

# Bloggers 2: VIDEO SCRIPT



## Unit 1

**Amelia:** Hi, I'm Amelia and I'm from Liverpool in the UK. I'm going to show you around my school today. I'm deaf, which means I can't hear very well. My school is for deaf children so some students can't hear well, like me. And others can't hear at all. We communicate with each other with sign language. We all use British Sign Language. This is when you make signs with your hands. The signs have meanings, just like words do. We don't use *talk* and *talking*, we use *sign* and *signing*. We sign to each other. This is my name in sign language. There are a lot of sign languages around the world. Maybe your country has its own sign language. My school is bilingual. We use two languages: British sign language and written English. Maybe your school is bilingual too and you use two different languages. I really like my school, but I hate the uniform! It's dark blue and white and I think it's really ugly. So, let me show you around! There are lots of corridors and there are a lot of lockers in the corridors. This corridor goes to three classrooms. This is where I go every morning for registration and English and geography classes. There are two laboratories here for science classes. I love science! We are lucky because we've got good facilities at our school. There's a gym here and a swimming pool for PE classes. PE stands for physical education. I love playing hockey. There isn't a hockey pitch but we play in the playground. There is a football pitch in our school. We can play lots of different games there in the summer. Down this corridor, there is the kitchen for food technology classes. And classrooms for art and design and design and technology classes. I don't like art. I find it really difficult. There are two classrooms for British sign language. We learn new signs. Me and my friend play a game. We invent a long sentence and then sign it really fast. She is really fast and usually wins. There is a big canteen. Some students eat lunch in the canteen and some students go home for lunch. On this corridor, there are classrooms for RE, that's religious studies. We learn about religions around the world... there are three computer rooms for ICT classes, which is Information and Communication technology. We learn how to use computers for lots of different things. There is a library here and there is a collection of comics. I really like comics and I've got some at home as well. There are posters on the walls with the school rules.



*1 Pupils must be at school five minutes before registration.*

I am usually on time, but I missed the bus this morning. My mentor wants to speak to me. I'm worried I'm in trouble for being late. We have mentors and they make sure we are ok, they help us with any problems we have and we can ask them questions about things at school or things at home or with friends. It's really useful to have someone to go to if you need to.

*2 Pupils must not sign when a teacher is signing.*

This is difficult for me because I sometimes sit next to my best friend and we play sign games, the one I told you about before.

*3 Pupils must not chew gum anywhere in the school.*

I hate chewing gum so that's easy for me.

*4 Pupils must wear their school uniforms correctly at all times.*

I don't like this rule because, as you know, I don't like the school uniform at all!

*5 Pupils must not eat or drink in classrooms.*

This one is fine because we have a morning break at 11 and then lunchbreak so there is time to eat and drink.

*6 Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 must not wear any make-up of any kind.*

I want to wear some make up because now I'm 12 but my parents don't let me and I can't wear it at school, so maybe I can wear makeup when I finish school! My cousin can wear makeup at her school and her parents let her wear some. Maybe you can wear makeup at your school.

So that's the tour of my school and the school rules. What do you think of it?  
Now I've got to speak to my new mentor, I really hope I'm not in trouble!



## Unit 2

### Part 1

**Nelson:** Hey, I'm Nelson and welcome to California, the Golden State! We have got lots of sun and beaches here. But the best part for me ... we've got loads of great food! I'm going to show you around the food of L. A and give you a great recipe at the end. I'm always hungry and I always want food! I live in Los Angeles and you can try lots of different types of food near my house. In Downtown L. A. there is a burger place. I usually get a chicken burger because it's delicious! There's also Little Tokyo where you can get great Japanese food. I sometimes have sushi but I prefer hot food. Next to Little Tokyo, there's China Town. It's like a small China in the middle of Los Angeles. You can have dumplings, noodles ... Nearby, you can find Thai Town which has... you guessed it, food from Thailand! The noodles there are amazing and some of it is really spicy. I often get spicy noodles and soup. In Little Armenia you can find fish kebabs and dolma. Dolma is amazing. It's meat and rice in vine leaves. So similar to a burrito, but more natural! I hardly ever eat meat but when I go to Little Armenia, I always choose the meat option. Opposite Little Armenia, is Korea Town. Korean food is really spicy! I love eating spicy food so I love this place. My friends don't really like hot food so I often go with my family. Little Ethiopia has dishes that are served on an enormous flatbread with vegetables and meat inside. It's great for sharing with other people. Then onto my favourite place, Taco Time! It's in East L. A. They serve Mexican food. I love tacos and burritos, I mean, I really love tacos and burritos! I would like to have them for breakfast, lunch and dinner! There are beef tacos, veggie burritos and chicken quesadillas. The beef tacos have ground beef, cheddar cheese, fresh lettuce and tomato. The cheese is grated, so it's covers all of the taco. My best friend, Jordan, loves the beef tacos. He always orders them when we come here. The veggie burrito has pinto beans or Mexican rice – I usually get the beans, grated cheddar cheese, fresh lettuce and tomato. That's my favourite. The chicken quesadilla has grilled chicken strips with cheese, onions and peppers. The chicken is quite healthy because it's grilled but there's a lot of cheese!

