

**Welcome to this sample unit from
'Understanding Everyday Australian – Book 2'**

**Print out the following 10 page unit,
to use with the MP3 sound file on our web page:
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or

**to view the pages on-screen, we advise that you look at
the pages side by side.**

You should view Conversation 1 next to Conversation 2 on your screen.

For example:

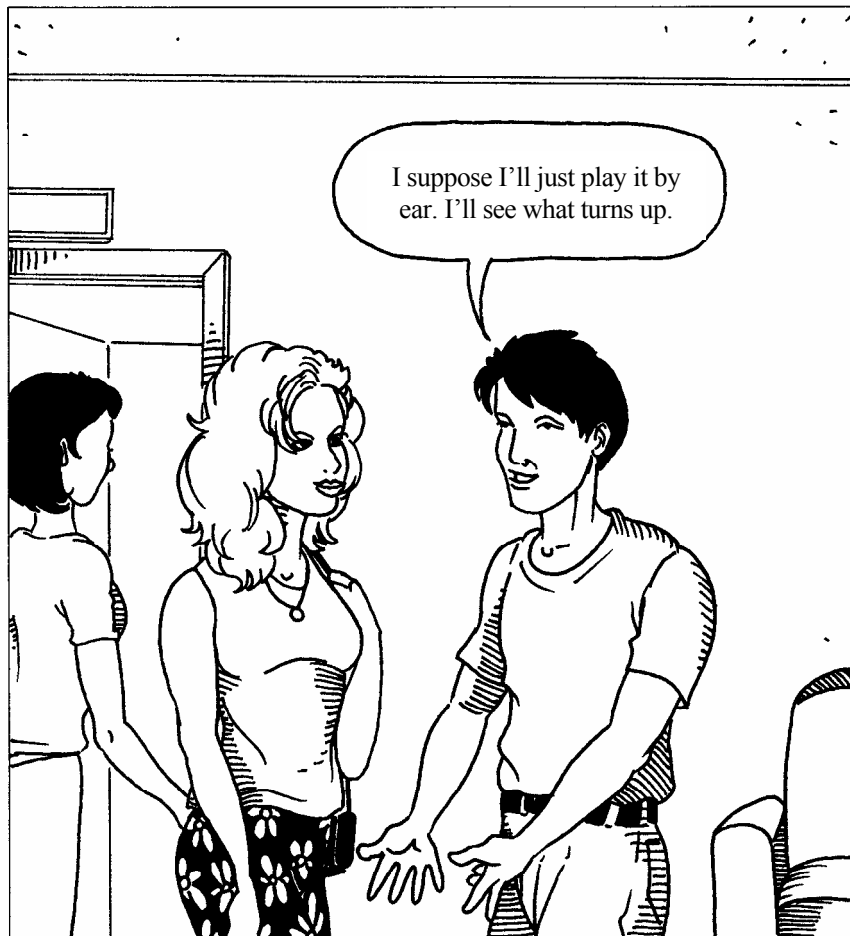
Unit 9 - Future Plans and Possibilities - Part 2A Conversation 1 (with everyday expressions)	Unit 9 - Future Plans and Possibilities - Part 2B Conversation 2 (explanation of everyday expressions)
page 92	page 93

We hope you enjoy and benefit from this sample unit.

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UNIT 9

FUTURE PLANS AND POSSIBILITIES



Unit 9 - FUTURE PLANS AND POSSIBILITIES - Part 1

Do you plan for the future or do you just 'let things happen'? In this unit you will hear two friends, Chris and Kerri, talking about what they are going to do when they have finished their tourism course. Before you listen to the conversation, match the following words with the appropriate definition below. Answers, page 121.

philosophy opportunity ambitious goal eagerly voluntary (work)

a target for the future _____ determined to succeed _____

idea, belief, opinion _____ unpaid work _____

happily, with desire _____ a useful situation _____

Now listen to the conversation and decide which of the following statements are true. (There may be more than one correct answer). You can check your answers on page 121.

