Episode 1: Comfort Zone

Warm-Up

A. Preview

Kate is leaving for university tomorrow. It's her first year away from home. She is leaving behind her comfort zone. This includes the home she grew up in, her family, and her best friend, Melanie. Melanie is worried about how things are going to change, but Kate has something else on her mind. What do you think it is?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the idioms on the left to the correct definitions on the right.

1. drop everything  
2. wheels  
3. tag along  
4. jam-packed  
5. alone time  
6. hoodie  
7. bum  
8. suit  
9. bug  
10. get word  
11. dorm  
12. rez  
13. bunch  
14. drop a bombshell

a) a car to drive  
b) to go with another person (or group) who already has plans  
c) to stop everything all of a sudden  
d) having no room for anything more  
e) to make one feel unpleasant or uncomfortable  
f) to borrow  
g) a sweatshirt with a hood  
h) to look good on, be suitable  
i) privacy  
j) to hear information  
k) to suddenly tell big or surprising news  
l) a building where students live on campus, same as “dorm”  
m) a lot, a group of  
n) a building where students live on campus, same as “rez”
Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen. Then read the dialogue with your partner a few times. Take turns being each character. Practice your intonation and pronunciation. Underline or highlight any new words or phrases that you don’t understand.

Kate

I can’t believe you’re leaving tomorrow. Things aren’t going to be the same around here.

You’re acting like I’m leaving the planet, Mel. The campus is only two hours away, remember?

I know, but it’s not like you’ll be able to just ______________ and go shopping with me anymore. Besides, I don’t have any ______________.

You can always ______________ with my parents when they come up.

I know, but your schedule will probably be ______________. Plus, you and your mom are going to want your ______________.

I’ll always have time for my best friend. Come on. Help me sit on my suitcase. I need to zip it up.

Okay. Wait, did you pack your black ______________ in here?

No, it’s in the closet. Why?

I was kind of hoping I could borrow it.

I won’t be able to ______________ any clothes from you for a while.

It’s all yours, Mel. It ______________ you better, anyway.

Thanks, Kate. You know, you don’t seem yourself today. Is something ______________ you?

I can’t keep anything from you, can I?

Well, what is it?

I just ______________ that I got placed in a coed ______________. My first choice was the all-girls ______________ on campus, but I guess it was full.

A coed dorm? Really? How does your dad feel about you living with ______________ of guys?

That’s the thing. I haven’t exactly ______________ yet.
Comprehension

Answer and discuss these questions in pairs or as a class. Then write your answers in your notebook.

1. What does Melanie think she needs in order to see Kate this year?
2. What does Kate ask Melanie to help her do?
3. What does Melanie ask to borrow?
4. Why does Kate say she can’t “keep anything” from Melanie?
5. What did Kate just find out?
6. What hasn’t Kate done yet?

Vocabulary Review

Circle the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Another word for ______ is dormitory.
   a) rez  
   b) doormat  
   c) dormant  
   d) resting

2. It’s cold in here. Could I bum a ______ from you?
   a) tag  
   b) hoodie  
   c) bunch  
   d) baggie

3. It really bugs me that I don’t have any ______ to come and visit you.
   a) times  
   b) suits  
   c) wheels  
   d) drives

4. We were hoping for some alone time, but the restaurant was ______.
   a) jam  
   b) jamming  
   c) jam-packed  
   d) jelly

5. I’ll ______ as soon as I get word that you need me.
   a) bombard  
   b) drop through  
   c) drop everything  
   d) bomb out

6. My sister and her boyfriend dropped a ______ on us on Christmas Day. They’re moving to Europe!
   a) bombshell  
   b) line  
   c) pin  
   d) hint

Did you know?

When you keep something from someone, you don’t tell the whole truth. Kate may not be able to keep anything from her best friend, but she has kept something important from her dad.
Discussion

MY LIFE

Discuss these questions with your class or write your responses in a journal entry.

1. What’s on your mind these days?
2. Do you have a best friend who can read your mind?
   What physical changes occur when you are worried about something?
3. What do you bum from your friends and family members?
4. How would your parents feel if they heard you were going to live in a coed dorm?

Pair Activity

YOU’RE KEEPING SOMETHING FROM ME, AREN’T YOU?

Choose a partner. Read the instructions for A or B. After the activity, switch roles.

Student A

Pretend you and your partner are best friends. Tell your best friend “part” of a secret (made up or real). Leave an important part of the story out. This part should be an embarrassing part or a part that you wish didn’t happen. Wait until your partner convinces you to share the rest.

Student B

Your partner is going to tell you a secret. When your partner finishes the secret, think about what he or she didn’t tell you. Say, “That’s not the whole truth, is it?” or “You’re keeping something from me, aren’t you?” or “There’s more to the story, isn’t there?” Convince your partner to tell you the missing part.

