



11

Tell me about it!

Indirect questions • Question tags • The body • Informal English



TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

- 1 All of these sentences are correct. Why is there no *does* in sentences 2 and 3?
- Where does she live?
 - I know where she lives.
 - Can you tell me where she lives?

- 2 Choose the correct question tag.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 It's a beautiful day, | did he? |
| 2 You like learning English, | isn't it? |
| 3 You've been to Australia, | didn't they? |
| 4 Henry didn't say that, | don't you? |
| 5 They had a good time, | haven't you? |

It's a beautiful day, isn't it?

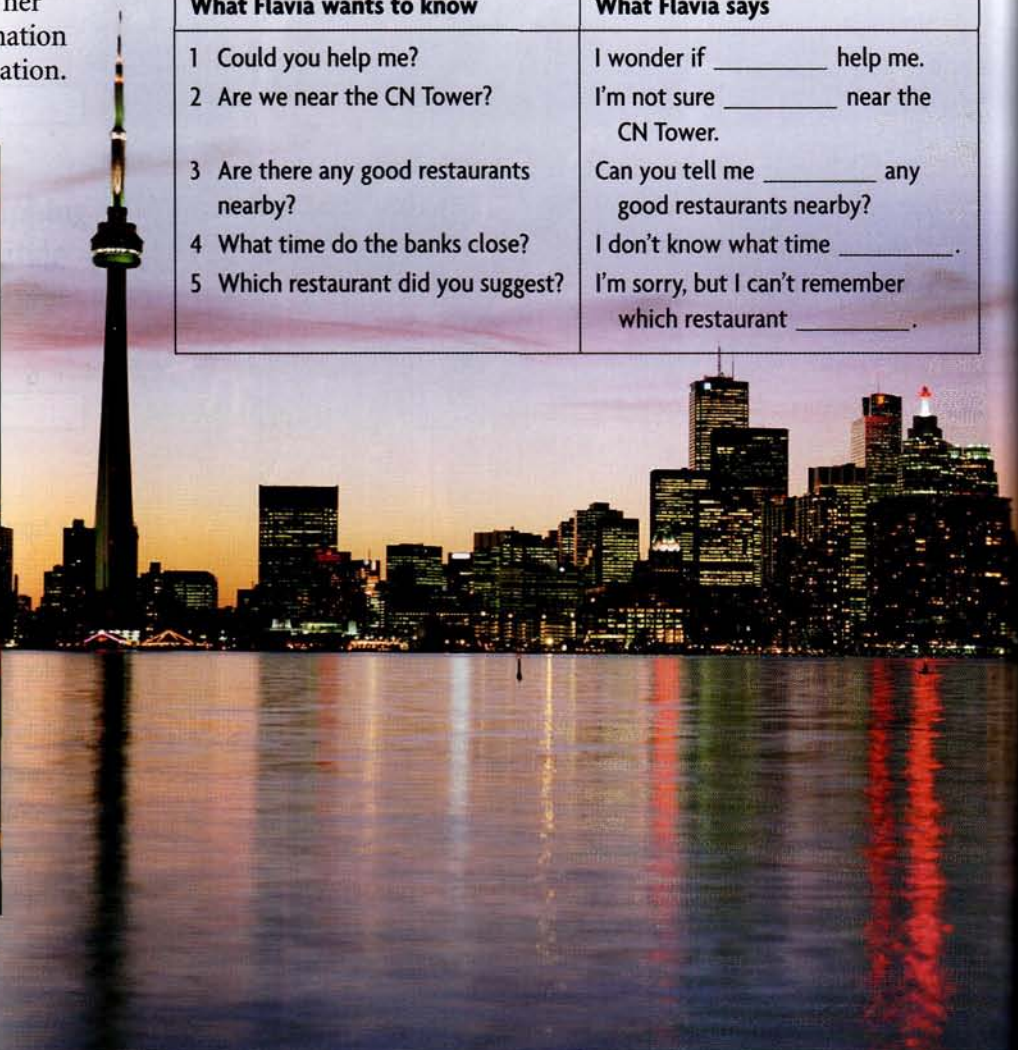


A STRANGER IN TOWN

Indirect questions

- 1 **T 11.1** Flavia has just checked into her hotel in Toronto. Look at the information she wants, then listen to the conversation. Complete her sentences.

