

Informal words and phrases

- 1 The words and phrases in the box are 'neutral' – we can use them in any situation. Match each one with an informal word or phrase in **bold** in the sentences below.

man	doing	talk (to someone)	two or three	Wait!	unhappy	Don't worry
a long time	How are you?	friends	going	What's the matter?		

- Hang on!** I'm not ready yet.
- What are you **up to** next weekend?
- There's a new **guy** in the accounts office – he's really nice.
- You look terrible! **What's up?**
- Can we **have a chat** with you about who to invite to the party?
- Hi! Nice to see you! **How's it going?**
- We had to wait **ages** for a bus this morning.
- You've lost your dog? **Never mind** – I'll help you find him.
- I'm going to see a film with some **mates** from college tonight.
- You look **fed up**. Are you okay?
- Nick and I are **off** to Paris tomorrow – I'm so excited!
- Could you lend me **a couple of** pounds for a sandwich and a coffee?

- 2 The following dialogue is in the wrong order and the language is not informal enough. Put the lines in the correct order. Then replace the 'neutral' words and phrases with more informal ones so that the dialogue sounds more natural.

- have a chat*
- Not too bad, thanks. I'm just phoning to ~~talk~~ really.
 - Simon – that man you met on the plane? What's he done?
 - No, not really. I went to the cinema with two or three friends from work last night.
 - Well, he hasn't phoned for two weeks.
 - Good! See you at the bus stop in an hour.
 - Hi, Suzie! It's Ruth here.
 - Well ... okay, I'd like that.
 - Did you? I haven't been to the cinema for a long time ... but, Ruth, you don't sound very happy. What's the matter?
 - Oh hello, Ruth. How are you?
 - Oh dear ... well, don't worry. Perhaps he'll phone tomorrow. Look, I'm going to the shops this afternoon – why don't you come?
 - Okay. Wait a minute – I'm going to turn my music down ... so what have you been doing recently? Anything exciting?
 - Oh, I suppose I'm unhappy because of Simon.

- 3 Work in pairs. Write a dialogue using the informal words and phrases from exercise 1. Choose one of the following situations or invent one of your own. Act your dialogue out for the rest of the class.

- Student A telephones student B, a friend he/she has not seen for a long time, and tries to arrange to meet. Student B does not really want to meet and tries to make excuses.
- Student A has just failed his/her driving test. Student B is sympathetic, and tries to help him/her to forget about it.