

Top Notch 3 Video Scripts

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Unit 1

Sitcom: *I'm a little early, aren't I?*

Scene 1

VIDEO SCRIPT

Marie is working very hard to finish something, but she is constantly interrupted by Mrs. Beatty.

Cheryl: Marie, can I have that information for Mr. Rashid's group? He'll be here in a few minutes.

Marie: I'm working as fast as I can. (to Mrs. Beatty) Mr. Evans will be with you very soon.

Mrs. Beatty: That's fine. I'm a little early, aren't I?

Marie: Just a few minutes.

Mrs. Beatty: Is your last name pronounced "Le-PAIGE"?

Marie: It's "Le-PAGE," actually.

Mrs. Beatty: Oh, that's beautiful.

Marie: Thank you.

Mrs. Beatty: Now, is it Ms. LePage or Mrs. LePage?

Marie: Um, it's Ms., but you can call me by my first name.

Mrs. Beatty: Do you mind if I call you Ms. LePage? I love the way it sounds.

Marie: That's fine.

Mrs. Beatty: I'm keeping you from your work, aren't I?

Marie: I'm sorry. I'd love to talk, but I really have to get this done right away.

Mrs. Beatty: I understand. You're not from here, are you?

Marie: Excuse me?

Mrs. Beatty: Your accent. You come from France, don't you?

Marie: Yes. Paris, actually.

Mrs. Beatty: That's nice. It sure is a beautiful day, isn't it?

Marie: Mmm-hmm.

Cheryl: Can I have that information?

Marie: I'm not quite done.

Cheryl: What's taking so long? (to Mrs. Beatty) Mrs. Beatty, I can take you to Mr. Evans's office. He'll be here shortly.

Mrs. Beatty: Why, thank you. Beautiful day, isn't it?

Cheryl: Yes, it is.

Scene 2

VIDEO SCRIPT

Mr. Rashid teaches Paul how to greet people from India.

Mr. Evans: Paul, we have our first group from India coming next week. Since Mr. Rashid has traveled to India many times, I've asked him to talk to you about etiquette in India. Mr. Rashid?

Mr. Rashid: Paul, why don't you greet me as if I were an Indian tourist? Ask me to come with you and show me to the tour bus.

Paul: OK. Hi, there! I'm Paul.

Mr. Rashid: If I were an Indian woman, you would have just insulted me. Women and men generally do not touch.

Paul: OK. Uh, hi, there.

Mr. Rashid: You just told me to go away.

Paul: Oh, I'm sorry.

Mr. Rashid: Oh, too close. You should stand this far away from someone. Instead of shaking hands, do this and say "Namaste."

Paul: Namaste.

Mr. Rashid: Excellent. Now tell me to come with you to the tour bus.

Paul: OK. Come with me.

Mr. Rashid: This is a rude gesture in India. Do it like this.

Paul: Come with me.

Mr. Rashid: Good.

Paul: . . . to the bus over there. I know. I've just insulted you.

Mr. Rashid: Pointing with your fingers is considered impolite. Use your chin instead.

Paul: . . . to the bus over there. I'm never going to get this.

Mr. Rashid: You're doing wonderfully.

Paul: Oh, thank you, Mr. Rashid.

Mr. Rashid: Oh, too close.

Unit 2

Sitcom: *Are you OK?*

Scene 1

VIDEO SCRIPT

Paul is not feeling well, and Cheryl, Marie, and Bob try to give him suggestions.

Cheryl: Let's get Ms. Novak's tickets ready. She may be stopping by this afternoon.

Marie: Paul, are you OK?

Paul: No. I feel awful.

Cheryl: What's wrong?

Paul: I've got this horrible cold. I'm sneezing, and my back is killing me. I've got this pain in my hip. My neck has been bothering me all day. And I have a stomachache.

Marie: You may have to go see a doctor.

Paul: No! I hate doctors.

Cheryl: I wonder what could be wrong?

Bob: Maybe he's allergic to work.

Paul: I'm not kidding here. I'm in pain.

Bob: I used to want to be a doctor, you know. Say "Ahhh."

Paul: Ahhh-choo!

Bob: Now I remember why I didn't become a doctor.

Cheryl: Paul, you really must get some medical help.

Bob: A little acupuncture might help you feel better.

Paul: Stay away from me.

Cheryl: Dr. Anderson is meeting Mr. Evans downstairs in the café. Should we ask her to come up? She may be able to help.

Marie: Great idea. I'll go get her.

Bob: You might prefer an herbal remedy.

Paul: Stop it.