What Flavia wants to know	What Flavia says
1 Could you help me?	I wonder if _____ help me.
2 Are we near the CN Tower?	I'm not sure _____ near the CN Tower.
3 Are there any good restaurants nearby?	Can you tell me _____ any good restaurants nearby?
4 What time do the banks close?	I don't know what time _____.
5 Which restaurant did you suggest?	I'm sorry, but I can't remember which restaurant _____.



GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Look at what Flavia says. These are indirect questions. How does the word order change?
- 2 What happens to *do/does/did* in indirect questions?
- 3 When do we use *if* in indirect questions?

▶▶ Grammar Reference 11.1 p149

- 2 Read tapescript 11.1 on p131 and practise the conversation. Then close your books and do it again.
- 3 Here is some more information that Flavia wants. Use the prompts to ask indirect questions.
 - 1 What's the population of the city?
(*Do you know ... ?*)
 - 2 Is there an underground?
(*Could you tell me ... ?*)
 - 3 Where are the best shops?
(*Can you tell me ... ?*)
 - 4 Where can I go for a run in the mornings?
(*Do you happen to know ... ?*)
 - 5 Is there an art gallery near here?
(*Do you have any idea ... ?*)
 - 6 What do people do in the evening?
(*I wonder ...*)
- 4 Work with a partner. Ask and answer similar indirect questions about a city or town that you know well.

PRACTICE

Asking polite questions

- 1 Match a word in A with a line in B and a line in C.

A	B	C
What	newspaper	times have you been on a plane?
How	football team	do you support?
Which	long	music do you like?
	far	do you read?
	kind of	is it to the station from here?
	many	time do you spend watching TV?
	much	does it take you to get ready in the morning?

- 2 Work with a partner. Ask and answer indirect questions using the ideas in exercise 1.

Could you tell me ... ?

Would you mind telling me ... ?

Finding out about Madonna

- 3 What do you know about Madonna?



- 4 Ask about Madonna using these phrases and the prompts 1–8.

I wonder ...

I have no idea ...

I'd like to know ...

Does anybody know ...

- 1 where/born
- 2 how old/when/start/singing
- 3 go to university
- 4 ever win any awards
- 5 where/live
- 6 how many times/married
- 7 how many children/have
- 8 how many number one hits/have

I wonder where she was born.

- 5 Work with a partner.

Student A Look at p155.

Student B Look at p156.

WE LIKE ANIMALS, DON'T WE?

Question tags

1 **T 11.2** Listen to Gabriella, aged 4, talking to Karen, her mother. Underline the question tags.

G Mummy?

K Yes, Gaby?

G I've got ten fingers, haven't I?

K Yes, that's right, sweetie. Ten pretty little fingers.

G And Daddy didn't go to work this morning, did he?

K No, it's Saturday. He's working in the garden today.

G And we like animals, don't we, Mummy?

K Yes, we do. Especially our cats, Sammy and Teddy.

G Can I have a biscuit now, Mummy?

T 11.2 Listen again. Does Gabriella's intonation go up or down on the question tags?



2 Complete the conversation between Karen and her assistant with a question tag from the box.

didn't I? isn't it? am I? haven't I?

K Now, what's happening today? I've got a meeting this afternoon, _____?

A Yes, that's right. With Henry and Tom.

K And the meeting's here, _____?

A No, it isn't. It's in Tom's office at 3 o'clock.

K Oh! I'm not having lunch with anyone, _____?

A No, you're free for lunch.

K Phew! And I signed all my letters, _____?

A No, you didn't, actually. They're on your desk, waiting for you.

K OK. I'll do them now. Thanks a lot.

T 11.3 Listen and check. Does Karen's intonation go up or down on the question tags?

GRAMMAR SPOT

1 Which speaker, Gabriella or Karen, uses question tags to mean . . . ?

- I'm not sure, so I'm checking.
- Talk to me, I want to have a conversation with you.

2 How do we form question tags?

▶▶ Grammar Reference 11.2 p149

3 Practise the conversations with a partner.

PRACTICE

Question tags and intonation

1 Look at the sentences and write the question tags.

1 It isn't very warm today, _____?	↷
2 You can cook, _____?	
3 You've got a CD player, _____?	
4 Mary's very clever, _____?	
5 There are a lot of people here, _____?	
6 The film wasn't very good, _____?	
7 I'm a silly person, _____?	
8 You aren't going out dressed like that, _____?	