As a dessert, there are empanadas. They're fried tortillas with sweet fillings. They're not healthy at all but they taste really good! The iced tea is really nice when it's hot, it's refreshing because it has mint with lemonade and black tea. Oh, and they do a breakfast burrito with scrambled eggs. They're similar to the veggie burrito because they have cheese, beans and tomatoes. It's a great start to the day! If I want something really healthy, I choose the rainbow salad. It has loads of different ingredients you can choose from. The base salad has sweetcorn, red onion, red peppers, spinach, tomato and avocado. Then you can choose if you want tuna, scrambled eggs or chicken. It's really good and makes you feel amazing afterwards.



### Part 2

**Nelson:** And this is the recipe I'm giving you today, Nelson's amazing rainbow salad! So, first you need the ingredients: a quarter of a red cabbage, a cup of blueberries, a whole avocado, a cup of sweetcorn, 2 scrambled eggs, a whole grated carrot, and a whole tomato. And half a cup of nuts and seeds and some olive oil, salt and pepper. Chop the red onion and dice the tomato. Peel the skin off the carrot and grate it. Cut the skin off the avocado, take out the stone and slice it. Pour some oil in a pan and warm it. Then add two eggs. Stir them with a fork so they become scrambled. Heat for two or three minutes and then turn off the heat. Take a bowl, put in the chopped red onion, then the blueberries, then the avocado slices, then the sweetcorn, the scrambled egg, grated carrot and tomato. Pour on some olive oil, add salt and pepper and top with the nuts and seeds. And voila! A beautiful rainbow salad that also tastes delicious. It's a great recipe for summer barbeque parties. What are your favourite recipes?

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## Unit 3

### Part 1

**Daniel:** Hey guys, I'm Daniel from Vancouver in Canada. Thanks for watching my new video blog. I'm doing a questionnaire for my school radio programme, so I will ask you some questions for that at the end. Take a class vote for each of my questions and send me the results. This week, I'm at a Summer Day Camp. Every morning I come here and do lots of fun things all day long! This morning, we are swimming. I'm not very good at swimming but I love being in the water. We play games in the swimming pool, my favourite is water polo. It's difficult to throw and catch the ball because it's so wet. We always laugh a lot. Now, we are painting. I love painting because you need to be creative and I think I am creative. The sessions make us open-minded as well because we share our work and talk about it together. Sometimes we paint how we are feeling or the leader gives us a word and we paint it. Today, the word is "happy" and I'm painting me playing outside with my friends in the summer. That's when I feel really happy. This is my friend, Manon. Do you like the summer camp?



**Manon:** I love it! I make lots of friends, like you, and I can do lots of activities that I don't do at my normal school. We go climbing and I love it! Now I can do it well but when I started, I wasn't very good at it. I couldn't reach the top of the wall and I fell off a few times. But I had a rest and tried again, and again, and again! Then yesterday I finally reached the top! I was so excited! I am much more enthusiastic about trying new things now.

**Daniel:** Manon is modest, she is very athletic. You need to be athletic to climb to the top of the wall because it's really high! I can't climb to the top. Here's Ellie, one of the Camp leaders. Let's ask her why she likes this summer camp! Ellie, why do you like this camp?