Cheryl: How long have you been feeling this way?
Paul: I got the cold last night, and the pain in my back started this morning.
Bob: Want to try a little spiritual healing?
Paul: You're making me laugh.
Bob: Laughter is the best medicine, you know.
Paul: But it hurts!

Scene 2

VIDEO SCRIPT

Dr. Anderson comes to examine Paul.

Dr. Anderson: Say "Ahhh."
Bob: Cover your face, doc.
Paul: Ahhh.
Dr. Anderson: Well, you have a cold, that's for sure.
Cheryl: What about the other stuff? The pain in the back and the side . . . ?
Dr. Anderson: Have you taken any medications lately?
Paul: Just some over-the-counter stuff—pain killer, cold tablets, nasal spray.
Dr. Anderson: That sounds OK.
Paul: And some cough medicine, vitamins, antacid.
Dr. Anderson: That's a lot of medicine.
Paul: And some decongestant.
Dr. Anderson: That's too much medicine in one day.
Marie: That must be why you're feeling so bad.
Dr. Anderson: Have you been around anyone else who's sick?
Paul: My friend Don has had a cold all week. We lifted weights last night for about
an hour and ran five miles. He had to walk the last mile.
Dr. Anderson: Is that your usual exercise routine?
Paul: Yep. I started it yesterday.
Dr. Anderson: Well, that explains it. You exercised too much.
Paul: That's all?
Dr. Anderson: That's all.
Bob: A little chiropractic treatment might help you.
Paul: Stay away from me.

Interview: *Are you traditional in your medical ideas?*

VIDEO SCRIPT

Interviewer: Are you traditional in your medical ideas? That is, do you kind of believe in Western medicine, or do you like to explore nontraditional treatments, such as acupuncture or homeopathic medicine?
Joe: I don't explore nontraditional treatments as much as I would probably like to. I think there's probably a lot of merit in them, and they haven't been studied enough.
James: I'm more traditional than anything else in my medication, in my medical practices.
Vanessa: I'm more for the naturalistic approach. I like, you know, more natural herbal medicines.
Interviewer: In your opinion, what are the advantages of traditional Western medicine and surgery?
James: I think the enormous amount of research and . . . and . . . proven fact that's behind our medicine just makes it . . . makes me feel more comfortable with it.
Interviewer: What do you see as maybe some disadvantages of Western medicine?

Joe: I think at times Western medicine can make the problem worse than trying to make the problems better.

Interviewer: Are there any nontraditional therapies that you use?

Lisa: I drink a lot of tea actually, so I guess that's pretty nontraditional.

Vanessa: Usually when I feel myself coming down with something, I will take an echinacea, which is an herbal medicine. I'll probably drink a lot of orange juice because vitamin C helps you. But if I feel really sick, then I'll take cough medicine.

Unit 3

Sitcom: *I need to get a package to Australia a.s.a.p.!*

Scene 1

VIDEO SCRIPT

Mr. Evans misplaced some travel documents, and the staff scrambles to reproduce the documents and have them sent to the right client.

Mr. Evans: Now, about the travel documents for the Australian group. We've had everything mailed to them, right?

Cheryl: Mr. Evans, we gave you the package of travel documents to give to Mr. Wells the other night at dinner, before he flew home to Sydney.

Mr. Evans: A white envelope about this big?

Cheryl: Yes.

Mr. Evans: I gave it to Mr. Rashid before he left for Lebanon.

Cheryl: Oh, Mr. Wells needs those documents the day after tomorrow! His group is flying in on Thursday.

Marie: I'll call the courier. If they can pick up a package by 5:00 p.m., we should be OK.

Paul: That gives us an hour. I'll reprint the tour information, but what about the travel guides? I can't print twenty-five copies that fast.

Cheryl: I'll call Copies To Go and have them reprint the travel guides.

Marie: They can't do a rush job. Call Harper's instead. They're faster and much more reliable. (on the phone) Hello, National Express? I need to get a package to Australia a.s.a.p.!

Paul: If Harper's can't make the color copies that fast, we'll take black and white.

Cheryl: Bob, are you reprinting the tickets?

Bob: Yep.

Cheryl: (on the phone) Hello. I need to get twenty-five color documents printed right away.

Mr. Evans: (on the phone) Yes, it's very much a hurry.

Cheryl: Who are you calling, Mr. Evans?

Mr. Evans: What's that? Oh, uh . . . my tailor.

Cheryl: Your tailor?

Mr. Evans: These sleeves are too long, and they're driving me crazy.

Scene 2

VIDEO SCRIPT

Bob, Paul, and Marie help Cheryl plan a party for a client.