T 11.4 Listen and check. Write ↷ if the questions tag goes up and ↶ if it goes down.

2 Match a response with a sentence in exercise 1.

- 4 Yes. She's extremely bright.
 Believe it or not, I haven't. I've got a cassette player, though.
 Why? What's wrong with my clothes? I thought I looked really cool.
 No, it's freezing.
 No, you're not. Everybody makes mistakes.
 Me? No! I can't even boil an egg.
 I know! It's absolutely packed. I can't move!
 It was terrible! The worst I've seen in ages:

T 11.5 Listen and check. Practise the conversations with a partner.

Conversations

3 Add three question tags to the conversation below. Do they go up or down?

- A It's so romantic.
 B What is?
 A Well, they're really in love.
 B Who?
 A Paul and Mary.
 B Paul and Mary aren't in love.
 A Oh yes, they are. They're mad about each other.



T 11.6 Listen and compare.

4 Look at p156. Choose one of the conversations and add question tags. Learn it by heart, and act it out for the rest of the class.

T 11.7 Listen and compare.

READING AND SPEAKING

How well do you know your world?



1 Do you know the answers to these questions?

- 1 Do animals have feelings?
- 2 What are the Earth's oldest living things?
- 3 What man-made things on Earth can be seen from space?
- 4 What is the most terrible natural disaster to have hit the Earth?
- 5 Why isn't there a row 13 on aeroplanes?
- 6 Why do women live longer than men?
- 7 Was Uncle Sam a real person?

2 Put one of these lines before each question in exercise 1. What is true for you?

I think I know ... I'm not sure ...
 I think ... I have no idea ...
 I don't know ... I wonder ...

I think animals have feelings.

I have no idea what the Earth's oldest living things are.

Discuss your ideas as a class.
 Which question interests you the most?

How well do

3 Read the answers to the questions. How much did you already know?

4 Here are the last lines of the seven answers. Which answer do they go with?

- The country with the highest life expectancy is Japan – 84 years for women and 77 for men.
- Less than 24 hours after the meal, Christ was crucified.
- It is very likely that this explosion wiped out all the dinosaurs.
- Fear is instinctive and requires no conscious thought.
- You can also see fires burning in the tropical rainforest.
- It has also endured climatic catastrophes, and nuclear bomb testing – and still it lives on!
- Over the years, various cartoonists gave him his characteristic appearance.

5 Here are seven questions, one for each text. What do the underlined words refer to?

- Where is the oldest one in the world?
- Why is this difficult to see from space?
- Do they have the full range of emotions?
- How did they become extinct?
- What did he say 'US' stood for?
- Do they have a thirteenth floor?
- Why are they more likely to have accidents?

Answer questions 1–7.

6 These numbers are from the texts. What do they refer to?

4,600	15	200	1906	1815
65 million	14	six	84	1766

Producing a class poster

7 What else would you like to know about the world? Work in groups and write some questions. Think of:

- places (countries, cities, buildings)
- people (customs, languages, superstitions, famous people)
- things (machines, gadgets, transportation, etc.)
- plants and animals

8 Choose two questions you wrote in exercise 7 and research the answers. You could use the Internet or an encyclopedia.

Make them into a poster for your classroom wall.

1 ① Do animals have feelings?

A All pet owners would say 'Yes'. Molly the dog and Whiskers the cat can feel angry, depressed, neglected, happy, even jealous and guilty.



Many scientists, however, are sceptical about giving animals the full range of emotions that humans can feel. Part of the problem is that it is impossible to prove that even a human being is feeling happy or sad. In fact, it is only because we can observe body language and facial expression that we can deduce it. And of course humans can express the emotion with language.

However, most researchers do agree that many creatures experience fear. Some scientists define this as a primary emotion.

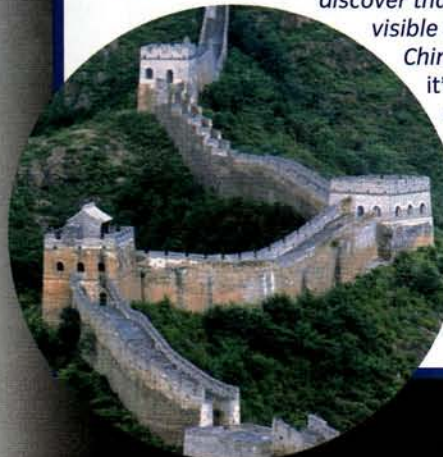
2 ② What are the Earth's oldest living things?