1) During the holidays, Chris is going to:

- a) learn to fly.
- b) visit her family.
- c) look for a job.

2) Chris suggests that Kerri should:

- a) do some voluntary work.
- b) get a job in a shop.
- c) see a doctor.

3) Chris thinks:

- a) people have to plan if they want to succeed.
- b) it isn't important to plan for success.

4) Chris says she is:

- a) ambitious.
- b) lazy.
- c) rich.

Now we'll look at the everyday expressions used in the conversation - turn to the next page.



CONVERSATION 1 (with everyday expressions)

◀◀ Replay Conversation 1

Read this conversation as you listen to the audio recording. Do you know what the underlined words mean? They are colloquial or 'everyday' expressions.

- Chris: Only one week left till the end of our course. I can't believe the year's just about over.
- Kerri: Me neither.
- Chris: What are you doing in the holidays? Anything exciting?
- Kerri: No, not really. I suppose, I'll just play it by ear. What about you, Chris? Any plans?
- Chris: Yes, I'm going to visit my family in the country for a week. I'm flying out next Wednesday. I haven't seen them for a while so I'm really looking forward to it. And then, when I come back, I'm going to look for a job.... as a tour guide if possible.
- Kerri: I guess, I'll look for a job too but I must say, I'm a bit half hearted about it.
- Chris: Why's that?
- Kerri: Well, let's face it, every Tom, Dick and Harry will be looking for work this time of year. And the other problem is, employers usually want experienced staff, not students straight out of college.
- Chris: True, so why not get some experience in the holidays by doing some voluntary work? That's what I'm going to do if I don't get a job straight away.
- Kerri: Mm. I suppose it'd be better than sitting around, twiddling my thumbs. But I'm not wrapped in the idea of working for nothing.
- Chris: Well, the way I look at it, you'd be killing two birds with one stone. It'd be paving the way for future work and helping someone at the same time. And you never know - it may lead to a job down the track.
- Kerri: You know, I have to hand it to you, Chris. You seem to have it all worked out. I'm the sort of person who hopes opportunities'll turn up out of the blue. I don't plan ahead like you.
- Chris: Well, as far as I'm concerned, you have to plan if you want be successful - if you just wait for something to turn up, it may never happen. I believe we have to set our sights on something we want and then go for it! I suppose I'm ambitious but I believe we have to create our own opportunities.
- Kerri: Well, I can see you're going to go places, that's for sure. You have a good philosophy on life. Maybe I should get my act together and set some goals too..... Look, I'm going to get a cup of coffee. Would you like one?
- Chris: That sounds like a very good idea. I'll just get my bag.

Now let's see what these expressions mean - look at the next page.

CONVERSATION 2 (explanation of everyday expressions)

Compare Conversation 1 with Conversation 2 - You will see that some of the words are different but the meaning is the same in both conversations. Find the underlined words in Conversation 1, then underline the words with the same meaning in Conversation 2. For example: just about (Conversation 1) = almost (Conversation 2)

Chris: (There is) only one week till the end of our course. I can't believe the year's almost over.

Kerri: Me neither.

Chris: What are you doing in the holidays? Anything exciting?

Kerri: No, not really. I suppose, I'll just wait and see what happens (I don't have a plan). What about you, Chris? Any plans?

Chris: Yes, I'm going to visit my family in the country for a week. I'm flying out next Wednesday. I haven't seen them for a while so I'm really eagerly awaiting it. And then, when I come back, I'm going to look for a job.... as a tour guide if possible.

Kerri: I guess I'll look for a job too but I must say, I'm a bit disinterested/only half interested in it.

Chris: Why's that?

Kerri: Well, we must be realistic, a lot of ordinary people will be looking for work this time of year. And the other problem is, employers usually want experienced staff, not students (who are) straight out of college.

