First night in Oakbridge

45–55 min in class • Listening, vocabulary and problem solving

1 Run the lesson

Set the scene · 5 min
Ask what people need to arrange on their first evening in a new town.

Listen twice · 12–15 min
Play or read the messages for the main needs, then for details. Compare notes.

Language · 8 min
Contrast “from + country” with “be + nationality”. Review quarter to / past.

Plan and pitch · 20–25 min
Pairs decide, then compare rejected options. Use the twist if time allows.

A2+ support. Write 18:45 and 19:15 on the board. Pause after each message.

2 Worksheet key

Name	Country	Arrives	Need	Other key time
Bethan	Wales	18:05	b	Check in by 19:00
Devin	the USA	19:05	c	Market Café closes at 18:45
Anika	India	18:25	a	Call starts at 19:15; lasts 15 min

3. Correct the mistakes 1 I’m from the USA. 2 I’m Indian. 3 I’m from Wales.

3 Decision and model pitch

Plan 1 (€15). Let’s put Bethan on the shuttle (A1). She’ll get to Hillview by 18:35. Devin can meet the host at 19:30 (B2). Anika can use the quiet room at the Corner Café (C2) for the whole call.

Plan 2 (€17). A1 + B2 + C3 also works. B1 closes before Devin arrives, and C1 closes before Anika’s call. A2 with B2 and C2 costs €21.

Change of plan (€22 budget). A2 + B2 + C2 costs €21 and meets all three needs.

© 2026 How to English with Gav & Em. Photocopiable for classroom use.

Transcript and homework key

Play or read the messages first. Share the transcript afterwards.

Three arrival messages

1. Bethan / Welsh English

Hi, Bethan here. I'm from Swansea, in Wales. My train gets in at six oh five. I'm staying at the Hillview Guesthouse, and I've got two heavy cases. I have to check in by seven. It's quite a walk up the hill from the station. Is there a bus that goes all the way to the guesthouse?

2. Devin / African American English

Hey, this is Devin. I'm from Denver, in the U.S. I get in at seven oh five. The key to my flat is at the Market Café. The problem is, the café closes at quarter to seven. I've got seven percent battery left on my phone, so could you text me a place and a time to pick up the key?

3. Anika / Indian English

Hi, it's Anika. I'm from Pune, in India. The coach should get in at six twenty-five. I've got a video call with my team at quarter past seven. It's only fifteen minutes, but I need somewhere quiet with Wi-Fi. Somewhere near the station would be great. I can leave my bags with a friend and pick them up later.

Oakbridge and its venues are fictional.

Revised recording: Bethan and Devin voiced with elevenlabs.io. Non-commercial use.

Homework key

1. Complete the profiles

1 Moroccan 2 Japan 3 Brazilian

2. Choose a place

Desk Club (€6). Noor can get there by 19:33 and finish by 20:03. The Corner Café is ten minutes away and closes at 20:00, so Noor would have only twenty minutes online.

3. Model reply

Hi Noor, welcome to Oakbridge! I'd go to Desk Club. It's a three-minute walk from the station and a desk costs €6. It closes at 21:00, so you'll have time to finish the form before 20:15. The Corner Café is cheaper, but it closes at 20:00 and you'd only have twenty minutes there. Good luck with the form!

© 2026 How to English with Gav & Em. Photocopiable for classroom use.