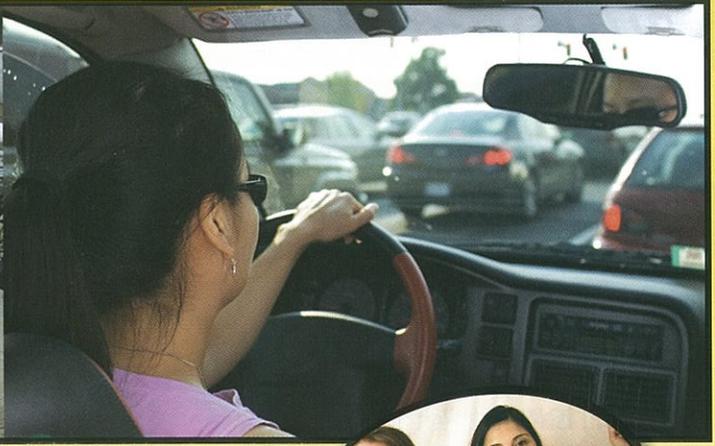


Unit 6 - THE COMMUTE



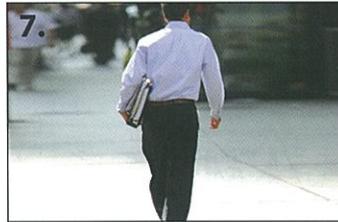
Track 37

CONVERSATION STARTERS

GETTING TO WORK

1 **FIRST LISTENING.** Listen. Which picture matches each person? Fill in the table.

Tracks 38-43



1. Inna 2. Simon 3. Pia 4. Ken 5. Malik 6. Trish

Picture #	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Hates it?						
It's OK?						
Likes it?						

2 **SECOND LISTENING.** Listen again. Decide: who likes commuting? Who hates commuting?

BONUS: Discuss with a partner.

- In your opinion, which person complains too much?
- Who has the worst commute?

Check the script and try the **LANGUAGE AWARENESS** activity on page 86.



BUILDING FLUENCY

COMPLAINING AND DEALING WITH COMPLAINERS

1 EXPRESSIONS. Match the complaint with the best response.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. I hate commuting! | a. <u>Look on the bright side.</u> At least you can get some exercise. |
| ___ 2. I hate cleaning the toilet! | b. Well, the air conditioner's broken, so you'll just have to <u>put up with it.</u> |
| ___ 3. I hate walking to school! | c. Well, <u>what can you do?</u> The test's next week! |
| ___ 4. I'm so sick of this heat! | d. Try to <u>make the most of it.</u> Why don't you study on the train? |
| ___ 5. I'm so tired of studying! | e. <u>Too bad.</u> It's your turn. |

Are the underlined phrases positive 😊, negative 😞, or neutral 😐?

Positive = _____
(sympathetic)

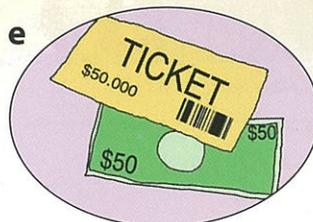
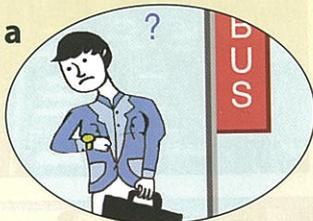
Negative = _____
(unsympathetic)

Neutral = _____

2 VOCABULARY. Match these phrases with the best pictures.

I hate commuting. It's...

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| ___ 1. too expensive | ___ 3. so boring | ___ 5. so annoying | ___ 7. too stressful |
| ___ 2. so tiring | ___ 4. a waste of time | ___ 6. so noisy | ___ 8. too crowded |



HOW THE GRAMMAR WORKS:

Adverbs

Use "adverbs of degree" like *really* and *absolutely* with **hate** for emphasis.

I really hate walking to work when it rains.

Use "adverbs of degree" like *so* and *really* with **sick and tired** for emphasis.

I'm so sick and tired of taking the bus.

3 LET'S PRACTICE. Work with a partner.

Make complaints using the expressions in step 1 and the vocabulary in step 2. Partner: use the responses in step 1.

Example:

A: *I hate commuting. It's too expensive.*

B: *You'll have to put up with it!*

CONVERSATION MODEL

IT'S SO BORING.

1



Track 44

SITUATION. Listen to the conversation.



2

SUBSTITUTION. Connect the phrases and sentences in the columns.

(1)

so expensive

so crowded

such a waste of time

so tiring

(2)

I always have to stand.

It costs me \$20 every day.

I always fall asleep.

It takes me 2 hours one way.



HOW THE PRONUNCIATION WORKS:

Stress words for emphasis:

so:: bo::ring / so:: expe::nsive / so:: cro::wded /

such a waste of ti::me / so:: ti::ring

3

PRACTICE. Work with a partner.

Practice the conversation.

Use the substitutions.

Then use your own ideas.



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

WHAT DO YOU HATE?

1 GET READY. Look at the list of everyday complaints. Which do you hate? Which do you not mind? Give your reason.

	COMMON COMPLAINT	HATE?	DON'T MIND?	REASON
Commuting	1. Sitting in traffic jams			
	2. Taking the train to work/school			
	3. Taking the bus to work/school			
	4. (your idea): _____ _____			
School	5. Doing English homework			
	6. Taking tests			
	7. Wearing a school uniform			
	8. (your idea): _____ _____			
Housework/Chores	9. Cleaning your room			
	10. Doing the laundry			
	11. Washing the dishes			
	12. (your idea): _____ _____			
Weather	13. Hot weather			
	14. Cold weather			
	15. Rainy days			
	16. (your idea): _____ _____			

2 LET'S TALK. Share your answers with a partner. Partner: respond to each complaint.

Example:

A: I hate traffic jams. They are so annoying.

B: Yeah. Me, too. But you just have to put up with them.



3 FOLLOW UP. Compare your list with another group. Who is the biggest complainer?



BONUS: Speaking Activity

- How do you commute to school or work? How long does it take? Do you mind it?
- Would you prefer to live close to school or work, or farther away? Why?
- What do you think about riding your bike to school or work? What are the pros and cons?



ERIK'S LEARNING TIP

Make the most of YOUR commute!

- Listen to an English podcast using your MP3 player.
- Read an English book or newspaper.
- Sing some English songs while riding your bike.
- Text a friend in English.
- Think of your plans for the day...in English!