

Unit 1

Leisure interests

aficionado (n) C	/ə'fɪʃiə'nɑːdəʊ/	aficionado, patito	Greg became a real aficionado , setting up his own website and organizing annual conventions.
be crazy about	/bi 'kreɪzi ə'baʊt/	essere entusiasta di	Matthew Gibbon is crazy about rugby.
fan (n) C	/fæn/	appassionato	Greg and his friends were all big fans of <i>Star Trek</i> .
get a taste for (sth)	/get ə'teɪst fə/	acquisire il gusto per (q.cosa)	Charlotte quickly got a taste for paintballing.
get the bug for (sth)	/get ðə 'bʌg fə/	diventare maniaco di (q.cosa)	He got the 'Trekkie' bug in a big way and became a real aficionado.
give (sth) a try	/gɪv ə 'traɪ/	provare (q.cosa), fare un tentativo	It was a colleague who suggested she should give paintballing a try .
be into (sth)	/bi: 'ɪntə/	essere coinvolto (in q.cosa)	Once you're into ghost hunting there's no turning back.
be keen on (sth)	/bi 'ki:n ɒn/	essere appassionato di (q.cosa)	Tony O'Neill was always keen on ghost stories.
be obsessed with	/bi: ɒb'sest wɪð/	essere ossessionato da (q.cosa)	He became more and more obsessed with rugby.
passion (n) U	/pæʃn/	passione	Greg's interest turned into a passion .
supporter (n) C	/sə'pɔːtə/	sostenitore	Matthew is a supporter of the Scottish national rugby team.
take up (sth) (v)	/teɪk 'ʌp/	dedicarsi a (q.cosa)	He decided to take up ghost hunting after watching a TV documentary about it.

Time adverbials

after a while	/ɑːftərə'waɪl/	dopo un po'	After a while James realized he couldn't mix his job with his personal interests.
afterwards	/ɑːftəwədz/	in seguito	You can always sell the autographs afterwards .
at first	/ət 'fɜːst/	dapprima	At first I said no, but then he offered me fifty pounds for the autograph.
at the beginning	/æt ðə bɪ'ɡɪnɪŋ/	all'inizio	At the beginning I found it difficult to draw a line between collecting and trading.
eventually	/ɪ'ventʃuəli/	infine	We eventually decided we had been mistaken.
finally	/fə'nəli/	finalmente	Finally the first limousine pulled up.
in the end	/ɪn ði: 'end/	alla fine	The crowd was getting out of control and in the end the police pushed everybody back.
initially	/ɪ'nɪʃli/	all'inizio	Well, initially I was just an autograph hunter like all the others.
later on	/leɪtə 'ɒn/	poi, più tardi	Later on hundreds of other fans began arriving.

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subsequently	/sʌbsɪkwəntli/	successivamente	If the person subsequently dies, the value of their autograph doubles overnight.
to begin with	/tə bɪ'ɡɪn wɪð/	tanto per cominciare	To begin with , the atmosphere was calm and friendly.

Expressions with *thing*

in-thing	/ɪn'tɪŋ/	in voga	How did 1970s fashion get to be the in-thing again? It's horrible!
it's just one of those things	/ɪts dʒʌst ɪwʌn ʌv ðəʊz 'θɪŋz/	è qualcosa di inevitabile	I don't know why really, it's just one of those things .
one thing led to another	/ɪwʌn θɪŋ led tu: ə'nʌðə/	una cosa tirò l'altra	One thing led to another and I now do more than ten hours overtime a week.
the good thing is	/ðə 'ɡʊd θɪŋ ɪz/	l'aspetto positivo è	The good thing is , we've got quite a big house.
a thing about	/ðə 'θɪŋ əˈbaʊt/	un forte interesse per	I always had a thing about football.

Other words & phrases

antique (adj)	/æn'tɪk/	di antiquariato	Some people like collecting antique postcards.
attend (v)	/ə'tend/	assistere a	Attending car boot sales is one of the most popular leisure activities in Britain.
autograph (n) C	/ɔːtəˈɡrɑːf/	autografo	Have you ever got the autograph of someone famous?
babysit (v)	/ˈbeɪbɪsɪt/	fare da baby-sitter	I'd love to, but I can't, it's my turn to babysit !
background (n) C	/ˈbækɡraʊnd/	origini	Resist the temptation to invent an interesting background for yourself.
backstage (n) U	/ˈbæksteɪdʒ/	dietro il palcoscenico	I went backstage at concerts to get my tour T-shirt signed.
badge (n) C	/bædʒ/	distintivo	Some people enjoy collecting button badges .
bargain (n) C	/ˈbɑːɡɪn/	affare vantaggioso	People occasionally find incredible bargains at car boot sales.
bat (n) C	/bæt/	mazza	Bats can also be used to hurt people.
bear (sth) (v)	/beə/	tollerare (q.csa)	What I couldn't bear was giving up without getting the whole set.
bloke (n) C	/bləʊk/	tipo, individuo	He's just a normal bloke who likes to let off steam.
blood-crazed (adj)	/ˈblʌdˌkreɪzd/	assetato di sangue	Dave's not a blood-crazed maniac – he's just a normal bloke.
blood-donating (n) U	/ˈblʌddəʊnɪŋɪŋ/	donare il sangue	One candidate wrote that she had taken up blood-donating (fourteen gallons so far!). Weird.
brand (v)	/brænd/	marchiare	The paint markers were used for branding cattle.