Stay Tuned

In Episode 2, Kate gets dropped off at the dorm by her dad. Will she drop the bombshell?
Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:
In this episode, Kate is packing for university. She talks to her best friend, Melanie. Melanie is worried about how things are going to change. Kate tells Melanie a secret. Students explore the idiom “to keep something from someone.”

Warm-Up

A. PREVIEW
Read the preview together and have students make predictions.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW
1. c  3. b  5. i  7. f  9. e  11. n  13. m
2. a  4. d  6. g  8. h  10. j  12. l

Listening

Have students fill in the blanks as they listen to the dialogue. After correction, have them practice reading it aloud in pairs. The full transcript is on page 6 (optional handout).

Comprehension

1. Melanie thinks she needs her own wheels to go and see Kate at school.
2. Kate asks Melanie to help her sit on the suitcase so that she can zip it up.
3. Melanie asks to borrow Kate’s black hoodie.
4. Melanie can tell by Kate’s mood that something is bugging her.
5. Kate just found out that she is going to be living in a coed dorm.
6. Kate has not told her father that she is going to be living in a building with a bunch of guys.

Vocabulary Review

1. a  2. b  3. c  4. c  5. c  6. a

Discussion

Answers will vary. Have a class discussion about the questions or have students write their responses in a journal entry.

Pair Activity

Give each student a few minutes to think of a scenario. Then place students in partners. Ask for volunteers to perform the role-plays in front of the class.

Dialogue Building

This optional task is on page 7. Students should cut up the strips and rearrange them into the correct order.

1. n  5. a  9. e  13. k
2. g  6. i  10. m  14. f
3. d  7. l  11. c  15. h
4. j  8. b  12. o  16. p

SPELLING NOTE:
This lesson shows the American spelling of the word Practice. Most other English-speaking countries spell it this way: Practise (when used as a verb, Practice when used as a noun). Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.

EDITOR’S NOTE:
In the United States, “university” is sometimes referred to as “college.” American students refer to on-campus housing as “dorms,” while students in other English-speaking countries also use the terms “res,” “rez,” and “residence.”
Dialogue Transcript

Read the dialogue with your partner a few times. Take turns being each character. Practice your intonation and pronunciation. Underline or highlight any new words or phrases that you don't understand.

Kate

Melanie

I can’t believe you’re leaving tomorrow. Things aren’t going to be the same around here.

You’re acting like I’m leaving the planet, Mel. The campus is only two hours away, remember?

I know, but it’s not like you’ll be able to just drop everything and go shopping with me anymore. Besides, I don’t have any wheels.

You can always tag along with my parents when they come up.

I know, but your schedule will probably be jam-packed. Plus, you and your mom are going to want your alone time.

I’ll always have time for my best friend. Come on. Help me sit on my suitcase. I need to zip it up.

Okay. Wait, did you pack your black hoodie in here?

No, it’s in the closet. Why?

I was kind of hoping I could borrow it. I won’t be able to bum any clothes from you for a while.

It’s all yours, Mel. It suits you better, anyway.

Thanks, Kate. You know, you don’t seem yourself today. Is something bugging you?

I can’t keep anything from you, can I?

Well, what is it?

I just got word that I got placed in a coed dorm. My first choice was the all-girls rez on campus, but I guess it was full.

A coed dorm? Really? How does your dad feel about you living with a bunch of guys?

That’s the thing. I haven’t exactly dropped the bombshell yet.
## Dialogue Building

The dialogue below is not in the right order. Cut up the strips and then work alone or with a partner to rearrange them into the correct order. Then read the dialogue out loud.

| a | I know, but your schedule will probably be jam-packed. Plus, you and your mom are going to want your alone time. |
| b | No, it's in the closet. Why? |
| c | Thanks, Kate. You know, you don't seem yourself today. Is something bugging you? |
| d | I know, but it's not like you’ll be able to just drop everything and go shopping with me anymore. Besides, I don't have any wheels. |
| e | I was kind of hoping I could borrow it. I won't be able to bum any clothes from you for a while. |
| f | I just got word that I got placed in a coed dorm. My first choice was the all-girls rez on campus, but I guess it was full. |
| g | You're acting like I'm leaving the planet, Mel. The campus is only two hours away, remember? |
| h | A coed dorm? Really? |
| i | How does your dad feel about you living with a bunch of guys? |
| j | I'll always have time for my best friend. Come on. Help me sit on my suitcase. I need to zip it up. |
| k | You can always tag along with my parents when they come up. |
| l | A coed dorm? Really? How does your dad feel about you living with a bunch of guys? |
| m | Well, what is it? |
| n | Okay. Wait, did you pack your black hoodie in here? |
| o | It's all yours, Mel. It suits you better, anyway. |
| p | I can't believe you're leaving tomorrow. Things aren't going to be the same around here. |
| q | I can't keep anything from you, can I? |
| r | That's the thing. I haven't exactly dropped the bombshell yet. |