A The White Mountains of California are home to our oldest living things – trees! The oldest tree in the world, Methuselah, has roots that go back over 4,600 years. This makes it older even than the Great Pyramids. The 26-foot bristlecone pine tree is the oldest of many that have outlived civilization after civilization.



3 ③ What man-made things on Earth can be seen from space?

A 'When humans first flew in space, they were amazed to discover that the only man-made object visible from orbit was the Great Wall of China.' Although this is a nice idea, it's not true. The Great Wall is mostly grey stone in a grey landscape and, in fact, is very difficult to see even from a plane flying at a mere 15 kilometres above. What can be seen when orbiting the Earth (from about 200 kilometres up) are the lights of the world's large metropolitan areas.



you know your world?

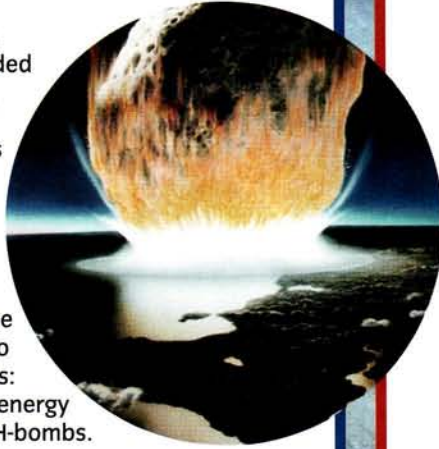
You ask ... we answer!

4ⓐ What is the most terrible natural disaster to have hit the Earth?

A Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and hurricanes are responsible for the deaths of thousands of people every year.

One of the most violent earthquakes ever recorded was in Ecuador in 1906. It was the equivalent of 100 H-bombs, but it was nothing compared to a volcanic eruption in Tambora, Indonesia in 1815. This was the equivalent of 10,000 H-bombs. But, even these are nothing compared to many tropical hurricanes: they regularly have the energy of an amazing 100,000 H-bombs.

However, there is one natural disaster that beats all of these by a very long way – a meteor that hit the Earth 65 million years ago and caused an explosion the equivalent of 10 million H-bombs.



6ⓐ Why do women live longer than men?

A Women generally live about six years longer than men. Evidence suggests that boys are the weaker sex at birth, which means that more die in infancy. Men also have a greater risk of heart disease than women, and they have heart attacks earlier in life. Men smoke and drink more than women, and their behaviour is generally more aggressive, particularly when driving, so they are more likely to die in accidents. Also, men are more often in dangerous occupations, such as construction work.

Historically, women died in childbirth and men in wars. So nuns and philosophers often lived to great ages. Now childbearing is less risky and there are fewer wars.



5ⓐ Why isn't there a row 13 on aeroplanes?

A In many countries, the number 13 is considered to be very unlucky. In France, there is never a house with the number 13. In the United States, modern high-rise buildings label the floor that follows 12 as 14.

Where did this fear of a number come from? The idea goes back at least to Norse mythology in ancient times. There was a banquet with 12 gods. Loki, the spirit of evil, decided to join without being invited. In the fight that followed, Balder, the favourite of the gods, was killed.

In Christianity, this theme was repeated at the Last Supper. Jesus Christ and his apostles numbered 13 people at the table.



7ⓐ Was Uncle Sam a real person?

A Yes, he was! This symbol of the United States with a long white beard, wearing striped trousers and top hat, was a meat packer from New York state.

Uncle Sam was Samuel Wilson, born in Arlington, Massachusetts in 1766. At the age of eight, he was a drummer boy in the American Revolution. Later in life he moved to New York and opened a meat-packing company. He was a good and caring employer and became affectionately known as Uncle Sam.

Sam Wilson sold meat to the army, and he wrote the letters US on the crates. This meant 'United States', but this abbreviation was not yet common. One day a company worker was asked what the letters US stood

for. He wasn't sure, and wrongly said that perhaps the letters stood for his employer, Uncle Sam. Nevertheless, the mistake continued. Soon soldiers started referring to all military goods as coming from Uncle Sam. They even saw themselves as Uncle Sam's men.



