(A)** *unflappable*
2. **(B)** *quick-witted*
3. **(C)** *unpretentious*
4. **(B)** *aloof*
5. **(C)** *self-effacing*

2. Vocabulary - places

1. **somnolent**
2. **panoramic**
3. **picturesque**
4. **teeming**
5. **edgy**
6. **secluded**

3. Vocabulary - discursive writing

Sample answer

Many believe that the first impression of a city is definitive. Upon arrival, one might find a city teeming with life, its picturesque streets and panoramic views immediately captivating. However, such initial reactions can be deceptive. A city that appears somnolent on a Sunday morning might transform into a bustling hub of activity by Monday. Similarly, a neighbourhood that feels edgy or even stand-offish at first glance often reveals a charming, unpretentious soul to those who stay longer. It is a mistake to judge a place solely on its outward appearance or the perceived aloofness of its inhabitants. A truly gregarious and welcoming atmosphere often lies beneath a gritty exterior. Therefore, while first impressions are powerful, they are rarely the whole story. One must look past the initial whiteout of sensory input to find the true heart of a location.

4. Grammar - indirect questions

1. *Could you tell me where the bus stop is?*
2. *Do you know what time the shop opens?*
3. *I was wondering how long the journey takes.*
4. *Have you any idea why they cancelled the train?*
5. *Could you tell me whether Anna arrived on time?*
6. *Do you know who paid the bill?*

5. Grammar - subject vs object questions

1. *Who broke the window?*
2. *Who did you meet at the party?*
3. *What woke you up?*
4. *What did she buy?*
5. *Which candidate won?*
6. *Which photo did he choose?*

6. Grammar - find and fix the mistake

1. *Could you tell me where I can find a taxi?*
2. *Who wrote this email?*
3. *Do you know what time the museum opens?*
4. *Why don't we take the early train?*
5. *Haven't you been here before?*

7. Reading - true / false / not given

1. **T**
2. **F**
3. **F**
4. **NG**
5. **T**
6. **T**

8. Writing - guided task

Sample answer

Hi Sam! So excited you're coming. Honestly, this place can look a bit gritty at first, but it's actually really charming once you walk around. One tip: don't try to do everything in the centre - the best food is off the beaten track. When you check into the hostel, ask them "Could you tell me where the locals eat lunch?" - that one question always works. Can't wait to see you!

9. Audio: Listening - gist & detail

1. *A bit gritty - the streets near the station felt rough.*
2. *Completely different - really charming.*
3. *Cedofeita - a tiny, off-the-beaten-track place.*
4. *A bit stand-offish at first, but he warms up fast.*
5. *It's become a bit of a tourist trap.*
6. *Matosinhos.*
7. *Three years.*

10. Audio: Listening - gap-fill (dictation)

1. *impression*
2. *charming*
3. *locals*
4. *Cedofeita*
5. *stand-offish*
6. *Bustling*
7. *Matosinhos*
8. *two*

11. Audio: Intonation challenge

1. *I - Interested*
2. *B - Bored / sarcastic*
3. *I - Interested*
4. *B - Bored / sarcastic*
5. *I - Interested*

12. ■ Challenge - sentence transformation

1. *where I*
2. *what time the film*
3. *about taking*
4. *Haven't you been*
5. *how much the ticket*
6. *Who left*

13. ■ Challenge - word formation

1. *impression*
2. *judge*
3. *unenthusiastic*
4. *expressively*
5. *lively*
6. *charming*
7. *impression*
8. *warmly*

14. ■ Challenge - odd one out

1. **(C)** *stand-offish*
2. **(C)** *sleepy*
3. **(B)** *witty*
4. **(B)** *scenic*

15. ■ Challenge - extended writing

Sample answer

My honest first impression of Lisbon: noisy. I arrived on a hot Friday and the bustling streets near Rossio felt overwhelming. Within an hour I was wondering whether I'd made a mistake. "Could you tell me where the locals actually eat?" I asked a waiter. He pointed me to a tiny place in Alfama - charming, gritty, and full of life. Haven't you ever changed your mind about a city in a single afternoon? I have. By Sunday, Lisbon felt warm, down-to-earth, and alive. Do you know what the trick was? Asking questions. Lots of them.

16. Self-check

Self-assessment — no fixed answers.