Mr. Evans: Thank you, everyone, for fixing my mistake with Mr. Wells. Now, I've asked Cheryl to plan a party for his group next Friday. I'd like for everyone to help. Cheryl, do you have a plan?

Cheryl: Yes, I do. Marie, I'd like to have you choose a restaurant for the party.

Marie: I'd love to!
Cheryl: Bob, I'll let you choose the menu.
Bob: You will?
Cheryl: Paul, could you plan the music?
Paul: Yes!
Cheryl: Good. Now, Marie, I called ten restaurants and had them give us a price
for a party room. These two had the best prices.
Marie: The Green Room is a nice restaurant.
Cheryl: Great! That's my favorite, too. Now, Bob, about the food . . .
Bob: I was thinking steak and potatoes and . . .
Cheryl: Well, the client asked for fish or chicken. So I had the restaurant put
together a menu with each. Which do you like better?
Bob: I like chicken more than fish, I guess.
Cheryl: Great! Chicken it is. Now Paul . . .
Paul: Let me guess. You have a list of music choices.
Cheryl: Yes!
Paul: These look fine.
Cheryl: Great! I think we're all done.
Mr. Evans: You see how easy it is to plan something when we do it all together?
Marie: So glad we could help.

Unit 4

Sitcom: *I could have been a great dancer . . .*

Scene 1

VIDEO SCRIPT

*After dinner in Cheryl's apartment, Cheryl and Bob talk about their future plans
when they were younger.*

Marie: Another wonderful dinner, Cheryl. Thank you.
Cheryl: You're welcome. I really enjoy cooking, actually. When I was young, I
thought I was going to be a chef.
Paul: You could be a chef. These cookies are fantastic!
Marie: Why didn't you become a chef?
Cheryl: My mother talked me out of it. She thought I would always have to work at
night. She was afraid I would never meet a man and get married.
Paul: She was probably right. If you were a chef, you wouldn't have met Bob.
Cheryl: How do you know?
Paul: Before he met you, Bob only ate fast food.
Bob: It's true.
Mr. Evans: Your mother must have been very happy when you and Bob got
engaged.
Cheryl: She was. Hey, you'll never guess what Bob was going to be.
Bob: Cheryl . . .
Marie: A rock musician?
Paul: A basketball player?
Cheryl: No, Bob was going to be a dancer. He was actually in the state ballet when
he was young.
Marie: No kidding!
Paul: You never told me this!
Bob: I could have been a great dancer.
Paul: What made you change your mind?

Bob: The diet was too hard. I had to stop eating everything—chocolate cake, fried chicken, potato chips. I tried. I might have been able to do it. But then they said no more bread and butter. Bread and butter! Can you believe it? And that was the end.

Marie: Wow, Bob. I never knew. Do you enjoy watching ballet at all?

Bob: I can't. I'd like to, but as soon as the music starts, I get very, very . . . hungry.

Scene 2

VIDEO SCRIPT

Mr. Evans tries his hand at being a TV host for etiquette.

Marie: What about you, Mr. Evans? What did you think you were going to be when you were younger?

Mr. Evans: If I tell you, will you try not to laugh?

Marie: Of course.

Mr. Evans: I always thought I would have my own television program to talk about etiquette.

Cheryl: I didn't know you were so interested in etiquette.

Mr. Evans: I have always loved etiquette. I think I would have made a great television etiquette teacher.

Cheryl: Well, I think you could still do it. It's perfect for you.

Mr. Evans: Really? Why?

Cheryl: Well, you're very polite, for one thing.

Bob: You always know which fork to use at a restaurant. That's a real talent.

Paul: You've taught me a lot about the customs of other cultures.

Mr. Evans: Maybe I could still give it a try. "Today's topic: dinner conversation. If your international guests look offended and are leaving the table early, you've probably chosen a topic that's taboo in their home country. Find out what's acceptable and what's not . . . coming up on International Etiquette with Evans." What do you think?

Bob: Wow.

Cheryl: Amazing.

Marie: Unforgettable.

Paul: You have a real . . . talent all right.

Mr. Evans: Thank you.

Interview: *How would you describe your skills and abilities?*

VIDEO SCRIPT

Interviewer: Could you tell me what your career or occupation is?

Rita: I'm an elementary school teacher.

Matt: My career path will be in marketing, helping companies build their brand and help market products to the general consumer.

San: I work in television, and I would like to eventually produce and direct.

Interviewer: Did you think that you'd be in marketing when you were a child?

Matt: No. I thought I'd be president of the United States or drive a fire truck.

Interviewer: What made teaching a good career for you?

Rita: First of all, I love children, and I liked the idea of imparting some of my knowledge to young ones.

