

Part 1: Short conversations**1. The cold office**

- M: It is so cold in here. Can they NOT control the heat in this building?
- F: No kidding. I called them again yesterday, and they said somebody was going to come check it out, but I haven't seen anybody around here lately.
- M: Yeah, me neither. What does it take to get moved up on the priority list around here?
- F: You got me.

2. Recommending new music

- F: Hey, what have you been listening to lately? Any good new music?
- M: Yeah! I recently picked up the latest album by Mark Firestone. He's a singer-songwriter, and he plays acoustic guitar and piano too. His singing is awesome. It's so *soulful*—it makes you feel the emotions of every song.
- F: I'll have to check him out! There are so many singer-songwriters out there, I can hardly keep them all straight. Honestly, they all kind of start to sound the same to me after a while.
- M: Well, there aren't a lot of singers like Mark. His vocal style is really unique. I'll send you some links to his music videos. Give him a listen and let me know what you think.

3. Planting flowers

- M: Kate, why don't you come outside and help me plant some of the flowers I brought home?
- F: OK, Dad. What do you need me to do?
- M: I've put some gardening soil into this big pot, so now we need to remove these flowers from their plastic containers...and
- F: ...by squeezing from the bottom and then pulling them out and loosening the soil around the roots at the bottom.
- M: That's right! Then we'll space them evenly in the pot and add more soil to keep them in place.

4. On the telephone

- F: Hey, Dad—it's Carolyn.
- M: Oh, hi, honey. What's up?

F: Is there any chance you can pick me up early today? Practice was canceled this afternoon 'cause it's raining so hard. I know you're pretty busy, but since Mom's out of town, I don't have another way to get home.

M: Sure, I can come get you. I do have one meeting at four o'clock, but I can reschedule that. There's something at three, though, that I have to be here for. I've got a conference call with the manager from one of our biggest partners. Can you stay at school a little while after you get out?

F: Yeah, I have homework I can get started on. I just didn't want to be stuck here until six o'clock, that's all.

M: Of course. I should be done by 3:30 and then I'll leave to come get you.

5. A new painting

F: Is this picture supposed to be hung horizontally or vertically?

M: Oh, um, I think maybe vertically? See how this part of the painting extends up and down? Actually, it was a gift, so I hadn't really thought about it yet.

F: I see what you mean about the long, skinny part, but it also looks interesting if you turn it this way. We can try it both ways!

M: For sure. Oh, wait look at this—there's a hook on the back. I guess it is supposed to be horizontal.

6. A benefit concert

F: That benefit concert at the youth center last night was a huge success! How are you going to maintain that momentum?

M: I'm not sure. The community response was entirely unexpected. We raised enough money to buy six new computers for the center—which is great! But, to be honest, we're not prepared for our next big event.

F: I'd say it's better to pull something together fast than to wait too long. You don't want to let your supporters lose interest in the cause!

7. At the gym

F: Hi, how can I help you?

M: I'm having trouble getting the new treadmill to work. I run on the treadmill twice a week, and I've never had a problem with it. Do you know why it was replaced?

F: It was getting old and out of warranty, so the owners bought a new model.

M: That's too bad. I really liked the old one.

F: Well, let's see what the problem is. Hmm. It's plugged in, but the lights aren't coming on at all. I guess sometimes newer isn't better.

8. At the restaurant

F: Welcome to Sam's! Can I help you?

M: Hi! You guys look pretty busy! We don't have a reservation, but I was hoping we could get a table for two. How long is the wait?

F: Mm, I'm sorry. There's a private function going on tonight. I can check the book for tomorrow if you'd like.

M: Eh, tomorrow's not so good. How about Thursday?

F: Hmm, Thursday we're pretty booked too, but I think we could get you in before six if that works.

M: Yeah, that would be great. Thanks!

Part 2: Longer conversations

9-11 Career advice

M: Hi, there—you must be Julie! I'm Robert McIntyre.

F: Hi, Robert! Thank you so much for agreeing to meet with me. My dad said you'd be the perfect person to talk to.

M: Oh, don't mention it. I'm happy to help. When I was just entering the workforce, I didn't really have anyone to turn to for advice. And of course, this was in the days before the Internet or career coaching. I would have loved to have talked to someone about what my options were back then.