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bulging (adj)	/bʌldʒɪŋ/	sporgente	My friends joke that my husband is the star attraction in my collection because he's got these bulging eyes.
car boot sale (n) C	/ka: 'bu:t ,seɪl/	vendita di oggetti d'occasione	Car boot sales are very popular in Britain.
cattle (n pl)	/kætl/	bestiame	The paint markers were designed for branding cattle .
chess (n) U	/tʃes/	scacchi	So, your brother's a chess champion, is he?
clay (adj)	kleɪ/	terracotta	In Slovenia they sell small clay models that are painted green.
collectable (adj)	/kə'lektəbl/	da collezione	Stamps, postcards and stickers are all collectable items.
convention (n) C	/kən'venʃn/	convenzione	Greg got the 'Trekkie' bug in a big way and became a real aficionado, setting up his own website and organising annual conventions .
dark horse (n) U	/dɑ:k 'hɔ:s/	outsider	National champion? You Dave? You dark horse !
deal (v) / (n) C	/di:l/	trattare (v); affare (n)	Selling the Sean Connery photo was my first deal .
dedicate (v)	/dedɪ'keɪt/	dedicarsi	You know that person dedicated themselves to that particular task and now you own the result.
defensive (adj)	/drɪ'fensɪv/	diffidente	You are hardworking and serious, possibly defensive , with a tendency to overreact.
devote (v)	/dɪ'vəʊt/	dedicare	He now reckons that he devotes about 30 hours a week training, playing or watching games.
draughts (n pl)	/drɑ:fts/	dama	Paintballing is no more a war game than chess or draughts .
draw a line between	/drɔ: ə'laɪn bɪ'twi:n/	fare una distinzione tra	At the beginning I found it difficult to draw a line between collecting and trading.
dress up (v)	/dres 'ʌp/	mettersi in uniforme	Isn't the whole point of paintballing to dress up and play soldiers?
eliminate (v)	/ɪ'lɪmɪ'neɪt/	eliminare	Players work in teams and try to eliminate as many members of the rival team as they can.
enamel (n) U	/ɪ'næml/	smalto	Most of them collect the old enamel or metal badges.
exception (n) C	/ɪk'sepʃn/	eccezione	James made an exception with the Harrison Ford autograph – it's not for sale!
get carried away	/get ,kæɪɪd ə'weɪ/	perdere la calma	Sorry, I got a bit carried away . I didn't mean to get personal.
get hold of (v)	/get 'həʊld əv/	ottenere, entrare in possesso di	If you get hold of one of Greta Garbo's autographs, it can be worth up to £6,000–£7,000.
glamour (n) U	/glæmə/	fascino	It's like you're buying a part of the person, a piece of fame, a share of the glamour .
glorify (v)	/glɔ:ri'faɪ/	esaltare	Do you think paintballing glorifies violence?

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gnome (n) C	/nəʊm/	nano da giardino	Garden gnomes are figures like small men that some people have in their gardens.
goods (n pl)	/gʊdz/	merci	Anything and everything is bought and sold, from unwanted household items to collectable items to stolen goods .
handle (v)	/hændl/	capitare tra le mani	What's the most valuable autograph you've handled ?
hang around	/hæŋ ə'raʊnd/	indugiare, ciondolare	At school we used to hang around in the playground every day.
have a tendency to	/hæv ə'tendənsi ,tə/	avere la tendenza a	You may have a tendency to overreact.
household (adj) / (n) U	/haʊs,həʊld/	domestico (agg.) gruppo familiare (n.)	A lot of people sell unwanted household items at car boot sales. There are seven people in their household .
hunter (n) C	/hʌntə/	cacciatore	Initially, James was just an autograph hunter .
impatient (adj)	/ɪm'peɪʃnt/	impaziente	You are ambitious and sometimes impatient .
in deep water	/ɪn ,di:p 'wɔ:tə/	nei guai	You could find yourself in deep water if you don't tell the truth.
instinct (n) C	/ɪnstɪŋkt/	istinto	It's a basic human instinct .
in stock	/ɪn 'stɒk/	nella collezione	If you've got an autograph in stock and the person dies, the value doubles overnight.
introverted (adj)	/ɪntrəvɜ:tɪd/	introverso	Quieter, more introverted people have smaller handwriting.
job seeker (n) C	/dʒɒb ,si:kə/	chi cerca lavoro	Job seekers need to make their application stand out.
junk (n) U	/dʒʌŋk/	cianfrusaglie	Most of the things are junk but people occasionally find incredible bargains.
kid (n) C	/kɪd/	ragazzo, figlio	If I ever have a kid myself, I know he'll enjoy looking at my collection.
lacking (adj)	/lækɪŋ/	privo di	If your handwriting is easy to read you might be organized, careful, possibly lacking in self-confidence.
latter	/lætə/	secondo	Obviously the latter are worth much more money.
lawn (n) C	/lɔ:n/	prato	He was looking a bit lonely out there on the lawn all on his own.
let off steam	/,let ɒf 'sti:m/	sfogarsi	He's just a normal sort of bloke who likes to let off steam .
liven up (v)	/laɪvn 'ʌp/	ravvivare	It started off as a joke – I just wanted something to liven up the garden.
looped (adj)	/lu:pt/	contorto	If you use looped letters you might be imaginative and creative.
make (sth) up (v)	/,meɪk 'ʌp/	inventare	A lot of candidates lie on their CVs and make things up .
maniac (n) C	/ˈmemi.æk/	maniac	Dave doesn't strike me as being a blood-crazed maniac .
memorabilia (n pl)	/,mem'ərə'bɪliə/	oggetti memorabili	Harrison Ford won't usually sign <i>Blade Runner</i> memorabilia .
nasty (adj)	/ˈnɑ:sti/	cattivo	My husband's got these bulging eyes but I don't mean that in a nasty way.
nutter (n) C	/ˈnʌtə/	pazzoide	Are you saying the sport should be banned because there are a few nutters out there who take things a bit far?