**Ellie:** I like this camp because we all share and work or play together. The leaders share ideas and we make games and activities together. I teach different activities here like crafts, cooking and sculpting. Another thing is that the summer camp is a good opportunity for children to be with their peers, but not in a school setting, in a setting where the main goal is for you to have fun. I think you have fun.

**Daniel:** Me too, we have lots of fun! Let's ask another teacher, Jake. Hi Jake, what activities do you lead at this camp?

**Jake:** Hey, I lead a lot of sports activities, so swimming, roller skating, climbing... And why do you like it here. I have been to this camp four times and you've always been here! Haha, yeah, I've been here six times actually. Erm, I think it's an important opportunity for children to be self-sufficient but also safe. You don't have your parents here, but we are here to make sure everything is OK and there are group activities so nobody is left out, everyone gets involved in the activities. I think you have to be hardworking to be a leader on this summer camp. The leaders are always smiling, motivating us and inventing new games. You're all amazing. Thank you very much! I'm very happy you're not sitting playing on your computers or phones! I remember your first year at this camp, you were very shy but now you're more confident and outgoing. I play on my computer at home every day and I've got a phone so I use social media every morning and evening. I know I spend too much time looking at a screen but I really enjoy it.

### Part 2

**Daniel:** OK, onto the questionnaire for my school radio programme. Question 1: How many times per week do you play video games or watch TV? Question 2 for the questionnaire: How many hours do you spend looking at a screen per day? That includes phones, TV and computer. Did

you know, that 63% of students in Canada spend 3 hours or more per day looking at a screen. Question 3 for my questionnaire: How often do you do exercise per week? That includes walking to school, playing outside at break, sports classes... In Canada, the recommended amount of physical activity for teenagers is 60 minutes per day, that's an hour per day. 22% of students do enough physical activity. Last year, I was really stressed about my exams and I wasn't doing any exercise. Then I started swimming twice per week and walking to school. Now I feel much more relaxed and I've got more energy to study. My school work is a lot better now too. Question 4: What type of exercise do you do? And final question for my programme: How much sleep do you get per night? We should sleep for about 8 hours per night but in Canada, only 41% of students sleep for 8 hours or more. I don't sleep enough, I spend too much time gaming at night! That's all of the questions, thanks for watching and taking part in my questionnaire. I'm excited to get all of your results!



## Unit 4

### Part 1

**Nelson:** Hey guys, guess where I went last weekend. Hollywood! My trip inspired me to make a video about... films, of course! I asked you guys to send me a film review. The films are Diary of a Wimpy Kid... Moana... Star Wars, The Force Awakens... and ...The Fault in our Stars



**Zoe:** I watched this film last weekend and it was hilarious! I liked the jokes and the main characters were great. I loved these books and I liked the stories about secondary school. It's about a boy who has two friends, Greg and Rowley. Greg is horrible and selfish but Rowley is a great role model.



**Daniel:** I hated this film! I didn't know it was about love but it was also really sad. The two main characters, Hazel and Gus are ill and, in the end, Gus dies. Sorry, I ruined the end for you now! I wanted an action film and this was not action.



**Amelia:** This film was decent. I watched the six films before, so it was very similar. The cast were the same and the story starts with Leia, who is searching for her brother, Luke Skywalker. The special effects and costumes were incredible and I really like the soundtrack.



**Oliver:** I liked the start of this film but then it got a bit boring. The animation was amazing and the story was enjoyable. I liked the main character, Moana, because she is strong and the Kakamora pirates are really funny. After an hour I guessed the ending and then waited for it to finish!



### Part 2

**Nelson:** Who is your favourite actor or actress? I asked my sister and her favourite actress is Jennifer Lawrence! I asked my sister to do a video about her!