Interviewer: Everybody has skills, talents, and abilities, so, you know, some people are artistic, others have mechanical ability. What would you say are some of your skills?

San: I would say I have a lot of artistic ability. I did a lot of art in school.

Matt: Good question. My skills and talents would be coming up with new ideas, different ideas, creative ideas that kind of build a buzz around a product.

Interviewer: Do you think that talents and abilities are genetic?

San: I think they're a combination of both genetics and environment. I think that you are born with certain qualities that your parents I think have, and just living with some people around you and learning from your teachers and those that you're constantly interacting with, you pick up certain skills.

Unit 5

Sitcom: *I want a large wedding.*

Scene 1

VIDEO SCRIPT

In the café, Marie helps Cheryl and Bob plan their wedding.

Bob: I don't know. I didn't know that planning a wedding would be so hard.

Cheryl: Marie, could you give us your opinion on a few things?

Marie: I'd love to!

Cheryl: First, how many people should we invite? Bob wants a small wedding.

Bob: Twenty guests would be nice.

Cheryl: I want a large wedding. About 300 people.

Bob: Three hundred?! Yesterday you said 200!

Cheryl: I have a lot of relatives who want to come.

Bob: Then there's the location. I always thought I would get married in a park or at the beach.

Marie: That's so romantic!

Cheryl: I would like to get married indoors, where I won't get wet if it's raining.

Marie: That makes sense.

Cheryl: I prefer traditional music in the ceremony.

Bob: Contemporary music.

Cheryl: I'd like a long ceremony, and a short reception.

Bob: I want a short ceremony, and a huge celebration afterwards.

Cheryl: I want a white cake.

Bob: And I want . . .

Marie: A chocolate cake, I know.

Bob: How are we ever going to agree on this?

Marie: Don't hurt yourself. Here's an idea that might work. Plan a wedding that's big enough to include all of Cheryl's family . . . sorry, Bob . . . in the park on Oak Street that has that building where you can go if it rains. You can have traditional music in the ceremony and contemporary music at the party, and you could have two cakes at the reception—one white and one chocolate.

Bob: Sounds OK to me.

Cheryl: Me, too.

Bob: Hey! We did it!

Cheryl: Yeah! I'm so happy.

Marie: Excuse me.

Cheryl: Oh, Marie, thank you so much.

Bob: You're amazing! We couldn't have done it without you.

Scene 2

VIDEO SCRIPT

Paul, Marie, Cheryl, and Bob each tries to come up with a holiday.
Paul: Hi. Lunchtime is over. Are you coming up to the office?
Bob: I'm too tired to go back to the office. Planning a wedding is hard work.
I need a holiday.
Paul: Let's make today a holiday. We'll tell Mr. Evans we can't come back to work.
Bob: That's a great idea.
Marie: What are we celebrating?
Paul: You're getting married. How about National Wedding Day?
Bob: What happens on National Wedding Day?
Paul: I don't know. Why am I the one who has to think of everything?
Marie: Why don't we make it National Singles Day instead? All the married people
give gifts to their single friends.
Bob: No. Buying gifts is hard work. I want to enjoy myself on our new holiday.
Cheryl: What about a Red Day? Everybody wears red clothes, and there's dancing
in the street that goes on all night.
Bob: How about National Buy-Your-Friend-Another-Cup-of-Coffee Day?
Paul: Nice try.
Mr. Evans: How about National On-Time Day?
Bob: What happens on National On-Time Day?
Mr. Evans: You remind one another to come back to work on time.
Paul: Happy holiday.
Mr. Evans: Waitress!

*Interview: Could you please describe a typical wedding in
your country?*

VIDEO SCRIPT

Interviewer: You're from Germany. What is a wedding like in Germany?
Jessica: Well, first of all, you have to have a civil ceremony where you go to the
City Hall, and . . . well, you make everything official. And then traditionally, you
go to church and have the religious ceremony.
Interviewer: And is there a wedding reception afterwards?
Jessica: Usually there is, of course. After church when everybody's waiting for the
broom and the bride coming out and throwing rice at them and flowers, and then
the whole crew's going to a nice place and having dinner and having a party.
Interviewer: You mentioned that your family is originally from Ghana.
Emma: Yes.
Interviewer: Could you tell me a little bit about the courtship and marriage
ceremonies of your country?
Emma: There's a traditional . . . sometimes they do involve, like the American type
of wedding, the very traditional. You walk down the aisle. But they also,
there's also the traditional part in African culture. You wear the clothing and
the outfits. It's much longer. Sometimes it can go into the next day. Some
people extend.
Interviewer: Tell me about the reception.
Emma: They find a place to go to, or it's outside sometimes, there's a big tent.
It just depends on the bride and groom, what they want. And there's tons of
dancing, traditional dancing, eating, lots of food. Sometimes you have
somebody come in and talk about how they know him and how good he is and
what he's done and, you know, people giving lots of wisdom of how to be
together. It's just . . . it's just really a great thing.

