Let's Start!

He is the most interesting person!

Learning Outcome

Describe routines and regular activities in a wider range of social and work contents

Ask your partner:

• Who are the quietest, the brightest, or the most interesting people you know?
• Why do you think that?

Can Do Statements

• I can talk about family life.
• I can talk about people's habits.
• I can use superlatives.
Let’s Explore!

Vanessa talks about her **mum** and dad and brother, Teddy

* The British use the word “mum” for mother. North Americans generally say “mom”.

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* Sally: Ah ... this is the best coffee with the smallest hint of cinnamon! I always have black coffee in the morning. I missed the coffee here.

* Vanessa: I often drink tea ... you know that’s the finest of British traditions.

* Sally: How is your family by the way?

* Vanessa: Aunt Nelly is good, zany as ever. She's in a creative phase knitting and weaving.

* Sally: Does she usually do crafts?

* Vanessa: She does from time to time.

* Sally: My sister sews once in a while. My niece and nephew are loud and usually run her ragged. She adores them.

* Vanessa: My house was hardly ever noisy. Mum, Dad and Teddy are all bookish and the quietest people I know. I'm the black sheep.

* Sally: Black what?

* Vanessa: Black sheep. The most different from the others. What about your family?

* Sally: Mom is the sweetest person. She never gets upset or angry. I see her whenever I can. Dad is a bit grumpy once in a while. They both come from larger families so I have lots of cousins.
Let’s practice!

What do we find out about Sally and Vanessa’s families?

* Sally and Vanessa’s: When you use the possessive with two people, the 's goes after the second person's name like “Sally and Vanessa’s”

Instructions: Draw a line to match the sentences in Column A and Column B. When you complete the sentences, read the sentences aloud with your partner. Check your pronunciation with your instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. We have a big party</td>
<td>A. so different!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. My family seems</td>
<td>B. new ways to combine flavor and food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I come from</td>
<td>C. kitchen banging pots and pans!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I am constantly finding</td>
<td>D. and more organized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I am getting more</td>
<td>E. for her every year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. You are always in the</td>
<td>F. a small family.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Let’s practice!

What are Sally and Vanessa's families like?

Instructions: Proofread the sentences. Correct the mistakes. Read the sentences aloud. Check your pronunciation with your instructor.

1. They are exceptionally quite. They hardly speak.
2. Vanessa is so in her element when she cooks.
3. She's outside and loves family gatherings.
4. Well, he can be quite irritating when he's over-worked.
5. He can also be a bit short-tempered.
Extension Activity

Use superlatives to write about people you know or admire.

Instructions: Complete the following steps. Fill in the Self-Assessment.

a) Find adjective to describe some people you know or admire.
b) Use the adjective in the superlative form.
c) Say what actions the people do to makes you see them this way.
d) Write 70 to 90 words.
e) Read your sentence aloud to a partner.

Self-Assessment

I look up and use adjectives.  Yes  No
I use the superlative.  Yes  No
I talk about people I know or admire.  Yes  No
I read my sentences aloud.  Yes  No

Target Words

- **zany** (adjective): eccentric; unconventional; unusual
  e.g. Aunt Nelly can be a bit zany at times.
- **to knit** (verb): to use long needles to make a sweater or scarf
  e.g. Do you know how to knit?
- **to weave** (verb): to make fabric on a loom
  e.g. I want to learn how to weave next year.
- **niece** (noun): my sister or brother's daughter
  e.g. My sister's daughter, my niece Alison, is 2 today.
- **nephew** (noun): my sister or brother's son
  e.g. My sister's son, my nephew Greg, is at university now.
- **to run ragged** (verb): to keep someone very busy
  e.g. My sister's children run her ragged!
- **bookish** (adjective): always reading a book
  e.g. My family are all bookish. They are always reading something!
- **black sheep** (expression): the rebel of the family; different from the others
  e.g. I am the black sheep of my family.
- **grumpy** (adjective): cranky; irritable
  e.g. He's always grumpy when he's hungry or tired.
Superlatives

You use a superlative adjective to express the highest degree of a quality.

You use a superlative adjective to talk about one thing or person in a group of things. You always use the with the superlative. Superlatives can be regular or irregular. The structure of the regular superlative is: the + adjective-est or the most adjective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Superlative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fine</td>
<td>the finest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet</td>
<td>the quietest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small</td>
<td>the smallest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>different</td>
<td>the most different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intelligent</td>
<td>the most intelligent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>the best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bad</td>
<td>the worst</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples:
- This is the best coffee!
- She is the most intelligent person in the family.
- The MOMA houses some of the finest art in the world.
- Rainy weather is the worst.
Habits and Routines

When you talk about someone's habits and routines, you use the Simple Present tense and frequency words.

You use expressions of frequency to say how many times you do an activity. This can be an adverb like *often, sometimes or never*. It can also be expression like *a lot, all the time or when I can.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverbs</th>
<th>Expressions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>always</td>
<td>every day/week/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>usually</td>
<td>most of the time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>often</td>
<td>every other day/week/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sometimes</td>
<td>once in a while</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>occasionally</td>
<td>from time to time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hardly ever</td>
<td>when ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>never</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples:

- I always have black coffee in the morning.
- My house was hardly ever noisy.
- I go to the movies once in a while.
- My brother works every other day.
- My teacher occasionally asks to check out homework.