**Nelson's sister:** She is a really good actress and I like all of her films. She grew up in Kentucky with her two brothers. They lived on a farm just outside the city of Louisville. When she was a child, she loved sports and hanging out with her friends at summer camp. She went to New York with her mother and a model photographer came up to them and asked for permission to take a picture of her. Jennifer said OK and then, a couple of days later, somebody called her for an audition. Can you believe it! She stayed in NY for the summer, she did more auditions and worked as a model. Jennifer's parents didn't want her to leave school so they made a deal, or an agreement. They would let her act, if she finished her studies. Jennifer was a very good student. She graduated from high school two years early. She was 16 and she had very good grades. She didn't take any acting lessons. Again, can you believe it! She started acting in TV series and movies without any training. But at the beginning she was rejected for some roles. Not many people know this, but in 2007 she auditioned for



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the role of Bella Swan in Twilight and she lost it to Kristen Stewart. She dated her fellow X-Men cast member Nicholas Hoult for three years. Soon after, in August 2014 she began a romantic relationship with Coldplay singer Chris Martin but they broke up a year later. Then she began a new relationship with a movie director.

**Nelson:** Thanks, sis! I had a lot of help with this video, so thank you everyone. I hope you enjoyed it and see you next time!



## Unit 5

### Part 1

**Zoe:** Hey, how are you guys? I'm Zoe and I live in New Orleans, in the US. It's the 25<sup>th</sup> February today which means one thing, it's my birthday! I'm turning thirteen. I'm really excited, I'm finally a teenager! Look, there are balloons in my room... Haha, there is a Happy Birthday banner above my door... Oh wow, look at that birthday cake! It's amazing! I love jazz music and the cake has a trumpet, drums and a microphone on it. Thank you dad! He makes amazing cakes! Today is really special because it's also Mardi Gras! Mardi Gras is a ■■■■



This morning, I'm going to a restaurant with my family. That's my mum and dad and my two brothers. There is a place near our house that I love. It does brunch, that's breakfast and lunch together. Look at the brunch menu. I always have pancakes. I'm having loads of pancakes for my birthday! Now it's time to go back home to open my presents! Yessss, I can't wait. Wow, this is heavy! It's from my parents. It's a ... it's a new bass drum for my drum kit and a drum pedal. That's amazing! OK, this one is from my brothers... it's really big!

OK, maybe it's not very big... OK it's quite small. Yeah, very funny! Aha, it's a fanny pack! That's perfect for Mardi Gras this afternoon! I can put my phone, my keys and some money in it. My parents also give me some small presents. I've got some earrings, a necklace, lip gloss, some headphones, a phone case and two Mardi Gras costumes! Thank you, thank you, thank you parents! We have a family tradition. Every birthday, we choose a present from our parents that we donate to charity. So when it's my birthday, a child in the world can also celebrate! This year, I'm donating the necklace. I really like it but I think lots of other children will like it too. Now it's time to get ready for Mardi Gras! Which costume do you think I should wear? Take a vote and help me decide!

### Part 2

**Zoe:** And now it's time for the big party, Mardi Gras! I chose the golden dress, I hope you like it! I chose the multicoloured trousers, I hope you like them!

Mardi Gras is a carnival celebration that takes place before Lent. Lent is a Christian festival to prepare for Easter. It's lasts for approximately 40 days. Many people give up something during Lent, like chocolate or help at charities. Before Lent starts, people traditionally eat a lot and that's exactly what they do at Mardi Gras! Our family always does a barbecue in the street. My cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents come. Also, our friends come too. There is a lot of food! We've got burgers, sausages, chicken, salad, potato salad, corn, chips, sour sweets... We have the barbecue on the pavement so we can see the parade go past.

There are lots of floats in the parade. A group organises each float. The groups are called krewes. Each float has a special theme for the parade. Look, they are wearing crazy costumes and playing really loud music. It's so much fun! When the floats pass, the krewes throw out different objects. This float is throwing coins with the krewe logo. My cousin caught one! Take a look. That's the logo, the krewe is called Pegasus and the logo is a horse with wings. Other krewes throw other

objects, like plastic necklaces, beads and cups. A lot of people hang them on trees at the end of the party. We hang them on a tree on our street. It's traditional to wear beaded necklaces in Mardi Gras. The beads are purple, gold and green because they are the colours of one of the oldest krewes of the carnival. My uncle made beaded necklaces with "Happy Birthday Zoe" on each one. How cool is that! Everyone is dancing ... Oh no, my dad is dancing. How embarrassing. Lots of people wear crazy costumes. There are lots of colours. Everyone is eating... We are all having fun! And this is why I love Mardi Gras!