LISTENING AND SPEAKING

The forgetful generation

- T 11.8** Listen to the introduction to a radio programme called *What's Your Problem?* and answer the questions.
 - What problem are they talking about?
 - What do they think is causing it?
- Discuss these questions.
 - Does your lifestyle mean that you have a lot to remember to do each day?
 - Do you think modern society is busier and more stressful than 100 years ago?
 - How do you remember all the things that you have to do each day?
- T 11.9** Listen to Ellen, Josh, and Fiona, and take notes.

	What did they forget?	What did they do?
Ellen		
Josh		
Fiona		

- T 11.10** Listen to the rest of the radio programme and answer the questions.
 - 1 What is Professor Alan Buchan's job?
 - 2 What is it about some modern day working practices that causes forgetfulness?
 - 3 Why did the woman think that she was going insane?
 - 4 What was the woman's problem?
 - 5 What helped the woman feel more relaxed?
 - 6 Does Professor Buchan advise using a computer to help remember things?
 - 7 What does he advise? Why?
 - 8 How does the presenter try to be funny at the end of the interview?

What do you think?

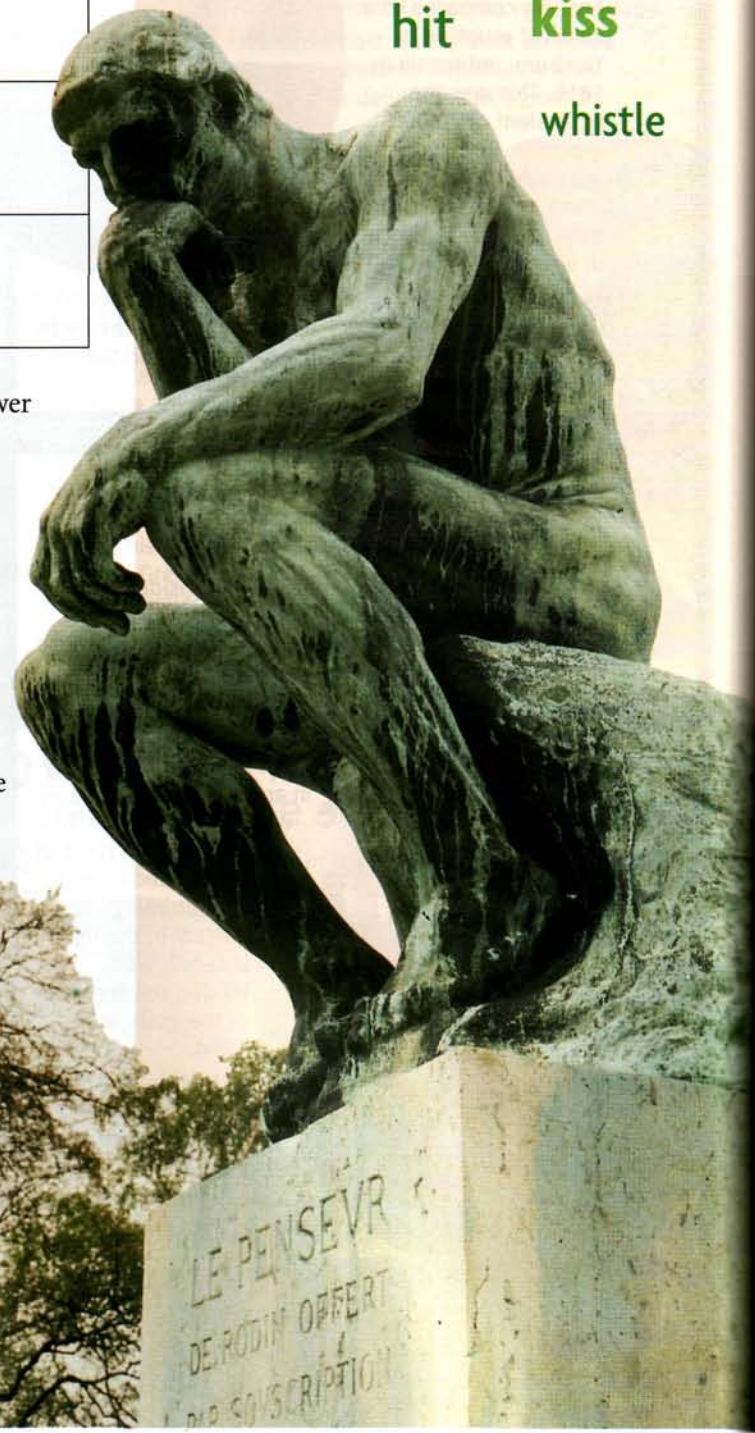
- Do you think Professor Buchan's explanation for forgetfulness is true?
- Do you know any stories of forgetfulness, either your own or somebody else's?