F: Well, like I said, I appreciate it. It's very kind of you. Do you mind if I ask you a few questions?

M: Not at all! That's why we're here.

F: Okay, to start with, could you tell me how you got into the science field?

M: Sure. I was a biology major in college, and I worked in a lab that was developing a particular cancer treatment. And then, after college I worked for a pharmaceutical company marketing their products. Basically, I went around to hospitals and doctor's offices to try to get them to use the medications that we manufactured.

F: Wow—I bet you learned a lot. Was it interesting?

- M: It was—in a way. And it paid well. But I got tired of playing the salesman role. My interest has always been research. I knew I wanted to get back into the lab, so I decided to go to graduate school to get my PhD in biomedical science. It's where I feel my skills are best put to use.
- F: That's what my dad told me. He said that you're happiest when you're wearing a white coat and working with test tubes!
- M: That's true! My favorite part about research is the process of discovery that happens in the lab. Some people may not like the fact that a lot of research is trial and error, but personally, I get energized by it.

12-16 History assignment

- F: Greg, did you have Ms. Jacobs for history when you were in 9th grade?
- M: Yeah. But that was ages ago! I haven't thought about that class in quite a while.
- F: Well, she's a lot different than Mr. Roth, my teacher from last year. I mean, when she gives assignments, I never know what I have to do. Mr. Roth always gave us specific instructions for the assignment, like which topic we are supposed to choose, how long it should be, where we can find materials and resources, and details about how he'll grade us.
- M: Well, you are in high school now. It isn't like middle school, where the teacher tells you exactly how to do everything. They expect you to start being more self-sufficient and learning to do things on your own.
- F: Phhh. Well, this high school thing is a lot different than I thought it'd be. I just thought there'd be a lot more rules and homework. And I knew I'd have fewer, longer classes in a day. But I didn't think that the teachers would be so different. Maybe you can help me understand this assignment ... please? Just this once?
- M: OK, uh let me see... So, Ms. Jacobs wants you to write an essay about the Industrial Revolution. She says to pick one product from daily life that was mass-produced because of the invention of machinery and factories. You should explain how that product was made before the Industrial Revolution, and after, and how this changed availability and price. So, what's your question?
- F: Alright. I get that part. But, how do I know where to look for information?
- M: Well, that's up to you. You can try the library or the Internet. Grandma has lots of history books; you could see if any of them are about the Industrial Revolution. I know Mr. Roth just gave you the books and websites you needed to use, but that won't happen in Ms. Jacob's class.
- F: (hmm..) I can see that. OK, well, then I guess I'm just wondering how long it has to be.

M: Oh, that's a legitimate question. I'm sure it wasn't intentional to leave that off. You should ask her tomorrow in class.

17-20 A new student

F: Hey dad, remember when I told you about the new girl in my class? Fiona? You know, the one who was so superficial? All she would talk about is clothes. Well, today we ate lunch together.

M: Sure, Maggie, I remember. So... how did it go?

F: It turns out we have a lot in common! At first I thought she was really materialistic, because all I heard her talking about was a new pair of shoes she got, or make up, or a new necklace. But she seems really cool. She told me she was anxious about making friends in a new school. So she tried to be assertive and talk about herself and things she likes. She admitted that it felt really awkward to talk about herself, but she was following her brother's advice to help her feel less anxious.

M: It sounds like you two talked about a lot. And you both have brothers! I'm sure there's a lot you can both relate to on that topic. Is he older or younger?

F: He's older, just like Paul. And you're right, we talked about what it's like to be a younger sister, and all of the jokes older brothers play on us. And it turns out she likes mystery novels, probably as much as I do. She's actually read the Miss Pinkerton series. Can you believe that? So, I gave her some other suggestions, and she's going to lend me the first few books in her favorite series tomorrow. I can't wait to read them. Then, we'll have even more to talk about.

M: That's great. I'm glad you were able to make a genuine connection in such a short time.

Part 3: Extended discourse**21-30 Moonlight film festival**

Welcome, everyone, and thank you for coming! First, I apologize for any confusion about the show time. There was a discrepancy with the show time listed online and in the printed program, and I see you must have consulted the print version of the program if you are here now.