## Unit 6

**Oliver:**

Hey guys, how are you? I am going to tell you my favourite story, The Witches by Roald Dahl. I hope you enjoy it! I'm the narrator, called The Boy. I live with my grandmother and I have pet mice. My parents died in a car accident, so I went to live with my grandmother in Norway. My grandmother studies witches and she told me English witches are more violent than any others in the world. They are bald so they wear wigs. The Grand High Witch, who is the leader, is more terrifying than any creature on the planet. Each year, she visits a witch council in a different country. We moved to England recently, so I could study at an English school. One day, while I was fixing the roof of my tree house in the garden, I saw a woman stop and look up at me. She was wearing black and had a strange smile. I knew she was a witch. I had to be careful, witches transform kids into horrible creatures! Then my grandmother got ill and the doctor ordered her to rest. We went to an enormous hotel on the south coast of England. One afternoon, I was training my pet mice in the hotel ballroom when a large group of women walked in for a meeting. My mice ran away and I hid under a table. Suddenly, I saw a woman near me scratching her head. Her hair moved and I realised she was wearing a wig – it was the witches! I was trapped in a room with a group of really dangerous witches but I couldn't escape. I was more scared than ever in my life. A young woman walked onto the stage. She was prettier than the other witches. She had straight brown hair and she was wearing a dress and tights. But suddenly she removed her entire face and hair. It was disgusting! She started talking ...



**Witch:**

I am really disappointed with you all. You had to kill one hundred children last year, but you only killed fifty.

**Oliver:**

It was the Grand High Witch. I was horrified!

**Witch:**

I have a new plan. You must buy sweet shops and put my new magic potion into the sweets and chocolate. Give free sweets to children and they will transform into mice! Hahaha!

**Oliver:**

The witches wanted to kill all of the children in England! Then, there was a knock at the door and the Grand High Witch replaced her mask. A boy came in. He was overweight and he had short, blond hair.

**Bruno:**

You said you had some chocolate for me.

**Witch:**

Yes, little boy, what's your name?

**Bruno:**

Bruno.

**Oliver:**

The witch gave him a bar of chocolate and he started eating it. Everyone watched him silently. Then, he disappeared and there was a mouse next to his shoe!

**Witches:**

Haha! Amazing! Incredible! It's magic!

**Oliver:**

At that moment, a slim, young witch near me sniffed. Other witches next to her did the same. There was silence in the room. The young witch walked towards me and I held my breath. She put her hand under the table quickly and grabbed my jumper. She pulled me out and the witches gasped. The grand High Witch pulled back my head and

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poured a whole bottle of magic potion into my mouth. I became a mouse instantly, but I could speak and think as normal. I ran for my life! I ran past shoes and chair legs. I found Bruno and I ran out of the door while the witches were screaming and trying to find us. Up the stairs I went, jumping quite easily from one to the other. My grandmother's room and my own were on the fifth floor. It was quite a climb, but we made it without meeting a single person on the way because everyone was using the lift. On the fifth floor, I raced along the corridor to the door of my grandmother's room. A pair of her shoes was standing outside the door. Bruno was with me. 'What do we do now?' he said. Suddenly, I caught sight of a chambermaid coming along the corridor towards us. 'Quick!' I said to Bruno. 'Hide in one of those shoes!' I hopped into one shoe and Bruno hopped into the other. I waited for the maid to walk past us. She didn't. When she came to the shoes, she bent down and picked them up. In doing this, she put her hand right inside the one I was hiding in. When one of her fingers touched me, I bit it. It was a silly thing to do, but I did it instinctively, without thinking. The maid let out a scream that must have been heard by ships far out in the English Channel, and she dropped the shoes and ran like the wind down the corridor. My grandmother's door opened. "What on earth is going on out here?" she said. I darted between her legs into her room and Bruno followed me. "Close the door, Grandmamma!" I cried. "Please hurry!" She looked at me and started crying.

