

# Meeting and Greeting

## Lesson (8)



formal

رَسْمِيّ



informal

غَيْر رَسْمِي



- 1 Look at the picture. What do you think the relationship between the people is? What do you think they are talking about?

### Speaking tip

In the UK, when we want to make a question sound more polite, we often add an extra word between the modal verb and the subject, and the main verb.

For example:

Formal question: *Could I possibly take a longer lunch break, Mr Khaan?*

Informal question: *Can I please go out with my friends this afternoon, Mum?*



## Listening 6

- 2 Listen to two conversations. Which conversation matches the picture at the top of the page?
- 3 Listen again, then discuss these questions in pairs.

- 1 Is the relationship between the people formal or informal? How do you know?
- 2 What questions do Mr Naji and Yasmin ask?



**Conversation 1:** informal. Yasmin uses *can* rather than *could* to make requests, which is more informal.

**Conversation 2:** formal: they are business colleagues. It's clear from the use of *Mr* + surname or first name that the first conversation is formal. The speakers also use more polite modal verbs, for example *may* and *could* instead of *can*.

**Yasmin:** Can I please borrow your camera?; It's digital, isn't it?; Can I please take it to school tomorrow?

**Mr Naji:** May I ask you something?; Well, you've nearly finished working on this project, haven't you?; So, now you'll be looking for another project to work on, won't you?; Could I possibly send him your contact details?

4 Mr Naji and Yasmin also ask questions to check information.  
Match these questions to the speaker's response.

- c 1 It's digital, isn't it?  
a 2 Well, you've nearly finished working on this project, haven't you?  
b 3 So, now you'll be looking for another project to work on, won't you?

- a Yes, I have.  
b Yes, that's right, I will.  
c Yes, it is.



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**It is a statement followed by a mini-question.**

**We use tag questions to ask for confirmation. They mean something like: "Is that right?" or "Do you agree?" They are very common in English.**

The basic structure of a tag question is:

positive statement	negative tag
Snow is white,	isn't it?

negative statement	positive tag
You don't like me,	do you?

## Use of English: question tags

We often need to check information with other people. We do this by adding a question tag to the end of a sentence. When the auxiliary verb in a sentence is in the positive form, we use the same verb in a negative form in the question tag.

*It's digital, **isn't** it?*

*So, now you'll be looking for another project to work on, **won't** you?*

*Well, you've nearly finished working on this project, **haven't** you?*



5 Put the sentences with question tags in the correct order.

1 your You've haven't done you? homework *You've done your homework, haven't you?*

2 won't on We'll fun we? lots have of holiday, \_\_\_\_\_

3 is The tomorrow, open it? isn't shop \_\_\_\_\_

4 she? She's sister, Omar's isn't \_\_\_\_\_

5 class, brother's in aren't my you? You're \_\_\_\_\_

6 got They've car, they? new haven't a \_\_\_\_\_



2-We'll have lots of fun on holiday, won't we?

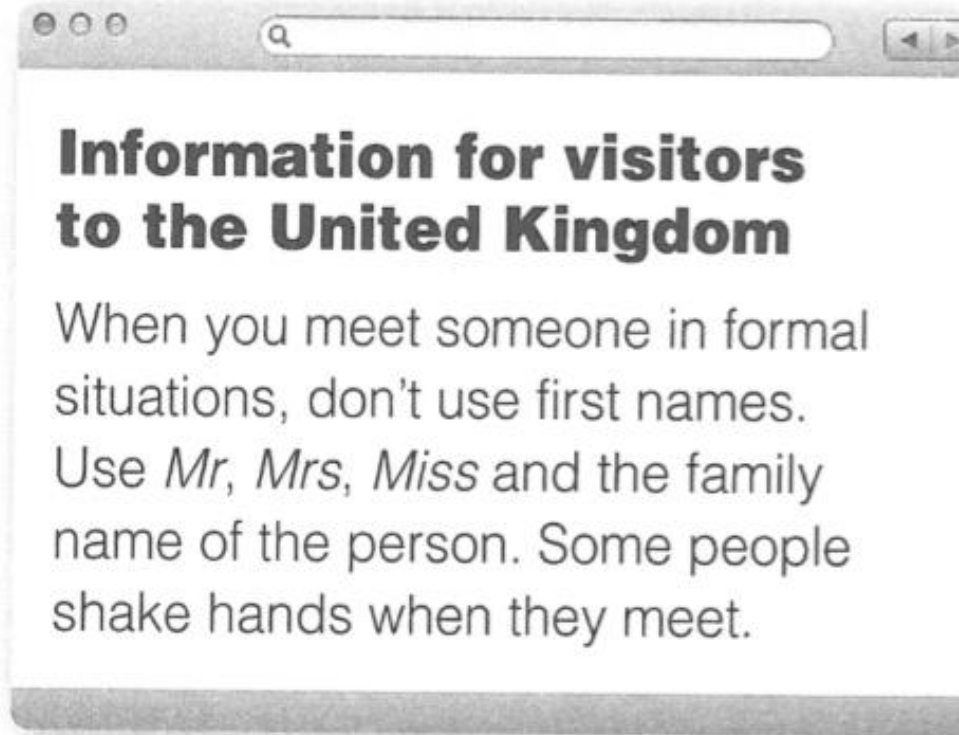
3-The shop is open tomorrow, isn't it?

