Part 1: Short Conversations

1. An email

M: Did you get that email I sent you?

F: You sent me an email? When?

M: Yesterday. It was just a link to a funny video I thought you'd like.

F: Oh, that. Yeah, I saw that it was from you but there was no subject and it only had the link. So I thought it was spam and I got rid of it. Sorry about that.

2. Working at the restaurant

M: Kathy, do you know if Anne is available tonight to come in and wait tables? We could really use her for the 6 to 11pm shift.

F: I'm not sure, but I can call her and find out. Why?

M: Well, we have three large groups coming in for dinner at 7, and Megan is out sick.

F: Oh, I didn't know that. Yeah, we'll definitely need someone else. I'll give her a call.

3. A ride home

F: Jason, can you pick up your brother from school?

M: Right now, Mom? I have to leave for tennis practice in 10 minutes!

F: I know that—I just need you to get him after you finish. He's staying late in the lab to finish up his science project with his group.

M: Okay, as long as he doesn't mind staying there until 5:30.

4. Studying at the library

M: It looks like most of us are here except for William and Alison.

F: I just passed Alison on my way up. She said that William texted her because he couldn't find the room. So, she's going to go meet him in the lobby. It seems like the library really tries to hide these rooms, you know?

M: Yeah, I know what you mean. I'm sure they'll be here soon then.

5. An invitation

M: Hey, Mary, let's go to the beach this afternoon. The weather's perfect.

F: I really can't. I've got to study for a test tomorrow. I've been putting it off all week, and I just can't make any more excuses.

M: Come on. It’s too hot right now. You can do it when we get back.

F: Well, okay, but just for a few hours. I want to be back by 6 at the latest.

6. School discussion

M: Lisa, have you started the chemistry assignment?

F: No, not yet. I've been too busy working on my English paper.

M: Oh, no! I completely forgot about that!

F: Really? You'd better get started! It's due on Friday.

7. Fixing an old bike.

F: Hi. My friend gave me an old bike of hers, and I need to get it adjusted.

M: OK. Let me have you get on the seat, so I can check the height.

F: Okay. I’m definitely feeling like it’s a little tall for me.

M: Yep. Hop off for a second and I’ll take it down a few inches. (pause) There. Now give it a try.

Part 2: Longer Conversations

8-11. Taking a hike

F: Are you sure you still want to go on this hike today?

M: Yeah, why not? A little rain isn't going to hurt us.

F: Maybe, if it was a little rain. But have you looked outside? It's raining pretty hard right now.

M: Okay, but we both have rain gear, right? We'll stay dry enough, even if it rains. Anyway, I hear the weather might get better later in the day.

F: It's not really getting wet that worries me. If it's wet and cloudy up in the mountains, we won't be able to see anything. I mean, half the fun of being in the mountains is taking in the good views. You can't do that if everything is covered in clouds.

M: Sure, I know what you mean, but this is our last free weekend for a long time. I think the next couple of weekends we're going to be too busy studying. I thought it would be good to get out one last time and take our minds off of school.

F: Even if it's rainy, cold, and we can't see anything?

M: Yeah, because the point is to just get away and relax a little bit. And, I'll bet we get some sunshine when we get up in the trail a ways.

F: I hope so! Well, if we're going to do it, then let's get going. I don't want to stay out too late.

12-15. Helping around the house

F: John, I need your help this afternoon

M: Sure Mom, what do you need?

F: I have a parent teacher conference this afternoon at your brother's school. I'm going to need you to come home right after school and babysit for your brother today. I probably won't be home until dinnertime.

M: Mom! The soccer try-outs are this afternoon. If I don't go, I won't be able to get a spot on the team.

F: John, I know the try-outs are important, but I don't think it's your only chance to make the team. You've played with Coach Rogers for two years now. He knows what your abilities are. I'd be happy to talk to him later and explain why you couldn't make it this afternoon.

M: It's not fair. Why can't Julie come home after school to do it and let me go to the try-outs? Julie always gets whatever she wants.

F: John, number one, that isn't true. Number two: I understand you're upset, but think about it from her perspective. You know she always stays home to watch your little brother for me. Today, she's volunteering at the library, and it's for an assignment.

M: *(reluctantly) I know*. . I guess I just feel jealous of the things Julie has, like her driver's license, and how she is allowed to do more things than me.

F: Well John, that's because she's older. It's always been this way, and it always will be. But you can be sure that when you are her age, you'll have those same things too.

M: Yeah, I guess. And, actually, I'm glad I don't have to spend the afternoon at the library either!

Part 3: Extended Discourse

16-22. Teen changemakers

Hello and welcome to episode two of Teen Changemakers.

