Teacher notes and answers

40-45 minutes | A2-B1 | Pairs, small groups or one-to-one online

Before class

Aim: start a short everyday exchange, check unclear information and ask a follow-up.
Share: student pages 1-2 only. Keep this page back. Cut up page 4 or send the responder one card privately. In one-to-one lessons, the teacher holds the cards. No recording or outside trip is required.

A quick route

Pictures, 5 min: elicit possible openings; accept different ideas. These pictures give contexts, not proof of a person's background or language ability.
Language and check, 6 min: read the short models, do task 3 and check together. Model a friendly clarification rather than just a louder repetition.
Listen, 4 min: read the dialogue twice at a natural, clear pace. Allow a short pair check between readings. Optional stage: omit it for a 35-40-minute route.
Picture challenge, 12 min: demonstrate one exchange. Each learner asks about three pictures and responds to three. The responder keeps their card hidden. No speed scoring: one successful round includes an opening, an accurate detail check and a follow-up. Note useful language and two points to improve.
Finish with speaking, 13-18 min: use task 6. Choose four or more questions and follow answers, rather than racing through all twelve. Briefly review the two language points before learners continue with a fresh question.

Answers and support

Task 3: 1 tell; 2 say; 3 again; 4 like.
Listening: a bus; 1 number 13; 2 in ten minutes; 3 across the road, outside the bakery; 4 the mistaken idea of taking a boat to a museum.
Accept: natural alternatives such as Could you repeat that? / Do you mean...? Picture questions and final conversation have no single answer. Do not demand the exact model wording. Bus and price details are fictional.
Support: leave page 1 visible. For stronger learners, cover the language box. Online, screen-share the pictures; send only the responder's current card. No breakout rooms needed for one-to-one work.

Optional listening script: Maya and the driver

Maya: Excuse me. Does this bus go to the museum?
Driver: No, this one goes to the market. You need the thirteen.
Maya: Sorry, did you say thirty?
Driver: Thirteen. One-three.
Maya: Thanks. And where do I catch it?
Driver: Across the road, outside the bakery.
Maya: Could you say that last bit again, please?
Driver: Outside the bakery. It leaves in ten minutes.
Maya: Great. Have you been to the museum?
Driver: Yes. The old boats are lovely.
Maya: Boats? For a moment I thought you said I needed a boat!
Driver: Just a bus. The boats stay in the museum!

Reply cards: keep them hidden

Give the responder one matching card. Swap roles after each exchange.

1 Museum bus

Bus 13. It leaves in ten minutes.
The stop is across the road, outside the bakery.
If asked: the old boats in the museum are worth seeing.

2 Fruit shop

Bananas: £1.40 a kilo.
Apples: £2.20 a kilo.
If asked: you also sell oranges, at £1.80 a kilo.

3 Dinner at home

Dinner is at 7.30 tonight.
You are making vegetable soup.
If asked: your housemate can help by cutting bread.

4 Local event

The walking group meets on Thursday at 6 pm.
It is free. Meet outside the town hall.
If asked: the walk takes about one hour.

5 Meeting a friend

The cafe is next to the station.
Meet at 11.15 on Saturday.
If asked: there are tables outside as well as inside.

6 Pottery class

The class starts at 10.30 on Sunday.
Bring an apron. Materials are included.
If asked: beginners are welcome. The class lasts two hours.

Optional outside practice: choose one suitable exchange, prepare an opening, then try it. Next lesson, report what happened and one expression you used. A classroom exchange is an equally valid alternative.