Chris: True, so why not get some experience in the holidays by doing some voluntary work? That's what I'm going to do if I don't get a job immediately.

Kerri: Mm. I suppose it'd be better than sitting around, doing nothing. But I'm not happy about the idea of working for nothing.

Chris: Well, the way I look at it, you'd be achieving two things with one action. It'd be preparing the way for future work and helping someone at the same time. And there is a possibility- it may lead to a job in the future.

Kerri: You know, I have to admire/congratulate you, Chris. You seem to have everything planned and organised. I'm the sort of person who hopes opportunities'll arrive/happen unexpectedly (without planning). I don't plan ahead like you.

Chris: Well, as far as I'm concerned, you have to plan if you want be successful - if you just wait for something to turn up, it may never happen. I believe we have to decide and aim for something we want and then strive/try hard (to get what we want!) I suppose I'm ambitious but I believe we have to create our own opportunities.

Kerri: Well, I can see you're going to be successful, that's for sure. You have a good philosophy on life. Maybe I should get organised and set some goals too..... Look, I'm going to get a cup of coffee. Would you like one?

Chris: That sounds like a very good idea. I'll just get my bag.

Now to become familiar with the everyday expressions, practise reading CONVERSATION 1 aloud with a partner.



Unit 9 - FUTURE PLANS AND POSSIBILITIES – Part 3

◀ Replay Conversation 1

Listen to the conversation again and fill in the missing words. You may have to listen more than once. (Don't worry about your spelling as this exercise focuses on listening skills - you can check your spelling later.)

Chris: Only one week left till the end of our course. I can't believe the year's **just** _____ over.

Kerri: Me neither.

Chris: What are you doing in the holidays? Anything exciting?

Kerri: No, not really. I suppose, I'll just **play it by** _____. What about you, Chris? Any plans?

Chris: Yes, I'm going to visit my family in the country for a week. I'm flying out next Wednesday. I haven't seen them for a while so I'm really **looking** _____ **to** it. And then, when I come back, I'm going to look for a job.... as a tour guide if possible.

Kerri: I guess, I'll look for a job too but I must say, I'm a bit _____ **hearted about** it.

Chris: Why's that?

Kerri: Well, **let's** _____ **it, every Tom, Dick and Harry** will be looking for work this time of year. And the other problem is, employers usually want experienced staff, not students straight out of college.

Chris: True, so why not get some experience in the holidays by doing some voluntary work?

That's what I'm going to do if I don't get a job _____ **away**.

Kerri: Mm. I suppose it'd be better than sitting around, **twiddling my** _____. But I'm not **wrapped in the idea** of working for nothing.

Chris: Well, the way I look at it, you'd **be killing two** _____ **with one stone**. It'd be **paving the way** for future work and helping someone at the same time. And **you never know** - it may lead to a job **down the** _____.

Kerri: You know, I **have to** _____ **it to you**, Chris. You seem to **have it all worked** _____. I'm the sort of person who hopes opportunities'll **turn up out of the** _____. I don't plan ahead like you.

Chris: Well, as far as I'm concerned, you have to plan if you want be successful - if you just wait for something to turn up, it may never happen. I believe we have to **set our** _____ **on** something we want and then _____ **for it!** I suppose I'm ambitious but I believe we have to create our own opportunities.

Kerri: Well, I can see you're going to **go** _____, that's for sure. You have a good philosophy on life. Maybe I should **get my** _____ **together** and set some goals too..... Look, I'm going to get a cup of coffee. Would you like one?

Chris: That sounds like a very good idea. I'll just get my bag.

Now check your answers by comparing this page with Conversation 1.

Unit 9 - FUTURE PLANS AND POSSIBILITIES – Part 4

In order to become more familiar with these new everyday expressions:

- 1) Listen to Conversation 1 again and tick the boxes next to the expressions as you hear them.
- 2) After the conversation has finished, write in the definitions you can remember. Some have been done for you as examples.
- 3) Check your answers by turning to page 134.