Anyway, I'm delighted to be here at the third annual Moonlight Film Festival. On behalf of myself and everyone who contributed to this film, we are thrilled to be premiering our new film, *Currents of Fate*. I chose the Moonlight Film Festival for its debut because this festival holds a special place for me; I've been active with Moonlight since the beginning several years ago in this very theatre.

Now, I'm happy to see some familiar faces in the crowd here today. I know some of you from your support of our award-winning short films, and I'm grateful to you for coming back. This film, unlike our past productions, is a full-length film. It was our biggest production yet, and to invest this much time and money in a film, it was important to me that it be as good as it possibly could be. And – we feel that it is.

Next, I have a lot of people to thank. I want to thank all of the people who helped make this film, and there are many, from the actors to the camera operators and editors to the wonderful people who made sure we never went hungry. The dedication of the lighting and sound crews and everyone on location was unsurpassed. In order to stay on schedule, they worked in conditions that others may well have walked away from. I also want to thank the film department at Northern University for giving us interns who assisted the actors and crew, and all the friends and lovers of this art who generously donated their time and energy in more ways than I can name.

I'd like to briefly talk about the actors. Over here to my left is our lead actor, Noelle Thompson Martin. Thank you for being here today, Noelle. She came all the way from Marseille, France. Next to her are the talented Jean-Pierre LaLonde and Michael Evans. Unfortunately, our other lead, Claire Beaumont, could not be here tonight due to another engagement. After the showing, we'll all be available in the main festival lounge if you'd like to stop by and say hi.

Now, about the film. I'm not going to give anything away, but if you think you're picking up on layered, subtle messages in the film, you are right. What I tried to do with this film is multi-faceted; on the surface, it's a story about a unique and complex relationship. However, the emotions of the characters, and the feelings and thoughts they may provoke, are deeply ingrained in humanity around the world. The film is set in the 1970s, but its relevance is timeless, because, really, the human experience has not changed.

Anyhow, I think that about sums it up. Thank you, and please enjoy, *Currents of Fate*.

31-40 Cell phone debate

F: Hey Dad, can we talk?

M: Oh sure, Lauren. What's on your mind?

F: I want to revisit the cell phone conversation again. Last time I asked, you said I was too young. But I'm almost a year older now, and it's really hard being the only one in my group of friends without a phone.

M: Uh right, I remember that argument from last time. But--

F: Here, I wrote a list of points for you to consider. First: I walk home from school. I'm going to be on the basketball team this year, which means later practices and games with my teammates. A phone would let me tell you if I'm going to be late or need a ride. Second, you can text me anytime you want to check in. I promise I'll always answer. Third: I borrow your phone all the time, but if I had my own phone, I wouldn't have to anymore. You know how you always ask me when I'll be done with it?

M: Well...yes.

F: My point exactly. And last of all, I'm responsible; I get good grades, I don't get into trouble. You can trust me.

- M: You're right, you *are* responsible. This is a good list, and I like how you thought out your argument. But, now I want you to turn this around and consider it from all angles. What drawbacks can you think of?
- F: Um, well, I suppose there's the danger of losing it. Danielle lost hers and she had to pay \$200 to replace it. Or I've seen some kids use it too much, so that they're not even looking up and saying hi to friends. It's weird. But I wouldn't be like that, Dad.
- M: No, I don't think you would either, though I don't think anyone expects to be that person. It's a slippery slope, once you start playing games and messaging, before you know it you're using it all the time. That's why it's important to set limits before you need them.
- F: That actually makes a lot of sense.
- M: Thanks. And I agree with everything you said.
- F: Wait, what? Does that mean I can have my own phone?
- M: Well, I was going to wait and surprise you next month, but yes, I think it's a good time for you to have your own phone. But, I've been thinking a lot about this, and I have a list for you too.
- F: Oh thanks, Dad! Thank you so much! What's your list?
- M: Here are the rules: Number 1. No phones at the dinner table. We already have this rule for me, so I can focus on you at dinnertime. The same rule applies to you. Number 2: If I feel that you're spending too much time texting or playing games, I can take the phone back at any time. And Number 3, if your grades slip, even just a little bit, the phone is mine and you have to earn it back. Do you understand?
- F: That's a lot to remember, but it's not unreasonable. And yes, I'll remember it and follow the rules.