

FUNCTIONS. Colloquial English A2

1. Describing people: appearance and personality

What does he/she look like? (Is he/she tall/ short? What colour hair does he/she have?)

What is he/she like? Is she friendly? Is he shy? Is he generous? Is she polite?

2. Describing a picture (a painting or a photo)

There is/ are , e.g. There is a vase with flowers in it.

Present continuous (What are they doing?) e.g. The woman is standing and the man is sitting.

Prepositions: There is a book on the coffee table

3. Your last holiday

Where did you go? When did you go? Who did you go with? What was the food like?

What did you do during the day? What did you do at night? Did you have a good time?

Did you have any problems?

Have you ever had a holiday that you didn't enjoy very much? What happened?

4. My favourite photo

Do you have a photo you really like? Who took it? What was happening at the time?

Do you upload photos onto Facebook or Instagram? What was the last photo you uploaded? Do you have a photo as your screen saver on your computer or phone?

What is it of? Do you have a favourite photo of yourself as a child? Who took it? What was happening when they took it? What were you wearing? Do you have any photos in your bedroom or living room? What are they of?

5. Tell a story

Use time sequencers and connectors to tell a story in the past: WHEN, AFTER THAT, ONE EVENING IN DECEMBER, LATER, etc.

6. Make predictions, offers, decisions and promises

Use future will to predict, offer, decide to do something and to promise.

7. Give tips and express obligations and prohibitions

Give tips to do something in particular using infinitive + to structures or verbs + ing.

For example, what advice or tips can you give to somebody that is going to meet his/her couple's parents for the first time?

Use have to, not have to, must, mustn't and modifiers (a bit, really, etc) to express obligations and prohibitions.

8. Give advice, express possession and possible situations

Use the verb should for advice in different situations. For example, what should a person do to improve his/her life? He/she should sleep 8 hours and eat healthy food.

Use possessive pronouns to express possessions. For example: Whose bag is it? It's hers.

Talk about a possible situation and its consequence/s using conditional structures of the first type (First Conditional). For example: If I miss the last bus, I'll get a taxi / If you miss the last bus, get a taxi.

9. Express imaginary or hypothetical future situations and their consequences. Present Perfect (for and since)

Use conditional structures of the second type (Second Conditional) to talk about things in the future that are probably not going to be true and about something in the present which is impossible, because it's not true. For example:

If I won the lottery, I would buy a big house. (I probably won't win the lottery)

If I had his number, I would call him. (I don't have his number now, so it's impossible for me to call him).

Use Present Perfect to talk about actions and states which started in the past and are still true now using for and since. For example: I've lived in Manchester for twenty years / I've lived in Manchester since 2000.