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MODULE 1: Getting together

Meeting places

Key words
circumstance, civil servant, cocoa, cultivation, gratitude, porcelain, silk

Reading

1 What is happening in the photograph? Discuss with a partner.

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2 As you read this article about tea-drinking habits in China, complete the following graphic organiser.

What I know	What I want to find out	What I learnt
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TEA – A DAILY NECESSITY

Today, tea is the most popular drink in the world. It is drunk by more people than either coffee or cocoa and the number of people drinking it is increasing year by year. The cultivation of tea plants began in China over two thousand years ago, and from there its popularity quickly spread, first to Japan and then to the rest of the world. Together with silk and porcelain, tea is still one of China's most important exports.

In China, everyone from taxi drivers to civil servants drinks tea daily. Although people drink it at all times of the day and night, it is especially popular after meals. In warm summer weather, people believe it helps them to keep cool and relax, and this is why there are so many traditional tea-houses in Chinese towns and villages, where local people, especially the elderly, meet regularly and chat with their friends. In many towns, tea-houses open in the late afternoon and quickly fill up with students and business people.



There are several special circumstances in which tea is prepared and consumed. In Chinese society, people show respect to one another by offering a cup of tea. They make serious apologies to others by pouring them tea. In the traditional Chinese marriage ceremony, both the bride and groom kneel in front of their parents and serve them tea as an expression of gratitude for bringing them up well. The parents will usually drink a small portion of the tea and then give the couple a red envelope, which symbolises good luck.

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3 Look at the article and the Factfile. Are these True (T) or False (F)? Justify your answers.

a Tea is not as popular as coffee. False
It is more popular than coffee.

b 90% of the world's tea is grown in China. False
90% of the world's tea is grown in Asia.

c People don't drink tea in the summer because it makes them feel hot. False
People drink tea in the summer because they believe it helps them to keep cool and relax.

d People in Japan started drinking tea from around 500-600 CE. True

e People in Arab countries started drinking tea later than people in China and Japan. True

f The word for 'tea' is the same in many languages. False
The word for tea is similar in many languages.

Factfile

Tea – China's gift to the world

- There were tea plants in China 6000 years ago.
- Now 40 countries in the world grow tea. 90% of these are in Asia.
- Tea-drinking spread from China to Japan in the 6th century CE.
- Tea reached Arab countries in the 9th century CE.
- There are five different types of Chinese tea. The most famous is green tea.
- The word for 'tea' is similar in many languages. For example, in China it is 'cha' and in Russian it is 'chai'.
- The leaves of tea plants are picked when the plant is between 5 and 30 years old.
- A skilled tea picker can collect 600 grams of tea leaves a day.

4 Choose the correct word from the list to fill in the blanks. Make sure you use the words correctly.

apologies	*ceremony*	*chat*
civil servant	*cultivation*	
porcelain	*skilled*	*tea-house*

a Her mother has a very expensive collection of Chinese porcelain.

b She has served as a civil servant in the courthouse for several years.

c He visited his friend for an amicable chat.

d Farmers depend substantially on cultivation for their livelihood.

e Leonard Da Vinci was a very skilled painter.

f Their apologies seemed genuine and heartfelt.

Self-assessment

Over to you

5 Write a short paragraph: which do you prefer, drinking tea or drinking coffee? Support your answer.

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Language practice

1 Some of the talking verbs in sentences a–g are wrong. Tick (✓) the correct sentences and cross (✗) the incorrect sentences. Then choose the correct verb from this list. Use each verb only once.

argue chat discuss say speak talk tell

a	Could you ***say*** me the time, please?	x	tell
b	I ***chatted*** to my friends on the way home from school.	✓	
c	If you have a problem at school, ***argue*** it with a teacher.	x	discuss
d	The professor ***told*** for an hour about the environment.	x	spoke or talked
e	He has very strong opinions. That's why he ***argues*** with people.	✓	
f	He ***said*** me where he lived.	x	told
g	The teacher told the student to stop ***telling***.	x	talking, speaking, arguing or chatting

2 Find a word in the text on page 16 that is related to each of the words in the list below. Write the related word in the space beneath the given word. Then, make up a new sentence for each in the space provided. The first word is given as an example.

1	drink	At dinner, the table was covered with food and drinks.
1	drunk	Water is drunk by more people than juice.
2	tea	
2	tea-houses	
3	drive	
3	driver	
4	enjoyment	
4	enjoy	
5	quick	
5	quickly	
6	day	
6	daily	
7	popular	
7	popularity	
8	meeting	
8	meet	

3 Match these words and expressions from the article and the Factfile with their meanings.

a	consume 4	1	good at doing something / experienced
b	civil servant 6	2	the growing of plants
c	chat (verb) 5	3	the production of expensive teas
d	cultivation 2	4	to eat, drink or ingest (food or drink)
e	porcelain 8	5	talk in a friendly, informal way
f	skilled 1	6	someone who works for the government
		7	a type of small bird
		8	a kind of clay which is used to make cups, plates, etc.