VOCABULARY AND IDIOMS

What can your body do?

- 1 As a class, write all the parts of the body that you know on the board.
- 2 Work with a partner. Which parts of the body do you use to:

kick chew
 lick think stare
 bite hold point
 hug climb drop
 hit kiss
 whistle



EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Informal English

- 3 Match a verb from exercise 2 with a noun or phrase from the box.

a ladder	into an apple
litter on the ground	me on the cheek
into space	a tune
about the meaning of life	a football
your grandmother	a gun
a nail with a hammer	gum
an ice-cream	me in your arms

- 4 Look at these idioms. Can you guess their meaning?

hold your breath
kiss something goodbye
hit the roof
think twice (about something)
kick the habit
drop someone a line

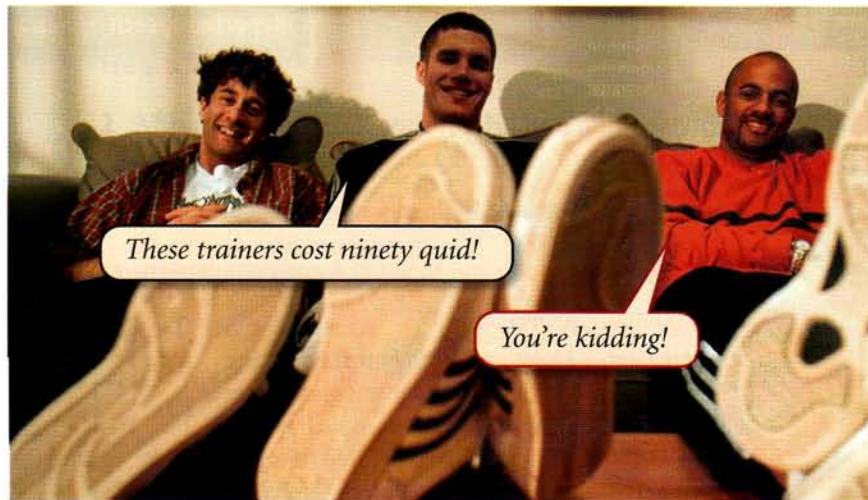
Complete the sentences. Use the idioms above. If necessary, change the form of the verb. The first letter of each missing word is given.

- The best way to stop hiccups is to h_____ your b_____ and count to ten.
- My parents h_____ the r_____ when I said I'd been to an all-night party.
- I've tried so many times to stop biting my nails, but I just can't k_____ the h_____.
- I almost bought a new sports car, but then I t_____ t_____ about it and realized it wasn't such a great idea.
- A I lost my purse with £200 in it.
B Well, you can k_____ that money g_____!
- D_____ me a l_____ when you know what time you're coming, and I'll meet you at the station.

WRITING: Words that join ideas

▶▶ Go to p118

- 1 When we speak, we use a lot of informal language, depending on who we're speaking to.



In the conversations, choose the correct expression.

- A What do you say we break for lunch?
B Great idea. | We can grab a sandwich at the deli.
 I get it.
- A How are you doing?
 What are you up to?
B Nothing much. Just sitting around watching TV.
A You're such a couch potato.
B Hey, take a break! | I work hard all week. I like
 Hey, give me a break! | to relax at weekends.
- A Quick! Give me your homework so I can copy it.
B Look out! | Do your own homework!
 No way!
- A Did you mend the TV?
B Kind of. | Channel 4's OK, but we still can't get Sky.
 All right.
A Anything good on tonight?
B Dunno. | Look in the paper.
 What's up?
- A What do you call that stuff you use to clean between your teeth?
B What do you mean?
A You see! | It's like string. White.
 You know!
B Wow! | You mean dental floss.
 Oh!
A Yeah. That's it!

T 11.11 Listen and check. Practise the conversations with a partner.

- 2 Underline the examples of informal language. How do we say them more formally? Be careful if you try to use them!