- just about.....
- play it by ear.....
- looking forward to.....
- half hearted (about).....*disinterested (only half interested)*.....
- let's face it.....
- every Tom, Dick and Harry.....
- straight away.....
- twiddling my thumbs.....
- wrapped in the idea.....*happy about the idea*.....
- killing two birds with one stone....*achieving two things/results with one action*.....
- paving the way.....
- you never know.....*there is a possibility*.....
- down the track.....
- have to hand it to (you).....
- have it all worked out.....
- turn up.....*arrive/occur/happen*.....
- out of the blue.....*unexpectedly/without planning*.....
- set (our) sights on.....
- go for it!.....
- go places.....
- get my act together.....

LANGUAGE NOTE: The expression '**turn up**' can be used for *people, events* and *things*.
 For example:
 'What time did Tom **turn up**?' = 'What time did Tom *arrive*?'
 'Don't worry. Something will **turn up**.' = 'Don't worry. Something will *happen* (to help this problem).'
 'Don't worry. Your purse will **turn up**.' = 'Don't worry. Your purse will *be found*.'

Unit 9 - FUTURE PLANS AND POSSIBILITIES – Part 5

LANGUAGE REVIEW

Complete the sentences, choosing from the everyday expressions which are listed below. You can use the clues in brackets () at the end of each sentence to help you. Then complete the crossword using the everyday expressions you have written. The first one has been done as an example.

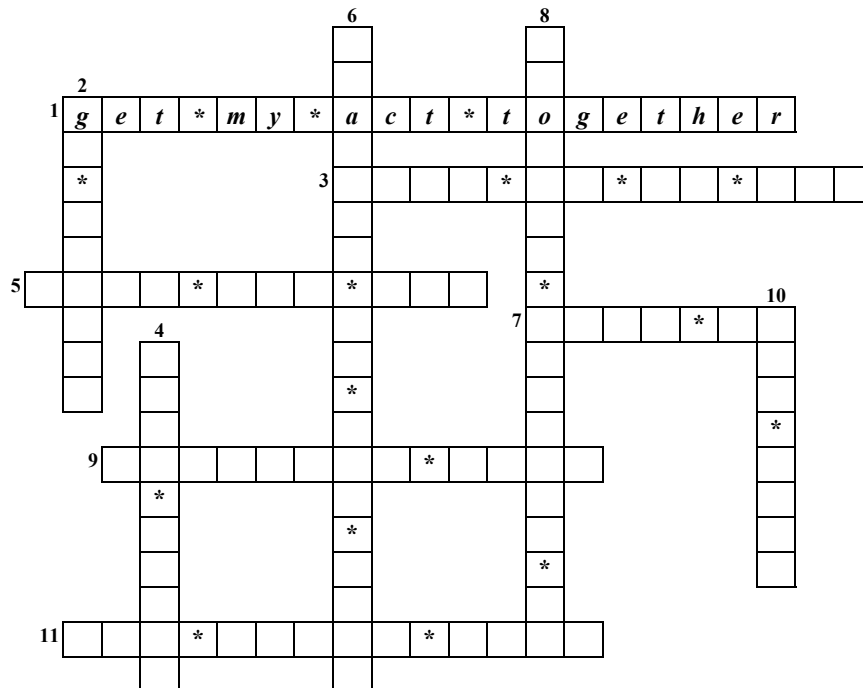
straight away play it by ear the blue ~~get my act together~~ you never know face it
 looking forward to pave the way just about go places wrapped in the idea

ACROSS

- 1) I should ***get my act together*** and start saving to buy a house. (get organised)
- 3) We haven't planned anything for New Year's Eve. We'll just _____.(see what happens)
- 5) This course will _____ for the job I really want. (prepare the way)
- 7) We have to _____. Our business isn't doing well. (be realistic)
- 9) We heard the news and we came _____. (immediately)
- 11) I think you should go to the dance tonight. _____ - you may meet your perfect partner. (there is a possibility)

DOWN

- 2) He is going to _____. Look how well he is progressing already. (be successful)
- 4) I have _____ finished painting the house. (almost)
- 6) I'm _____ of getting married in Springtime. (happy about)
- 8) We are _____ seeing their new baby. (eagerly awaiting)
- 10) He was very healthy until suddenly, out of _____, he had a heart attack. (unexpectedly)



Answers, page 121.