First impressions — Workbook — Answer Key

1. Vocabulary — people

1. **(A)** *unflappable*
2. **(B)** *quick-witted*
3. **(C)** *unpretentious*
4. **(B)** *aloof*
5. **(C)** *self-effacing*

2. Vocabulary — places

1. **somnolent**
2. **panoramic**
3. **picturesque**
4. **teeming**
5. **edgy**
6. **secluded**

3. Vocabulary — discursive writing

Sample answer

Many believe that the first impression of a city is definitive. Upon arrival, one might find a city teeming with life, its picturesque streets and panoramic views immediately captivating. However, such initial reactions can be deceptive. A city that appears somnolent on a Sunday morning might transform into a bustling hub of activity by Monday. Similarly, a neighbourhood that feels edgy or even stand-offish at first glance often reveals a charming, unpretentious soul to those who stay longer. It is a mistake to judge a place solely on its outward appearance or the perceived aloofness of its inhabitants. A truly gregarious and welcoming atmosphere often lies beneath a gritty exterior. Therefore, while first impressions are powerful, they are rarely the whole story. One must look past the initial whiteout of sensory input to find the true heart of a location.

4. Grammar — indirect questions

1. *Could you tell me where the bus stop is?*
2. *Do you know what time the shop opens?*
3. *I was wondering how long the journey takes.*
4. *Have you any idea why they cancelled the train?*
5. *Could you tell me whether Anna arrived on time?*
6. *Do you know who paid the bill?*

5. Grammar — subject vs object questions

1. *Who broke the window?*
2. *Who did you meet at the party?*
3. *What woke you up?*
4. *What did she buy?*
5. *Which candidate won?*
6. *Which photo did he choose?*

6. Grammar — find and fix the mistake

1. *Could you tell me where I can find a taxi?*
2. *Who wrote this email?*
3. *Do you know what time the museum opens?*
4. *Why don't we take the early train?*
5. *Haven't you been here before?*

7. Reading — true / false / not given

1. **T**
2. **F**
3. **F**
4. **NG**
5. **T**
6. **T**

8. Writing — guided task

Sample answer

Hi Sam! So excited you're coming. Honestly, this place can look a bit gritty at first, but it's actually really charming once you walk around. One tip: don't try to do everything in the centre — the best food is off the beaten track. When you check into the hostel, ask them "Could you tell me where the locals eat lunch?" — that one question always works. Can't wait to see you!

9. ■ Listening — gist & detail

1. *A bit gritty — the streets near the station felt rough.*
2. *Completely different — really charming.*
3. *Cedofeita — a tiny, off-the-beaten-track place.*
4. *A bit stand-offish at first, but he warms up fast.*
5. *It's become a bit of a tourist trap.*
6. *Matosinhos.*
7. *Three years.*

10. ■ Listening — gap-fill (dictation)

1. *impression*
2. *charming*
3. *locals*
4. *Cedofeita*
5. *stand-offish*
6. *Bustling*
7. *Matosinhos*
8. *two*

11. ■ Intonation challenge

1. *I — Interested*
2. *B — Bored / sarcastic*
3. *I — Interested*
4. *B — Bored / sarcastic*
5. *I — Interested*

12. ■ Challenge — sentence transformation

1. *where I*
2. *what time the film*
3. *about taking*
4. *Haven't you been*
5. *how much the ticket*
6. *Who left*

13. ■ Challenge — word formation

1. *impression*
2. *judge*
3. *unenthusiastic*
4. *expressively*
5. *lively*
6. *charming*
7. *impression*
8. *warmly*

14. ■ Challenge — odd one out

1. **(C)** *stand-offish*
2. **(C)** *sleepy*
3. **(B)** *witty*
4. **(B)** *scenic*

15. ■ Challenge — extended writing

Sample answer

My honest first impression of Lisbon: noisy. I arrived on a hot Friday and the bustling streets near Rossio felt overwhelming. Within an hour I was wondering whether I'd made a mistake. "Could you tell me where the locals actually eat?" I asked a waiter. He pointed me to a tiny place in Alfama — charming, gritty, and full of life. Haven't you ever changed your mind about a city in a single afternoon? I have. By Sunday, Lisbon felt warm, down-to-earth, and alive. Do you know what the trick was? Asking questions. Lots of them.

16. Self-check

Self-assessment — no fixed answers.