4-She's Omar's sister, isn't she?

5-You're in my brother's class, aren't you?

6-They've got a new car, haven't they?

- 1 Read the paragraph. Then write four sentences giving advice about meeting and greeting using *you should/shouldn't* or *you can*.



- 1 You shouldn't use first names.
- 2 **You should use *Mr, Mrs, Miss* and the family name of the person.**
- 3 **You can shake hands when you meet some people.**

**2** Complete the conversations using modal verbs. There may be more than one possibility.

**A** Have you got everything you need?

**B** I'm sorry, but I've forgotten my towel.

*(Ask to borrow one.)*

*May / Could / Can I borrow one?*

**A** Did you have anything to eat on the journey?

**B** Well, not much.

**A** *(Offer to make a sandwich.)*

**Can I make you a sandwich? / Can I get you a sandwich?**

**A** Do you want to let your parents know you've arrived safely?

**B** Yes, please.

*(Ask to use the computer to send an email.)*

**May/Could I use your computer to send an email?**

**B** I feel quite tired after the journey. I can't keep my eyes open!

**A** *(Give advice.)*

**You should go to bed and get some rest.**

**A** Do you want to get anything to take home?

**B** Yes, I'd like to buy a present for my parents.

*(Ask for advice.)*

**What should I buy for my parents?**

### 3. How do we form QUESTION TAGS?

- a) Auxiliaries like **be, have, can, may, must, should**, etc. used in the statement are reported at the end followed by the subject (always a pronoun):

John **was** annoyed, **wasn't** he?

auxiliary verb

He **wasn't** annoyed, **was** he?



I am late, **aren't I**? ➡ Notice that we say **aren't I**? (= am I not)

**3** Complete the conversations with *possibly* or the correct question tag.



**Miriam:** Dinner is delicious, Khalia.

**Khalia:** I'm so glad you like it.

**Miriam:** It's called *al machboos*, <sup>1</sup> **isn't it** \_\_\_\_\_?

**Khalia:** Yes, that's right. It's a traditional dish.

**Miriam:** Wonderful. I'd love to cook it for my family. Could I <sup>2</sup> **possibly** \_\_\_\_\_ have the recipe?

**Khalia:** Sure, I'll give it to you later.



**Kieran:** Hello, Mr Hussain. It's a lovely day, <sup>3</sup> isn't it \_\_\_\_\_?

**Mr Hussain:** Good afternoon, Kieran. Yes, it is indeed. Where are you off to?

**Kieran:** Oh, well, I'm going to see my new friend Saif.

**Mr Hussain:** That's nice. I hope you have fun.

**Kieran:** I think I should take a present with me, <sup>4</sup> shouldn't I? \_\_\_\_\_?

**Mr Hussain:** Yes, you should. It would be a polite thing to do.

**Kieran:** OK. Could you <sup>5</sup> possibly \_\_\_\_\_ suggest what I should take?

**Mr Hussain:** Hmm. Perhaps you should take some nice coffee for his parents, and some sweets for his little brother.

**Kieran:** That's a great idea. Thank you very much, Mr Hussain.