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4 Complete these sentences about the history of chocolate. Use the correct form of the verb in brackets.

a If the Olmecs hadn't discovered (*discover*) cocoa 3000 years ago, we wouldn't have been able to produce the modern chocolate bar.

b In 1528, chocolate arrived in Spain. If it had arrived (*arrive*) earlier, it would have spread to the rest of Europe faster.

c The Aztecs used cocoa beans as money. If they hadn't used (*use*) the beans in this way, their society would not have been as advanced as it was.

d If Belgian chocolatiers hadn't developed (*develop*) chocolate making techniques, Belgium wouldn't have been as famous for its chocolates.

5 Complete the following telephone conversation with the relevant expressions.

Jaber: Hi Najeeb, Mum told me you called earlier, right?

Najeeb: Yes, I wanted to make sure when we're going to meet to make the arrangements for the picnic.

Jaber: That's right. How about we meet tomorrow at lunchtime?

Najeeb: (1) Sorry, I can't make it tomorrow.

Jaber: That's okay. How about this afternoon? Are you free?

Najeeb: (2) Yes, I'm free.

Jaber: That's great!
(3) What time do you want to meet?

Najeeb: Is 4 o'clock at the mall fine with you?

Jaber: I can make it by 4, but the mall is a little bit far from my house.
(4) Shall we meet in Central Café?

Najeeb: Central Café sounds good. So I'll meet you there, okay?

Jaber: (5) Yes, see you later. Bye.

6 Answer these questions about someone who was thinking of opening a café. Use the words in italics in your answer.

a If he opened a café, what would he sell? (*coffee / tea*)
If he opened a café, he would sell coffee and tea.

b If he wanted to sell cakes too, where would he make them? (*kitchen*) If he wanted to sell cakes too, he would make them in the kitchen.

c If he wanted to become a café owner, what would he need to do first? (*training course*) If he wanted to become a café owner, he would need to do a training course first.

d If he owned a café, what would he do at the end of each day? (*count the day's money*) If he owned a café, he would count the day's money at the end of each day.

7 Now imagine that the person in exercise **6** didn't open a café. Rewrite your answers to **6a–d** changing the verb tenses.

a If he had opened a café, he would have sold coffee and tea.

b-If he had wanted to sell cakes too, he would have made them in the kitchen./ c-If he had wanted to become a café owner, he would have needed to have done a training course first./ d-If he had owned a café, he would have counted the day's money at the end of each day.

8 Look at the picture.



What could / might have happened?

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Writing Describing scenes in detail

1 Match descriptions A and B with the postcard scenes below.





A The sea looks deep blue. There are waves coming on to the beach, but the sea looks calm. There is a hill in the background and it doesn't look remote. There are white clouds on the horizon, but we know it is a sunny day because a man is sitting on the beach with a parasol. He is wearing shorts and a T-shirt and looking towards the horizon. There are also two little children behind the man, playing in the sand. They have plastic toys with them and they are also wearing light clothes but have caps on their heads. They look very enthusiastic and joyful. There are no buildings or cars in this photo. picture 1

B Starting from the far right, we see a small hill that seems bare. Then there are a few buildings that are far away, but as we look to the left the buildings get taller and nearer and are surrounded by palm trees. The last building is barely showing but looks huge and is directly on the beach. We know that it's nighttime because the hill is dark, the buildings are lit up and the sky is dark blue. There are people sitting on the beach, which looks sandy, or walking along peacefully. There is also a young man helping his little boy build a nice sand castle. picture 2

2 Read the descriptions again and make lists of:

a phrases with adjectives and nouns: deep blue
white clouds / sunny day / little children / light clothes /
small hill / dark blue / little boy / nice sand castle

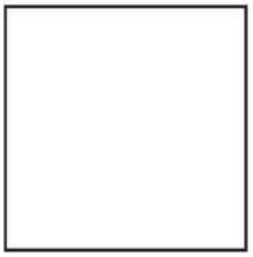
b phrases which tell you where something is: on the horizon / in the background
on to the beach / in the background / on the horizon / on the beach /
behind the man / on their heads / the far right / as we look at the left

c phrases with *look*: the sea looks calm
doesn't look remote / they look very enthusiastic / looks huge / looks sandy

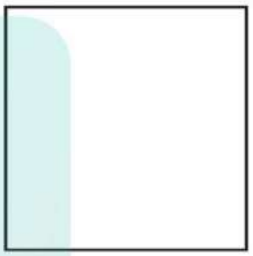
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3 Bring to class two postcards of two places you like. Write a description of each using phrases like those you listed in exercise 2. Don't forget to staple your postcards to this page.

Postcard 1



Postcard 2



4 A friend of yours is trying to decide which of the two places you have described to visit. Write a paragraph persuading them to visit the place featured in **Postcard 1**. Support your argument by comparing and contrasting it to **Postcard 2**.

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