

into one of the bedrooms upstairs. He had water all over in all the rooms.

A: So, did you have to evacuate?

B: No, we stayed in the house. For this storm, most people stayed in their homes.

A: Were you scared?

B: I was so scared, most of the time I stayed in the bathroom. I thought any minute something was going to come flying through a window or that a tree was going to fall on our house. My husband was more relaxed, he lit candles and listened to the news. We have a battery-operated radio.

A: So, are you glad you moved to North Carolina?

B: Well, we really like it here but these hurricanes... I don't know, maybe we'll get used to them.

Track 48, Page 140

Tornadoes

A tornado, also called a twister, is a violent, spinning cloud that reaches from the ground up to storm clouds in the sky. Most tornadoes are weak, lasting only a few minutes, and have winds of less than 110 mph. But the strongest tornadoes can last more than an hour and have wind speeds of 200 mph or more. They can destroy houses in seconds, turn over cars, and pull people, trees, and furniture into the air.

The United States has more tornadoes than any other country in the world. In a typical year, there are 800 to 1,000 tornadoes in the United States. Most occur in the middle of the country. Tornadoes

form when warm and cool air meet. In the Midwest, the warm air from the Gulf of Mexico often meets the cold air from Canada.

Tornadoes can occur at any time of year, but the usual tornado season is from March through May. Tornadoes form most often in the afternoon and early evening. There is often little warning of a tornado. People who live in the Midwest know the signs of tornado activity. The sky becomes a dark, often greenish color. Dark clouds appear in the sky and there is often large hail. Suddenly, there is a loud sound, like a train or a jet plane. Sometimes, tornadoes occur in groups. Two, three, five, ten, or more tornadoes can form over a large area.

One of the strongest tornadoes in history hit Joplin, Missouri, on May 22, 2011. Twenty minutes before the tornado, sirens rang, warning of the tornado. Some people heard the warnings, but others did not. The tornado was one mile wide and destroyed everything it touched, including homes, businesses, churches, the hospital, and the high school. The tornado killed 158 people and injured 1,150 others. One family ran down into their basement. Twenty minutes later, when they came up from the basement, nothing was left of their house. At the local Home Depot, the tornado lifted off the roof. According to local reports, between twenty-eight and thirty people in the back of the store survived, but the eight people in the front of the store were killed.

The safest place to be during a tornado is in a safety shelter, a small underground room that some people build to protect their families.

Other safe places are basements or a first-floor bathroom, which is often the most solid room in the house.

UNIT 10

Track 49, Page 147

Jack: Cindy, look what came in the mail today. My brother's wedding invitation.

Cindy: What a beautiful invitation!

Jack: I'm really looking forward to the wedding. We haven't seen my family for a while.

Cindy: I know. It's hard. All of them live in Texas and we're here in New York.

Jack: The wedding is in six weeks. We have a lot to do before then.

Cindy: We do! You have the airline reservations, right?

Jack: Yes, that's all set. I also have a ticket for Calli. The airlines said that, although she's only two, she still needs a ticket. By the way, those tickets were expensive. Thankfully, we don't need hotel reservations.

Cindy: Yes, I'm glad we're staying with your sister. Did you rent a car for the week?

Jack: No, I have to do that.

Cindy: Remember, we don't need to rent a car seat. We're bringing one with us.

Jack: How about your dress? Did you find one yet that you like?

Cindy: No! I already bought a dress for Calli, but I still have to find a dress for me.

Jack: Cindy, you only have a few more weeks! And I still have to buy a pair of black dress shoes. What else do we need to do?

Cindy: Let's make a list. I don't want to forget anything, especially for Calli. Number one, we have to remember her favorite blanket. We also need...

Track 50, Page 148

1. They have to pack.
2. She has to bring her dress.
3. They have to leave early.
4. We have to drive to the airport.
5. She has to take her ID.
6. He has to show his boarding pass.

Track 51, Page 148

1. I have to go to the laundromat.
2. She has to work overtime tomorrow.
3. They have to do their homework.
4. I have to pay my phone bill.
5. He has to get gas on the way home.
6. She has to make a doctor's appointment.

