

Hometown Glory



EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn colloquial expressions and phrasal verbs for when speaking with locals in English. Practice conversations. Listening comprehension practice.

Activity One - Discussion Questions

Ask and answer the questions with your partner or teacher.

1. Where is your hometown?
2. What do you remember most about it? What defines your hometown?
3. What sort of feelings do you associate with your hometown? Nostalgia? Pride? Embarrassment? Tranquility?
4. Have you ever visited someone else's hometown?
5. Why do you think hometowns are so special to us?
6. Do you think it's better to grow up in a small town or big city?

Activity Two - An American Hometown

Watch the following videos on Cambridge, Massachusetts in the United States then answer the questions.

"*Take a tour of Cambridge, MA"* by Cambridge and Somerville MA - Charles Cherney

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHvmFpUZiRo

1. Where did he study?
2. What does he enjoy about Cambridge?
3. How does he describe Cambridge and Somerville?
4. How would you describe the city from the images?
5. Have you ever been to a city similar to Cambridge?





"Visiting Cambridge | Boston Travel" by Howcast

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jj2LWm6XqCw

1. What is Cambridge most popular for?
2. What is Cambridge filled with?
3. How do you get to Cambridge from Boston?
4. What can you find in Harvard Square?
5. What else can you do in Cambridge?
6. Would you want to live in Cambridge?

Activity Three - Common questions

Often non-native speakers tend to stick to the same questions. 'Where are you from?', 'What do you like?', 'What is your favorite food?', etc.
Native English speakers however, often have more colloquial ways of asking for this information.
Here are a few examples:

Instead of 'Where are you from', try:

Are you from around here?

Whereabouts do you live?

Are you from this area?

Where were you raised?

What's your hometown like?

What brought you here? (If someone is not from the city where you are)

Instead of 'What do you like?', try:

What do you do for fun around here?

What do you do in your spare time?

What are your favorite spots in town?

Where do you like to go in town?

Where do you like to go when you go out?

Instead of 'What is your favorite food?', try:

Where's the best Mexican/Indian/Thai food in town?

What's your favorite spot to eat?

Where do you like to eat out around here?

Where's the best place to grab a bite to eat?

• *Try asking your partner or teacher a few of these questions to learn where they are from, what they like to do and where they like to eat in their hometowns. For groups, present your partner's answers to the rest of the class.*

Activity Four - Colloquial Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are idiomatic colloquial language in spoken English. Using them in the place of latin-based verbs will make your English sound more current and fluent.

Take a look at some common phrasal verbs that you might hear when chatting with locals. Match the definition to the correct phrasal verb with a partner or your teacher.

Check out Thanks for the recommendation, I will have to *check out* that museum!	To treat someone to a meal or entertainment
Come across I *came across* this really interesting building when I was walking downtown, what is it?	To await with excitement
Eat out What is your favorite place to *eat out* in town?	To return
Figure out After walking for 10 minutes, I *figured out* I was reading the map upside down.	To encounter by chance
Get in Do you need to buy a ticket to *get in*?	To search for information

Go back I went to New York once when I was young but I really want to *go back* someday.	To understand, to resolve
Go out I don't *go out* very often, but when I do, I like to go dancing!	To investigate, to examine
Head out I have to *head out* early in the morning to beat the traffic.	To have a meal at a restaurant
Look forward to I *look forward to* seeing the monument in person.	To do something entertaining out of the house
Look up I *looked up* the address online.	To leave, to start a journey
Take out I want to *take* my wife *out* to the best restaurant in town tomorrow night.	To be admitted, to be allowed access

Activity Five - Dialogue

Read the dialogue below then answer the questions below.

Alex: Hey I couldn't help hearing your accent when you were ordering your drink. You're not from around here, are you?

Camille: Hi, no I'm not, I'm from France! Are you from this area?

Alex: Indeed! Born and raised. I'm Alex. I've never come across someone from France around here! What's your name?

Camille: Ah, so this is your hometown! I'm Camille. Nice to meet you!

Alex: It is, yeah! Likewise. So, what brought you all the way here from France?

Camille: I've wanted to do a US road trip ever since I was young so I'm taking a couple months to drive across the country in an RV. This is just a stop along the way!

Alex: Wow, I've never done that! Whereabouts did you start?

Camille: I headed out from Boston, well, really from Cambridge, in Massachusetts.

Alex: Way up north! Did you like New England?

Camille: It's very beautiful, but I've found that every region has its own charms. What do you like to do for fun around here?

Alex: Well, as I'm sure you noticed, this is a pretty small town. But there are some really nice nature reserves nearby and some great places to eat out downtown.

Camille: Oh, nice! Where's your favorite place to grab a bite to eat in the area?

Alex: I'm a big Mexican food fan so I'd say you should check out the place on the downtown square.

Camille: I'll look it up! I haven't tried Mexican food in America yet. I look forward to tasting lots of different cuisines during this trip.

Alex: Of course! Well, my friends are waiting for me, but it was nice chatting with you! Enjoy your road trip!

Camille: Thanks, have a nice night!

Questions:

1. Why does Alex start talking to Camille?
2. Why is Camille in Alex's hometown?
3. What does Alex suggest Camille do?
4. What is Camille excited about?
5. Where does Alex have to go?
6. Identify the phrasal verbs that we learned.

• *Now, create your own dialogue with your teacher or with a partner using the expressions and phrasal verbs we learned from Activities Three and Four!*

Activity Six - Sing Along!

Listen to the song and try to find the missing words!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BW9Fzwuf43c - Adele *"Hometown Glory"*

Verse 1:

I've been walking in the same way as I [1]_____
Missing [2]_____ the cracks in the pavement
And turning my heel and strutting my feet
"Is there anything I can do for you dear?
Is there [3]_____ I could call?"
"No and thank you, please Madam
I ain't [4]_____, just wandering"

Chorus:

'Round my hometown
Memories are [5]_____
'Round my hometown
Ooh the people I've [6]_____
Are the wonders of my world (x 2)
Are the wonders of [7]_____ world
Are the wonders of now

Verse 2:

I like it in the city when the air is so [8]_____ and opaque
I love to see everybody in short [9]_____, shorts and shades
I like it in the city when two [10]_____ collide
You get the people and the government
Everybody [11]_____ different sides

Bridge:

Shows that we ain't gonna stand s***
Shows that we are [12]_____
Shows that we ain't gonna [13]_____ it
Shows that we ain't gonna stand s***
Shows that we are united

Chorus

Activity Seven - Role Play

Act out the scenarios with your teacher or a partner using the expressions and phrasal verbs!

A. You're at a bar in Cambridge, MA and you start talking to the person next to you. You realize you're both from the same hometown and get to talking about your nostalgic past there.
B. You're at the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge. You start talking to your neighbor about the show and realize they have an accent. You try to find out where they're from!
C. You're in Harvard Square in Cambridge and someone asks you directions of how to get to Boston. You help them and get to talking about where they are visiting from and what you recommend they do while in town.