Have you ever been disappointed in a grade you got? Well, I have. More than once, for sure. I try to remember the bad feeling I get from turning in work that's not my best. I hope the memory will motivate me to do better, just so I can avoid the bad feeling!

But sometimes when I get a bad grade, it's a totally different scene. Sometimes, I really believe my work was good, but I got a low grade anyway. Once when this happened, I talked to my teacher about the grade I got. But it's not really my personality to argue. So I just sort of stopped questioning my teachers' judgment. But I also started to feel kind of defeated when I worked hard and got a disappointing grade.

I bet this happens to a lot of you too.

But, guess what! I found the coolest story about a guy who was in the same situation. Instead of giving up, though, he worked even harder to show that his work was good.

When he was 19Gregory Watson was taking a class on government in the United States. He had to write a paper about how the government works, so he went to the library to research the constitution-- you know-- the document that describes the basic laws of the country?

Well, you probably know that changes to the constitution are allowed, but only if enough people agree the changes should be made. So, get this: in the library, Gregory found out that more than 200 years ago, some people had an idea to make the constitution better. Here's how:

Can you believe some people in government have the power to decide their own salaries? Crazy, right? The old proposal Gregory found wanted to make it more difficult for these government officials to give themselves pay raises. Gregory noticed there was no expiration date on the proposal. Even though it was an old idea, he thought it could still become law.

Gregory wrote a paper for his class about the idea. His teacher was not impressed. She thought his paper wasn't very interesting or realistic. She gave him a "C". Gregory didn't think that was the grade his paper deserved, but instead of just feeling annoyed, or giving up, he decided to fight to make the idea about government pay raises into real law. *To do this, he wrote letters to politicians all over the country and asked them to consider his idea.* It took 10 long years of letter writing and hard work, but in the end, Gregory helped convince enough states that the law should be changed. Now, because of Gregory's work, the idea is part of U.S. national law.

And another cool outcome of the story? Almost 30 years after he wrote his paper, his school decided to officially change his grade from a "C" to an "A". Nice!

23-30. Fishing with Dad

M: Samantha, I'm really glad you wanted to come with me this morning. I know you don't like getting up at 5am, but this is when the fishing is best. Plus, it's nice to have some company for once.

F: Thanks, Dad. Yeah, I'm not exactly an early riser on the weekends, but I figured this was worth it. You've gone out to fish so many Saturdays, and I love it when you bring home a good catch for dinner, so I wanted to see what it was all about.

M: So what do you think?

F: The sunrise is pretty, and it's really peaceful. Seems like it'd get boring alone after a while though.

M: Well, it's not boring to me. It's my time to think. It's a good chance to reflect -- think about where I've been, where I am now, and where I'm going in the future. Your uncle John says the same thing about running, actually. That's his thinking time when he's alone—it's not just about exercise.

F: Hmm. I didn't know that. (*pause)*So . . .what have you been thinking about lately?

M: Oh, lots of things. You, me, our family . . .

F: Uh, what about me?

M: Well, I have to tell you, I'm really impressed by how well you're doing in school so far. I can tell you're working hard. Are you still interested in banking and finance?

F: Yeah, kinda.

M: That's a pretty competitive field, you know, but I think you've got what it takes if you really put your mind to it. No matter what, I want you to know that I'll do whatever I can to help you achieve your goals in life.

F: Wow, that's great, Dad. Thanks. You're already helping me by being supportive of my choices. I know some of my friends' parents are telling them that they have to go into a certain field or job, like, they have to be an engineer or join the family business. But I know you'll …Hey, look! I think there's a fish on my line!

M: Yeah, you've got one on! Now just reel it in, slowly.

F: (*excitedly)* Wow! Here it is. I can't believe I caught a fish!

M: It's a good one, too. Looks like it's nearly 30 centimeters long! Let's put it in the bucket.

F: Well, that was easy. And we've only been out here 45 minutes. That's great. So, anyway, what I was saying before is that I know you'll help me in whatever I decide to do, and I appreciate that.

M: OK. Just know I'm always here for you. *(pause)* By the way, did you know I used to go out with your grandfather on his fishing boat when I was really young? That's what he used to do for a living, catching fish, until he decided to stop and he started building and fixing boats instead.

F: Really? How come?

M: He was working by himself, and it was hard for him to keep up with all of the big fishing companies. They have much bigger boats and better equipment, and it was hard for him to make enough money each month.

F: Oh, I didn't know that, but I do remember seeing pictures of fishing boats on the wall at his house. How old were you when you went out with him?

M: Oh, probably 8 or 9, something like that. He wouldn't let me go before that because he said I was too young. It was really hard work, and it made me realize that I didn't want to fish for a living. I'd rather do something different, and just go out on the weekends like this.

F: Yeah, this is nice. Thanks for bringing me, Dad. We'll have to do it again.

M: Sure thing, anytime.