254 Audio Scripts

Track 52, Page 149

C: Hannah, your life is really going to change after you get married.
H: Change? Of course, it's going to change. It's going to be perfect.
C: You have stars in your eyes.
H: What do you mean?
C: How old are you?
H: I'm 20.
C: And, you live with your mom and dad, right?
H: Until June 15th, our wedding date.
C: Hannah, who cleans the house now?
H: My mom does. But I clean my room.
C: And, what about dinner? Who takes care of it?
H: Well, my Dad cooks and my mom washes the dishes.
C: Ok. Who does the food shopping?
H: Usually my mom does.
C: And who pays the bills?
H: I'm not sure. I guess both my parents pay the bills. I pay my cellphone bill.
C: Hmm. And, who does the laundry?
H: My mom.
C: Does Randy live with his parents too?
H: Yes.
C: And how old is he?
H: He's 21.
C: Do you and Randy ever talk about your life after you get married? Who's going to cook, clean, and do the laundry?
H: No... I'm sure we'll do everything together.
C: Oh, boy. Are you sure you're ready to get married?
H: Of course, we are. We're in love!

Track 53, Page 154

I work as a Transportation Security Officer. Everyone calls us the TSA. It's a US government agency, and we manage the screening at airports. I am a veteran, and I wanted to continue working for the government after I completed my military service, so I decided to apply for this job.

I'm originally from Haiti, but for this job I had to be a US citizen. Luckily, I am a naturalized citizen. I had to complete an application online and answer a lot of questions. After that, I had to pass a medical examination, a background check, a credit check, and a drug screening. I also had to be 18 years old, but that wasn't a problem. I was 30 years old when I applied. Four months after I applied, I got the job.

This is my fifth year as a TSA officer. I like my job because it's different everyday. Sometimes I operate the screening equipment. I have to look at all the bags when they go through the x-ray machine. I have to look for dangerous materials that passengers are not allowed to take on the plane. If I see something, I must tell another agent. That agent must call the

passenger and open the bag for inspection. If we find items that are not allowed, like large bottles of shampoo, water, fruit, or dangerous objects, we take them. Sometimes, we have to stop passengers and interview them in a private room. Other times, I watch the passengers go through the metal detector. If I see something, I must use a metal detector wand and search the person. If the passenger is a woman, a female agent must search the passenger.

My favorite job is checking IDs because I can talk to the passengers. I have to be polite and check all IDs carefully. Sometimes, I have to answer a lot of questions. Funny things happen, too. One time, a man took off his belt and came through the metal detector. When he raised his arms, his pants fell down. Everybody had a good laugh that day.

Track 54, page 156

Attending a Wedding

You get a wedding invitation from a friend, and you are excited because this is the first American wedding you will attend. Weddings are different from culture to culture. What are the rules of etiquette for American wedding guests?

First of all, respond to the invitation as soon as possible. The bride and groom have to pay for each guest, so it is important to notify them that you will attend. Most wedding invitations include a response card. If you cannot attend, it is polite to call the couple if you are close friends.

Read the invitation's envelope carefully. Can you take a guest? Maybe your invitation says, "Marianna Lopez and Guest." That means that you can bring only one guest.

What should you wear to the wedding? Check the invitation for details. For a "black tie" wedding, women wear elegant dresses—called evening gowns—and men wear tuxedos. "Semiformal attire" is usually a dress for women and a suit for men. Remember, female guests should not wear white. The guests should be looking at the bride—not at the other guests.

What rules should you follow at the wedding ceremony? The most important rule is to be on time. You should arrive about fifteen minutes before the wedding begins. If you're late, you should enter quietly and find a seat. If something happens during the ceremony that you do not understand, wait until after the ceremony and ask someone to explain.

What kind of gift should you buy? Most guests at American weddings do not have to worry about choosing a gift. Many American couples use a wedding gift registry. The couple goes to a store or online to register for their gifts. They decide what they need and share their registry information with their guests. The guests look at the registry at the store or online, find out which items are still available, and buy their gift for the couple. Then, the store delivers the gift. You don't have to bring the gift to the ceremony. In fact, it is more convenient if you mail the gift.

Couples also appreciate gifts of money. In fact, money is the most popular wedding gift. Place cash or a check in a card that is specially made for money or in a regular greeting card, and put it in an envelope.

Have fun at the wedding!