Unit 6

Sitcom: *I want to go someplace different.*

Scene 1

VIDEO SCRIPT

Mr. Evans tries to come up with a place for Mrs. Beatty's vacation—a place that does not have natural disasters.

Mr. Evans: So, Mrs. Beatty, you're looking for an exciting place for your next vacation.

Mrs. Beatty: I usually travel to major cities in Europe, but this time I want to go someplace different—someplace away from the city—as long as it's safe.

Mr. Evans: How about California? The Big Sur area is spectacular.

Mrs. Beatty: California has lots of earthquakes, doesn't it?

Mr. Evans: Well, they have earthquakes occasionally, but not very often.

Mrs. Beatty: But it does have earthquakes.

Mr. Evans: Yes.

Mrs. Beatty: I'm not going.

Mr. Evans: OK. How about someplace in Asia? A beach in Thailand? Ko Chang has beautiful beaches, and it's very quiet there.

Mrs. Beatty: A quiet beach sounds nice. But they said on the news there's a monsoon in Thailand.

Mr. Evans: But the monsoon will be over by the time you go.

Mrs. Beatty: What else can you recommend?

Mr. Evans: Australia. The Australian outback is amazing.

Mrs. Beatty: I've heard they have tornadoes in Australia.

Mr. Evans: Well, some parts . . .

Mrs. Beatty: Where else?

Mr. Evans: Jamaica?

Mrs. Beatty: Hurricanes.

Mr. Evans: South Africa?

Mrs. Beatty: Floods.

Mr. Evans: Hawaii?

Mrs. Beatty: Landslides.

Mr. Evans: You know a lot about natural disasters, don't you, Mrs. Beatty?

Let's see. What about Finland?

Mrs. Beatty: Finland?

Mr. Evans: It's wild, beautiful, and very different from other parts of Europe.

And nothing bad ever happens in Finland.

Mrs. Beatty: Finland sounds good. I'll go to Finland.

Mr. Evans: Great. I'll book your tickets.

Scene 2

VIDEO SCRIPT

After Mr. Evans has booked Mrs. Beatty's vacation, something happens that changes Mrs. Beatty's mind.

Mr. Evans: OK, I just booked your tickets to Helsinki, Finland. You'll be staying at the Palace Hotel.

Mrs. Beatty: That's great.

Marie: Excuse me, Mr. Evans?

Mr. Evans: Yes, Marie?

Marie: Mr. Woods is on the phone. He told me to tell you it's urgent.

Mr. Evans: Urgent?

Marie: He's traveling, you know.

Mr. Evans: Yes?

Marie: He said there's some kind of epidemic.

Mr. Evans: What kind of epidemic?

Marie: It sounds like it's that new influenza.

Mr. Evans: But he was vaccinated for that before he left.

Marie: I know. But he told me to tell you that he wants to fly home today.

Mr. Evans: On the Internet it says only three people are sick. That is not an epidemic. And it's not like anybody's dying from this flu.

Marie: He said he didn't want to be the first.

Mrs. Beatty: Where is he traveling, may I ask?

Marie: He's in Finland.

Mrs. Beatty: Finland? I just booked tickets to Finland!

Mr. Evans: Mrs. Beatty, everything will be fine. You'll get vaccinated, and you'll have nothing to worry about.

Mrs. Beatty: I'm not going to Finland. You told me nothing bad ever happens in Finland.

Mr. Evans: Mrs. Beatty, I can't think of anywhere in the world you can go and be completely safe. Right here in this city you could go outside and get hit by a bus. But you can't let that stop you from doing the things you want to do. Look, why don't we go to lunch and we'll talk it over?

Marie: I don't think she's going anywhere.

Unit 7

Sitcom: *May I ask you what you're reading?*

Scene 1

VIDEO SCRIPT

Bob is reading a book and eating lunch in the café when Mr. Evans enters to join him.

Mr. Evans: Hello, Bob. Dining alone?

Bob: Paul and Marie went to get newspapers.

Mr. Evans: Do you mind if I join you?

Bob: Please, sit down.

Mr. Evans: May I ask what you're reading?

Bob: Um . . . A History of the World.

Mr. Evans: The bestseller? I'm very impressed! Reading nonfiction over lunch! I hear that it's a very difficult book.