"Don't worry grandmother," I said, "It doesn't matter who you are or what you look like, so long as somebody loves you." Bruno went to the bowl and of fruit and started eating. Grandmother hugged me and then dried her eyes. She looked at me and said,

**Grandmother:** "Well, we have to kill the witches!"

**Oliver:** "Yes," I said, "Let's make a plan!"  
'Quick!' I said to Bruno. 'Hide in one of those shoes!' I hopped

## Part 2

**Oliver:** Let's give the magic potion to the witches! We can put it in their food. We tried to return Bruno to his parents but when Mrs Jenkins saw Bruno she screamed and screamed. My grandmother tried to explain the situation. Mr Jenkins didn't believe grandmother and became furious. We took him to grandmother's room and left him eating the fruit. I knew the Grand High Witch's bedroom was number 453. Grandmother took me to the balcony below and I climbed up. No one saw me. I found bottles of the magic potion inside the mattress and stole one. Grandmother took me to the kitchen. There was soup for the witches' dinner. I poured the potion carefully into the soup. Two hours later, at dinner time, the witches ate the soup and suddenly there was a room full of mice! The hotel manager screamed and jumped onto the table. He ordered his staff to kill the mice while he waited on the table. The staff killed the mice - the most violent witches in the world were all dead!



## Unit 7

### Part 1

**Zoe:** Hey guys, welcome back to my vlog! First, I want to tell you about my state, Louisiana. Louisiana has a nickname, which is a friendly or funny name instead of a real name. Its nickname is the *Pelican State*. We have lots of pelicans in our state and a big variety of other birds. They like the marshy swamps, which have plenty of fish, frogs and crayfish to eat. You can sometimes see an alligator hiding under the trees. Life is quite slow in this part of Louisiana, which is a contrast to the festivals and crazy



parties in Mardi Gras in New Orleans. The city is the source of jazz music, where the great jazz musician, Louis Armstrong was born. We also have unique food. You can try Cajun and Creole dishes that you can't find anywhere else. Many tourists come to Louisiana to experience the calm, music and food.

## **Part 2**

**Zoe:** My penpal, a friend who lives in France, is coming to stay from May 25<sup>th</sup> to June 3rd. I'm so excited! I'm going to plan the trip and maybe you can give me some ideas. There are four places I am definitely going to take Claire. Number 1: There is an area in the west, near Shreveport, which is the best area to visit plantation homes.

Number 2: Then we are going to see some wildlife. As I mentioned in part 1, you can sometimes see an alligator in the waters of Louisiana. That's because it's the state that is the largest producer of alligators in the country.

Number 3: Claire has to experience the famous music from my area. New Orleans is the most famous place for jazz music, so I'm going to take her to Number 4: Of course, we have the Mississippi river and lakes in Louisiana as well as the coast. We're going to go to the port in New Orleans because it's the busiest port in the Gulf of Mexico. There are so many incredible boats to see. We're going to go to my favourite fish restaurant there, too.

There are a few other options too. We have the longest bridge in the world. Well, it's the longest bridge over water and it's called Lake Pontchartrain Causeway. Claire might like to travel across it. The views are spectacular. The French region is called the Cajun Country. We can try a typical Cajun dish called Gumbo, which is a stew with shellfish. There are two small cities called Lafayette and Opelousas. We can go to a local dance called fais do-do. It's an energetic dance with accordions, fiddles and guitars. The main university in the state is Louisiana State University, which has an American football team called LSU Tigers. We could go and watch a game. And the city, Monroe, is in the north of the state, near the Mississippi River. We go on a boat ferry to a national wildlife park. Claire is going to be in Louisiana for 10 days, so I want to choose 6 things to do. Then 4 days to rest or go to the beach. I have 4 things so far, what do you think we should do for the other two days?