Unit 9 - FUTURE PLANS AND POSSIBILITIES – Part 6

FOCUS ON SPOKEN LANGUAGE - *Talking about the future*

There are several verb forms used to talk about the future in English.

- We talk about our **plans and intentions** - this will be examined in section **A** and **B**.
- We **predict what we think will happen** - this will be examined in section **C**.
- We talk about **definite future arrangements** - section **D**.

In section **A** and **B** we examine two verb forms which were used by the speakers in Conversation 1 to talk about their **plans and intentions**.

- **will** + verb eg. I'll just **play** it by ear. (I **will** is usually contracted to **I'll**).
- **am going to** +verb eg. I'm **going to visit** my family in the country for a week.

Talking about future plans and intentions

A) We use **will** when we are deciding at the moment of speaking what we will do.

For this reason, **I'll** is often used with expressions such as '*I think*', '*I suppose*', or '*I guess*'.

The following sentences have been taken from Conversation 1.

In each example, the speaker is **making a decision at the time of speaking**.

PRACTICE 1

Find the sentences in Conversation 1, then complete each sentence with **will + verb**.

Kerri: I suppose, I'_____just _____ it by ear.

Kerri: I guess, I _____ for a job too.

Chris: I'_____just _____ my bag.

Answers, page 122.

In each of the above sentences, the speakers are making a decision at the moment of speaking. They had not decided or planned their action before speaking.

Notice the pattern:

	<i>will</i> +	<i>verb (present simple)</i>
I suppose	I'll (just)	play it by ear.
I guess	I'll	look for a job too.
	I'll (just)	get my bag.

PRACTICE 2

Complete the following conversations. Remember, the second speakers are making their decision *at the moment of speaking*, so use **will + verb**. Answers, page 122.

1st Speaker: This box is very heavy! 2nd Speaker: Wait a minute. I _____ you.

1st Speaker: Oh, I forgot to post this letter! 2nd Speaker: Don't worry. I _____ it later.

B) We use **going to** when we talk about things that **have been decided or planned before the moment of speaking**. The following sentences have been taken from Conversation 1. In each example, the speaker had made their decision **before** the time of speaking.

Find the sentences in Conversation 1, then complete each sentence with **am + going to + verb**.

	<i>am</i> + <i>going to</i> +	<i>verb (present simple)</i>
Yes, I'm	going to	visit my family in the country for a week.
..... I'm		for a job.....as a tour guide if possible.
That's what I'm		if I don't get a job straight away.
Look, I'		a cup of coffee. Would you like one?

Answers, page 122.

NOTE: Because **going to + verb** suggests *premeditated intention*, it is **not** usually used with expressions such as, '*I think*', '*I guess*' or '*I suppose*' when talking about plans.

For example, we would **not** say, '*I think* I'm going to get a cup of coffee'.

Unit 9 - FUTURE PLANS AND POSSIBILITIES – Part 6

FOCUS ON SPOKEN LANGUAGE - *Talking about the Future (continued)*

REMEMBER

- We use **will** when the speaker decides/plans **at the time of speaking**.
- We use **going to** when the decision was made **before** the time of speaking.

PRACTICE

Complete the following conversation about future plans using **will** or **going to**.

Sue: What are you going to do on Saturday?

Pat: I'm not sure yet. I think I _____ stay home and finish my homework.

Sue: Jenni and I are _____ go to the beach. Would you like to come?