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outgoing (adj)	/aʊt'gəʊɪŋ/	estroverso	People who have large handwriting often have a lot of confidence in themselves – they are probably quite outgoing and sociable.
overreact (v)	/əʊvəri'ækt/	reagire in modo eccessivo	People who have heavy handwriting are often hard-working and serious, possibly defensive with a tendency to overreact .
paintball (n) C	/peɪntbɔ:l/	pallina di vernice	If a paintball hits you, you're out of the game.
paintballing (n) U	/peɪntbɔ:lɪŋ/	sparare palline di vernice	Paintballing can help relieve the stresses of a hard-working week.
pellet (n) C	/pelɪt/	pallottola, pallina	Paintball guns shoot paint pellets .
point-blank (adv)	/pɔɪnt'blæŋk/	categoricamente	Some stars love signing and they'll sign practically anything you put in front of them, but others refuse point-blank .
prospective (adj)	/prə'spektɪv/	eventuale	Prospective employers worry about dangerous activities that can cause absences.
rabid (adj)	/ræbɪd/	rabbioso	And let's not forget the typos – people who are proud of their 'rabid typing' or who announce that they were responsible for 'ruining their company's sales department'.
re-enact (v)	/ri:ɪn'ækt/	reinterpretare	Players shoot each other with paint and re-enact famous battle scenes.
relieve (v)	/rɪ'li:v/	alleviare	Paintballing can help relieve the stresses of a hard-working week.
resist (v)	/rɪ'zɪst/	resistere	Resist the temptation to invent things that are not true.
reveal (v)	/rɪ'vi:l/	rivelare	The airplane's black box may reveal the cause of the crash.
rival (adj)	/raɪvəl/	rivale	Players try to eliminate as many members of the rival team as they can.
ruin (v) / (n)C	/ru:ɪn/	rovinare (v.); rovina (n.)	Typing mistakes include people who announce they are responsible for 'ruining their company's sales department!'
selfish (adj)	/selfɪʃ/	egoista	If your handwriting's hard to read you are active and energetic, but sometimes selfish .
set up (v)	/set 'ʌp/	creare	Greg Schultz became a real aficionado, setting up his own website.
stall (n) C	/stɔ:l/	bancarella	There used to be market stalls and shops that sold nothing but badges.
stand out (v)	/stænd aʊt/	spiccare	Job seekers need to make their application stand out , so there's little point in saying that you're into pop music, that you like going to the cinema or that you've been a supporter of your local football club for ten years.
sticker (n) C	/stɪkə/	adesivo, figurina	A lot of people enjoy collecting Panini stickers .
strategy (n) C	/strætədʒi/	strategia	It's a game of strategy .
survey (n) C	/sɜ:veɪ/	indagine	A recent survey shows that one in four CVs contain a lie of some kind.
swap (n)	/swɒp/	scambio	We used to do swaps and try to collect the whole set.
tempt (v)	/tempt/	tentare, allettare	People write such strange things on their CVs that it's tempting to believe that they don't want the job at all.

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terminate (v)	/tɜːmɪneɪt/	concludere, interrompere	His previous contract had been terminated because he had to get to work by 8.45am and he couldn't work under those conditions!
trade (v) / (n) U	/treɪd/	commerciare (v); commercio (n.)	They display the items they want to trade in the back of their car. The two countries signed agreements on trade .
typo (n) C	/taɪpəʊ/	refuso	Typos are unfortunate typing mistakes.
voluntary (adj)	/vɒlənt(ə)ri/	volontario	Some people claim they have done voluntary work when they haven't.
weapon (n) C	/wepən/	arma	I think paint guns are dangerous weapons .
weird (adj)	/wɪəd/	strano	One candidate wrote that she had taken up blood-donating (fourteen gallons so far!). Weird .
workout (n) C	/wɜːkaʊt/	allenamento	Paintballing gives you a good physical workout .