Bob: Oh . . . uh, no. It's a pretty easy read. I . . . I can't put it down, actually.

Mr. Evans: A real page-turner, huh? Do you think I could borrow it when you're done?

Bob: Sure.

Mr. Evans: I usually prefer fiction myself. You know, thrillers, mysteries . . . There's nothing like curling up with a good science-fiction novel, is there?

Bob: You read science fiction, too?

Mr. Evans: Don't tell anyone. Are you learning a lot from your book?

Bob: Uh, yes. I think so.

Mr. Evans: So tell me what you're reading about right now.

Bob: Um . . . this part is about Great Britain.

Mr. Evans: Really? Do you mind if I take a look?

Bob: Cheryl hates when I read comics.
Mr. Evans: Then I can understand why you can't put the book down. Do you think that I could borrow it, then?
Bob: I'm still reading this one, but I have another one I can loan you.
Mr. Evans: I meant this one.
Bob: Oh, help yourself.

Scene 2

VIDEO SCRIPT

Over lunch in the café, Paul and Marie argue about newspapers.

Paul: Look at this. The paper says that a tornado carried a woman for 300 miles, and she lived to tell about it.
Marie: I'm not sure if you know this, but that story isn't true.
Paul: It's in the paper. It must be true.
Marie: That paper is trash. I can't believe you're reading it.
Paul: What do you mean?
Marie: It's fiction, not news. Nothing in there is true. If you want real news, you have to read this paper.
Paul: That paper is boring. This one's much more interesting.
Marie: "Woman Gives Birth to Cow!" "Man Builds House from Bread!" "Baby with Two Heads!" Come on. This is offensive.
Paul: "Storm Kills 100 in Texas." "Train Accident Kills Five, Injures More." "Man Kills Wife and Son." I'm sorry, but all that death and destruction is pretty offensive to me.
Marie: I know that these things happened. And I know that those didn't.
Paul: You don't know that. You just assume that it's true.
Marie: Let's ask Bob and Mr. Evans what paper they read. Never mind. Let's just read.
Paul: That sounds good to me. Look at this! "A Man with Four Legs!"

Interview: *Do you do a lot of reading?*

VIDEO SCRIPT

Interviewer: Do you folks do a lot of reading?
Herb: She does.
Blanche: I do, particularly. I like to read novels and mystery stories, sometimes travel stories.
Interviewer: Do you buy books, or do you get them from the library?
Lorayn: I buy books, and I tend to trade them with friends.
Interviewer: How about books on tape?
Blanche: I tried that. They put me to sleep.
Interviewer: So, novels. You like to read fiction. Who are some of your favorite authors?
Dan: I just read Nick Hornby—How to Be Good—which was probably the funniest book I've ever read.
Interviewer: Would you say it's a real page-turner?
Dan: Absolutely. Absolutely. I mean, belly laughs on every page.
Interviewer: So, do you read anything else like newspapers, magazines?
Alvino: I do read magazines, yes.
Interviewer: Could you tell me, let's see, what sorts of magazines you like to read?
Alvino: Fashion. I enjoy fashion—Details, actually.
Interviewer: How about how-to magazines? Do you ever buy magazines about home repair or cooking, for instance?

Lorayn: I buy my husband magazines on . . . how-to magazines. He's the one that's good at fixing things and repair, even cooking.

Interviewer: How about newspapers? Do you read newspapers?

Dan: The New York Times when I'm home.

Interviewer: And what part of the newspapers are most important to you?

Dan: The front page and "Arts and Leisure."

Unit 8

Sitcom: *Technology today is amazing!*

Scene 1

VIDEO SCRIPT

In Cheryl's apartment, Marie, Bob, and Cheryl talk about technology and inventions.

Marie: What are those wacky glasses you are wearing?

Bob: These are ultra high-tech, top-of-the-line, state-of-the-art, cutting-edge TV glasses.

Marie: And you're actually watching TV right now?

Bob: Yeah. Right here on the corner.

Marie: What are you watching?

Bob: The basketball game.

Marie: Unbelievable. And Cheryl doesn't mind this?

Bob: Yes!

Marie: What?

Bob: Sorry. My team's winning.

Marie: This new invention doesn't bother you?

Cheryl: Are you kidding? If I had known how happy they would make him, I would have bought those glasses for Bob long ago.

Marie: Technology today is amazing. You know, I wish they'd invent something that would make people who talk on cell phones quieter. This guy in the café today was so loud, I couldn't hear myself talking.

Bob: Ha-ha-ha . . .

Marie: It wasn't funny.

Bob: What? Oh, sorry. I was laughing at this guy on TV.

