

Citizenship Language Pack For Migrants in Europe - Extended

English

Multimedia Course in Language and Culture for Migrants

A2 Level

To aid communication in everyday English in Ireland

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Module 2:

Social and Family





Introduction

In this video we see two cousins, George and Peter. They are speaking on the telephone with each other. Their aunty has died and Peter is telling George this sad news. They talk about their aunty's son a little. There are also some things that need to be organised for the funeral.

Dialogue 2: Calling with Sympathy

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAHmRvsK0yq3eKIr35DOT7-5M2f7ynI4m>

  <p>Peter</p> <p>George</p>	<p>Situation: On the telephone</p> <p>Characters: George and Peter</p>
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Peter- Hi George, it's Peter.

George- Hi Peter! How are you? I intended to call you today.

Peter- Unfortunately, I have some bad news to tell you.

George- It sounds serious. Tell me, what's wrong?

Peter- It's our aunt. She passed away last night.

George- Oh dear! How? What happened?

Peter- The doctor said it was a heart attack, while she was sleeping. She probably felt nothing, maybe just a little chest pain. It was very sudden.

George- Her son — was he at home when it happened?

Peter- No, he was out when it happened. He found her some two hours later when he returned.

George- How is he now? I must call him to offer him my condolences for his loss.

Peter- He is trying to occupy his mind by organising for the funeral for tomorrow.

George- Tomorrow? So soon? We must send sympathy flowers.

Peter- Yes, of course. I will arrange that. This afternoon, all of the relatives will be gathering at aunty's house, if you want to come after work. My mother is very upset. I am worried about her health. She loved her sister very much.

George- Of course she did, she was a loving person. I'll be there as soon as I can. Take care.

Oral Comprehension

Answer the following questions. The correct answers can be found in the key on the last page.

Exercises 1 – 4:

State if the following sentences are 'True' or 'False':

- George and Peter's aunt passed away with a heart attack while she was sleeping.
- Her son was home when this happened to her.
- He didn't realise until the following day.
- Peter is worried about his mother's health.

Exercise 5:

It is our aunt. She _____ last night.

He is trying to _____ his mind, by organising for the _____ for _____.

My mother is very _____. I am _____ about her _____.

Grammar

Past simple is used to talk about actions which took place in the past

- Past simple: affirmative and negative forms
- Past simple using “while” and “when”

Examples:

I **intended** to call you today

She probably **didn't feel** anything

It was a heart attack **while** she was sleeping

He realised it two hours later **when** he returned

Links:

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar/verbs/past-tense/past-simple>

<http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/simplepast.html>

<http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/past-simple.html>

In Ireland

There are a lot of traditions surrounding bereavement in Ireland, many of them rooted in the most widespread religion of the nation, Catholicism. Traditionally, Irish families hold a “wake” when a loved one dies. A “wake” is when everyone goes to the house of the person who has died and the deceased is laid out for people to pay their respects. It is customary to serve food and drinks, pray, and tell stories about the person who has died. The next evening, there is often a “removal” where the coffin is taken to the church and a ceremony takes place. The following day, there is the funeral and then a procession will follow the coffin to the graveyard. Funerals tend to be very big in Ireland and everyone who knew the person will try to come and visit the bereaved family at least once over the three days. It is traditional to send flowers and a sympathy card.

Vocabulary

Unfortunately	Chest pain	Sympathy
Serious	Sleeping	Relatives
Wrong	Condolences	Upset
Passed away	Loss	Sister
Heart attack	Funeral	Flowers

Dictionary: <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

Key

After you have completed the exercises, check your answers here.

Exercises 1 – 4:

- a. True
- b. False
- c. False
- d. True

Exercise 5:

It is our aunt. She **passed away** last night.

He is trying to **occupy** his mind, organising for the **funeral** for **tomorrow**.

My mother is very **upset**. I am **worried** about her **health**.