

Four Corners

Jack C. Richards · David Dornike
with
Jenni Currie Santamaria



Video activity book



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Unit 12

Finding solutions

Danielle gives a report about bike lanes in Brooklyn, New York. She interviews a bike rider, William, who says he can go a lot quicker with the bike lanes. But then Meena, a shop owner, comes out and complains that bike lanes hurt her business; she sells refrigerators, and people on bikes don't take refrigerators home. Next, Sonia, a campaigner for bikes lanes, explains that bike riding reduces car pollution; however, Diego is concerned about the number of pedestrians who get hit by people on bicycles. Danielle finishes her report by saying that she learned there are two sides to every story.

Danielle Bike lanes are being introduced to many cities. This one is in Brooklyn, New York. I went to Brooklyn to find out what people think about bike lanes there. I'm on Kent Avenue in Brooklyn. There's a bike lane here that is being used by commuters going into the city.

Danielle Do you commute by bicycle everyday?

William Yes, most days. But not if it rains!

Danielle Do you like bike lanes?

William They keep me away from all the traffic! And I can go a lot quicker.

Meena Are you talking about bike lanes?

Danielle Yes, we are!

Meena Bike lanes are bad for my business! All the parking spaces are being removed for bike lanes. My customers can't park near my store. Something has to be done!

William You make a good point. But maybe you'll get some new customers who are riding bikes.

Meena I sell refrigerators! Who is going to take a refrigerator home on a bike?!

William Huh. I see what you mean.

Danielle I'm with Sonia Green, who has been campaigning for more bike lanes. And this is Diego Alvarez, who is not sure bike lanes are safe. So, Sonia, what are the advantages of bike lanes?

Sonia Well, bike lanes are good for several reasons. First, they encourage more commuters to ride bicycles. More commuters ride bikes, then the amount of traffic goes down, and, therefore, the amount of pollution is reduced.

Danielle And do you ride a bike yourself?

Sonia Of course! Cycling is great. It keeps me fit, it's not expensive, and it's good for the environment!

Danielle Diego, you have a different view about bike lanes.

Diego I agree with Sonia that bike lanes reduce pollution because more people are encouraged to ride bikes. But bike lanes also create problems.

Danielle Can you give me an example?

Diego Sure. Well, the biggest problem is that the number of collisions between bicycles and pedestrians is increasing.

Danielle Really?

Diego Yeah, a lot more people are being hit by bikes.

Danielle Huh. Why's that?

Diego Well, bikes can go a lot faster in the bike lanes. See? That's what I'm talking about! People don't hear bikes, so they don't step out of the way.

Danielle Wow! That was close. As more bike lanes are being created for commuters, attention from car exhaust is being reduced. That's the good news. But there are usually two sides to every story. It also seems that bike lanes are making some streets more dangerous for pedestrians. That wasn't something I expected to hear.

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Unit 11

The time of your life: Finding a job

In this episode of The time of your life, Wendy helps her audience learn how to network to find a job. Wendy demonstrates what a social network is and shows us how it works with her own example. Then she answers college student Ben's question about how to prepare for an interview. For practice, Wendy asks him the question, "Why do you want to work here?" Ben stutters, so Wendy tells him how to gain more time to think before answering. She also says to send a thank-you note after interviewing. Next, Soon-mi calls from South Korea. She wants to know how to format her résumé. Wendy explains how to prepare a résumé for the United States. Last, Nick says he gets nervous at interviews. Wendy tells him to smile and makes him practice.

Wendy Welcome, everyone. I'm Wendy Jones, and this is *The Time of Your Life*. Send me videos with your questions, and I'll help you organize your career, your home, and your life. Today, I will be talking about one way to find a job. It's called *networking*. A network is a group of people who can help you in your career. They might be people who are doing the kind of job you want to get, or people who know about jobs that are available. You should talk to all the people in your network and let them know you'll be looking for a new job soon. OK, this is my network. Everyone up on this board is a person who can help me in my career. For example, this is Carol. Carol used to be my boss. This afternoon, Carol introduced me to her friend, Susan. Here's her business card up on the board. Susan works for an Internet company, and she offered to show my résumé to her boss. Isn't that great? OK, so now I'll answer your questions about jobs. The first question is from Ben, college student. Hi, Ben.

Ben Hi, Wendy! I'll be graduating from college this year, so I'm looking for my first job in the real world. Actually, I'll be going on an interview next week. I got my résumé printed on really nice paper, and I had my clothes dry cleaned. But I still don't feel very prepared. What if they ask me a question I can't answer?

Wendy Well, Ben, you should prepare for an interview. For example, get a friend to practice possible interview questions with you. Actually, we could practice right now. I'll ask you a question, OK?

Ben Uh... OK.

Wendy Ben, why exactly do you want to work here?

Ben Uh, well... I... um... I mean, uh...

Wendy You don't want to answer like that at an interview, Ben. Here's a tip: If you need more time to think about a question, you can say "Hmm. That's a good question. Let me think." That will give you some time to think of an answer.

Ben Yeah, that's a good tip. Thanks, Wendy!

Wendy Oh, and another thing: Always, always send a thank-you note after an interview!

Ben Thanks, Wendy.

Wendy You're welcome. Now, here's a question from Soon-mi, all the way from Seoul, South Korea. Soon-mi?

Soon-mi Hi, Wendy. I'm in South Korea now, but I'll be applying for jobs in the U.S. My question is, how should I format my résumé in South Korea, people often include their date of birth, a photo of themselves, and the name of their junior high school on their résumé.

Wendy Well, a résumé in the U.S. should include your education and work experience. You should list all the colleges and universities you've attended and all the degrees you've received. And you should describe all the jobs you've had and how long you worked at each job. The most important thing is to write clearly and simply, and always get your résumé proofread.

Soon-mi That's very much, Wendy.

Wendy You're welcome, Soon-mi. And now we have a question from Nick.

Nick Hi, Wendy. Um, well, I'll be interviewing for a new job soon. The thing is, I get very nervous at interviews.

Wendy Well, Nick, most people get a little nervous at interviews. But you need to relax, so you don't look nervous. And you need to smile. You look very serious.

Nick Yeah, I know I should smile. But it's so difficult when I'm so nervous.

Wendy Let's practice. Watch me, OK? That was terrible, Nick! OK, let's try again, like this. That was great. You see, you have a beautiful smile!

Nick Thanks, Wendy!

Wendy Bye, Nick. OK. My next question is – oh, excuse me a moment, it's my phone... it's from Susan. Oh! This is great! I'll be interviewing with her boss next week. See, having a network really works! Anyway, I'd better start preparing, so that's all for today. See you all next time!