Cheryl: If I could invent something, it would be a thing for Bob's car that would automatically charge him when he goes over the speed limit. He drives so fast sometimes, but he'd slow down if he had to pay.

Bob: No!

Marie: Is your team losing?

Bob: No. I heard what you said. You just leave my car alone.

Scene 2

VIDEO SCRIPT

Paul enters the apartment to show his new cell phone.

Cheryl: Hi, Paul.

Paul: Wait 'til you see what I've got.

Bob: What is it?

Paul: Well, I have this problem with my cell phone. Whenever I'm traveling with a group, I can never hear it ring or feel it vibrate. So I got this thing that lets me know whenever my phone is ringing.

Marie: How does it do that?
Paul: It buzzes me.
Marie: Buzzes?
Paul: You know, bzzz, bzzz. So I can feel it.
Cheryl: Does it work?
Paul: I don't know. No one's called me yet . . . Ow!
Marie: What?!
Paul: Someone's calling me! Hello? Hello? No one's there. Wow. That was a big buzz. That almost hurt.
Cheryl: Maybe it isn't working right.
Paul: It's working fine . . . Ooh! Ow! Another phone call. Hello? Hello? That's strange. Man, if I ever get used to that, I'll always know whenever my phone is ringing . . . Ahhhhhh! Stop calling me!
Marie: Paul. If I were you, I would take that thing back to the store before you hurt yourself.
Paul: I'm going. I'll see you later.
Marie: I hope he can drive OK.
Bob: He'll be fine.
Cheryl: How do you know?
Bob: I'll stop calling him.

Unit 9

Sitcom: *Can we please avoid discussing politics?*

Scene 1

VIDEO SCRIPT

In Cheryl's apartment, Paul, Bob, and Marie are talking about politics, while Cheryl tries to avoid the topic.

Paul: Did you see the politicians expect to raise taxes again?
Bob: Really? What has the government decided to spend our money on now?
Paul: They're planning to build a stronger military.
Marie: It's wrong to spend so much on the military. They should spend it on education instead.
Cheryl: Can we please avoid discussing politics?
Marie: Why?
Cheryl: Every time we begin talking about politics, people get mad at each other.
Bob: They should spend more money on fighting corruption. If they were able to stop corrupt officials, maybe they wouldn't need to raise our taxes.
Paul: That's true, but I think we need to spend more money on the military.
Without a strong military, the world won't be very safe.
Marie: That's one way to look at it. But maybe the world would be safer—and better—if we tried to eliminate poverty.
Bob: What do you think, Cheryl?
Cheryl: I think that if I say what I really think, you'll get all mad and call me crazy or ridiculous.
Marie: Cheryl. Don't be so afraid. We're only talking.
Cheryl: I think that the government should spend more money on cooking schools.
Marie: What?
Cheryl: Most people don't know how to cook well. I think the government should help teach them.
Marie: That's ridiculous!
Bob: Are you crazy?

Paul: Use our taxes to pay for cooking schools?

Cheryl: Of course not! But look at you. You're all mad at me. This is why I never discuss politics with friends. But don't let me stop you from getting mad at each other.

Scene 2

VIDEO SCRIPT

Marie, Paul, and Bob continue to express their political and social beliefs, while Cheryl stays above the fray.

Marie: Paul, I never knew you were so conservative.

Paul: I'm not conservative.

Marie: Sure you are. You always seem to want things to be just like they used to be.

Paul: That's not conservative. That's just smart. (to Cheryl) Thanks.

Marie: That's the definition of conservative.

Paul: Really? Well, I didn't know you were so radical.

Marie: What makes you think I'm radical?

Paul: You always want to change everything.

Marie: No, I don't. I just want our government to realize that it's the twenty-first century and they need new ways of doing things. (to Cheryl) Thank you.

Paul: That sounds radical to me.

Marie: Bob, tell him I'm not a radical.

Bob: She's not a radical. She's a liberal. Like me.

Marie: I wouldn't call you a liberal.

Bob: Oh, really?

Marie: I'd say you're more of a moderate. You're always in the middle.

Bob: If I want to be a liberal, I'll be a liberal. (to Cheryl) Thank you, honey.

Marie: You can be whatever you want, you just can't be one thing and call it something else.

Paul: Listen to you. You're like a little dictator.

Marie: I studied politics in school. I know something about the definitions of political beliefs.

Paul: Is that so? So what is Cheryl? A radical? Moderate? Conservative?

Marie: Who knows? She's not saying.

Paul: Cheryl, what are you? Would you mind telling us that much?

