

UNIT 6 *Read and Write*



En esta unidad vas a:

- leer un artículo sobre qué hablar en una primera cita
- aprender a escribir un texto utilizando adjetivos con gradación y adverbios intensificadores.

Not lost for words



You've done the most difficult thing – you've asked someone out for a meal. Now the big moment has finally arrived, you're feeling terribly excited about going on the date, but you're absolutely desperate to make a good impression. What can you do so that things go well over the dinner table?

Preparation is the key. Plan some topics of conversation beforehand because once you've met and sat down at your restaurant table you'll have plenty of time to talk; too much time if you don't know what to say! However, this isn't the moment to be very funny or extremely interesting. It's much better to start off by talking about the obvious. Ask about your companion's journey to the restaurant, what they think about the menu, what type of food they enjoy eating ... straightforward things like that.

Then, once the starters have arrived, you can ask about their job, where they live and any hobbies they have. But make sure you allow your companion to ask questions too; you don't want them to think they're being interrogated! More importantly, make sure you listen to your companion's answers. If you look very bored with what they're saying, the date might not last until the dessert!

Once you've found out a little about each other, you can move onto more general topics. This is where being up to date with what's in the news could be useful. Look into current affairs and the latest showbiz gossip before your date and make a mental note of the most talked about items. You might not need them, but just knowing that you've got them there will help you relax. An awkward silence can be extremely embarrassing.

And that really is the key to a successful date; feeling relaxed. If you think about what you're going to say beforehand, you'll feel more confident. If you feel confident, you'll relax and give a true reflection of what you are like. The success of the date will depend on the real you; not nerves or attempts at trying to be utterly fascinating. So prepare a little and keep it simple, and if there's a second date, it's because your companion finds the real you attractive!

1 Elige el mejor resumen del texto.

- A** If you want your first date to go well, you should plan the event. A little preparation could have positive consequences. At first, talk about day-to-day things and avoid trying to be funny. Listen to what the other person has got to say and make sure you know what's going on in the world so you've got something to say at quiet moments. _____
- B** The most difficult step has been taken; you've asked the person you like out. Now relax and use the date to make a very good impression on them. It would be a good idea to practise a few jokes and make sure you know what's happening in the world so you can impress your new companion with your knowledge. _____
- C** To make sure your first date goes well you should prepare a few amusing stories to tell your companion, and you ought to avoid talking about boring everyday topics. Ask your companion what they think about current affairs and the latest showbiz gossip so they can give you a true reflection of what they're like. _____

2 Responde a las preguntas.

What will you have plenty of time to do when you're at the restaurant?

You'll have plenty of time to talk when you're at the restaurant.

- 1** Name three things you could ask your companion about.

- 2** During which course could you ask them about their job?

- 3** Why might the date not last until dessert?

- 4** Which two things should you make a mental note of before your date?

- 5** According to the text, what can be extremely embarrassing?

- 6** Why may there be a second date?

Words to remember

3 Busca las palabras en el texto.

An appointment to meet a potential girlfriend or boyfriend (paragraph 1).
date



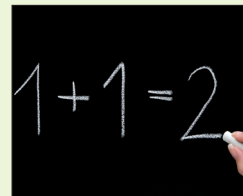
- 1** wanting something very much (paragraph 1).



- 2** the person who is with you (paragraph 2).



- 3** not complicated (paragraph 2).



- 4** when a situation is uncomfortable (paragraph 4).



- 5** the most important point that will help you achieve something (paragraph 5).



- 6** very interesting (paragraph 5).



Intensifying adverbs and adjectives

Adjetivos con gradación y adjetivos de grado extremo

Hay adjetivos que admiten gradación, porque describen una cualidad que puede darse en distintos grados, como *angry* (enfadado): se puede estar más o menos enfadado. Otros no la admiten, ya que describen una cualidad que solo se da en grado extremo, como *furious* (furioso): no se puede estar más o menos furioso. He aquí algunos pares de adjetivos con y sin gradación:

angry > furious

enfadado/a > furioso/a

funny > hilarious

gracioso/a > graciosísimo/a

interesting > fascinating

interesante > fascinante

surprised > amazed

sorprendido/a > atónito/a

Adverbios intensificadores para adjetivos con gradación

Los adverbios *very*, *terribly* y *extremely* se suelen utilizar para intensificar adjetivos con gradación.

You're feeling terribly excited about going on the date.

Te sientes tremendamente entusiasmado cuando tienes la cita.

This isn't the moment to be very funny or extremely interesting.

No es el momento de mostrarse muy gracioso o extremadamente interesante.

Adverbios intensificadores para adjetivos de grado extremo

Los adverbios *absolutely*, *completely* y *utterly* se suelen utilizar para intensificar adjetivos de grado extremo.

You're absolutely desperate to make a good impression.

Estás totalmente desesperado por causar una buena impresión.

Attempts at trying to be utterly fascinating.

Intentos por parecer extremadamente fascinante.

1 Completa el texto con las expresiones del recuadro.

very uncomfortable
absolutely starving
completely amazed

absolutely sensational
extremely relaxed
terribly excited

Where to go on your first date

People can become **1** _____ when somebody accepts their invitation to go on a date and can forget to think about where they should go. It isn't unusual to go to the cinema, but if your objective is to get to know your companion you won't be **2** _____ to discover that the cinema isn't a great place for conversation. The best place to go is a restaurant. However, be careful which one you choose. That new restaurant with an **3** _____ decoration might not be the place to go if you can't explain what's in the sophisticated meals on the menu. The experience could make you feel **4** _____. It's much better to go to a place where you feel at home and **5** _____, and where you know you won't finish the evening feeling **6** _____ because nerves have taken away your appetite.

