

## **Practical Pronunciation**

1. Restaurant
2. Free time
3. Directions / Rest rooms
4. Invitations
5. Reservations
6. Getting on the bus
7. Airport
8. Problem with hotel room
9. Shopping
10. Boyfriend

## 1 In a Restaurant

Customer: Waiter! Excuse me, waiter!

Waiter: Yes, what can I get you?

Customer: Nothing, but...there's a fly in my soup!

Waiter: Oh, I'm so very sorry. Let me bring you another bowl. I am very sorry.

Customer: That's OK. Forget the soup. But these fries are cold.

Waiter: I'm sorry. Let me bring you a fresh plate right away.

Customer: Thank you.

## 2 Free Time

Keiko: What do you do in your free time, Jerry?

Jerry: Motorcycling. I like to ride whenever I can. I bought a Harley last year, and I love it.

Keiko: Wow. Sounds exciting. I bet it cost a lot.

Jerry: Yeah, I'm still paying for it. What about you, Keiko?

Keiko: Dancing! I was a gymnast in high school, but these days, I'm really into jazz dance.

Jerry: Really! Well, that explains it.

Keiko: What do you mean?

Jerry: Well, you look like you're in really good shape, and you move so gracefully.

Keiko: Yeah, right.

### 3 Rest Rooms

Jane: Excuse me, can you tell me where the Ladies' Room is?

Waitress: Certainly. The rest rooms are in the lobby. Go through those doors, turn left, and go just past the front desk.

Jane: Through the doors, left, and past the front desk.

Waitress: That's right.

Jane: Thank you.

Waitress: You're welcome.

*Note:* In England, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand, public rest rooms are often referred to as the *Gents'* or the *Ladies'*. Rest Room, Men's Room, and Ladies' Room are commonly used in North America. More casual terms include the *little girls' room*, the *powder room*, the *can*, the *loo*, and the *WC*.

### 4 Invitations

Bill: Hey, Yoko, what're you doing this weekend?

Yoko: One of my friends from Canada was supposed to be visiting, but his trip was cancelled.

Bill: Oh, well...I was wondering...there's this photography exhibit at the Art Institute that looks pretty interesting.

Yoko: The Edward Weston exhibit!

Bill: That's right. Would you maybe want to check it out Saturday?

Yoko: Sure! I love Weston.

Bill: Maybe drinks and dinner after?

Yoko: Yeah, sounds good.  
Bill: Great. I'll pick you up around 3.  
Yoko: OK. See you then.

## **5 Reservations**

Clerk: Thank you for calling Gibsons. This is Tony speaking, how can I help you?  
Aki: I'd like to make reservations for dinner...this Friday.  
Clerk: OK, that's this Friday, the thirteenth. For how many?  
Aki: For three.  
Clerk: And what time?  
Aki: Seven.  
Clerk: OK, that's reservations for three, at seven, Friday the thirteenth.  
Aki: That's right.  
Clerk: And the name?  
Aki: Mishima.  
Clerk: OK, Ms. Mishima, we'll see you this Friday.  
Aki: Thank you.

## **6 Getting on the bus**

Ai: Robert, can you help me with something?  
Robert: Sure, Ai, what's up?  
Ai: The buses. How do they work? I mean, how do I ride them?  
Robert: Oh, sure. First, be sure you have exact change. If you're going to be using the bus a lot, you might want to buy a bus pass or some tokens. The bookstore

has them.

Ai: I can get them at the bookstore?

Robert: Yeah. So, you get on the bus at the front and put your money or token in the box next to the driver. That's it! You can get off at the front or the rear.

Ai: Gee, that's almost the opposite from what I'm used to.

Robert: It's different everywhere you go, huh? But it's not hard.

Ai: OK, thanks Robert.

Robert: Anytime, Ai. No problem.

## 7 Airport

Clerk: Ticket and passport please...Oh, dear. I'm sorry Ms. Tanaka but your flight to London has been cancelled.

Sachiko: Cancelled?!

Clerk: Yes, I'm sorry. We have seats on tomorrow's flight. It departs at 9 pm.

Sachiko: Tomorrow?! That's impossible! I can't...I need to be there by tomorrow.

Clerk: Let me see...well, there is a flight to Montreal, there you can catch a connection to New York, and, let's see, yes, transfer there to a flight to London. You will arrive in London at 6 am tomorrow.

Sachiko: Montreal, New York...

Clerk: You'll need to decide quickly. The plane leaves in 30 minutes.

Sachiko: Oh...OK, fine.

Clerk: Here's your boarding pass. You'll need to claim your baggage in Montreal and New York. Your flight leaves from Gate 33. You'll need to hurry.

Sachiko: Ah, OK, thank you.

Clerk: Thank you for flying Northwest, and have a pleasant flight!

Sachiko: Yeah, sure.

## **8 Hotel room problems**

Front desk: Hello, Front Desk, how can I help you?

Naomi: Hi, there seems to be a problem with the TV in my room.

Front desk: What's the problem?

Naomi: The picture is fine, but the sound volume won't stay the same. It keeps getting louder and quieter.

Front desk: I'm very sorry...you are in Room 463, correct?

Naomi: That's right.

Front desk: OK...I'll have someone come up shortly and replace the TV. Is that satisfactory?

Naomi: That will be fine.

Front desk: Is there anything I else I can do for you?

Naomi: Yes, could you have room service send up a bottle of champagne with two glasses?

Front desk: Of course, ma'am.

Naomi: Thank you.

## 9 Shopping

Clerk: Hi! Anything I can help you with today?

Customer: Maybe. I'm looking for a present for my boyfriend. I was thinking of a sweater.

Clerk: Okay. These are new this season. Very soft – 100% cashmere. What size does he wear?

Customer: Large, I guess. How much is this green one?

Clerk: Let's see, that one's \$145.

Customer: Ouch! I don't think I love him that much!

Clerk: Oh, I see! Maybe these cotton sweaters. They start at \$29 and go up to \$49.

Customer: That's more like it.

Clerk: OK, look them over. Let me know if you have any questions or if you find one you like.

Customer: OK, thanks.

## 10 Boyfriend

Yukiko: Shiori, do you have a boyfriend?

Shiori: Yes, he's really a great guy. We've been together for two years.

Yukiko: Wow, that's a long time.

Shiori: I guess so. It doesn't seem it, though. He lives in Tokyo, so it's really hard to see him.

Yukiko: Sounds tough.

Shiori: What about you?

Yukiko: No, nobody.

Shiori: Anybody you're interested in?

Yukiko: No, not really...but you know, I kind of have a thing for our teacher.

Shiori: Our teacher!? He's so old!

Yukiko: Yeah, I know...but, still...

Shiori: Yukiko!

Yukiko: I know, I know...