**UNIT 1**

**CD 1, Track 2**

**Bita:** Excuse me, is this Ms. Johnson’s ESL class? I’m new here.

**Minh:** I’m pretty sure this is her class. I attended classes at this school five years ago, and this is where her class was.

**Bita:** Oh good. I used to go to school in the daytime before I got a new job. Now that I’m working during the day, I have to go to school in the evening. My other school doesn’t offer evening classes so I had to leave there and come here.

**Minh:** I used to go to school during the day too, but sometimes I take care of my grandchildren so evening classes are better for me. What kind of work do you do?

**Bita:** I used to be an architect in Iran, but I don’t have the right qualifications to be an architect in the United States. So, I’m doing administrative work for an engineering company until my English is good enough to go back to college and get the right degree.  
**Minh:** Wow, I’m impressed.

**Bita:** Do you work?

**Minh:** Not anymore. I used to work for a computer company, assembling computers, but now I just go to school and help my children with their children.

**Bita:** That’s nice. I bet your children appreciate that. Why are you studying English?

**Minh:** First of all, I want to help my grandchildren with their homework. But, also, I figure since I live in this country, I should be able to speak the language. Don’t you agree?

**Bita:** Completely!

**CD 1, Track 3**

**Bita:** Excuse me. Is this Ms. Johnson’s ESL class? I’m  new here.

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**Bita:** Completely!

**CD 1, Track 4**

**Yoshiko:** How long do you think it will take you to become an architect?

**Bita:** My goal is to become a partner in a firm by the year 2021

**Yoshiko:** What’ll you do first?

**Bita:** Well, the first thing I have to do is improve my English, which I plan to study for two more years. Then by the fall of 2018, I’ll be ready to register for college.

**Yoshiko:** How long will it take you to finish?

**Bita:** Well, usually a degree in architecture takes five or six years to complete, but some of the classes I took in my country will transfer, so I should be able to do it faster. I plan to get my degree in the spring of 2019.

**Yoshiko:** Then you can become an architect?

**Bita:** Not quite. Then I’ll have to become an intern to get some practical experience and prepare for my licensing exams.

**Yoshiko:** Exams?

**Bita:** Yes, I’ll have to take a series of tests before I can get my license to be an architect. Once I have my license, which I hope to get in the winter of 2020, I can apply to work as a partner in an architectural firm.

**Yoshiko:** Whew! That sounds like a lot of work!

**Bita:** It will be, but it’ll be worth it in the end

**CD 1, Track 5**

**1.**

**Anna:** How’s Harry doing these days?

**Miyuki**: I don’t know what to do about him. He can’t seem to settle down. He’s angry all the time and is always fighting with the other students. My husband has to go and talk to the principal almost every week.

**Anna:** How about talking to the guidance counselor?

**Miyuki:** I’ve tried that, but he doesn’t have any suggestions**.**

**Anna:** Why don’t you go and observe some classes and get to know the teachers better? Maybe that would help.

**Miyuki:** Yes, that’s a great idea.

**2.**

**Ron:** What am I going to do? My new landlord doesn’t like dogs and he wants me to get rid of Herbie!

**Mike:** You can’t do that! Has he met Herbie? Does he know what a friendly dog he is? Did you try introducing them?

**Ron:** No, that won’t work. I don’t think my landlord likes any dogs.

**Mike:** OK, then why don’t you start looking for another apartment?

**3.**

**Sue:** How’s your back these days, Patty?

**Patty:** It’s getting worse. I’m going to need an operation, but I don’t have any insurance.

**Sue:** I guess you’ll have to save up some money then.

**Patty:** Yes, it could be expensive.

**Sue:** Or, how about finding a job that gives you health insurance?

**Patty:** Yes, that’s what I’ll have to do.

**CD 1, Track 6**

This is a picture of the house where I grew up in Argentina. It’s very important to me because it holds a lot of memories. This is the garden where I played with my brothers and sisters, and the veranda where I often sat with my parents in the evenings, listening to their stories and watching the stars and dreaming about my future.

This is the person who influenced me the most when I was young. She was my teacher in the first grade and we stayed friends until I left home. She was always so calm and gave me good advice. She was the kind of person who is able to give you another perspective on a problem and make you feel hopeful, no matter how troubled you are.

This is my daily journal. I use it to write about my feelings and hopes. It helps me understand them better. Sometimes I just write about things which happened to me during the day. My journal is something that helps me focus on the important things in my life.