Workshop 15: Ready to Speak! ▶

Getting ready for our conversation with Nina

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Soon you will have a real conversation in English with our guest, Nina. This workshop is not a normal lesson, and there is no new grammar in it. Everything here you have already learned. The job now is different: to take the English that is in your head and get it into your mouth, so that on the day the words come out without you having to search for them.

So this workshop is a rehearsal. Read a little, then speak a lot.

Your plan for today ▸

Part 1 — What I can do *can and can't*
Part 2 — Right now, and every day *am/is/are + -ing, and the present simple*
Part 3 — Things I love doing *verb + -ing*
Part 4 — My week and my town *how often, and in / on / at*
Before you go — your survival kit, and questions for Nina

How to use this workshop ☞

- Say every answer **OUT LOUD**. Reading silently will not help you on the day.
- Record yourself on your phone and listen back. It feels strange the first time, and it works.
- Do not write a full script. Write short notes, then speak from them.
- Ten minutes every day is better than two hours the night before.
- Never answer with only one word. Always add one more sentence.

⚠ **Remember** This is a friendly conversation, not a test. Nina is not counting your mistakes. The only thing that matters is that you keep talking.

★ Part 1 — What I Can Do

a. A quick reminder

can never changes, and the verb after it never changes either. No **to**, no **-s**.

✓ **I can cook. She can drive. They can swim.**
✗ She cans drive. She can to drive.

To say it is not perfect, use **quite well** or **a little**. To say no, use **can't**.

b. What Nina may ask you

- **Can you cook?**
  Yes, I can. I can make ___.
  No, I can't cook very well, but I can make ___.

- **Can you drive?**
  Yes, I can drive. I have a ___.

No, I can't drive, but I would like to learn.

- **Can you play a musical instrument?**
  Yes, I can play the ___.
  No, I can't, but I love listening to ___.

- **What can you do well?**
  I can ___ quite well.

- **What can't you do very well?**
  I can't ___ very well!

c. Say more than yes or no

✗ Nina: Can you cook? You: Yes.
✓ **Nina: Can you cook? You: Yes, I can! I can make arepas and soup. I cook every Sunday for my family.**

✎ **Your turn. Write your own answers, then say them out loud three times.**

❖ Part 2 — Right Now, and Every Day

a. A quick reminder

Two different questions, and they sound almost the same. Listen to the first words.

What ARE you doing? *right now, at this moment*
I'm sitting in my kitchen. I'm talking to you!

What DO you do? *your job, or every day*
I'm a nurse. I work at a hospital.

And do not forget the **-s** after he, she and it: my sister **works**, my dad **lives**.

b. What Nina may ask you

- **What are you doing at the moment?**
  At the moment I'm ___ing.
  I'm sitting in my ___.

- **What do you do?**
  I'm a ___. I work in ___.
  I'm a student. I study ___.

- **Do you like your job? / Do you like school?**
  Yes, I do. I like it because ___.

It's OK. I don't mind it.

- **What are you learning these days, apart from English?**
  These days I'm learning ___.
  I'm not learning anything else at the moment. English is enough!

- **What does your family do?**
  My mother works in ___. My brother studies ___.

c. The trap

⚠ **Careful** "What do you do?" is about your job. If you answer "I'm cooking", Nina will think you are cooking right now. If you hear **are**, talk about this moment. If you hear **do**, talk about your life.

✎ **Your turn. Write your own answers, then say them out loud three times.**

✦ Part 3 — Things I Love Doing

a. A quick reminder

After **like, love, don't mind, don't like, hate** and **enjoy**, the next verb ends in **-ing**.
✓ **I love cooking.** **I don't mind getting up early.** **I hate waiting.**
✗ I love cook. I don't mind to get up early.
Spelling: work → work**ing**, dance → danc**ing**, swim → swimm**ing**.

b. What Nina may ask you

- **What do you like doing in your free time?**
  I like ___ing and ___ing.
  In my free time I love ___ing.

- **What do you hate doing?**
  I hate ___ing.
  I don't like ___ing at all.

- **What kind of music do you like listening to?**
  I love listening to ___.
  I like ___, but I don't like ___.

- **Do you like cooking? Do you like travelling?**
  Yes, I love it!
  I don't mind it.

- **What do you do to relax?**
  To relax I like ___ing.

c. A small word that makes you sound natural

really I **really** like walking.
at all I don't like football **at all**.
especially I love cooking, **especially** on Sundays.

✎ **Your turn. Write your own answers, then say them out loud three times.**

☀ Part 4 — My Week and My Town

a. A quick reminder

How often?

always · **usually** · **often** · **sometimes** · **never**

These words go **before** the verb, but **after** am, is and are.

✓ I **usually** get up at six. I am **never** late.

Small words for time

in July, **in** the morning · **on** Monday, **on** 2nd March · **at** six o'clock, **at** the weekend

b. What Nina may ask you

- **What do you do on Sundays?**
  On Sundays I usually ___.
  I always ___ with my family.

- **How often do you ___?**
  I ___ every day. I ___ twice a week.
  I never ___.

- **What time do you get up?**
  I get up at ___. I always get up early.

- **What's the weather like in your town?**
  It's ___ today. It's usually ___ here.
  In December it's ___.

- **Tell me about your town.**
  I live in ___. It's a small town near ___.
  It's beautiful. There are a lot of ___.

✎ **Your turn. Write your own answers, then say them out loud three times.**

☞ Before You Go

a. Your survival kit

Learn these six sentences by heart. They are the most useful English you will ever know, because they keep the conversation going when you are stuck. Using them is a good sign, not a bad one.

Can you repeat that, please?
Can you speak more slowly, please?
Sorry, I don't understand.
What does ___ mean?
How do you say ___ in English?
Just a moment, please.

b. Questions you can ask Nina

It is a conversation, not an interview. Ask her things too. Choose three, write them below, and practise them until they come out easily.

Where are you from? Where do you live now? What do you do?
Do you like Colombia? Can you speak other languages?
What do you like doing in your free time? What's the weather like there?
Do you have a big family? What food do you like?

✎ **My three questions for Nina:**

c. Rehearsal checklist

Tick each one when you have done it. Do not tick it if you only read it: you have to say it out loud.

- ☐ I said my Part 1 answers out loud three times.
- ☐ I said my Part 2 answers out loud three times.
- ☐ I said my Part 3 answers out loud three times.
- ☐ I said my Part 4 answers out loud three times.
- ☐ I recorded myself once and listened back.
- ☐ I learned the six survival sentences by heart.
- ☐ I chose and practised my three questions for Nina.
- ☐ I practised answering with more than one sentence.

✦ You know more English than you think.

On the day, speak slowly, smile, and do not worry about mistakes. If you get stuck, use one of your six sentences and carry on. Nina is looking forward to meeting you, and so am I.