Pat: Yes. That sounds great! I _____ finish my homework on Sunday instead.

Sue: OK. We're _____ catch the bus at 8 a.m.

Pat: OK. I _____ meet you at the bus stop then. What are you _____ take for lunch?

Sue: I'm not sure yet. I guess I _____ just take some fruit and a sandwich.

(Answers: page 122)

C) Making Predictions

When we predict (say what we think will happen in the future), we can use **will** or **going to**.
For example: 'It's **going to rain** tomorrow.' or 'I think, it **will rain** tomorrow.'
'I'm **going to have** a big phone bill this month.' or 'I'll **have** a big phone bill this month.'
'Tom **is going to do well** in the competition.' or 'Tom **will do well** in the competition.'

In Conversation 1, Kerri makes a prediction about Chris.

Read Conversation 1 again, find and complete the following sentence.

Kerri:I can see _____ **go places**.

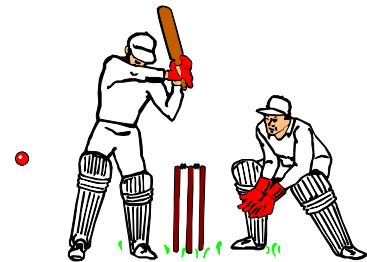
Answers, page 122

PRACTICE

Look at the picture. Make a prediction about what is going to happen in the game of cricket.

(The person with the bat is called the batter. The person behind the wicket is the wicket keeper).

Write some sentences using **will** or **is going to**.



Make a prediction about your next electricity bill. How much do you think it will be?

Unit 9 - FUTURE PLANS AND POSSIBILITIES – Part 6

FOCUS ON SPOKEN LANGUAGE

D) Talking about definite future arrangements

When we talk about *definite plans that have already been arranged*, we often use the present progressive tense (also called the present continuous tense). The *present progressive tense* is formed with **am / are / is / + ing**. We use it to talk about plans that have been confirmed.

Look at this example from Conversation 1.

Chris: 'Yes, I'm going to visit my family in the country for a week. I'm **flying** out next Wednesday.'

Chris uses the *present progressive tense (am flying)* because her plan is definite. It is about a *present*, as well as *future* situation - she already has her airline ticket.

Look at the following conversation about future plans and happenings.

Lin: 'What **are** you **doing** at Christmas this year? **Are** you **going** away on holidays?'

Ann: 'Not this year. I'm **having*** a baby in January, so **we're staying** at home this Christmas.'

Ann used the *present progressive tense (am having)* because there is *present* evidence of her baby's future birth. Ann may also say, 'I'm **going to have** a baby in January, so we're **going to stay** at home this Christmas.'

Note: Native speakers do **not** usually say, 'I'll have a baby in January, so we'll stay at home this Christmas.'



*The verb 'have' is used in a variety of ways in English. See Unit 10, Part 6C for details.

PRACTICE

Do you have any definite arrangements for next week? (eg. appointments, visits, classes?)
Complete the sentence using **am + ...ing....**

Next week, I _____.

REVISION AND PRACTICE - Talking about the future

Complete the following conversation by writing the correct verb in the spaces.

Use **will**, **am/is going to**, or **am/is ...ing (present progressive tense)** with the verb in brackets. The first one has been done as an example.

You can check your answers on page 122.

Rai: What **are** you **going to do** (do) while you're on holidays next week?

Jan: I _____ (stay) with my sister, Kate, and help her look after her two small sons.

Rai: Why? Is she sick?

Jan: No. She _____ (have) another baby.

Rai: Really? In that case, I _____ (call) her on the phone tonight and congratulate her.

Jan: Oh good! I'm sure, she _____ (be) happy to hear from you.

Rai: In fact, I think I _____ (go) to the shops tomorrow and buy a present for her. Any ideas?

Jan: Well, the weather _____ (be) hot when the baby's born...

Rai: I know! I _____ (buy) her a fan!