Cheryl: OK. You want to know what I believe? I believe . . . I believe . . . I believe these are the best chips I have ever tasted.

Interview: *How do you feel about . . . ?*

VIDEO SCRIPT

Interviewer: How do you feel about prohibiting smoking indoors?

Ian: As a smoker I don't appreciate it all the time, but I can understand why.

Christiane: I think it's fantastic. I think it's great. If you go to restaurants and nobody can smoke, the food tastes better and your clothes don't smell.

Interviewer: How about censorship of books or movies by a government?

Stephan: I am 100 percent against censorship of any books or movies or any expression of creativity, and I feel that when governments try to censor books or movies, then it creates a sort of atmosphere of fear, and people don't get to . . . don't have ready access to information that should be available to them.

Interviewer: If you could tell me maybe two things that you think are big problems in the world today . . .

Christiane: I think one of the biggest problems is war. And I think another big problem is racism in this world.

Interviewer: And of those, could you tell me, you know, a little bit more about what you think could be done to alleviate these problems?

Christiane: I think, actually with both problems, it's mostly about understanding each other and sitting down on a table and . . . talk, get to know each other and be able to make more compromises and understand different cultures and reasons why people do certain things certain ways. And I think we would all be much happier.

Interviewer: Communication.

Christiane: Communication. That's the clue. Exactly. Yeah.

Unit 10

Sitcom: *We weren't going to tell you this, but . . .*

Scene 1

VIDEO SCRIPT

In the café, Cheryl and Bob ask the rest of the Top Notch Travel staff to help them decide on a location for their honeymoon.

Cheryl: Everyone, we'd like to ask your opinion about something.

Mr. Evans: What is that?

Cheryl: We're trying to decide where to go on vacation after the wedding, for our honeymoon.

Bob: We thought you might be able to help us decide on a location.

Mr. Evans: An excellent idea. Where are you thinking of going?

Cheryl: Well, Bob doesn't really like to travel, so he's agreed to go wherever I want to go, as long as the hotel has nice bathrooms and a TV.

Mr. Evans: That sounds fair. What's your first choice?

Cheryl: I've always wanted to go to Cozumel, off the Yucatán Peninsula.

Paul: Cozumel is spectacular. The island itself is pretty flat, but the beaches are beautiful and the ocean is so blue.

Marie: Aren't there too many sharks to go swimming there?

Paul: No! It's very safe. What? Oh! But it's somewhat overrated.

Bob: You just said . . .

Mr. Evans: What else are you thinking of?

Cheryl: What about Tierra del Fuego in the south of Argentina and Chile?

Paul: The scenery is extraordinary! The mountain ranges and national parks are breathtaking.

Marie: But in June won't it be too dark to do very much?

Paul: No! Plenty of people go there in June to go skiing or. . . . But, of course, it's probably not romantic enough for a honeymoon.

Cheryl: I've heard the jungles and rain forests in Malaysia are a must-see.

Paul: They're so lush. . . . Of course, some people feel that the scorpions make it too dangerous to hike.

Bob: We could go to that hotel on Grand Street along the river.

Cheryl: Stay in town? For our honeymoon?

Bob: Well, I heard the rooms have really nice bathrooms and big televisions.

Scene 2

VIDEO SCRIPT

The rest of the Top Notch Travel staff give Bob and Cheryl a surprise wedding gift.

Marie: Cheryl, you once told me that you wanted to go to Tahiti.

Cheryl: That's right. I forgot about that.

Mr. Evans: You would love Tahiti.

Paul: One of the most beautiful places on earth.

Marie: And very, very romantic.

Cheryl: Really? You all think Tahiti is a good idea?

Mr. Evans: I think you'd love it.

Bob: It's too expensive.

Cheryl: How expensive?

Bob: Well, do you remember how much Mr. Rashid's vacation to Tahiti cost?

Cheryl: Yes, I do.

Bob: He traveled cheaply.

Cheryl: Well, that's it. I'm out of ideas. I guess we'll go someplace boring.

Mr. Evans: We weren't going to tell you until a couple of months from now, but
Paul, Marie, and I were talking, and we thought a vacation in the South Pacific
would be perfect.

Cheryl: I just wish we could afford it.

Mr. Evans: So we decided that as our wedding gift to you, we would like to send
you to Tahiti. All expenses paid.

Cheryl: You're kidding!

Mr. Evans: We've booked your flights and a hotel on the southern coast for two
weeks.

Cheryl: I don't know how to thank you!

Bob: But the . . .

Mr. Evans: And the hotel room has a spectacular bathroom and a TV this big.

Bob: I don't know how to thank you!

Cheryl: Thank you so much! I'm so excited!

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