## **Part 3**

**Zoe:** Claire left yesterday, sad face. But we had an amazing time and I have a funny story for you. On day four, we visited the swamps and we decided to go on a boat tour around Honey Island, which is about half an hour away from New Orleans. Claire really wanted to see an alligator! We didn't see one, so we decided to join a canoe trip and spend a night camping outdoors. Everyone recommends it because you get to see lots more wildlife in the evening and early morning. We hoped to see an alligator there! We took raincoats, sunscreen and sunglasses. Oh, and a tent and sleeping bags as well, of course. I forgot mosquito repellent, so silly. The swamps are full of mosquitoes and they always bite me. We were canoeing down the river and planned to reach the campsite in the afternoon. It was cloudy but warm and humid. I was paddling and Claire was looking for alligators. She kept looking left and right, again and again, so she didn't miss any opportunities. Some black clouds appeared when we were near the campsite. I hoped to reach the campsite and put up the tent before the rain started. But suddenly I felt a raindrop on my neck. Bad luck! Claire was so focussed on the water, she didn't see the sky and she jumped when the rain started hitting her hair. She turned around to look at me and then screamed and pointed at the water. There was an alligator right next to our canoe! I mean, what should you do in this situation? I screamed and leaned the other direction. The canoe tipped over and we fell into the water. It was difficult to swim because I was panicking. We were in the water with an alligator! We screamed and splashed... and suddenly an arm pulled me out of the water. I looked up and saw Claire was sitting in another canoe with the group leader. She was shivering and looked terrified. I felt the same. But I was surprised, everyone was laughing! One



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girl was pointing at the alligator and I realised it was a tree log! It looked like it was moving because of the rain. Claire and I were so embarrassed! Then the group leader said, ...

**Group Leader:** There aren't any alligators in this river. They are in the swamps.

**Zoe:** I couldn't believe it – and I'm from Louisiana! I should know! In the end, we didn't see one alligator, we saw two! That time, we didn't scream. You should stay far from the water because they are dangerous, so we were in a viewing platform above the swamp. It seemed really calm, almost friendly. Who knows, maybe alligators have an unfair reputation!



## Unit 8

### Part 1

**Daniel:** Hi, it's Daniel again. I'm going to show you around my city, Vancouver. Did you know, it's the greenest city in North America and has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions as well. Cool huh! That's partly because the city is between the ocean and mountains. But the city is also green because the council works hard to look after the environment. There are lots of cycle lanes, so more people cycle around and drive cars less. That's why the air is less polluted and the air is very clean. Since the city is built in lots of small neighbourhoods, places are well connected. There are amenities, such as shops, schools, libraries, community centres and movie theatres close together. That way people can walk around easier. They also don't need to use cars as much as other cities. Public services, like hospitals, fire and rescue, police and social housing organisations are also in these neighbourhoods, so people travel less. Most of the new buildings are energy efficient, that's why they don't need as much heating or cooling as old buildings. These buildings have solar panels, energy efficient lights and double pane windows. These buildings are cheaper to run than old buildings.



90% of the city's energy is renewable. Most of it is hydroelectric and people install solar panels on their roofs because the council pays them for the energy they create. I live quite far from my school, but we have a great car share system in my neighbourhood. We have a group of 4 friends and one parent drives us all to school each day. If you share a car, you can park for free in the city.

The waste collection collects garbage, recycling and organic recycling. We put our food scraps into a green bin, called a compost, and it is collected every five days. Then, the city sells the compost to the gardeners in the urban farms.

Since there are lots of urban farms, we can grow our own food for the local community. That means there aren't as many trucks transporting food as other cities. The food is also much tastier than food in supermarkets!

There are a lot of green areas in the city including Stanley Park, which is about 4,000 km<sup>2</sup>. You can do loads of sports and outdoor activities there.

### Part 2

**Daniel:** Vancouver has plans to be the greenest city in the world. It aims to become zero waste by 2040 and use 100% renewable energy by 2050. Vancouver's city council did a questionnaire for its residents. It asked about people's dreams for the future of the city: *What will Vancouver be like in 2040?*

These were the top 6 answers:

It will be a city where nature and urban life exist in harmony. There will be communities, shops, creativity, culture and nature. We still don't have many rooftop gardens, so in the future, there will be trees across the entire skyline. Vancouver will be dependent on local urban farms and gardens. We already have some urban farms but in the future, people will buy all of their fruit and vegetables from farmer's markets. There won't be plastic in supermarkets. There will be a variety of housing options so that people can live in the downtown area. There will be inclusive and tolerant communities because there will be a diverse mix of local people. The city will be safe and welcoming with more public art. There will be centres for culture and art where people can share ideas. There will be a mix of architecture so that the city looks interesting. There won't be any cars at all in the downtown area. We don't have this rule yet. In the future, there will only be public transport like buses and subway. There will be some taxis but not as many as now. And that's it! What do you think of these ideas for the future? I'd love to hear your ideas – maybe you could make a video blog and show me!