

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #1

## The English Interview

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## CONTENTS

- Dialogue - English
  - Main
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Vocabulary phrase usage
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#1

# DIALOGUE - ENGLISH

## MAIN

1. Mark : Hello, may I ask who's calling?
2. Sheila : Hello, this is Sheila, I have a phone interview with this office scheduled for now. Can I please speak with Mr. Mark Cantor?
3. Mark : Ah, of course. Hello Sheila, this is Mark, it's nice to meet you. Thanks for calling.
4. Sheila : It's my pleasure.
5. Mark : All right then, let's get started, shall we? Can you tell me about why you are interested in working at our office?
6. Sheila : Well, I've been studying politics at university and am graduating this May, I'm looking for a job that has me intimately involved with the legislative process. I'd like to do research, write speeches, and interact with Congressional Members. Working in politics and getting to talk with Senators and Representatives sounds really exciting to me.
7. Mark : Great, and can you tell me a little about your previous experiences?
8. Sheila : Well, my most recent job was working at the school's newspaper as a politics columnist. It wasn't the best in terms of pay but it was better than my other jobs and gave me a good chance to practice writing about something I liked.
9. Mark : Fair enough. What can you say about your strengths and weaknesses?
10. Sheila : I think that my best trait is that I am very dedicated and driven. However, at the same time, this can be my worst characteristic—sometimes I have a hard time knowing when to quit.

## VOCABULARY

Vocabulary	English	Class
politics	the science and art of government and law-making	noun
in terms of	referring to, to talk about a specific characteristic	phrase
shall we	when used with "let's" a suggestion to do something	phrase
previous	the one before	adjective
Representative	Member of the lower house of the US Congress	noun
Senator	Member of the upper house of the US Congress	noun
legislative	law-making	adjective
intimately	very closely	adverb
to graduate	to finish school	verb
dedicated	never giving up	adjective

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

American politics is centered around the fight between Republicans and Democrats.	In terms of travel, working for an international company is a great option.
Shall we dance, my dear?	Her new novel was along the lines of her previous one.
Representatives are assigned by population, bigger states have more and smaller states have less.	There are two senators from each US state.
In Congress, there are two Senators from each state.	The legislative process in the United States is complicated.
The president must work intimately with his staff to be efficient.	He graduated from a top university.

If you are dedicated, you will have no problems with your studies and finding a good job.

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Sheila says "It wasn't the best in terms of pay" about her first job. We can use "in terms of" in order to talk about a specific aspect of something even when it is not true about the whole.

*This necklace is very expensive, but in terms of quality, it is one of the best.*

Mark says "All right then, let's get started, shall we?" When he says "shall we?" it is a slightly formal rhetorical question and a way to transition to a new action or topic. We often use it with "Let's" and then "shall we" comes at the end. We can use it as a very polite imperative.

*Let's board the plane, shall we?*

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of this Lesson is Irregular Adjectives**

***It wasn't the best in terms of pay but it was better than my other jobs and gave me a good chance to practice writing about something I liked.***

There are few irregular adjectives in English. Almost all adjectives follow the simple or complicated rules when put in comparative or superlative form. However, there are a few that do not and the example above shows us all of the forms of "good" (good-better-best). The other irregular adjectives are in a chart below. Be careful when you use them in conversation.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
many/much/a lot	more	most
little (few)	less	least
far (physical distance)	farther	farthest
far (abstract distance)	further	furthest
old (when talking about people in a family)	elder	eldest
well (healthy)	better	best

Remember that "elder" and "eldest" and only used when describing family members and that "well" in this case is describing someone who is getting healthy. Also, the difference between farther/farthest and further/furthest is a bit difficult. We use "farther" only when we are talking about an actual distance. We use "further" when we are talking about an abstract concept, often it can take the place of "more."

Here are some examples of using these irregular adjectives in sentences:

1. *I used to think spinach was the worst vegetable, but now I think carrots are even worse.*
2. *My eldest sister is 2 years older than my elder brother.*
3. *New York is far from Washington D.C. but California is farther and Hawaii is the farthest.*
4. *I've already told you many times, we don't need to discuss that any further.*
5. *"Are you feeling well today?" "I'm feeling better, thanks."*
6. *Indonesia has a lot of people but India has more and China has the most.*

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Sell Yourself!

Interviewing for a job is a stressful occurrence and varies from country to country and even workplace to workplace. Most interviews are in person, but due to distance, it is increasingly common to hold a job interview over the phone or even via the internet using video-chats. Regardless of with whom you are interviewing, you will want to prepare for your interview by trying to guess what kinds of questions they will ask. Always research the position you are applying for, the skills that it requires, and how you are good for it. In the United States, during a job interview, it is considered acceptable to talk about yourself in a very positive light. Other countries may see this as boasting, but emphasizing your skills while remaining honest is important during a job interview. Think about yourself as a salesperson—you are trying to sell yourself to this company and you have to show them how you are a good purchase.